

Village Voice

The Newsletter of Stanton Harcourt and Sutton

June 2013

Great turn-out for the Leys Big Clear-Up

At the time of publication, two weekends organised to clear up The Leys area will have taken place – a fantastic community event.

On the first weekend, more than 70 people came along with wheelbarrows, rakes, cutters and spades, and worked really hard to transform the area from an overgrown field into a fun, natural play area with dens, a willow house, tunnels, tree-trunks, picnic benches, and log stepping-stones.

A huge thank you to everybody who put on their wellies and gave up some time. The first weekend was muddy, wet and challenging work, but also lots of fun, and it was very special to see so many people working together to create a space for the whole Village to enjoy.

Extra special thank yous to Dave and Rick Matheson for their invaluable help cutting the grass and moving tree-trunks, the men with chainsaws and strimmers who got the hard bits done, the willow-weaving genius who spent his whole weekend on The Leys, and all those young people who got stuck in and had such a great time on both weekends.

Following these superb efforts, The Leys area is now ready for family picnics, after-school playtimes, weekend adventures, wildlife watching, and all sorts of other fun and exciting activities. See you there!



Treasure hunts and drama at the School

Stanton Harcourt Primary School had a very good turn-out for the Easter Treasure Hunt on 31 March, just at the start of the Easter holiday. Forty children took part, despite the very chilly weather, and £118.74 was raised for FOSHS. Many thanks to Simon Bywater for allowing the use of his garden.

The beginning of May has been very busy with SATs exams for Year 6 and assessments for Year 2.

PICTURE HAD TO BE REMOVED

Meanwhile, Class One had a fabulous time in a drama workshop organised by the Oxford-based 'Creation Theatre' group. This lasted a whole day and, with some help from the 'pros', the children worked hard creating a fantastic show based on the story of the *101 Dalmatians* which fitted in well with their term's topic of 'Disney'. They then bravely performed in front of the whole School in the afternoon. All the main characters from the well-known story were represented, every child was involved and had his or her own line, and a particular rhyme which the children had learnt during the day finished off the performance. It was interesting to see a different side of some of the children as they were encouraged to be both creative and dramatic!

Later in May, Class Two will have their opportunity to tread the boards in their own Drama Workshop. Their topic will probably be based on an 'Indian Traditional Tale', which again is linked to their class topic for this term. Class One will be busy making puppets from old socks, gloves and scraps of fabric and everyone is already looking forward to Festival Week with this year's theme of 'Heroes and Villains'. As ever, on Festival Day the School will be involved in floats for the procession and will stage a performance in the afternoon ... fingers crossed for a sunny day!

The School is also looking to replace three parent governors who are coming to the end of their terms, so please could you contact the School office if you are interested in this important and much-valued role.

Next Village Market – Sat 1 June

12 noon – 2.00 pm in the Village Hall

Further dates: 6 July and 7 Sept

For more information or to book a stall,
please email jo@marketing-sense.co.uk

Open the Book

An exciting opportunity to share bible stories with children through 'Open the Book'. If you are interested in finding out more please come to **the Rectory at 11.30 am on Monday 10 June** for half an hour. Please let Sarah Sharp know if you are interested but aren't able to make it on the 10th.

Stanton Harcourt and Sutton Summer Festival 2013

is nearly here ...



Festival Week: 15–23 June

'Heroes and Villains'

Is your scarecrow ready?

There are events all week leading up to Festival Day!

Cooper Black are kicking it off at the Village Hall on Saturday 15 June

The Big Breakfast, bell-ringing, the great Lemon Drizzle Bake-Off, The Big Breakfast, Pimms, picnics and lots more!

Something for everyone!

Festival Day: Saturday 22 June

This year's Royalty are:

Queen – Thea Watts

Attendant – Hannah Cummings

Princess – Hannah Cox

Prince – Harry Martin

We have an enjoyable fun-packed afternoon with stalls and attractions for all ages to enjoy.

Please do come along and enjoy the day – it really is a great Village event.

Programmes on sale from mid June

If you would like to help that weekend getting things organised, set up, and/or cleared away, please email jowilby@hotmail.co.uk

Read on for more info about particular events ...

Crumbs! It's the ...

Festival Week Great Stanton Harcourt Lemon Drizzle Bake-Off

Thursday 20 June, at 5.00–7.00 pm

Part of the 'Gathering on the Green', so bring along a picnic to the Green and play some games (rounders, quoits etc.)

Enter the Lemon Drizzle competition to be judged by the seasoned taste-buds of the Rev Sarah Sharp

Recipe and entry form from the Village Shop or from Darren Whitworth on 880312 @ £2 each

Cooper Black

an evening of music and dancing
to kick off Festival Week

Stanton Harcourt Village Hall

SATURDAY 15th JUNE

doors open 7.30pm

licensed bar/raffle

Tickets £12 on the night

£10 in advance (including hot supper)

available from:

Village shop/The Harcourt Arms

Jo-01865 882470

Simon-01865 882818

stafford@stafforduk.co.uk

Raising funds for the Village Hall

Stanton Can Make It!

