



Village Voice

The Newsletter of Stanton Harcourt & Sutton

December 2021

What is the best Christmas present in the world? A broken drum, because you just can't beat it!



Calendar

December 2021

- 1st – 25th Advent Windows Various locations around the village, map available from the post office
- 1st Café at the Chapel Tea, coffee, teacakes and toast
- 3rd Lighting up Eynsham Visit from Santa, courtesy of Eynsham Rotary Club
- 6th & 13th Knitting Group Finish off those Christmas knitting projects 10.30am – 12.30pm, Sutton Methodist Chapel
- 8th Christmas Decoration Craft 2.30pm, Sutton Methodist Chapel
- 7th Historical Society Yesterday's Runways, 7.30pm, Standlake Village Hall
- 11th Village Market 12pm – 2pm, Village Hall
- 11th Carols by Candlelight & Gift Service 4pm, St Michael's Church. Please bring gifts for children less fortunate than ours
- 14th Sutton Singers Concert £5 7pm for 7.30pm start, St Michael's Church
- 18th Singing around the Christmas Tree 4.30pm The Harcourt Arms
- 24th Carols & Cake 4.00pm, Sutton Methodist Chapel
- 24th Christmas Eve Santa Claus is coming to Stanton!
- 25th Christmas Day! Get that turkey in your tum!
- 26th Boxing Day What will you do with your leftovers?
- 31st New Year's Eve Is it midnight yet?

January 2022

- 1st Jan 2022 – New Year's Day We made it to 2022!!
- 1st Jan 2022 – New Year's Day Walk 10.45am, The Willows (end of Sutton Lane)
- 5th Café at the Chapel Enjoy good company & crafts
- 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st Knitting Group Why not learn a new skill this year? 10.30am – 12.30pm, Sutton Methodist Chapel
- 29th Jan 2022 – Quiz Night! 7pm for 7.30pm start, Village Hall

Village Market

Saturday 11th December 12pm – 2pm, Village Hall

Come along to Stanton Harcourt Village Festive Market!
Lots of crafts, gifts, festive treats and stocking fillers



CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT & CHILDREN'S GIFT SERVICE

**Saturday December 11th
4:00pm
St. Michael's Church
Stanton Harcourt
Everyone Welcome**



Please bring an un-wrapped gift for children up to 16yrs.
Gifts are distributed locally by the
Salvation Army to children who would otherwise receive
nothing at Christmas.

Sutton Singers at Christmas!

We are delighted to announce a Sutton Singers Christmas Concert.

**Tuesday 14th Dec at 7pm for 7.30pm
At St Michael's Church**

Old favourites and new Christmas songs with some communal singing.



Tickets £5 from Church Fundraising Committee to include a glass of wine and festive food.

We will also be singing outside, around the Christmas tree

Saturday 18th December 2021 at 4.30pm

At The Harcourt Arms

Everyone welcome!

Subject to Covid regulations remaining the same.

If you are interested in coming along to Sutton Singers - we welcome new members, no audition needed - do please get in touch for information about the group with Jan Tomlinson 01865 881709 / janandpaultomlinson@gmail.com

Its beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

Keep singing! Its good for breath control, relaxation and fun!!

CAROLS AND CAKE AT SUTTON CHAPEL

FRIDAY 24th DEC 4.00 PM

Come and join us at Sutton Chapel for our Annual Family Christmas Eve celebration



Now pay attention everyone; it's the time of year where we have some fun. 17th December is Panto Day. "Oh no it isn't!" did I hear you say?

Lower Windrush Historical Society

Join us to hear about Yesterday's Runways, a talk by Bill King. 7th December, 7.30pm at Standlake Village Hall.

Email lwhscommittee@gmail.com

Members: Free Non Members: £5.00

Parish Council News

Next Parish Council Meeting at the Village Hall

Monday 6th December 7:30pm

Online participation link: <https://meet.google.com/ifb-ezdy-dci>

PC meetings normally occur on the first Monday of each month at the same time and location. All villagers welcome to attend in person or online, there is a public questions session in each meeting where questions can be asked, or issues raised.



