



Village Voice

The Newsletter of Stanton Harcourt & Sutton

September 2020

Calendar

nth Everything's cancelled for the near future! ☹️



Unfortunately, in last month's edition we did not write about VJ day so we decided to add it in this month.

V-J Day, or Victory over Japan Day, August 15th 1945, marks the end of World War II, one of the deadliest and most destructive wars in history. Japan entered WW2 in September 1940 when it signed a tripartite pact with Germany and Italy but the Pacific War didn't start until the 7 December 1941 when the Japanese bombed the United States military base in Hawaii (Pearl Harbour) and invaded Thailand, Malaya, Singapore and Hong Kong. The act of aggression against the United States resulted in them joining WW2. With the main military focus on Europe over the next seven months Japan rapidly progressed across Asia occupying many countries within Southern Asia and the Pacific. Many people were taken prisoner, killed and injured by this brutal war. However by 1945 the allied forces had the upper hand and in July 1945 Japan refused the offer of a surrender. The Pacific War was brought to an end in August when the US dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This action along with the Soviet invasion of Manchuria triggered the final surrender and brought an end to WW2.

On VJ Day we remember all the lives lost in this terrible war

The next commemoration will be Armistice day, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, more details in due course.

Weather Report!

It's all over the place, hot, cold, damp and scorchio! Don't forget to wear a jumper, carry a brolly and wear sunscreen or you'll get tan lines around your mask!

A new editor is needed! It Could Be You!



After 7 years as caretaker, the editor is retiring. Contrary to belief it's not just drinking heavily at village events, you also get to work with Royalty! You may also be able to help young people in completing their DofE Volunteering like our Queen is doing. More details with the 'back page bird' or contact us if interested in this exciting opportunity @ village-voice@hotmail.co.uk

Return to School

As I'm sure aware schools are returning/ have returned. I am a student myself and I'm returning back to a year full of exams including the real thing. For many people the home schooling situation has been very different and with the news/ government coming out with new advice all the time it is Very easy to feel stressed for what is about to come. So I would like to reassure you that if you feel like this it is completely normal and that there are so many people out there to help. I would also like to say if your results haven't gone well this year or in the future there is no shame in it!

Some numbers who can help:

Samaritans- 116 123

No Panic- 0844 967 4848

PAPYRUS- 0800 068 4141

Also just talk, whether its to parents, siblings, teachers, just anyone you trust :)

Coronavirus track and trace scam

A new telephone scam is coming to light callers contact residents saying they are from NHS Track & Trace, telling the resident that they have been in contact with someone suffering from Covid 19 and need to have a test sent out to them. This is swiftly followed with a request for the resident's bank details; the caller states that the test and results cost £500. **No NHS scheme will ask for money or bank details.**

IS THIS A PAPER COPY? HELP YOURSELF! ➡

We've left printed copies stapled to things in the village, so you can pick one up to keep or pass on to anyone who doesn't have this new-fangled internet thing. It should just tear off, if the notice board comes with it you can help us make some more notice boards perhaps.....

Trespassing on Farmer's Land

We've had a complaint that people are trespassing on farmer's land. This is absolutely disgraceful as this is their income and land they privately own. Yes, footpaths etc do go through some fields but you should only walk on the footpath not the wider field and even worse crops, to do so is trespassing under law! It is also important to not drop litter or dog poo on footpaths as these can be eaten by livestock and cause illness, miscarriage or death.

Stay on the path and keep it clean!



Its blackberry season!

Why not make a crumble or freeze blackberries so you can cook summer fruit in the depths of winter!

Apple and Blackberry Crumble Recipe (from Lucy!)

- 1.Heat oven to 190C/170C fan/gas mk5. Tip 120g plain flour and 60g caster sugar into a large bowl.
- 2.Add 60g unsalted butter, then rub into the flour using your fingertips to make a light breadcrumb texture. Do not overwork it or the crumble will become heavy.
- 3.Sprinkle the mixture evenly over a baking sheet and bake for 15 mins or until lightly coloured.
- 4.Meanwhile, for the compote, peel, core and cut 300g Braeburn apples into 2cm dice.
- 5.Put 30g unsalted butter and 30g demerara sugar in a medium saucepan and melt together over a medium heat. Cook for 3 mins until the mixture turns to a light caramel.
- 6.Stir in the apples and cook for 3 mins. Add 115g blackberries and ¼ tsp ground cinnamon, and cook for 3 mins more.
- 7.Cover, remove from the heat, then leave for 2-3 mins to continue cooking in the warmth of the pan.
- 8.To serve, spoon the warm fruit into an ovenproof gratin dish, top with the crumble mix, then reheat in the oven for 5-10 mins. Serve with vanilla ice cream.

