



Village Voice

The Newsletter of Stanton Harcourt & Sutton
December 2023 & January 2024



December 2023

Saturday 2nd 8.00am – Men's Breakfast,
Harcourt Arms (see entry for details)

Monday 4th 7.30pm – Parish Council Meeting,
Village Hall.

Tuesday 5th 7.30pm – Lower Windrush History
Club, Old Guardroom

Wednesday 6th 10.00am – Café at the Chapel

Saturday 9th 12pm to 2pm – Village Christmas
Market, Village Hall

Saturday 16th 6.30pm – Bingo Night, Village
Hall

Tuesday 19th 7.30pm – Sutton Singers
Christmas Concert, Village Hall

Thursday 21st 6.00pm – Carol Singing around
the village, starting at the Old Airfield, ending
Harcourt Arms

Sunday 24th 4.00pm – Carols and Cake at the
Chapel

January 2024

Wednesday 3rd 10.00am – Café at the Chapel

Every Thursday – *Lunch Club (see entry for
contact details) and Yoga with Alison James (see
the entry for details)*

Every Tuesday (term time) – 7pm Sutton
Singers (see entry for contact details)

STANTON HARCOURT & SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Welcome to your new Parish Councillor

At the last meeting, Andy Hayden was voted on as a co-opted member. Andy moved to the village recently and brings with him a wealth of knowledge from his working career. This brings us up to a full complement of councillors for the remainder of the term. We would like to take this moment to welcome Andy onboard and look forward to working with him over the next few months.

As a reminder, all Parish Councillor positions are up for re-election in May 2024. If you think you have skills and the time, please consider applying for a position. Further details will be advertised as soon as they become available. If you are interested, please do get in touch with your current Councillors who will be more than happy to answer any queries you may have.

Don't lose your vote

With District Council, Parish Council and Police and Crime Commissioner elections coming up next year,

check now to make sure that you are registered to vote.

Letters have started to make their way to your door for you to check your details, but if you want to check or even update your records ahead of the letters, you can do so at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

Recent home movers in particular are urged to check their details. Electoral Commission research has found that recent home movers are less likely to be registered than those who have lived at the same address for a long time.

Also, this time, ID will be required for you to be able to vote when you get to the polling stations. This can be any Government issued photo ID, even ID that has expired. Alternatively, if you do not have any, there is a scheme in place that allows you to apply for a voter authority certificate through www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate

Anyone with questions about their registration status can contact the Council's electoral services team at elections@westoxon.gov.uk or by calling 01993 861410.

Planning – have your say about Flexneys Paddock

As most of you will be aware, a planning application has gone in to WODC for 19 houses to be built in Stanton Harcourt and this has attracted some negative comments on the planning portal from villagers. Because of the objections, the planning application is now going to the planning committee. This committee is open to the public who wish to voice their thoughts. The committee will meet at WODC offices, Wood Green, Witney on 4th December at 2pm. If you do wish to attend and have your voice heard, please be aware that parking onsite is limited but street parking is available.

Next stage for the Local Plan

To make sure that our planning policies and proposals are up to date and effectively tackle vital issues such as climate change, health and wellbeing, housing and the economy, we are preparing a new Local Plan covering the period up to 2041.

The following key dates for drawing up the new Local Plan are expected to apply:

- Initial scoping consultation (Regulation 18): August – October 2022 (COMPLETE)
- Focused consultation on draft plan objectives, pattern of development and call for ideas, opportunities and sites (Regulation 18): August – October 2023 (COMPLETE)
- Consultation on preferred policy options/approaches (Regulation 18): Winter 2023
- Publication of pre-submission draft Local Plan (Regulation 19): Summer 2024
- Submission for independent examination: Autumn 2024
- Examination and adoption: 2025

Welcome the Warmth this Winter

Oxfordshire County Council has received Government funding to provide grants for residents to improve the energy-efficiency of their homes. Some of our Stanton Harcourt and Sutton residents may be eligible and interested in applying.

