



Village Voice

The Newsletter of Stanton Harcourt & Sutton July / August 2021



Calendar

17th - 18th July: Gill's Studio Clearout *grab a bargain!*
 17th - 18th July: Open Gardens *enjoy our beautiful village*
 23rd July - 8th Aug: Summer Olympics *support our athletes*
 26th July: Parish Meeting *have your say and get informed*
 31st July: Harry Potter's Birthday *good excuse for cake*
 14th Aug: Village Market *bacon rolls and more cake!*
 30th Aug: Summer Bank Holiday *fingers crossed for sun!*

We're Back!

Following an almost 18 month hiatus, Village Voice is finally back in print again. We'd like to thank you all for your understanding and patience whilst we were unable to deliver. Late last year our editorial team changed; we're aware not everyone was receiving the electronic copies, so we'd like to properly introduce your new Village Voice team...

Chief Editor, Sarah Watts:



Greetings from your new editor! In the autumn of 2020 I decided I needed a challenge, so I took on the role of Village Voice Editor. More specifically, having known and admired the man who started this newsletter all those years ago (the late, and great, John Faulkner) I hope to continue his legacy for the Stanton Harcourt and Sutton communities.

My family (the Burdens) have been part of this village for generations (but don't worry,

we started branching out and breeding with people further afield a number of generations ago!).

I'm an ex police officer, so watch yourselves: I won't tolerate any dodgy business or, more importantly, slack deadlines! You'll often see me out and about furiously bimbbling with the fluffiest dog in the world. And when I'm not doing that I'm probably blasting your ears with funk or jazz from my car as I bumble about the place trying to find Village Voice deliverers!

Apprentice Editor: Lucy Taylor

Hello all, I've been an editor for over a year now and got involved for my silver Duke of Edinburgh Award through air cadets, which I did throughout lockdowns 1+2. You have probably seen me around the village doing bell ringing, panto, litter picks and in the pub! I'm also the Queen, but not only that, I'm also the longest reigning monarch. And yes, my family is the one who sells the eggs in Sutton. Hope you enjoy the summer and the warmth!



Open Garden Weekend

Saturday 17th July & Sunday 18th July

Lots of gardens to visit. Some big, some small, all full of character. There will be activities and refreshments available at some of the gardens.

Entry with a programme is just £3 per family.

Programmes will be available from July 10th or from any of the gardens on the day. Look out for posters for more information. In aid of St Michael's church

Time to Party?

Unfortunately there is not yet a definite plan for a mini Village Festival in the autumn. The Festival Committee hope to make something happen and have got their thinking caps on! Watch this space for further updates.

Sutton Singers

Tuesdays, 7pm – Jan's Garden, Spindlewood, New Road

We have been blessed with good weather and been able to keep singing. We're currently meeting outside in Jan Tomlinson's garden, so are dependent on the weather.

We are considering continuing through the summer holidays if enough are able to (still to be confirmed as VV goes to press).

If you are interested in coming along or would like info about whether we will meet in the summer holidays please contact Jan: 01865 881709 or janandpaultomlinson@gmail.com

** Village Market **

The bad news: Following the extension of COVID restrictions for another month, the Village Market & Cafe on Sat 10 July has been cancelled.

The good news: The Village Hall Committee has set dates for Village Markets for the rest of 2021 as follows....

all from 12-2pm:

Sat 14 August	Sat 11 September	Sat 9 October
Sat 13 November	Sat 11 December	

We hope to see lots of you popping in to enjoy the stalls as well as the bacon rolls, cakes & coffee!

Studio Clearout!

Saturday 17th July & Sunday 18th July, Smithy Cottage

In order to make space for more creativity I need to clear out my studio!

There will be original prints and drawings and some craft items available for the taking in the garden of Smithy Cottage-opposite the Village Hall- from 10.00am - 5pm on Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th July. Walk round the garden and enjoy coffee, tea or a soft drink. Donations to St Michael's Fabric Fund for the repair and maintenance of the church and churchyard. Gill Salway



King of the Road

As the village has recently expanded with the addition of the Hayfield Green development, the 30mph zone has been moved. The speed zone has been extended along the main road from Northmoor/Standlake, so it begins earlier than it used to.

