



Village Voice



The Newsletter of Stanton Harcourt & Sutton

May 2021

Calendar

- 1st - May Day *Get out the maypole!*
- 5th - National Bike to School Day *On yer bike!*
- 6th - Elections *vote for new OCC, WODC & PCC reps.*
- 8th - Village Maintenance *Help tidy our lovely village*
- 17th - 21st - Walk to School Week *Put the car away*

Village Hall news

The Village Hall committee is sorry to say that John Wheeler, one of our longest-serving members, has decided it's time to retire! We would like to thank John for the huge contribution he has made, over many years, towards the work of our community hall. He has been a valuable and committed member of the management committee, helped at events and been very generous in giving his time (and cosmetics!). John was one of the 6-man Village Project team that oversaw the planning and building of the new hall in 1999/2000. He also set up our website (stantonharcourtvillagehall.co.uk) and has jointly managed it for us, as well as maintaining our booking calendars - not an easy task! I'm sure we'll all miss him, but have a sneaky feeling that we'll be drawing on his vast knowledge from time to time! Thank you so much, John!

We are daring to hope that normal service can gradually be resumed over the next couple of months. Some children's activities are starting up again at the moment, and we have fingers crossed that adult groups can start in May, as Covid regs allow. We are also hoping to start off our Village Markets again in July. More news to follow in the next Village Voice.

Meanwhile, if you would like to help out in any way - at events, on the committee, with IT or DIY skills - or just find out more about what we do and what the hall has to offer, please contact me: jane1.goldenbridge@gmail.com. It will be lovely to meet some new residents and see again all the familiar faces we've been missing over the last year and more.

Jane Eagle - Chairman



Sutton Singers

It has been a very long time since we have sung together but we are hopeful that we can meet outside in Jan Tomlinson's garden from Tuesday May 18th - weather dependant, and bring your own chair. From 17th May (provisional) 30 people or under can meet outside. We also hope, as the autumn cools us down, we can reconvene inside; all dependent on Government rules. Watch the Village Facebook pages or give Jan a call or email for updates.

We have been sharing songs with the group for individual practice, just for fun, with recordings from our fabulous musical director Lizzie Soden. But there is nothing like the choir singing together and performing to share the joy.

Don't worry if you haven't been able to practice, we will start from the beginning with each new song.

If you are interested in coming along - 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
Keep singing! It's good for breath control, relaxation and fun!

Catalytic Converter Thefts

There has been a big increase in catalytic converter thefts across Oxfordshire. Offences happen throughout the week, Saturdays and Tuesdays being the worst affected days, and are occurring mainly overnight

Vehicles targeted are: Honda Civics, Toyota Auris and Honda Jazz.

Thieves target vehicles in car parks, on the street and driveways at any time of the day or night; and will usually work in groups, some to be as look outs and another to remove the catalytic converter.

If you see anything suspicious, call 999 immediately.



The division bar in a fraction is called a vinculum

Subscribe to Village Voice



Although we hope to start delivering paper copies again soon, we'd like to remind our readers that Village Voice is aiming to become paperless.

If you subscribe to our mailing list you'll receive emails with Village Voice updates, prompts for news items for future issues, and a PDF copy of each new edition.

No spam - we promise!

To subscribe please use the subscriber link on the Stanton Harcourt Online website <http://stantonharcourt.online/>

We know this is not possible for everyone, and for those people we will continue to provide paper copies in the future.

**** Please note, there is no guarantee that VV will appear on Facebook, email subscription is by far the most reliable way of keeping up to date with each month's issues ****

Sail Ye High Democracy



Don't forget to vote on Thursday 6 May

Polling stations will be open from 7am until 10pm

The Village Hall is our local polling station.

All polling stations will be covid safe



The Countryside Code

It's warming up outside and more of us are venturing into the countryside for rambles and picnics. Stanton Harcourt has beautiful surroundings, but we shouldn't take it for granted. Whilst you're out and about this spring/summer please remember to stick to the Countryside Code: respect everyone, protect the environment and enjoy the outdoors.

More information: www.gov.uk/countryside-code



Village Maintenance

Thank you to all the volunteers that litter picked in April and collected another bumper haul of other people's rubbish from the roads, footpaths and ditches around the village. There is another opportunity to get involved in May and this month we would like to cut back grass overgrowing pavements and clear weeds growing in pavements, and at the edge of the road.

To join us, please meet at the Village Hall ready to start at

10 am on Saturday 8th May - you'll need to bring your own gloves and garden tools.

There will also be an opportunity for more litter picking, for anyone that prefers to do that.

