



# Village Voice

The Newsletter of Stanton Harcourt & Sutton

April 2021



## Calendar

- 1<sup>st</sup> - April Fool's *Get those pranks ready*  
 2<sup>nd</sup> - Good Friday *A time for reflection*  
 4<sup>th</sup> - Easter Sunday *A new dawn, with many many eggs*  
 10<sup>th</sup> - Litter Pick *Help keep our village clean*  
 23<sup>rd</sup> - St George's Day *Consider slaying your dragons*

## You don't need training to collect litter, you pick it up as you go...

A huge thank you to everybody that took part in the Community Litter Pick on 13th March and the following days. It's clear that littering and fly-tipping has become worse recently and that was reflected in the collection of more than 50 bags of litter (plus various large items) from the roads around the village thanks to the efforts of more than 20 volunteers.

This was our first community pick since December, due to COVID restrictions, and hopefully we'll find a lot less to pick up on our next picking day.

**If you'd like to join us, please meet (socially distanced) at the village hall for a 10am start on Saturday 10th April.**

Facebook users can find further details on the Stanton Harcourt and Sutton page and the Villagers Other Voice group.

Thank you also to those villagers that regularly pick litter as part of their daily exercise - it really makes a difference.



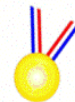
## Stanton Harcourt and Sutton Summer Festival

### Festival 2021 Update

Sadly, the easing of coronavirus lockdowns and restrictions will not be happening early enough for us to be able to host our usual Festival Week activities in June again this year. This means that.....



Stanton2021  
IS NOT Going for Gold - Again!



The committee are considering whether a "pared-back" Festival event could be held in the Autumn depending on how quickly restrictions are lifted over the summer so keep a look out for further information about this over the next few months.

If you have any suggestions for events or activities that could be included in an Autumn Festival or would like to join the Festival committee then do contact Richard Thomson. (rich.thom77@gmail.com)

Stay safe and well everyone.



The Festival Committee



## We're going to need a bigger vote!

May's elections are on their way: don't let them take you by surprise!

**Register to vote by 19<sup>th</sup> April** to have your say.

There are multiple different positions open for nominations and, as a result, a number of different candidates to vote for this year.

The Parish Council have provided additional information to help guide us through the process.



## Covid News

For government guidance and updates please refer to the gov.uk website [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

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

**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 119**



## It's Health & Safety gone rad!

Junior Citizens is a safety training scheme for Year 6 Children across Oxfordshire. The training usually takes place at Oxfordshire Fire Station with purpose built scenarios.

This year the Junior Citizen's Trust has launched an online quiz to 'Test Your Knowledge' about real life situations you may find yourself in to help you stay safe, and to think about other people's safety too. <https://bit.ly/2OUcmxb>

## 200 Club Prizes

March	April
1 <sup>st</sup> 206 C Mathew £25	1 <sup>st</sup> 294 Mrs A Williams £25
2 <sup>nd</sup> 246 H Parker £12	2 <sup>nd</sup> 298 D. Rose £12
3 <sup>rd</sup> 232 N. Cox £8	3 <sup>rd</sup> 156 L. Allison £8
4 <sup>th</sup> 199 P. Day £5	4 <sup>th</sup> 274 Mr R. Brown £5



**Sutton Singers** have had to be very quiet during the pandemic, like everyone else! We are now hopeful that soon we will be singing again. 🎵🎵🎵

We are currently aiming to meet in a garden from mid-May when 30 or fewer can meet outside and hopefully, as the autumn cools us down, we can reconvene inside. Obviously all dependant on government rules, pandemic data and vaccine progress.

We have been sharing songs with the group for individual practice with recordings from our fabulous musical director Lizzie Soden to make sure we sing it correctly, but there is nothing like the choir singing together and performing to share the joy.

If you are interested in coming along do please get in touch with Jan Tomlinson 01865 881709 / [janandpaultomlinson@gmail.com](mailto:janandpaultomlinson@gmail.com)

Keep singing! It's good for breath control, relaxation and fun!! 🎵🎵🎵

## Handy Hints for Horticulturalists

*Jobs for your garden this April:*

- \* Tidy borders & tie in climbers
- \* Sow tomatoes & plant summer bulbs
- \* Clean out ponds & introduce aquatic plants
- \* Plant trees and shrubs
- \* Increase water given to houseplants
- \* The mower definitely needs to come out of storage
- \* Get the BBQ out and enjoy the April sunshine



# Parish Council News

Next Parish Council Meetings, via Zoom

April: Monday 12<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm.