After some villagers kindly carried out hedgerow maintenance the signs are now clearly visible, so there's no excuse not to kill your speed earlier!

Subscribe to Village Voice

One day our mission is to go paperless to help save trees.

We know this is not possible for all members of our community, and for those people we will continue to provide paper copies for in the future.

If you're happy joining our online community please subscribe to our mailing list. You'll receive Village Voice updates, prompts for news items for future issues, and a PDF copy of each new edition.

To subscribe use the subscriber link on the home page of the Stanton Harcourt online website stantonharcourt.online/



From 1912-1948, artists participated in the Olympics: Painters, sculptors, architects, writers, and musicians competed for medals in their respective fields.



Parish Council News

Next Parish Council Meeting at the Faulkner Hall
July: Monday 5th July 7:30pm

Parish Council

A Parish Council is a local authority that makes decisions on behalf of the people in the Parish. It is the level of government closest to the community, with the District Council and the County Council above it in the hierarchy. As the Council closest to our community, we welcome residents to raise their concerns or ideas and hope that more of you will become actively involved. If you think we can help you, please talk to us in the street, phone us, email us or attend Parish Council meetings - all communication is welcome. We want to ensure we represent the whole community - but that is only possible if you all communicate with us, we really do want your input so that we can be sure we represent the whole community rather than just the vocal few.

Parish Councillors are all volunteers who give their time freely with the aim of making a positive difference to our community both in the short and longer term - we can't move mountains - but we will always try to do our best.

Parish Meeting 26 July 2021 7:30pm

This is your meeting facilitated by the Parish Council, we invite Parishioners to raise topics for discussion (ideally in advance so they can go on an agenda/notice to inform Parishioners). The Parish Council has invited some local organisations to talk, those that accept will be included on the agenda. We hope lots of you attend in person. It is a chance to meet your Councillors in person (Parish, District and County), hear some short village related talks and to find out about the various clubs, organisations etc in and around Stanton Harcourt and Sutton. If you are Coordinating a local group or organisation and you would like to advertise it or if you would like to start one and are looking for other who might like to join - give Gill a call (07778924964) or send her a text and she will ensure you are included.

Plus this meeting is a chance to safely catch up with neighbours new and old.

A community is more than a group of people living in the same place. It is a group of people who look out for each other and positively contribute to village life and the village itself.



Covid

People in Oxfordshire are being urged to continue to follow public health guidance as the number of cases in the county has risen significantly recently. Please do take care of yourselves. If you find you need to isolate, the Covid volunteer group is still active and happy to help. Phone or Email one of your Councillors and they will use our WhatsApp group to find the help you need.

Questionnaire

You will have received a copy of a questionnaire with your newsletter this month. The purpose of the questionnaire is to establish whether the Village would like a community shop - a shop run by volunteers. We want to ensure that we try to deliver what the Village wants - and this is an excellent way of gathering the views of as many people as possible. This is an opportunity for you to have your say and an opportunity to consider volunteering.



Speed Watch

Rachel Arnold is our new Village Speed Watch co-ordinator and is looking for volunteers to help with this important scheme. The last time we ran a scheme such as this we caught lots of people speeding but the police appeared to take no action, this time we have been informed by WODC that the protocol has changed so that enforcement can be effective. To make this scheme work we need volunteers, if you feel able and willing please contact Rachel on rachel@shpc.co.uk

Email addresses

The Parish Council members have decided that we will all have Parish Council specific email accounts with addresses that we hope you will find easy to remember. If you have any concerns, complaints or suggestions please let us know.