Updates will be posted on Facebook; see the **Stanton Harcourt and Sutton** page and the **Villagers Other Voice** group.



Parish Council News

Next Parish Council Meetings, via Zoom
May: Monday 17th 7:30pm – Annual Meeting
In person or Zoom TBC



Parish Council

As there were only five people nominated as potential Parish Councillors and we need six – there will be no Parish Council election this year. The five nominations become Parish Councillors in mid-May. They are:

- Rachel Arnold - Joe Deane - Keith Hickson
- Matthew Judson - Gill Sellars

Charles Mathew, Jose Eaton and Graham Dixon-Brown have all decided not to stand for another term of office. Keith, Matthew and Gill would like to thank them, on behalf of the community, for the many years of service given freely to our community, a lot of hard work, much of which goes unnoticed by many but appreciated by those impacted. Thank you from your community.

Local Elections

As the local elections approach on Thursday 6 May 2021, West Oxfordshire District Council is preparing to make sure all polling stations available for those who wish to vote in person are safe and Covid secure. Voting in person will be different this year with polling stations following the Covid secure rules seen across shops and other indoor locations during the pandemic. This will include voters wearing masks, using hand sanitiser, social distancing and making sure items touched in the polling booths are cleaned. Staff will also be taking the necessary precautions to keep safe and have received additional training to help advise and support voters.

Voters are encouraged to bring their own masks and pen or pencil on the day to reduce wastage on the day, however, for those that need them they will be available.



New West Oxfordshire symptom-free testing centre open

A new symptom-free testing centre has opened in Carterton to allow local residents to access testing, otherwise known as lateral flow testing. Any residents who work or volunteer in a role where they have close contact with people outside their home, including child minders, are eligible for these tests. It is recommended that they are tested regularly. The site in Carterton is hosted at Brownes Hall in the Town Centre and residents may book a symptom-free test as part of the county-wide testing programme. The site, which has been set up by WODC and OCC's Fire and Rescue Service, is open for six days a week with full details posted on the OCC website.

Anyone who is showing symptoms should book a different type of test, called a PCR test, through the Government website at <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. These tests are done at different testing sites across the county.

Young people illustrate the power of art in the battle against hate crime

A special competition promoted by WODC designed to highlight and raise awareness of hate crime among young people has been voted a success. The 11-year-old winner produced a striking poster with the slogan 'Stop the Hate' urging people to report disability, racism and homophobia.



Oxfordshire libraries set to reopen in April

OCC planned a phased approach to the re-opening of libraries and will be maintaining safety measures including track and trace, use of face coverings and social distancing.

The following libraries opened the week commencing April 12th

- Oxfordshire County Library
- Abingdon
- Eynsham
- Witney



And North Leigh library opened on 19th April

Think 111 First

As we enter new stages of lockdown Oxfordshire residents are asked to contact NHS 111, first via 111 online or telephone if they are thinking of attending an Emergency Department, Minor Injury or First Aid Unit. They will then be assessed and, if appropriate, booked into either a First Aid Unit, Minor Injury Unit or the John Radcliffe or Horton General Hospital Emergency Department for treatment.

However, if it would be more appropriate for them to receive clinical advice elsewhere, they will be advised on:

- How to self-care if required
- Visiting their local pharmacy, dentist, optician, or their own GP for help
- Visiting a local minor injuries unit



Witney cycling and pedestrian improvements

An enhanced cycling and walking connection between Tower Hill and Madley Park is being created, incorporating the town centre, shops, schools and businesses. Following consultation feedback, Holloway Road will remain open and the proposed bus lane on Corn Street has been deferred to be considered within the Witney transport strategy review. Shared paths will be widened to three metres wherever possible to create a safer environment to cycle and walk. The scheme is set to be completed in May.



215886

No, it's not the new phone number for Windrush Against Sewage Pollution (WASP), it is the total number of hours that Thames Water has reported dumping untreated sewage from its various overflows on 18,443 occasions - a shocking number from a company that was until recently claiming to do this only in exceptional circumstances to stop sewage flooding people's homes. For more information see <https://www.windrushwasp.org/>

Rail link Oxford to Carterton

The Witney Oxford Transport group is campaigning to re-establish a rail link between Oxford and Carterton. The group has made a bid to the government's Restoring Your Railway Fund to carry out a feasibility study to explore plans to build a new line between Oxford, Witney and Carterton.

They are currently lobbying OCC to protect land for a possible route in the future as part of the authority's plans to widen the A40 project. This would ensure that the line could be built in the future and utilise the park and ride facilities at Eynsham for a rail station. Without this protected land the project would be blocked.