In a bid to help low-income households improve the energy efficiency of their home, bring down the cost of their bills and reduce their carbon footprint, the County Council is offering grants to fully fund the cost of improvements such as installing solar panels or heat pumps.

The County Council has created a designated website, Welcome the Warmth, to share more information about the scheme and who is eligible to apply for it. Generally, grants are only available to those living in a property with a D,E,F or G EPC rating and with a household income below a certain threshold or receiving certain benefits. The exact details are available on the website: [Am I eligible? | Welcome the Warmth](#)

For those who believe they are eligible and would like to take up the offer of a grant to make their home improvements, it's advised to contact the team via the freephone number 0800 038 6775 or by sending an email to info@welcomethewarmth.org.uk.

While not all of our residents will be eligible for these grants, we hope that those who are can take advantage of them and make the improvements that could save them money and improve their carbon footprint for many years to come. Stay warm this winter!

And finally

All of your Councillors, Parish, District and County, would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Your West Oxfordshire District Councillors are:

Lysette Nicholls

- Mobile: 07766 251125
- Email: lysette.nicholls@westoxon.gov.uk

Charlie Maynard

- Mobile: 07487 708681
- Email: Charlie.maynard@westoxon.gov.uk

Your Oxfordshire County 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

Andy Hayden, TBC

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

THE EYNHAM LINK Giving lifts to and from Eynsham

The Eynsham Link has been in existence for over 6 years. It was set up in response to the withdrawal of the Route 18 bus service by the

County Council – largely because patronage was low and the subsidy the service required was very high.

But without the bus service villagers who don't own cars, and villagers who temporarily do not have access to a car, find it difficult to get to Eynsham and the main centres of Witney and Oxford. For many the bus services from Eynsham to Oxford, Witney, etc are good so the prime need is to get to and from Eynsham

The First and Last bus service, which started in 2022, was welcome and has partly filled the gap but it only runs to Eynsham 5 times a day Monday to Friday so there are many other times when villagers need a lift. The Link works through a WhatsApp group so anyone needing a lift puts a message on the App giving the rough time they need a lift and this alerts all those in the group who have cars. They can respond if they happen to be going to/from Eynsham around that time and they then communicate via the App with the person requesting the lift as to the exact time and pick up point.

For this to work consistently there needs in our estimation to have a minimum of 100 villagers in the scheme/on the App. We need more villagers who own cars therefore to volunteer to give the occasional lift- and very importantly anyone who doesn't own a car to join the scheme.

So if you are willing to offer a lift from time to time please join the Link. And if you regularly or occasionally need a lift please join the Link. Apart from having a smart phone the only requirement is to contact John Brown at jbrown1uk@yahoo.com and he will add you to the group.

If you have any queries about the Link and how it works email Mike Parker at mikeparker12@gmail.com We hope many members of our community volunteer.

Mike Parker, Richard Thomson,
Gil Hilliard, John Brown



Lower Windrush History Club

5th December 2023 – Old Guardroom, Stanton Harcourt 7.30pm

Antonia Keaney - Blenheim: Christmas Past and Present

6th February 2024 – Standlake Village Hall 7.30pm

Tom Crook – The Great Stink: Victorian Engineering

5th March 2024 – Northmoor Village Hall 7.30pm

Liz Woolley – Lord Nuffield and the Oxford Colleges

2nd April 2024 – Standlake Village Hall 7.30pm

Mark Davies – Professors of Rowing: Oxford & Cambridge Boat Race

7th May 2024 – St Giles Church, Standlake 7.30pm

Anne Carter – Guided Tour of St Giles Church Yard (donations to St Giles Church would be appreciated)

New members are very welcome and subs are £25/person for the complete season. Non members can attend individual talks for £5/person.

If you'd like to join as a member, just go along to the first meeting with payment, or drop an email

to lwbscommittee@gmail.com

Thai Yoga Massage in Sutton

Dear Neighbours, I have been a qualified massage therapist since 2011, qualifying in Thai Yoga Massage at the start of 2020.