Matthew Judson - Chair - matthew@shpc.co.uk
Gill Sellars - Vice Chair - gill@shpc.co.uk
Rachel Arnold - rachel@shpc.co.uk
Joe Deane - joe@shpc.co.uk
Keith Hickson - keith@shpc.co.uk
Trudi Gasser - Parish Clerk - clerk@shpc.co.uk

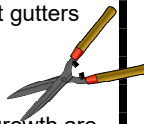
Boost for local businesses

Retailers, restaurants and business owners across the District are being encouraged to sign up to a new customer loyalty app, designed to give their marketing an extra dimension and increase footfall in towns across West Oxfordshire.

West Oxfordshire District Council is working with LoyalFree to run the app across the district, providing free promotion for local businesses and discounts and benefits for residents.

Please clear your gutters....

As part of the budget cuts, OCC will no longer spray the gutters to prevent weed growth, etc. It would be fantastic if every householder could take responsibility for their pavement gutters and keep them clear, allowing rain water to flow freely.



Keep Trimming.....

Just a reminder for all residents to ensure any hedges/growth are kept trimmed and do not obstruct public footpaths, roads and other rights of way.

QUICK CONTACTS:

Your Parish Council: All official communications should be addressed to the Parish Clerk:

Trudi Gasser

Email: clerk@shpc.co.uk or Tel: 01865 686498



West Oxfordshire District Council:

Cllr Lysette Nicholls

Email: lysette.nicholls@westoxon.gov.uk or Tel: 07766 251125

Cllr Steve Good

Email: steve.good@westoxon.gov.uk

Oxfordshire County Council:

Cllr Dan Levy

Email: dan.levy@oxfordshire.gov.uk or Tel: 07852 748362

Member of Parliament (MP):

Robert Courts 58-60 High Street, Witney OX286HJ,

Email: robert@robertcourts.co.uk or Tel: 01993 225020



The Olympic torch is derived from Ancient Greece where a sacred fire was kept burning throughout the celebration of the Olympics on the altar of the sanctuary of Hestia.

Handy Hints for Horticulturalists

Jobs for your garden this summer:

- * Sit back and enjoy the spoils of your hard work
- * Light the barbecue & get the fire pit out
- * Enjoy some early home grown veg and tasty salad
- * Pop outside to work but actually enjoy a snooze on a balmy summer's afternoon (hammock or comfortable seating optional)



Summer Fun!



The summer holidays are fast approaching. We know this year it's difficult to get out and we're being encouraged to stay local; so why not explore what beautiful nature and history we have on our door step in Oxfordshire?

National Trust

The National Trust has got an amazing list of local things to do with kids in Oxfordshire, helping to provide somewhere to explore and learn about why it's so important to protect nature, habitats and history.

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



Poetry Corner

31st July is an important day for all Potterheads: not only is it Harry Potter's birthday, his author, J.K. Rowling, shares the same birthday.

With a new school year around the corner we bring you the Sorting Hat's introductory song. Do you know what house you belong to? Why not find out your official house on J.K. Rowling's official website: www.wizardingworld.com

**You might belong in Gryffindor,
Where dwell the brave at heart,
Their daring, nerve, and chivalry
Set Gryffindors apart;**

**You might belong in Hufflepuff,
Where they are just and loyal,
Those patient Hufflepuffs are true
And unafraid of toil;**

**Or yet in wise old Ravenclaw,
if you've a ready mind,
Where those of wit and learning,
Will always find their kind;**

**Or perhaps in Slytherin
You'll make your real friends,
Those cunning folks use any means
To achieve their ends.**



J.K. Rowling 1965 –

Page 3 Bird: The Owl



4th August is International Owl Awareness Day.

There are more than 225 owl species in the world, divided into two families. Barn owls with their distinct heart-shaped facial disks make up the Tytonidae family, while all other owl species are in the Strigidae or typical owl family.

The Harry Potter books may have made owl post seem like a great idea, but we've actually got a very good post office service available locally. The majority of owls in owl rescue centres are often from people chasing an owl post pipe dream, who quickly discover owls don't make the best family pet! Sadly, once many wild animals have been raised in captivity they can't be reintroduced into the wild.

