



VillageVoice

The Newsletter of Stanton Harcourt & Sutton

September 2021



Calendar

5th Archaeological Open Day *What will you find?*
11th Litter Pick & Maintenance *10am Village Hall*
11th Village Market *Pop by for tasty treats*
18th - 26th Great Big Green Week *Green Activities for all*
21st Autumn begins *Get the soup & pies on the go*
25th Village Picnic *Fun, food & friends on The Green*

Today's the day the residents of Stanton Harcourt & Sutton have their picnic!

Well, Saturday 25th September is the day, to be precise. 3pm until 6.30pm

Join us for a Picnic on the Green!

Your village Festival Committee haven't been able to hold a Festival since 2019.

As restrictions have now been relaxed, we decided to host a party - a chance for people in the village to meet up and celebrate after far too long without being able to socialise with each other.

All residents of Stanton Harcourt and Sutton are invited to join us **at 3pm on Saturday 25th September on The Green** for a village picnic.

Bring your own picnic – outdo each other with your pork pies, cheese boards, pasties and cakes; or simply lay out a delectable crisp feast.

The Village Hall committee will be running a bar to help wash down your delicious banquets.

Boogie to live music from Reg Berry and the Cherries, and bring the family for games for the children to enjoy.



Come along and join us for some fun with your fellow villagers. We look forward to seeing you there!

The Festival Committee



Village Market

Saturday 11th September 12-2pm, Village Hall

Your Village Market is back, and the autumn months always provide a fantastic array of delectable treats, seasonal produce and a variety of crafts and gifts (after all, Christmas is approaching)

Pop in and see what our wonderful local stallholders have for sale.

Treat yourself to a mug of fresh coffee and a cake, or a bowl of homemade soup and a bacon roll.

Free entry.

New stalls are always welcome - tables & chairs are provided and there's no charge for a stall. Contact jo@marketing-sense.co.uk for more information or to book a table.

Organised by the Village Hall Committee in aid of the Village Hall.

Any questions, do call or email! Jo Sensecall

07772 085578 jo@marketing-sense.co.uk



Did you know? in November 1939 Roald Dahl decided to enlist in the Royal Air Force (RAF) at 23 years old. He travelled to Nairobi for his medical and a month later commenced flying training in Tiger Moths alongside 15 other men of a similar age.

Thank you!

We'd like to thank our fantastic deliverers for getting back into the swing of delivering Village Voice to everyone.



Delivering anything in a village with a variety of properties is never easy, especially when those pesky letterboxes seem to be hiding!

We hope everyone received a copy last month, but if you find there are any problems with your Village Voice delivery please let us know by emailing us at village-voice@hotmail.co.uk

Sylvia Neenan

The Swiergon family would like to thank everyone who paid tribute to mum in August and sent cards and flowers. She lived here with us for 11 years and absolutely loved being part of such a friendly place. She especially enjoyed the Thursday club and all her friends there.

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

Don't lose your voice



Local residents are being reminded not to lose their voice on decisions that affect them by making sure their electoral registration details are up to date.

The annual canvass is currently taking place to ensure that West Oxfordshire District Council keep the electoral register up to date.

Residents will be sent a letter over the next few months with clear instructions asking them to confirm their details or update them. If you need to register, the easiest way is online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote, or information explaining how to do this will be in the letter you receive.



Covid News

www.gov.uk/coronavirus

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

Although the majority of adults are now vaccinated against Covid19, we're not yet sure how much those who are vaccinated may continue to spread Covid.

Despite most restrictions having been relaxed over the summer, it is still important for us to all remain vigilant when out in public and socialising. And, most importantly, wash those hands!

Book or manage your vaccine via the NHS website:
<https://bit.ly/3oJvvzp>

Parish Council News

Next Parish Council Meeting at the Village Hall
Monday 13th September 7:30pm



Speeding: the big topic this month

Stanton Harcourt with Sutton Parish Council receives numerous concerns about speeding through and around our village. We are approaching this issue as a Parish Council priority via several initiatives:

1) Road Gates

A pair of road gates have been installed on the road from Standlake to Stanton Harcourt – they have been placed on the roadside by Oxfordshire County Council, between the entrance to the cricket club and the entrance of the new Airfield housing estate. With the aim of slowing down vehicles as they enter the village from the Standlake/Northmoor direction. We look forward to seeing how effective a speeding deterrent these gates are.