The benefits of Thai Yoga Massage include-

*improved circulation, breathing, posture, flexibility, digestion.

*works to improve your body's alignment, is described as having yoga done to you.

*aims to restore and balance the body's energy system.

This massage is performed over clothing, and is both laying and sitting. Each massage is carried out by looking at your individual needs and tailoring the massage to you.

Please email for more information

at alison@peacefulexistence.co.uk

Thank you 🌟

Church News

Lower Windrush Benefice – St Michael's, Stanton Harcourt

*****Evening Prayer said most Mondays and Thursdays at 4pm*****

December Services

3rd 08.30am Holy Communion

9th 4.00pm Carols by Candlelight

10th 10.00am Holy Communion

17th 10.00am Service of the Word (non-communion)

24th 11.30pm Midnight Communion

25th 10.00am All Age Service, lay-led

31st 9.00am Short, said Communion

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/

Christmas Café at the Chapel

WEDNESDAY 6 DECEMBER 10.00 – 12.00



FRESH ROASTED COFFEE
SELECTION OF TEAS



TOASTED TEACAKES, CRUMPETS, HOT BUTTERED TOAST OR A MINCE PIE! CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND CRACKERS!

200 Club

Numbers for December

1st Prize 241 E Lewis. £25

2nd Prize 218 J Holland. £12

3rd Prize 273 C Wood. £8

4th Prize 152 G Mason £5

If you fancy your chances then let Liz Strange know that you want to buy a number or two. Numbers drawn monthly for the meagre sum of £6 for the year. We have spare numbers. All profit to church funds. Liz on 07810606755

THURSDAY LUNCH CLUB

We meet every Thursday at Northmoor Village Hall between 12 noon and 2 pm and welcome residents from Stanton Harcourt, Northmoor and Standlake.

COOKS NEEDED We have several local volunteer cooks who work on a rota basis providing traditional food, but need more people to help ease the pressure on our existing cooks. If you feel you could help out by cooking dinners or puddings or are interested in attending please contact Anna on 01865 881363 / Michael on 01865 300480 or pop in to see us one week between 12:00 and 2:00.

Dear Villagers

On behalf of both Harley Owners Group Chapters – Black Mountains Chapter, Wales and Thames Valley Chapter we would like to thank everyone who met us at the recent Remembrance Sunday Services. Although the weather turned out to be most usual and wet, it didn't dampen spirits where we remembered those who had paid the ultimate price in defending our great country. Both services were quite moving and the refreshments provided in the Guard Room were warmly received – so to the ladies and gentlemen who worked so hard – ta very much. It was nice to see the church so full and as it's becoming, seeing familiar faces once again. We did pop over to see Dan's "Standing With Giants" which was a very interesting addition - he wanted some photo's done – let's hope there's not as many puddles on our next visit. Did manage to call into Dads for a final cuppa – he of course wanted some pictures of the Harley's outside the house, but couldn't be persuaded to have a spin. The ride back to South Wales certainly gave the bikes another wash !

As we look forward to 2024 – and a very busy riding season for us, there's always the "Carnival Week" so you never know.

Kindest Regards

Alan Holland, Safety Officer / Road Captain
Black Mountains Chapter, Wales

Sutton Singers.

Sutton Singers continue to meet on Tuesdays during term time at 7pm. Would you like to sing? Come and join in the joy and fun of singing together? No auditions needed. We welcome new members, have parties sometimes and our Musical Director – Lizzie Soden – is a joy to work with, fun, encouraging and says everyone can sing!

Get in touch with Jan Tomlinson on
Phone: 01865 881709 or
email: janandpaultomlinson@gmail.com



Don't miss Our Christmas Concert at St Michael's Church on Tuesday 19th December 2023 at 7.30 to start singing. This year we are preparing for some well loved songs for everyone to join in with as well as a Sutton Singers performance. Don't miss this joyous festive event. Entrance £5 on the door in aid of St Michael's Church. Light festive refreshments after the concert.