Owls are declining due to less grassland for them to hunt in. A few things to help conserve them include having a chimney cap, no football nets, to not put out poisons e.g. rat poison, keeping cats inside and putting up owl boxes.



Go for Gold!

The summer Olympics, hosted in Tokyo, officially start on the 23rd July. Instead of just watching from the comfort of your sofa, why not join in a

local sports team/club or try your hand at some of the Olympic sports on offer? Who knows, we might have the next gold medallist hiding right here in Stanton Harcourt & Sutton!

Oil those bike chains, dust off your swimming costume, grab your trainers and pop out for a speed walk, pick up a cheap badminton kit, create your own whiff whaff table, hold your own Garden Olympics...

Or perhaps you'll discover a talent at a new sport – Olympic hill rolling, or stone skipping anyone? The possibilities are endless! Sports are there to be enjoyed and to have fun, not to be perfect at. Have a go – you never know you might find something you really enjoy!



The unlit Olympic torch has been taken to space several times

Parish Path News

After recently volunteering to become a Parish Path Warden, I was given some maps showing all the rights of way. Path number 362/27 appears as a very short section crossing the Thames where the path from Sutton Lane meets it. The mystery was solved when Rita Stockhill shared her old photos with me and one of a bridge that used to be there linking us with Farmoor before the reservoir was built. She remembers being allowed to walk over it as a child on the regular Sunday walks her family used to do and that it was dismantled during the war to prevent any enemy incursion! It was called Skinners Bridge and it still exists as a right of way though to this day. If you look carefully you might find the remains of the concrete piers that the bridge stood on. Here it is in 1927. Lucy Heath



Women have been allowed to compete in the Olympics since 1900. The 2012 London Games were the first Olympics in which all participating countries sent female athletes.

Post Office

We have a fantastic post office at our fingertips: don't forget to make the most of it.

Based at the Village Hall, Hitesh provides a Post Office service every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday along with a shop supplying the village with their newspapers, magazines and essential items.

You can use the village post office to bank cash and cheques: this is a service open to all customers regardless of which company you bank with.

So convenient you don't even need to get out of your pyjamas on a Saturday morning if you don't want to - Hitesh won't mind!



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

Lower Windrush Valley Project

The Lower Windrush Valley Project (LWVP) is looking for a representative from Stanton Harcourt.

Charles Mathew sat on the LWVP Steering Group from 2013 - 2021 as representative of both OCC, in his role as county councillor, and Stanton Harcourt.

The role is now open for someone new to get their teeth into and can be filled by a member of the parish council or a resident can be nominated. If you're interested please contact Stanton Harcourt Parish Council.

For more information please see the following links:

<https://bit.ly/3iZ25MN>

<https://bit.ly/3vGbo7b>

Don't be a Doughnut – eat them instead

It's National Doughnut week between 10th - 18th July. Our editor has fond memories of midnight doughnut runs to keep morale up whilst policing the mean streets of Oxford and is always on the hunt for the best DIY doughnut recipe.

Bakers throughout the country use National Doughnut week to raise vital funds for The Children's Trust, the UK's leading charity for children with brain injuries. For more information about how you can join in visit: <https://nationaldoughnutweek.org/>

Ingredients (makes 12)

1 tbsp yeast 4 tbsp caster sugar
150ml milk, warmed ¼ tsp salt
50g butter, melted 1 free-range egg, beaten
225g plain flour, plus extra for dusting
300ml vegetable oil, for deep-frying jam of your choice