QUICK CONTACTS:

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



West Oxfordshire District Council: Due to the election there will be a new PCC and local WODC and OCC council representatives appointed. Thank you Cllr Hilary Fenton, Cllr Steve Good for representing our community on the WODC. And a Big Thank you to Cllr Charles Mathew for representing our community on the OCC. Our new Councillors and PCC will be published on the PC web site after the elections

MP: Robert Courts 58–60 High Street, Witney OX286HJ,
01993 225020 robert@robertcourts.co.uk



If the sum of the digits of a number is divisible by three then the given number is also divisible by three

Poetry Corner

25th May is World Towel Day in memory of Douglas Adams, author of the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy. We thought we'd bring you his famous Vogon poetry – a treat for the ears... (At least it's not as bad as Paula Nancy Millstone Jennings of Sussex!)

*Oh freddled gruntbuggly,
Thy micturations are to me, (with big yawning)
As plurdled gabbleblotchits, in midsummer morning
On a lurgid bee,
That mordiously hath blurted out,
Its earted jurtles, grumblng
Into a rancid festering confectious organ squealer.
Now the jurplng slayjld agrocrustles,
Are slurping hagrilly up the axlegrurts,
And living glupules frart and stipulate,
Like jowling meated liverslime,
Groop, I implore thee, my foonting
turlingdromes,
And hooptiously drangle me,
With crinkly bindlewurdles, mashurbitries.
Or else I shall rend thee in the gobberwarts
with my blurglecruncheon,
See if I don't!*

Douglas Adams 1952 – 2001



Older people were born longer ago

May 200 Club Prizes

1st Prize	260 D. Hibberd	£25
2nd Prize	187 M. Floyd	£12
3rd Prize	136 C. Loder	£8
4th Prize	150 C. Birch	£5



If you'd like to buy a number and be in with a chance of winning a prize each month, please contact Liz Strange (oldmotherstrange@gmail.com) Oxford 882020



Sunday, Monday, Apidaees



Apidae is the largest family within the super family Apoidea, containing at least 5700 species of bees. Bees and other pollinators, such as butterflies, bats and hummingbirds, are increasingly under threat from human activities.

The UN have allocated 20th May as World Bee Day to raise awareness of the importance of pollinators. So how can we help? There are plenty of bee friendly plants that we can consider growing in our gardens this year:

– Delphinium – Buddleia – Rosemary – Thyme
– Strawberry – Lavender – Heather – Cornflower
– Apples – Pumpkins – Dahlia – Verbena

Pollination is a fundamental process for the survival of our ecosystems; so let's look after our Darling Bugs of May and bee engaged with our friendly pollinators.



19th May marks National Numeracy Day.

The charity, National Numeracy, are committed to

building the nation's number confidence and skills by supporting children and adults to get on with numbers so they can get on in life, fulfill their potential at work, home and school, and help spark better opportunities.

The charity are holding a School Number Heroes competition (closing date 4th June), where you could win a Number Heroes pack worth £1000+ for your chosen primary school!

For more information about the competition and what the charity offer visit their website, here: <https://bit.ly/3niEHdf>

Page 3 Bird – Nightingale

12th May is International Nurses Day, which is on Florence Nightingale's Birthday; so it felt fitting to introduce you to Flo, the nightingale, this month.



The humble nightingale may not have a distinctive appearance, but its song is mesmerising: perfectly pitched, and most often heard in the dead of night. (but it's actually Laurence the

nightingale that we hear singing at night, not Flo). "Nightingale" is derived from "night", and the Old English *galan*, "to sing". Flo builds her nest on or just above ground level and feeds on insects, mainly through foraging on the ground – she is particularly partial to ants and beetles.

The first ever live radio broadcast of birdsong was of a nightingale in 'concert' with the cellist, Beatrice Harrison, on 19 May 1924 in Oxted, Surrey.



Church in Crisis

We'd like to say a huge thank you to those who have generously made donations to church funds recently.

Over the last 10 months of continuous restrictions and now our 3rd lockdown the, normal avenues to raise money have almost ceased and St Michael's Church Fundraising has reached crisis point. In order to keep this beautiful 900 year old historic building safe and open to the public we urgently need to increase our funds.

To all of you now working from home, would you consider donating some of your commute money to our fund? For details on how to do this please contact Stm.fundraising5rj@gmail.com Thank you.

St Michael's fundraisers.



Looking for Drama? Act Now!

We are planning a couple of one act comedies for the autumn, possibly as part of the Stanton Harcourt and Sutton [Not Summer] Festival.