Do you paint, draw, knit, sew or do anything else creative?
If so, would you be interested in showing the Village what a
creative lot we are as part of Festival Week in June?
Contact Gill Salway on 881934 or salwaypg@btinternet.com.

Stanton Harcourt Drama Group AGM 2013

Following Stanton Harcourt Drama Group's recent AGM, it has been decided to allow the organization to remain dormant for a period in the hope that someone comes forward to take the organization into the future. After 20 years, Jan Tomlinson has resigned from the Drama Group as both chairman and director. This sadly means that there will not be any productions in the near future. There had been a plan to do a pantomime in 2014, but without a director this cannot proceed. If you are interested in Amateur Dramatics and would like to have a go at directing or leading the Group then please get in touch. Jan will continue as contact while the Group is in this dormant phase. If there is no interest in carrying on, however, then eventually the Group will have to close and remaining funds will be shared among other Village organizations as the constitution states.

Rehearsals are great fun and the thrill of performance is addictive! If you would like to tread the boards, help back stage, or have a go at directing, then please contact Jan Tomlinson on 881709 or jpgag@dixpit.fsnet.co.uk

New members, ideas and scripts urgently needed!
Don't let this fabulous Village organization close!

St Michael's Church 200 Club

May draw

1st 116 B Marslin	3rd 182 P N Floyd
2nd 192 A Shepherd	4th 249 T Church

Parish Council Updates

Tar Road travellers' site: As reported last month, three planning applications have been received by WODC for change of use for the land adjacent to B4449 Tar Road. There are plans for 8 family gypsy pitches with a site which accommodates 8 mobile homes, 8 utility/day rooms and 8 touring caravans. The Parish Council called an Extraordinary General Meeting on Tuesday 7 May to discuss developments, which was very well attended. Please write to or email WODC with your views. Correspondence should be addressed to Mr Phil Shaw, Planning and Sustainable Communities, Elmfield, New Yatt Road, Witney OX28 1PB or by email to phil.shaw@westoxon.gov.uk. It would be helpful if a copy of correspondence is sent to the following:

- the Parish Clerk (trudigasser@rocketmail.com)
- Rt Hon David Cameron MP (balconc@parliament.uk)
- Cllr Hilary Fenton (hilary.fenton@westoxon.gov.uk)
- Cllr Steve Good (steve.good@westoxon.gov.uk).

The WODC Lowlands Planning Committee meets on Monday 17 June at 2.00 pm in Witney to discuss these applications. The public are encouraged to attend.

Sutton 30 mph signs: These were moved on 16 May to extend the area covered by the 30 mph zone.

Parish Councillors: Due to the pressure of being a Parish Councillor, three members have tendered their resignations, which have been accepted with sadness. Due process will commence to seek replacement volunteers! Your Parish Council will continue to work in the interests of the Village.

Village Voice: *Village Voice* will cease publication with the next issue if new editors cannot be found. If you would like to discuss taking over, please give Phil and Linda a call on 01865 883016 or email to village-voice@hotmail.co.uk.

Council tax scam warning

Residents are warned to be on their guard against bogus callers advising them that their Council Tax bands may be too high. These callers are offering to work on your behalf for a fee to obtain a reduction. This is a scam, which is operating across the country, and the District Council is currently receiving reports of callers contacting residents in West Oxfordshire. If you receive one of these calls, do not give out any personal information and end the call as quickly as possible. To report a suspected scam, contact OCC Trading Standards on 0845 051 0845.

Village Singing Group

Taster sessions are continuing on the following
Tuesdays (the day the singing teacher is available):

June 11, 18, and 25, and July 2
at 7.00–8.30 pm at The Chapel

For further information, contact Jan Tomlinson on
881709 or at jpgag@dixpit.fsnet.co.uk.

Bridewell Organic Gardens

Therapeutic Gardens in West Oxfordshire

Walled garden and vineyard in Wilcote (OX7 3EB)

Open Afternoons (2.00–5.00 pm)

Sundays 2 June, 14 July, 18 August

Community Afternoons (2.00–4.00 pm)

Mon 17 June; Weds 3 July; Thurs 25 July; Fri 9 Aug

Message from Cllr Steve Good

I have recently been bothered by several planning applications referred for a decision to our Lowlands Planning Committee at WODC. As members of the Lowlands Planning Committee, there is a legally enforceable code of conduct with which we must abide at all times. Perhaps most importantly, we're required to keep an entirely open mind throughout the planning process and not to pre-judge any planning application until we have listened to all facts and heard all views. These include WODC Officers' professional opinions and recommendations, statements from applicants and professional agents, various statutory bodies, supporters and objectors, and our fellow Committee Members, as we debate the issues prior to casting our vote, without any political bias whatsoever.