For Zoom link see Parish Council Website

For candidate names see Parish Council Website after 9<sup>th</sup> April



## Elections

Elections are scheduled for Thursday 6 May 2021. The local seats up for election are as follows:

• **Oxfordshire County Council – Eynsham Division seat** (Eynsham to Cassington) *this includes us (Cllr Charles Mathew is standing down from this seat);*

• **West Oxfordshire District Council – Lower Windrush seat** (Northmoor, Standlake, Stanton Harcourt & Aston) *this includes us (Cllr Hilary Fenton is standing down from this seat);*

• **The Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley;**

• **Stanton Harcourt with Sutton Parish council – 6 seats.**

These seats will only be filled via an election **if more than 6 nominations are received by the Returning Officer by the 8th April 2021.** If there are less than 6 candidate nominations these individuals will automatically become the new Parish Council.

## Parish Council Nominations

Candidates' nominations for the Stanton Harcourt and Sutton Parish elections must be submitted to the Returning Officer, via Committee Room 2, Council Offices, Woodgreen, Witney from Monday 29 March 2021 and by **no later than 4pm on Thursday 8 April 2021.** Nomination Papers are available from the Returning Officer.

If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor there is a job description on the Stanton Harcourt Parish Council website which will give you more information about the role, or you are very welcome to talk to one of our current Parish Councillors who will explain more about the role.



## Registering to Vote

If you are not registered to vote, you will not be able to vote in the elections this May. **The deadline for registering to vote is Monday 19 April 2021** in order to be able to vote on Thursday 6 May 2021.

The easiest and quickest way to apply is via [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote) - you will need your national insurance number as part of the application process. If you do not have internet access you can contact electoral services for an application form. If you are uncertain whether you are registered, please contact electoral services or telephone 01993 861410.

## Official Poll Cards

Official Poll Cards, stating the hours of the poll and the details of the polling station, will be sent to all eligible registered voters. It is expected that these will be posted on or very soon after Monday 29 March 2021.



## Poll Cards for Postal Voters

Persons registered to vote by post do not receive an "Official Poll Card". However, a poll card for postal voters will be sent to them to confirm that they are registered to receive a postal ballot pack and giving other information. It is anticipated that the postal poll cards will be posted on or very soon after Monday 29 March 2021.

## Postal and Proxy Voting: Elections on Thursday 6 May 2021

Anyone who is registered to vote may apply to vote by post. An application form is obtainable from the West Oxfordshire Council website (<https://bit.ly/3c9a31W>) or from the Elections Office at Woodgreen. Applications must be received by the Electoral Registration Officer, via the Elections Office, Council Offices, Woodgreen, Witney, Oxon, OX28 1NB by **no later than 5pm on Tuesday 20 April 2021.** As an alternative to posting, signed applications may be sent as a scanned email attachment to [elections@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:elections@westoxon.gov.uk) - please note that the scan needs to be of good quality, and a photograph of an application form is not likely to be sufficient.

## Polling Hours and Polling Stations

**Polling hours on Thursday 6 May 2021 will be from 7am until 10pm.** The Village Hall will be our local polling station.

Polling stations will be equipped with hand sanitiser, and subject to regular and frequent cleaning of touch points, with the numbers of voters inside the buildings at any one time being limited. Voters will be asked to wear face coverings and are encouraged to bring their own pencil or pen to mark their ballot papers.

## 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)



## Poetry Corner

Mary Oliver was an American poet who won the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize. Her work is inspired by nature, rather than the human world, stemming from her lifelong passion for solitary walks in the wild.

### Wild Geese

*You do not have to be good.  
You do not have to walk on your knees  
for a hundred miles through the desert, repenting.  
You only have to let the soft animal of your body  
love what it loves.  
Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.  
Meanwhile the world goes on.  
Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain  
are moving across the landscapes,  
over the prairies and the deep trees,  
the mountains and the rivers.  
Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air,  
are heading home again.  
Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,  
the world offers itself to your imagination,  
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting—  
over and over announcing your place  
in the family of things.*



Mary Oliver 1935 - 2019



*April fools came from the Middle Ages: New Year's Day was celebrated on March 25 in most European towns, with a holiday that ended on April 1. Those who celebrated New Year's Eve on January 1 made fun of those who celebrated on other dates by the invention of April Fools' Day.*



## Gardens? Paintings? You're right on the Monet

Stanton Harcourt artist Paul Tomlinson will be exhibiting some of his drawings

alongside his sister Jane's vibrant paintings from her light and airy garden gallery on **Saturday 1, Sunday 2, Saturday 8 & Sunday 9 May** at 7 Pigeon House Lane, Freeland, OX29 8AG. All welcome! Covid-security measures will be in place. Find out more:

<https://www.artweeks.org/festival/2021/jane-tomlinson-paul-tomlinson>

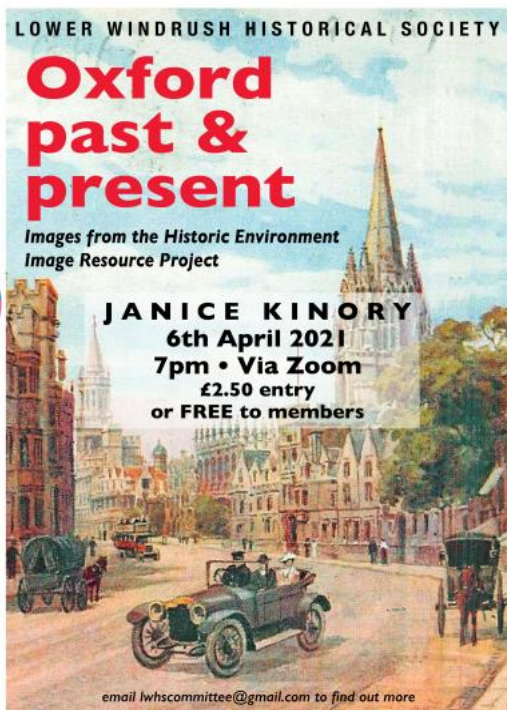
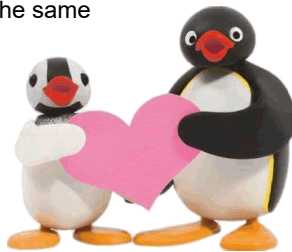


## Page 3 Bird – Penguin

Penguins are a group of aquatic flightless birds, with black backs and wings and white fronts. They either waddle on their feet or slide on their bellies across the snow while using their feet to propel and steer themselves. Emperor penguins are the largest breed, and the smallest breed is the little penguin. Although Pingu and Pinga might be safely tucked away in our nostalgia, real life penguins are having a hard time. And - you guessed it - humans are the problem. Overfishing reduces the amount of food for them, climate change increases water temperatures meaning hunting isn't in the same place and the ice caps melting cause little space for them to live on. Oil spills, unauthorised tourism and poaching are all causing problems for these little guys.

April 25<sup>th</sup> is World Penguin Day, so if you're passionate about protecting penguins why not consider adopting one through the WWF? Noot Noot!

<https://support.wwf.org.uk/adopt-a-penguin>



## Looking after our Parish Paths

During the last year getting outside to enjoy our local paths/bridleways has been a lifeline for many. A group of us has 'Zoomed' together to see if we can help with their upkeep. We hope others might like to join in too.

The Ramblers, in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council's Countryside Access Team, support a Parish Path Warden Network.

Each Parish has a volunteer Parish Path Warden who, along with other volunteers, checks all the Public Rights of Way in the Parish at least twice a year.

Everyone can help by letting us know where improvements are needed or where you might have got lost or missed a route that needs better signing.

Lucy Heath has recently taken on the role of Stanton Harcourt Parish Path Warden from Wayne Harvey, who we would like to thank for all his hard work. Jan Tomlinson is another keen walker who is giving her support with recording issues we come across. Just email us if you want to get in touch.  
lucy.heath1@gmail.com or  
janandpaultomlinson@gmail.com



## Who Let The Dogs Out?

For many of us our pets have got us through the past year, but we need to make sure we are making other people feel comfortable with us having them.



Please ensure your dogs are under control, and stay on the lead near the play equipment (not all adults and children are comfortable playing near loose dogs). And whilst we're here - please make sure you pick up their poo and put the bag into the correct bin; there are designated bins around the village for it.



## STANDING with GIANTS



After our hugely successful soldier silhouette display at Blenheim Palace in November 2020, raising £40,000 supporting The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, we've been really busy during lockdown pushing the project forward. We are applying to funding bodies & community grants to help towards running costs of the project. We have created a 5 minute video pitch for the National Lottery Community fund (<https://bit.ly/3seii2C>). It's an uphill struggle to find funding, even more so during a pandemic, so when we face a closed door we just keep pressing on and hope we will be successful.

Our website has been revamped and we are creating a regular newsletter for subscribers to receive update bulletins directly to their email inbox. We are currently in discussions with some prestigious potential sites for our displays this year, its early days to make any announcements yet, but we are really excited with the prospects.

We've received a fantastic donation of paint from a local paint company to enable us to paint our soldiers & poppies currently in production. We will soon be starting to weld together more metal frames to attach the soldiers to, so lots to keep us busy.

We are so grateful to all our wonderful Stanton Harcourt & Sutton volunteers for their amazing help last year. We are really looking forward to meeting up with friends again for painting and assembly sessions once lockdown restrictions lift.