Method

1. Mix the yeast with half a teaspoon of the sugar and two tablespoons of the warm milk. Place in a warm place to rest for 15 minutes, or until frothy.
2. Sift the flour and salt into a large bowl. Stir in one tablespoon of the sugar.
3. Make a well in the flour and pour in the yeast mix, the rest of the milk, the melted butter and the egg. Mix to make a dough and then knead, cover the bowl and leave to stand for 45 minutes, or until the dough has doubled in size.
4. On a floured work surface, knead the dough for five minutes, then divide into 12 balls and place in a warm place for 30 minutes, or until they have doubled in size.
5. Heat the oil in a deep pan until it reaches 190C/375F, or a cube of bread dropped in sizzles and turns golden in 30 seconds. (CAUTION: hot oil can be dangerous. Do not leave unattended.)
6. Gently lower the dough balls one at a time into the hot oil, in batches of two or three, and fry for 3-5 minutes or until golden-brown, and then carefully turn over. Remove from the hot oil with a slotted spoon and drain on kitchen paper.
7. Roll the hot doughnuts in the remaining sugar. Make a small slit in the doughnut with the tip of a knife, and fill with a teaspoon of jam. Serve.

Live Theatre is Back

The Watermill Theatre is returning to Stanton Harcourt Village Hall on Friday 13th August with their sell out performance from last year of The Hound of the Baskervilles.

A mysterious murder, an ancient curse and a legendary detective...

Join us on the wild moors of Dartmoor and prepare for cryptic chaos! Three actors play all the characters in this madcap version of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's most celebrated Sherlock Holmes story.

Sir Charles Baskerville is found dead with the paw prints of a gigantic beast beside him and a look of horror on his face. Holmes and Watson are summoned from Baker Street to investigate the crime and discover the truth about the Hound of the Baskervilles. Join Holmes, Watson and a host of intriguing characters and watch the mystery unfold!

The performance will take place outdoors in the Village Hall Garden.

Running time is 1 hour 20 minutes including a 20-minute interval. Age Guidance: 8+

Tickets availability limited so book early - £15 adults, £8 for 8-18 years. A bar will be available before the performance and during the interval. Doors open 7pm for 7.30 start.

Email – lucy.heath1@gmail.com to arrange BACS payment or buy at the Village Shop or Harcourt Arms.



Football's Coming Home!

We're not convinced that it is...

But to join in the UEFA Euro 2020 fun we've hidden footballs in this issue. How many can you find?



Covid News

www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Book a vaccine appointment on the NHS website:
<https://bit.ly/3oJvvzp>

Restrictions may not be easing on the 21st of June, but there's no reason to give up hope. The vaccine programme is rapidly rolling out to younger age groups and, at the time of print, the UK has successfully vaccinated approx 80 % of all eligible adults.

This number is only going to increase, which is fantastic news for the easing of restrictions and life getting back to 'normal'.

If you think you have covid isolate and book a test.

Book a test at nhs.uk/coronavirus or by calling 119

Help keep everyone around you safe by using rapid antigen tests / lateral flow tests, which are available to order.

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

Stay safe. There is light at the end of the tunnel!



During the 1936 Berlin Games, two Japanese pole-vaulters tied for second place. Instead of competing again, they cut the silver and bronze medals in half and fused the two different halves together so that each of them had a half-silver and half-bronze medal



Church News



LOWER WINDRUSH BENEFICE

The Lower Windrush Benefice has a whole host of services taking place now that restrictions are easing. We've got a Teddy bear Picnic, Prayer & Poetry, Animal services and many more. For all service dates and times please visit our website: www.lowerwindrushbenefice.org.

STANTON HARCOURT SERVICES

Sunday July 4th

10am Holy Communion – Stanton Harcourt

Sunday July 18th

6pm Prayer & Poetry – a service of meditation – Stanton Harcourt

Sunday August 1st

10am Benefice All Age Holy Communion – Stanton Harcourt

Sunday August 15th

10am Benefice Holy Communion – Stanton Harcourt

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

The Zoom link and Orders of Service can be found on our website: www.lowerwindrushbenefice.org

ST PETER'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, EYNHAM

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



And Finally...

Village Voice is taking its usual summer break. Don't panic! We'll be back refreshed, with more news and entertainment in September. Enjoy the summer!

Subscribe to Village Voice emails and updates using the Stanton Harcourt Online website www.stantonharcourt.online

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.