We have 2 great scripts for one act comedies with small casts, but need a few more actors. We'd love to hear from anyone interested - we're all amateurs and you'll be made to feel welcome.

Interested? Then get in touch with the Stanton Harcourt Drama Group at info@stantonharcourt-drama.com

Covid News

For government guidance and updates please refer to the gov.uk website www.gov.uk/coronavirus

You can now order your own rapid lateral flow tests.

You can only use this service if:

- you do not have coronavirus symptoms
 - you live in England
 - you're 18 or older
- you have not been told to self-isolate
- you are not supplied tests from your work, school, college or university (ask them for rapid lateral flow tests)

Order your lateral flow test via the gov.uk website here: www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests

Do not use a lateral flow test if you have coronavirus symptoms.

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

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

Grilled Apricots with Honey Mascarpone serves 6

It's apricot season in the UK from May – September.
Make the most of these tasty fruits with this delicious dessert
– perfect for evenings in the garden with a bbq.
Switch the apricots for peaches later in the summer if you
prefer.

Ingredients

6 apricots mostly ripe
1 tsp brown sugar
2 tsp vanilla extract
4 tbsp honey plus more for topping, optional

3 tbsp olive oil
1 ½ cups mascarpone
Fresh thyme optional



Method

1. Wash apricots and slice each lengthwise then remove the pit. Brush each apricot half with olive oil then sprinkle with brown sugar.
2. Heat a grill pan, outdoor grill or skillet and add apricots skin side up when warm. Cook until soft and slightly charred. While apricots are cooking prepare the honey mascarpone.
3. Combine mascarpone, vanilla extract and honey in a bowl and stir with a whisk until light and combined.
4. When apricots are cooked serve each warm with a spoonful of honey mascarpone. Drizzle each with additional honey and fresh thyme if desired. Enjoy!



Pallete us tell you something...

Stanton Harcourt artist Paul Tomlinson will be exhibiting some of his drawings alongside his sister Jane's vibrant paintings from her light and airy garden gallery on

**Saturday 1, Sunday 2,
Saturday 8 & Sunday 9 May**
at 7 Pigeon House Lane,
Freeland, OX29 8AG. All
welcome! Covid-security
measures will be in place.
Find out more:



<https://www.artweeks.org/festival/2021/jane-tomlinson-paul-tomlinson>

These feet were made for walking

17th May – 21st May is Walk to School Week.

This year's challenge focuses on walking superpowers that benefit individuals, communities and the planet. By taking part children will be well on their way to reaching their recommended 60 minutes minimum of physical activity per day before even reaching the school gates!

For more information visit: <https://bit.ly/2RRw6CC>



Church News

LOWER WINDRUSH BENEFICE SERVICES

Sunday May 2nd Easter 5
10am Benefice Holy Communion – Northmoor
6pm Evensong BCP – Yelford

Wednesday May 5th
10am Benefice Holy Communion – Standlake

Sunday May 9th Easter 6
10am Benefice Holy Communion – Standlake

Thursday May 13th Ascension Day
7:30pm Benefice Holy Communion – Stanton Harcourt

Sunday May 16th Easter 7
8am BCP Holy Communion – Yelford
10am Benefice Holy Communion – Stanton Harcourt

Sunday May 23rd Pentecost / Whit Sunday
10am Benefice Holy Communion – Northmoor

Sunday May 30th Trinity Sunday
10am Benefice Holy Communion – Standlake

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

The Zoom link and Orders of Service for Sunday Evening Prayer and Compline can be found on our website: www.lowerwindrushbenefice.org in the section 'Services and Events'.

St Peter's Roman Catholic Church, Eynsham

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



Handy Hints for Horticulturalists

Jobs for your garden this May:

- * Watch out for late frosts
- * Train your sweet peas (*tricks are optional*)
- * Plant out summer bedding at the end of the month
- * Mow weekly and weed regularly (*necessary evils*)
- * Check for nesting birds before clipping hedges
- * Lift and divide daffodils and other spring flowering bulbs
- * Earth up potatoes, and plant any still remaining
- * Optimise your watering regime (watering early and late to get the most out of your water); and start collecting and recycling water whenever possible



The number of permutations of a shuffled deck of cards is roughly the same as the number of atoms in the Milky Way

Pollution in our Rivers

Thames Water has agreed to embark on a **major effort to end pollution of the Windrush and tributaries.**

WASP (Windrush Against Sewage Pollution) have more information on their website: <https://bit.ly/3sSeun7>

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.