2) Speedwatch

Our community Speedwatch team has reformed and as always more volunteers are always welcome. Before community teams can be deployed to the roadside, they undergo training sessions, to ensure risk assessments have been completed and protocols have been adhered to. Speedwatch has proven in the past to be a deterrent, people drive slower through areas where there is Speedwatch activity. We appreciate that the police cannot be everywhere all the time, but the public can and that is exactly where the strength of well-organised Community Speedwatch steps in to play a vital role providing the police with the data they need to enforce speed limits effectively.

3) 20mph Zone

Reducing vehicle speed and increasing safety on our village roads is something that Stanton Harcourt Parish Council has been investigating for many years. In December 2020, Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) unanimously agreed that all new residential streets will be restricted to 20mph. Other villages have already made the switch more broadly: Charlbury reduced their speeds in April 2020. Eynsham has initiated the process with the view of reducing the speed of all traffic on residential streets to 20mph. Nationally, Wales is preparing to make 20mph the default speed limit across the country by 2023. The benefits from such schemes are now widely recognised.

The Stanton Harcourt Parish Council would like to see all residential areas within Stanton Harcourt and Sutton cover by a 20mph zone. We recognise that this won't be a welcome prospect for everyone. There are concerns about how to enforce these new limits and the ongoing risk of anti-social driving, plus the financial investment. There are others who feel passionately that the speed limit reduction is the right step for our village. Many residents like to walk or cycle around the village, take, or send children to school on foot. Such activity brings many benefits. It keeps people physically active, both young and old. For example, did you know that only 21.2% of young people in Oxfordshire are getting the daily recommended amount of exercise? We want everyone to feel safe and able to walk around the village and enjoy the facilities provided and maintain the community spirit – and for some, simply being able to leave the house can reduce isolation and loneliness. Cyclists will feel more comfortable sharing the roads if the traffic is moving more slowly, with the choice of bike over car serving our environment by reducing emissions.

The safety statistics are compelling: casualties from road accidents fall by 20% if the speed limit is reduced to 20mph. Evidence also shows that less fuel is burnt when a car moves more slowly. It's not the great inconvenience that many drives fear, either: it takes just 60 seconds longer to drive through the village at 20mph rather than 30mph. Unfortunately, whatever the speed limit there is there will always be some anti-social individuals who think they know better and ignore speed limits, but the vast majority comply with these speed limits for the benefit of their communities.

This is a longer-term project, there are several steps we need to go through that will lead up to a public consultation on speed limit reductions – and we are dependent on the busy OCC Communities Department for technical support to get started.

We welcome your thoughts on all these issues and would be particularly interested in hearing any concerns to ensure we meet any challenges that would arise from a speed reduction. Please email the Parish Council Clerk Trudi on clerk@shpc.co.uk or Tel: 01865 686498

4) B4449

We recognise that we may not be able to include the B4449 in the initial 20mph zone project as this road is an authorised HGV route, so we are working with our County and District councillors to establish what options are available to make this road safe for the residents of the village and reduce the issue of noise and vibration caused by poorly inset services hatches for BT Openreach and Thames water as well as the speeding issue.

5) Parish Meeting 26th July

Thank you to all those organisations and residents that attending this event. We have put some output from the event onto our Stanton Harcourt Parish Council web site

6) Have your say on The Oxfordshire Plan 2050

The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 sets the framework for future planning decisions about housing and infrastructure needs in the county up to 2050. Find the survey here: <https://bit.ly/3gmLfFA>



Did you know? Roald Dahl wrote everyday from 10 am to 12 noon and then from 4 pm to 6pm.

Eynsham Link is back!