Good Neighbours

We went out of our way to look out for our friends, family and neighbours while we were all in lockdown. Now the nights have drawn in and the weather turned colder and along with COVID the cold and flu season is upon us. It is just as important to continue looking out for others now. If you have not seen your neighbours in a while, or you know they live alone or are a single parent, please find a way to say hello. You might be able to easily help them with something that they have been struggling with. Letting someone know we care can mean a great deal.

West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC) provision for residents who are struggling

This winter, vulnerable households in the District will receive support for food, energy and water bills. WODC has been allocated £131,730 to support residents who are struggling to make ends meet this winter as part of the recently launched government Household Support Fund.

The funding will be available through a number of different services to make sure the right support reaches those who need it; starting with individual support through Citizens Advice West Oxfordshire (CAWO), who will provide emergency vouchers and financial help towards food, fuel and other essential household costs, which launched in November.

The funds are not restricted to people in receipt of benefits and there are no requirements around recipients' employment status. Citizens Advice West Oxfordshire (CAWO) are overseeing the voucher scheme.

Residents can apply by calling 01993 892063 or emailing - info@citizensadvicewestoxon.org.uk.

Read the full story for more information -

<https://news.westoxon.gov.uk/news/vulnerable-households-to-receive-support-for-food-energy-and-water-bills-this-winter>

An opportunity to improve our environment

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) has recognised the benefit of reduced speed limits in areas where motor vehicles mix with pedestrians and cyclists. Particularly the benefits such a change would afford to villages where there are limited and narrow footpaths, horse riders, dog walkers, children, and those with limited mobility all in close proximity to motor vehicles. OCC are therefore offering to help villages make the transition from 30mph zones to 20mph zones, where there is support from the community.

There are recognised benefits from lowering the maximum speed from 30mph to 20mph:

1. Environmental - 20mph limit reduces pollution by causing vehicles to travel at a more consistent speed, as acceleration and braking is the main cause of pollution and carbon emissions.
2. Health - where widespread 20mph limits have been introduced, walking and cycling has increased because people feel safer to do so.
3. Safety - should a collision occurs between a car and a pedestrian or cyclist at 20mph rather than 30mph it is far less likely to result in a fatality or serious injury.
4. Noise and Vibration reduction - even a slight speed reduction reduces road noise and vibration.

Many Oxfordshire towns and villages are already embarking on this process as you may have seen in the Oxford Mail this week.

What are The Stanton Harcourt Parish Council doing about this offer from Oxfordshire County Council?

We are asking you for your views.

Would you like to see Stanton Harcourt and Sutton adopt a village wide 20mph zone?

Let us know what you think - you can do this between the 1st and 14th of December 2021 by:

- voting on the 'Villagers Other Voice' Facebook site,
- sending an email to clerk@shpc.co.uk quoting your name and address and your preference,
- sending a letter stating your views to the Parish Clerk at 5 Woodlands, Standlake, OX29 7RA,
- or simply talking with one of your Parish Councillors who will note your name, address and views

Your Parish Councillors are listed below.

WISHING YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL RESIDENTS WITHIN STANTON HARCOURT AND SUTTON FROM YOU PARISH COUNCIL

We are here to help: please do not hesitate to get in contact if you would like to raise an issue with the PC, for general issues please raise with the clerk in the first instance:

Mathew Judson(Chair) - matthew@shpc.co.uk

Gill Sellars (Deputy Chair) - gill@shpc.co.uk

Rachel Arnold - rachel@shpc.co.uk

Keith Hickson - keith@shpc.co.uk

Joe Deane - joe@shpc.co.uk

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, clerk@shpc.co.uk, Tel: 01865 686498



While modern panto is home grown and quintessentially British, in the classical sense pantomime is very much a Roman thing, developed from the commedia dell'arte tradition of Italy: a 16th century style of street performance with sketches featuring masked characters.



ADVENT WINDOWS 2021

St Michael's 6th annual event!