Additionally, we're only allowed to take into consideration lawful planning issues and never allow non-planning issues, emotions, circumstances, or personal interests to influence our judgements. We may listen to all sides of any public debate, for example at a Parish Council, at the village hall, workplace, street corner, or pub, but we cannot contribute our own views at these times. Meanwhile, the public, pressure groups, applicants, their agents as well as County, Parish and District Councillors are entitled to lobby us, to write, email, and telephone to express their views, whilst we can say little in return.

As a result, we frequently find ourselves perhaps appearing 'aloof, or disinterested', which is anything but the truth. Indeed, it is very frustrating at times when the discussion is a 'red hot local topic' to have to stand back and project a 'No Comment' attitude. There is no limit on the lobbying undertaken in many newsworthy planning applications, nor, does it seem, on the amount of venom unleashed upon us by the 'losers' in many cases. Now you know what we're up against, please be understanding. Many thanks.

The Harcourt Arms

Festival Week Family Quiz ~ Tuesday 18 June ~ food at 6.00 pm then quiz to follow ~ teams of 4, with no more than 2 adults per team ~ bookings required.

Festival night ~ 'Heroes and Villains' theme ~ 'The Limitations' playing in the marquee followed by a disco in the bar later ~ tickets £6 per adult and £3 per child for those who would like food

Regular menu offers:

Tuesday Night ~ Pizza night ~ £8.95 pp

Wednesday Lunch Offer ~ senior lunch £7.50 for 2 courses or 3 for £10.00

Wednesday Night ~ Fish, chips and proper mushy peas ~ buy one at £10.50 and get the second for half price

Thursday Night ~ Steak night from £8.95 pp incl pudding

Lunchtime à la carte menu now available 12.00–2.30 pm

À la carte dinner menu available Tuesday to Saturday from 6.00 to 9.30 pm

Sunday lunch ~ from £9.50 pp

Tel: 01865 881931 Emails: ahailles@btinternet.com and calleyone@hotmail.com

The Catholic Church of St Peter

Fr Martin Flatman

☎ 07719 646790 ✉ frmartinflatman@gmail.com

Services: Sunday Mass 10.00 am with a Children's Liturgy
Saturday 7.30 pm; Monday 5.30 pm; Tuesday 7.30 pm;
Wednesday 9.30 am; Thursday 12 noon; Friday 6.00 am.

St Michael's Church

Rev Sarah Sharp

☎ 01865 880249

✉ s550sharp@btinternet.com

June

- 2** 9.30 am Parish Communion with Sunday School
9 10.30 am Benefice Communion in Yelford *with a talk by Jo Fagaent, Diocesan Education Officer responsible for Collective Worship*
16 10.30 am All Age Worship and baptism
8.00 pm Late 8ers at the Rectory
23 8.00 am Holy Communion
30 10.30 am Benefice Communion in Northmoor *with a talk by Revd Elizabeth McFarlane chaplain at St John's College – 'Northmoor and Yelford's patron'*

PCC meeting: Thursday 27 June at 7.30 pm at the School.

Sutton Methodist Chapel

Contact: Rita Stockill

☎ 01865 880200

June

- 2** 10.00 am Family Service
9 10.00 am TBC
16 10.00 am TBC
23 10.00 am TBC
30 10.00 am TBC

Weds 5 June (probably): Coffee morning, 10.00–11.30 am. All welcome – if anyone would like to come and requires a lift to Chapel and home afterwards, please call 882051.

And finally ...

Sprouts from sprouts?

Woodstock farmer James Price has been explaining to West Oxfordshire residents about the importance of food waste recycling after reaping the benefits of using fertiliser created from leftovers. During the recycling process for the food waste collected from our doorsteps, gases are captured and turned into electricity, while the end product is a nutrient-rich fertiliser. After finding it to be very effective for oil seed rape, Mr Price plans to try it on wheat. Maybe, in due course, next Christmas's spare sprouts will launch the next generation!

Parish Council information

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

☎ 01865 301720

✉ trudigasser@rocketmail.com

Parish Council website: <http://www.wospweb.com/site/Stanton-Harcourt-Parish-Council>

Thank you to this month's contributors. Material for *Village Voice* can be sent by email or put through Phil and Linda's letterbox. Please include your name and phone number in case we need to check anything.

Deadline for the July/August issue: Monday 17 June 2013

Published on behalf of Stanton Harcourt Parish Council by Phil and Linda Loder, 25 Bury Mead, Stanton Harcourt, OX29 5SD.

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