The Eynsham Link was formed to bring together those needing lifts and those willing to give lifts in order that ALL villagers can travel to and from Eynsham, as well as link to the frequent S1 bus service to Witney and Oxford.

Using the WhatsApp application for smart phones members can directly communicate with each other. This alerts all the members of the group, and any drivers who are passing through Eynsham or starting at the appropriate time from Stanton Harcourt/Sutton, for instance, can respond.



To make the scheme work even better and minimise wait times we need more villagers who are willing to give lifts to come forward. *Will you be one of them?*

And, of course, if you need a lift or know anyone who might need a lift then contact us.

To join the Eynsham Link WhatsApp group send your name, address and (smartphone) number to

John Brown: 07777 665364 or jbrown1uk@yahoo.com

If you have any queries about the scheme please contact Mike Parker: 07983 580844 or mikeparker12@gmail.com

Beware the Ragwort plant

I would like to draw attention to a plant that might look pretty but is toxic. In gardens it is fine when you do not have pets that could eat it. Touching it will not kill you but over time it can cause liver damage. When ingested by animals it kills, although animals and horses especially do not eat it when flowering, when it has died back they will. It causes irreparable liver damage and usually the poor animal has to be put down. The plant is tall and covered in yellow flowers. You can, if early



enough spray it and kill it. Please be aware and destroy it as each plant has around 50,000 seeds and it's a constant battle to annihilate. So, although at first it may not be harmful, overtime it spreads and becomes very harmful to livestock.

Channel your inner Indiana Jones...

Did you know there are currently ongoing archaeological investigations taking place in Blackditch, Stanton Harcourt? Thames Valley Archaeological Services are holding an open day on



Sunday 5th September 2021 between 10am and 4pm at the archaeological site in Blackditch.

- Guided tours will be conducted at 15 minute intervals.
- Poster displays and examples of the finds recovered on the site will detail the work done to date.
- Children's activities.

Please wear sturdy footwear - Dogs welcome.

PLEASE NOTE: *this is an active construction and excavation site. As such access to the archaeology is over rough and uneven ground.*

Access is on foot off Main Road (OX29 5RP).

Pedestrians only (no vehicle access/no parking).

www.tvas.co.uk

0118 926 0552

Page 3 Bird: Song Thrush

Meet Steve the Song Thrush, he's a smashing little fellow.

Steve is easily recognisable with his brown back and spotted breast.

You'll know Steve's about because of two very distinctive sounds. The first is his song: a series of notes repeated three or four times, drawn from an impressive repertoire of around 100 phrases – he's not been signed by Virgin Records yet, but it's only a matter of time. The second is the smashing of snail shells against his favourite rock. Steve claims this is to get at the juicy treat inside, but we suspect he's taking the opportunity to experiment with percussion.

Sadly, we don't hear either very often now as numbers of this once familiar garden resident have declined dramatically. When the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch began in 1979, the song thrush was the 10th most seen bird in gardens across the country. By last year it had fallen to number 26 in the results charts.

Don't worry, there's some good news for Steve and his friends. Recent records show that the birds may be recovering, partly thanks to the rise of nature friendly farming and gardening.

What can you do to help?

Provide dense hedges for birds to make their home, and avoiding the use of slug pellets. By tolerating a few slugs and snails, or using ways to remove them that are less harmful to other wildlife, you'll be making life a lot easier for this much loved songbird.



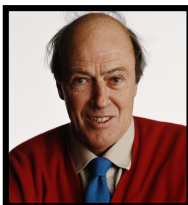
Poetry Corner

September 13th is Roald Dahl Day. This iconic British author is well loved by adults and children across the world. Best known for his children's books, such as *Matilda*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, and *James and the Giant Peach*, to name but a few; he also wrote a number of rhymes and poems. We recommend reading his *Revolting Rhymes* for a ridiculous and humorous take on some traditional fairytales.

There are so many rhymes and quotes to choose from, but we particularly like this extract from *The Twits*...

"A person who has good thoughts cannot ever be ugly. You can have a wonky nose and a crooked mouth and a double chin and stick-out teeth, but if you have good thoughts they will shine out of your face like sunbeams and you will always look lovely."