Ingredients List

For the crumble topping

- 120g plain flour
- 60g caster sugar
- 60g unsalted butter at room temperature, cut into pieces

For the fruit compote

- 300g Braeburn apple
- 30g unsalted butter
- 30g demerara sugar
- 115g blackberries
- ¼ tsp ground cinnamon
- vanilla ice cream, to serve

How to freeze your blackberries

- 1.Pour your blackberries into a colander, and rinse in cool water. ...
- 2.Remove any stems, leaves or damaged berries.
- 3.Spread the blackberries out on a cookie sheet in a single layer. ...
- 4.Once the berries are frozen, transfer them to a freezer bag or another freezer-safe container of your choosing.

Chimney Fire Safety!

Contrary to experts on social media the most common cause of chimney fires is not phoenix's hatching in the autumn, but is in fact 'dirty chimneys' with cobwebs and smoke tar causing the chimney to catch fire. Don't forget to sweep your chimney ahead of the cold season to ensure it doesn't catch fire! A clean chimney also makes it burn cleaner and reduced the potential for carbon monoxide, but you should also have a CO alarm if burning wood, coal or for your oil or gas boiler to alert you if its burning dirty!

CO is very toxic as it displaces the oxygen in the bloodstream and is undetectable and takes a very long time to get over.



Surviving Lockdown

Although we are allowed out a lot more please do stay safe and wear your mask. We recently posted a contacts list so please do use it :)

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



THE
HARCOURT
ARMS

**& The
Harcourt
Stores**

The stores are open daily 8am – 5pm

The pub garden is now open daily, weather dependant, for drinks and takeaway menu

The restaurant is now open for fine dining; booking required.

The bar and snug is also now open subject to capacity for when its not garden weather.

Call to book on 01865416516

www.theharcourtarms.com

Parish Council News

Next Parish Council Meetings

September: Monday 7th 7:30

October: Monday 5th 7:30

Stanton Harcourt Parish Council is committed to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion which is underpinned by the Equality Act 2010 which outlaws all forms of discrimination on the grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation. We are committed to providing and promoting equal opportunities, eliminating discrimination and encouraging diversity in the Community and aim to create a culture that respects and values each other's differences and which promotes dignity, equality and diversity within our community. We aim to keep this Newsletter focus on local news and free from Politics.

Village Voice Policy

The Parish Council and the Editor of the Village Voice newsletter committed to a policy last year that would ensure that the newsletter remained free from politics or perceived politics and focused on the provision of local information. A copy of this policy is displayed on the Stanton Harcourt Parish Council website.

Parish Council Vacancy

Due to a resignation a Vacancy exists on the Parish Council – If, within 14 days after the date of the notice (i.e. no later than 8 September, 2020), a request for an election to fill the vacancy is made to the Head of the Paid Service, West Oxfordshire District Council, Woodgreen, Witney, Oxfordshire, OX28 1NB by TEN electors for the Parish, an election will be held to fill the vacancy, otherwise the vacancy will be filled by co-option. If an election is requested, the vacancy will be filled at the ordinary election of Parish Councillors for Stanton Harcourt scheduled for 6 May 2021.

Road Works

You will have noticed the work on and alongside the main road in Stanton Harcourt. The purpose of the latest work is to create increased parking facilities outside of the cemetery, to create a pavement and safe crossing point for the new residents at the Airfield site to enable them to walk to the school, church, pub and shops. Plus, they will relocate the 30mph sign further down the road.

Energy Efficiency Fund

West Oxfordshire District Council has boosted its commitment to tackling climate change. A new £20,000 fund will be made available to residents this winter to help make their homes more energy efficient. We will let you know more about this as soon as we know.

Electoral Register

Local residents are being warned not to lose their voice on decisions that affect them by making sure their

electoral registration details are up to date. With 17 seats on West Oxfordshire District Council up for election along with County Council, Parish Council (including Stanton Harcourt) and Police and Crime Commissioner elections on 6 May 2021, this is an important opportunity for residents to make sure they can take part.

Changes to the 2021 Census

The Government has announced the 2021 Census will now include a question to provide information on whether someone has served in HM Armed Forces, following legislation passed last month. The Royal British Legion, which led the campaign, is at the heart of a national network offering a range of support and services to the Armed Forces community. The decision to include the question on the 2021 census will provide the Legion, as well as public bodies, local authorities and other military charities with valuable information to ensure they can best meet the needs of serving personnel, veterans and their families. It has been estimated that there are 2.4 million veterans currently living in Great Britain, who make up part of a wider ex-Service community which includes their spouses, partners, dependent children and widow(er)s. However, little is currently known about the exact numbers, location and needs of this significant group.