Look out for the Advent windows map that will be available in the village shop

Thank you to everyone decorating and lighting up their windows for us all to enjoy this year



Santa Watch!

Santa and his sleigh will be attending the Eynsham Primary School Christmas event on 26th November and Lighting Up Eynsham on 3 December. We hope to attend various other school events and are planning to escort Santa to various strategic locations in and around Eynsham and villages where he will be happy to see as many children (of all ages!) as possible.

Details of when and where you can find him will be published in Eynsham Online nearer the time. We will be collecting for international and local charities such as Yellow Submarine, he Day Centre and our local schools.



P.S. – Santa is looking for new quarters for his sleigh and reindeer. If anyone has, or knows of a space about the size of a small caravan, preferably under cover, in or around the Eynsham area that could be made available please do get in touch with Terry Glossop terryglossop@hotmail.co.uk.

Rotary Club of Eynsham



Handy Hints for Horticulturalists

- * Hang bird feeders for hungry birds
- * Pile straw or bracken around the base of tender shrubs and climbers to protect them from falling temperature
- * Winter prune large fruit trees to control their shape and size, and to increase their productivity
- * Plan next year's crops: order seeds & summer-flowering bulbs

Summer Festival Committee

2022 Summer Festival – Come and join us!

After a two-year gap due to the Covid pandemic, we are very much hoping that a full week of Festival activities will once again go ahead next summer. Look out for more information regarding dates and the announcement of our Festival theme in 2022.

If you have any ideas for activities or events that could be included in Festival week 2022 then please contact us.

We are also keen to encourage some new faces onto our committee, so if you would like to get involved with the organisation of Festival Week then get in touch with Richard on 881483 or email rich.thom77@gmail.com.

We are a friendly bunch and have a lot of fun, so do consider joining us! We hope to hear from lots of new recruits!

The Festival Committee



Page 3 Bird: Robin

Festive greetings from Christopher, our resident Robin!

Christopher is never too far away when you're working on your garden. One of the tamest wild birds, he loves to snaffle a worm or two from freshly dug earth!

He's a pretty good singer too, and likes to adjust his voice for the seasons: in autumn you'll hear a melancholy slow tune; in the spring he picks up the tempo with powerful upbeat notes. I think a lot of us can relate to that!

In folklore, Robin's are believed to be messengers. Many people believe that when a robin is seen it is their lost loved ones visiting them.

On 21st December Christopher will be celebrating National Robin day, which raises awareness of small birds and other wildlife in winter. Visit their website to see how you can help our garden friends through this tough time of year.

<https://www.nationalrobinday.co.uk/>



** Fun Quiz Night **

Saturday January 29th 2022

The Village Hall

Doors open at 7pm quiz starts at 7:30pm

Bar available

Maximum 6 per team

Tickets £5.00 per person (*available in January*)

In aid of St Michael's Church

Job Opportunity

Help Wanted

Santa needs new reindeer.

The first bunch has grown old.

Dasher has arthritis;

Comet hates the cold.

Prancer's sick of staring
at Dancer's big behind.

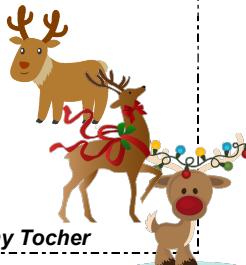
Cupid married Blitzen
and Donder lost his mind.

Dancer's mad at Vixen
for stepping on his toes.

Vixen's being thrown out—
she laughed at Rudolph's nose.

If you are a reindeer
we hope you will apply.

There is just one tricky part:
You must know how to fly.



Timothy Tocher

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.

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Fabulous prizes including:

** Meal for 2 at the Harcourt Arms **

** Christmas Hamper **

** Chocolate hamper **

** Home made Christmas cake **

 Tickets £1 or £5 for a book

Look out for ticket sellers at various village functions

Or contact stm.fundraising5rj@gmail.com for details of how to buy tickets if you think you'll miss us!