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



Monthly Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast meet ups are held at The Harcourt Arms on the 1st Saturday of each month at 8:00 am to approx. 09:15 for a breakfast & general social chat. Price of a Full English, with tea/ coffee & toast currently £12 per head, other breakfasts available off the menu. Open invitation to all, but anyone who would like to come along please let Rob Brown know by text or telephone on 07957 664117 or email rlindsaybrown@btinternet.com so he can give the Arms numbers by the Thursday beforehand.

Stanton Harcourt and Sutton Summer Festival 2024

Our week of Summer Festival events in 2024 will take place from
15th June to 23rd June

Our village **Festival Day** will take place on
Saturday 22nd June 2024

2024 marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of British archaeologist and Egyptologist Howard Carter who discovered and excavated the tomb of the Egyptian Pharaoh Tutankhamun in 1922. To commemorate this our theme for summer festival 2024 is going to be:



"Stanton Discovers Ancient Egypt"



So, prepare yourselves for a week of adventure navigating the Nile and discovering the wonders of Ancient Egypt!

Festival Week Events

If you or your village organisation would like to hold an event during the week, get in touch with Keith Hickson (07764 132178, email keith@shpc.co.uk) who is co-ordinating the event schedule for the week. Hosting a festival event is a great way to raise funds for your organisation or for your favourite charity.

Festival Day Stalls

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

Programme Booklet

If you are involved in a local business and would like to place

an advert in the Festival Programme booklet then contact Gill (gill@mason.com)

For other information about Festival email Jo Wilby at jowilby@hotmail.co.uk

Best wishes

The Festival Committee

Witney Music Society's final concert in 2023 will given by the renowned Rossetti Ensemble. Their programme features works for piano quartet by Mozart, David Matthews and Dvořák. The concert is at 7.30 pm on Friday 8 December at High Street Methodist Church, Witney. Tickets (£15, £1 for under 19s) will be available at the door from 7pm or in advance online.

For more information, please telephone 01993 898020 or visit the Witney Music Society website www.witneymusicsociety.org.uk

FIRST AND LAST MILE BUS SERVICE

First and Last Mile has recently changed the 418 timetable to increase capacity into Eynsham in the mornings. It is now easier for commuters from Stanton Harcourt and Sutton to travel to Eynsham and beyond using our community bus.

On schooldays there will be an additional service leaving Flexneys Paddock at 08.15 as well as the usual 07.55 service. The 07.55 is open to all but on some schooldays this bus is full on reaching Stanton Harcourt. The second bus ensures that no one will be left behind as it has plenty of room.

The last bus back to Sutton and Stanton Harcourt now leaves Eynsham Church later - at 18.15 - to provide more time to connect with the bus from Oxford.

We are happy to answer any queries at 07584 927 050 or info.firstandlastmile@gmail.com. Please email village-voice@hotmail.co.uk for a printable copy of the timetable.

Finally a very delicious-sounding Christmas recipe sent in by villager, Ginny Prentice... "Here's my great-gran's (Sarah Puddifoot) stuffing recipe for Christmas dinner. We didn't stuff the bird with it, just had it on the side of the plate, and as a crunchy savoury snack, it was more popular than crisps or nuts!

GRAN'S STUFFING

6-10 fresh sage leaves very finely chopped. // Three quarters of a loaf of white bread, made into breadcrumbs (stale is better) // Couple of eggs, beaten (but add one at a time; may not need both; see how wet the mixture is) // Handful of 'Atora' shredded beef suet (but OK with vegetarian alternative), Salt and pepper. Two large onions chopped fine-ish.

The quantities aren't precise; use your judgement. Mix all ingredients together except eggs, then add one at a time; you don't need a very wet mixture, but it has to bind the crumbs together. Bung it all in a (slightly greased) Pyrex dish and cook in a hot oven, pulling the rack out every ten minutes or so to stir the mixture up with a fork until it gets all lovely and golden and crispy.

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

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