Reviving our town centres

West Oxfordshire District Council has streamlined its application process, and remove the charge, for licences to place tables and chairs outside pubs and cafes. Our town centres have mostly been quiet since the end of lockdown and the more that is done to make them safe and attractive places for residents the better it is for employment and the economy.

Returning to School

The government has launched the [#backtoschoolsafely](https://www.gov.uk/backtoschoolsafely) campaign to help parents and young people prepare for returning to school and college. Visit [gov.uk/backtoschool](https://www.gov.uk/backtoschool) for information and practical guidance on getting back to school safely.

Opening up Safely

The gradual reopening of libraries across the county will now be joined by the reopening of the Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock and the Oxfordshire History Service on August 12 and September 1 respectively.

Oxfordshire County Council new mini Budget 2020/21

OCC is proposing to reduce the Budget agreed in February 2020 to take account of the increased costs and loss of income resulting from the Coronavirus pandemic- currently some £51m. The Government promised to repay Local Authorities their losses and has so far refunded £31m to OCC; in addition some £4m has been promised to replace lost income. This leaves an approximate deficit of £15m, which is the basis on which the new mini Budget is calculated and this will be debated on Tuesday September 8th at

County Council (publicly by Zoom). The £15m. is chiefly made up of £4.2m in social care, £3.7m in children's care and from loss of income and car parking charges. Savings come from staff remotely working and the temporary closure of offices, the delay in OCC appointments, efficiency measures and better use of existing resources. Postponement of some Public Health projects and air quality improvements are said not to affect services negatively.

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 GOES ON AND ON – KEEP SAFE – The Stanton Harcourt and Sutton Volunteers Group is still active if you need help

www.pc.stantonharcourt.online

Parish Council Information

All official communications should be addressed to the Parish Clerk: Trudi Gasser, 5 Woodlands, Standlake, Oxon, OX29 7RA.
trudigasser@rocketmail.com

Back Page Bird

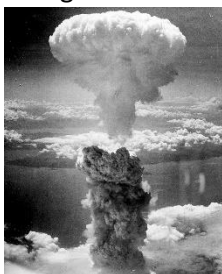
This month's bird is the Boeing B-29

Superfortress named Enola Gay, the plane

that delivered the Atomic bomb to Hiroshima.

The B29 was massive for its day with a 43m wingspan and costing 3 billion \$ (equivalent to 43 billion \$ today), it even had computer controlled gun turrets although most of them had to be removed when using the

atomic bombs as they are very heavy with the nasty atomic stuff weighing almost twice as much as lead. Due to its use with atomic weapons the B29 has killed more people than any other plane in history by a very long way.



Get Your Drugs in the Mail!

With lockdown, isolation and drinking ale, it's not always easy to get to the doctors to pick up prescriptions. If you would benefit from having prescriptions delivered by mail you can sign up to one of the various online prescription services. We've tested Echo, by Lloyds pharmacy (as they're our local pharmacy!) and it works superbly although does take a while to set up so don't start the application till after you've got a refill! Other services are available like Boots etc, as always check reviews on the line before using any service for the first time.

If you need beer by mail there are several local breweries who will still deliver to your door for free with a minimum order, just what the doctor ordered! (*not officially a doctor)*

Could you be the new editor*

After 7 years as caretaker editor when nobody else stepped up, the editor is now retiring, while back then there was nobody to take it on we've recently had a few people that have advised they can do better so it feels appropriate to hand the mantle over!

Beyond drinking ale the role involves:

- Working closely with Parish council to review content and arrange a printing service and costs to produce the hardcopy (*when not in the middle of a global pandemic*)
- Arranging Deliverers and distributing delivery packs and administering delivery pay;
- Collating content from routine contributors and anyone else that fancies providing content;
- Editing and typesetting content to fit it all in ready for review and printing each month (10 issues per year);
- Dealing with review comments, compliments and complaints.

It takes around 3-4 days effort per month depending on content and complaints, the salary is currently £000000000000000000 per annum (pro rata) but is tax free and VAT exempt which makes a real difference to the total reward.

It takes very little skill, as can be edited in the Word (other programs are available) although an internet connection is required to manage the email. Mainly an objective stance and good sense of humour is required, drinking is not essential but I do find it helps.

Our last issue under the current editor and the Queen (subject to school work) will be December, if we don't have a new editor ready for this issue we'll mothball the accounts until such time as a new editor arises in accordance with the ancient prophecy.

Let us know if you are interested in taking it on!

**May not be suitable for those offended by, those offended by small black and white images!*

As the editor now has the first Monday evening of every month off, why not come by for a drink on the driveway to discuss the role, or better still just come and have a drink and shoot the breeze!

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.