Community Shop Questionnaire

A big thank you to everyone who filled in the questionnaires about the viability of a community village shop. The results/feedback was simultaneously encouraging, and discouraging. The overall desire for a village shop was overwhelming, but the problem is one of scale, and ambition. Many villagers want a big range of goods, with long opening hours which is going to be difficult to deliver. Also, many people have started shopping online since the pandemic. However most importantly the numbers of volunteers who said they were willing to work in such an enterprise was on the low side. There were 17 people who said they might be interested in volunteering, but we would need at a conservative estimate to tap into a body of 30 volunteers to make it viable and open the hours people said they wanted. 95 people said they would be willing to put in a £10 share, and several who would be willing to go on a steering committee. The problem seems to be scale, and number of willing volunteers. There are other opportunities for volunteering already in the village and planned in the near future, so watch this space. Thank you again for filling in our questionnaire... and maybe in time we might revisit the idea.

In the meantime we are very grateful to the two shops within our village who seek to provide for the needs of the village. The village hall/post office opens for a short time daily to provide newspapers, magazines, sweets, birthday and Christmas cards and basic food provisions including bread, milk, and eggs. The post office services allow users to withdraw cash from their bank account and pay in cheques as well as pay bills and post parcels.

The Harcourt Arms provides a larger range of delicatessen type foods as well as some household goods and wine. They also offer take away coffee and baguettes. This store has more extended opening hours.

Both these stores are worth a regular visit and they both try hard to meet the needs of our community. Put simply, if we don't use the facilities we already have, we might lose them, which would be a terrible loss to the village.

Judith P, Steve T, and Gill S.

CHRISTMAS TABLE DECORATION CRAFT AFTERNOON

WEDNESDAY 8 DECEMBER 2.30 - 4.30

SUTTON METHODIST CHAPEL

£5.00 - INCLUDES ALL MATERIALS

TEA, COFFEE, MINCE PIES AND STOLLEN INCLUDED.

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN CANDLE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD ONE TO YOUR ARRANGEMENT.

New Year's Day Walk



Every year since 2000, except last year, we have held the New Years Day Walk.

Starting towards the end of Sutton Lane at The Willows there is complimentary tea, coffee, homemade cookies (and sympathy for the hangover) from **10.45 on 1st January** for everyone and anyone in the village including visitors and well behaved dogs. Then at 11.15 we head off across the fields to the river and back up Steadys Lane to the pub. (There is a slightly shorter walk, and an even shorter walk straight up the lane to the pub!). At the pub you can order bacon baps, chips etc all washed down with a pint or three. Please wear suitable footwear as it can be muddy - and don't forget money for the pub!



It's panto custom that the fairy always enters from stage right, and the baddie from stage left, a tradition evolved from superstition of right signifying Heaven, and left all things Hell, witchy and wicked

Village Shop & Post Office - 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

The Harcourt Arms at Christmas

Saturday 18th December

4:30 pm Join us for carols with our local vocalists, the Sutton Singers. Wrap up warm for mulled wine, roasted chestnuts and lots more! Later we will be enjoying live music in the bar to start your Christmas week off party style!

Christmas Eve

We are open as usual so why not come down to the pub for your favourite festive tipple, our fires will be lit and a warm welcome awaits.

Christmas Day

We still have tables available, in our dining room, for the best yuletide celebration in the Cotswolds. And, the bar will be open 12-3 pm so everyone is welcome!

Boxing Day Recovery Brunch

9 am – 4 pm Relax and let us cook for you and yours. From lightly smoked salmon to a hearty full English, plus great coffee, and perhaps a hair of the dog!

New Year's Eve

Our Chefs have constructed a wonderful New Year's Eve supper! Arrive at 7 pm for pre-dinner drinks, 7:30 pm Dinner is served.

New Years Day

The Traditional Village Walk will end here at the heart of the village for tasty bacon baps, chips and plenty wet stuff to toast in 2022! For the less energetic, we are open from 9 am to 4 pm.

We wish all our neighbours a Fabulous Festive Season!