Remember this project started right here in Stanton Harcourt!! If you would like to volunteer any help & get involved, please contact Jo Wilby or Janette Barton  
info@standingwithgiants.co.uk

Stay safe. Dan Barton [www.standingwithgiants.co.uk](http://www.standingwithgiants.co.uk)



*Did you know the RAF was founded on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April out of the Royal flying corps and the Royal naval air service?*

## From Prime Ministers to Primroses

Looking at the gardens and verges around the village I have been admiring the wonderful primroses. Such a happy simple flower.

The primrose was the favourite flower of Benjamin Disraeli, and Queen Victoria often sent him bunches from Osborne House and Windsor Castle. An organisation called the Primrose League was set up after Disraeli's death to promote the popular conservatism that he represented and was so admired for. This finally folded in 2004 but there is a Primrose Day on the anniversary of his death.

His death was 19th April 1881 so this year will be the 140th Anniversary.

What better way to cheer us all up this year than to gather a small bunch and give them to a friend or put a vase of them in your window with the message "Wishing you a Happy Primrose Day"



*How many eggs and chicks can you find in this issue?*



## 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**



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LOCAL BUSINESS BASED IN  
 STANTON HARCOURT

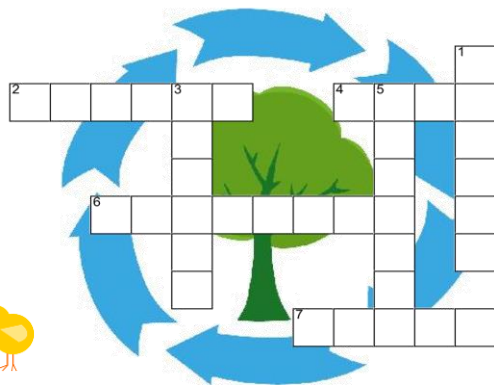
WE USE RECLAIMED WOOD ONLY  
 DURING THE MAKE OF ALL OF OUR PRODUCTS



## World Earth Day

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of April we celebrate World Earth Day and how important it is to look after Mother Nature.

<https://www.earthday.org/>. Enjoy this fun crossword!



### Across

- Don't \_\_\_\_\_. Use the garbage can.
- Something that is planted on Earth Day.
- We celebrate this on April 22 every year.
- Earth Day Color.

### Down

- When using less you \_\_\_\_\_.
- Turning off lights helps us to conserve \_\_\_\_\_.
- When you use things over again, you \_\_\_\_\_.

**If you want to STEM the flow of your child's boredom don't play catch, just think SCRATCH.** Are you aged 9 – 12? Would you like to learn

how to create your own computer programmes? Science Oxford are running a number of creative computing events for children, with guidance from coding experts.

And good news for the rest of the family – Science Oxford's Family open days are returning this Spring!

More information can be found here:

<https://scienceoxford.com/events/>



## Church News

### LOWER WINDRUSH BENEFICE SERVICES

#### Sun April 4th Easter Day

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – Yelford  
 9.30am Family Holy Communion – Stanton Harcourt  
 10.00am Family Service (lay led) – Northmoor  
 11.00am Family Holy Communion – Standlake

#### Sun April 11th Easter 2

10.00am Benefice Holy Communion – Northmoor

#### Sun April 18th Easter 3

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – Yelford  
 10.00am Benefice Holy Communion – Standlake  
 PM (time tbc) Family Service– Rectory Farm, Northmoor  
 6.00pm Evening Prayer (Common Worship) – online, Zoom

#### Sun April 25th Easter 4

10.00am Benefice Holy Communion – Stanton Harcourt  
 6.00pm Service of the Word (non-Comm) – Standlake

Our churches will be open for personal prayer and reflection on Good Friday (April 2nd) from approx. 9am until 4pm. This is the only weekday the buildings will be open for prayer during Holy Week.

**Every WEDNESDAY evening at 8.30pm:** Compline Night Prayer online via Zoom.

The Zoom link and Orders of Service for Sunday Evening Prayer and Compline can be found on our website: [www.lowerwindrushbenefice.org](http://www.lowerwindrushbenefice.org) in the section 'Services and Events'.

From the registers:

Funerals	Standlake	Patricia Robins	March 1st
		Darren Mitchell	March 3rd
		Beryl Emery	March 18th

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

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



*Did you know on April Fool's Day in 1989, billionaire Richard Branson designed a hot air balloon to look like a UFO and hired a person with dwarfism in an E.T. costume to scare whoever was near it when it landed?*

## Recipe of the Month

Why not p-p-p-pick up a packet of penguins in the biscuit aisle and enjoy a tasty, and entertaining, treat for World Penguin Day.

Q. How does a penguin build its house?  
 A. Igloos it together



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[www.stantonharcourt.online](http://www.stantonharcourt.online)

**Deadline for next issue is 20th of the month**

[village-voice@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:village-voice@hotmail.co.uk)

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