To reserve your table please call 01865 416516 or email theharcourtarms@barkbygroup.com

Pantomime literally means "all kinds" of "mime" (pantomime). It is generally acknowledged that British pantomime is modelled on the early masques of the Elizabethan and Stuart days. In the 14th century the early masques were musical, mime or spoken dramas

Remembrance Thanks

On behalf of both Thames Valley and Black Mountains HOG Chapters we would like to thank all the villagers for their hospitality and warm welcome received by us at the Remembrance Day Services. On such a poignant day the smiles and generosity made the trip more than worthwhile. We look forward to supporting you all for many years to come.

Kind Regards, Alan Holland

Safety Officer / Road Captain Black Mountains Chapter, Wales

First and Last Mile CIC

The new community minibus from Standlake to Eynsham via Stanton Harcourt and Sutton will start on 4 January. This has been a long process but at least there is now clarity.

The routes and timetables are unchanged with a service every 2 hours Monday to Friday except that a duplicate vehicle will operate on the Bartholomew School service to cater for the expected demand.

The intention is to ensure that Stanton Harcourt and Sutton have a permanent bus service and are never again cut off from the main bus network.

For more information and timetables: www.firstandlastmile.org.uk or contact us info.firstandlastmile@gmail.com



Church News

LOWER WINDRUSH BENEFICE SERVICES

Sunday 5th December - Advent 2

8:30am HC BCP at Stanton Harcourt followed by breakfast

Saturday 11th December

4pm Carols by Candlelight Stanton Harcourt

Sunday 12th December - Advent 3

10am HC CW at Stanton Harcourt

3pm Walking Nativity starting at the Black Horse and finishing at St Giles for Christingle

Sunday 19th December - Advent 4

4pm Carol Service at Standlake followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

6pm Evensong with carols at Yelford followed by mulled wine and mince pies

Monday 20th December

6pm Nativity on the farm! At Churchills Farmhouse, Moreton Lane, Northmoor

Christmas Eve Friday 24th December

4pm Carol Service at Northmoor

6pm Carol Service at Northmoor

Christmas Day Saturday 25th December

11:00 All Age Service at Stanton Harcourt



Boxing Day Sunday 26th

10am Benefice HC (BCP) at Stanton Harcourt

Sunday 9th January

10am Benefice HC CW Stanton Harcourt

Sunday 30th January - Candlemas

11:30 Benefice HC CW at Stanton Harcourt.

For more information about other services taking place in the Benefice (Stanton Harcourt, Northmoor, Standlake, Yelford) please visit the Lower Windrush benefice website

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

SUTTON METHODIST CHAPEL

Informal Service – SUN 12 DEC 3.00 PM

SUN 9 JAN 3.00 PM

St Peter's Roman Catholic Church, Eynsham

For service information visit: www.stpeterseynsham.org.uk/

Have a very jolly Christmas!

If you've managed to make it this far into this jam packed issue why not make a festive drink as a reward!

This cocktail is a great way to use up any leftover brandy from your festive baking. Tis the season, afterall!



Brandy Sour Cocktail

serves 1

25ml lemon juice 1 maraschino cherry

1 lemon slice to serve

15ml cherry syrup from the jar

Few drops Angustura bitters

½ egg white

50ml brandy

ice

1. Tip the lemon juice, cherry syrup, bitters, egg white and brandy into a cocktail shaker with a large handful of ice. Shake until the outside of the shaker feels very cold. Double strain into a tumbler filled with ice.

2. Thread the lemon slice and cherry onto a cocktail stick, rest across the rim of the tumbler and serve.

Christmas Rocky Road

Here's a great way to use up any leftover / excess Christmas sweets and chocolate. Why not make some as thank you gifts?

<https://bit.ly/3oV7SV1>

Thank you to all our readers for your support and encouragement this year. We couldn't make the Village Voice happen without you. A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

See you in 2022!!

P.S. reminder that our next issue will be in February. The VV team are taking a little break from editing, printing and delivering over the Christmas holidays.