Roald Dahl 1916 – 1990



GreenTEA

GreenTEA (Transition Eynsham Area) are working for a sustainable zero carbon lifestyle in our area, which includes Stanton Harcourt.



Great Big Green Week September 18-26 2021

Eynsham area's Great Big Green Week is a collaboration between local community groups, businesses, individuals, families and friends, which aims to showcase and celebrate the great green endeavours to tackle climate change and protect the environment in our village and beyond, and inspire people to show the world we want to do better.

Great Big Green Week runs from 18-26 September, and forms part of a massive national event in the lead up to the 2021 United Nations Summit on Climate Change (COP26).

There will be lots of free activities and events during the week covering nature recovery, zero carbon building, future energy, green transport, the arts, local food and more. There will also be a free children's science based activity trail around Eynsham, including building and racing eco-racers, organised with help from the Eynsham Curiosity Box and opportunities to learn more about wildflower meadows, electric vehicles and Smart and Fair Futures, a national energy innovation project in the Eynsham area. For more information visit: <https://eynsham-pc.gov.uk/org.aspx?n=The-Great-Big-Green-Week>

Eynsham Rotary Club News

Defibrillator Installation

There are now 3 defibrillators in Eynsham, with the one at the village hall being paid for by our Rotary Club through our village fundraising events, so in other words by you, our local residents.



Courses to train members of the public will take place in the village as soon as Covid restrictions allow. This training will save lives – you never know who or when these skills will be needed!

Rotary Scholars enjoy the English Bluebell

Eynsham Rotary Club has been hosting a Rotary Global Scholar, Kelsey, from California who is being sponsored to study "access to law" at Oxford University. The US does not have anything like our Citizens Advice Bureau, and many US citizens struggle to access legal advice when required. Kelsey is hoping to go home with ideas that can alter this situation.

Kelsey has been unlucky enough to be here throughout the pandemic so her time in the UK has been somewhat different from what we would all have hoped. As soon as we were allowed, we arranged a visit for her and another Rotary scholar to come and explore a little of the English countryside.

Bluebell woodland is special in the UK, but rare to non-existent in other parts of the world, so we thought they would enjoy seeing this spectacular sight at its peak. We walked through Pinsley Wood to take tea in an English country garden. I think they were suitably awed by the carpet of blue and hopefully enjoyed the tea almost as much.

Kelsea returns to the US next month, but we are intending to keep in touch to hear how her plans unfold and to offer any help we can.



Squash and ricotta pasta bake

We're heading into squash season, so what better way to use up your extra yield this autumn? Great served with crispy kale and roasted tomatoes.

Ingredients (serves 4)

- 1 butternut squash, chopped - olive oil
- 2 cloves of garlic, peeled and finely sliced
- 1 bunch of fresh basil, leaves picked, stalks finely chopped
- 1 x 400 g tins of chopped tomatoes
- sea salt - 500 g dried penne pasta
- 3 tablespoons ricotta - 750 ml vegetable stock
- 150 g mozzarella ball - 1 handful Parmesan cheese, grated
- 2 sprigs fresh sage - 1 fresh chilli (optional)



Method

1. Preheat your oven to 200°C/400°F/gas. Place the squash on a baking tray, drizzle with olive oil and pop in the hot oven for around 15 minutes, or until tender.
2. Pour a couple of lugs of olive oil into a large frying pan, fry the garlic and basil stalks for a couple of minutes. Add tomatoes to the pan, and bring to the boil. Drop in the roasted squash, bring to the boil, then simmer for 10 minutes.
3. Bring a large pot of salted water to the boil, add the penne and cook for a couple of minutes less than it says on the packet. Drain, then toss with the sauce.
4. Tear up the basil leaves and sprinkle into the pan with some salt and pepper. Stir in the ricotta and the stock, then bring back to the boil.
5. Rub a large baking tray, ovenproof pan or earthenware dish with olive oil and spoon in all the pasta and sauce. Tear over the ball of mozzarella and top with the Parmesan. Rub the sage leaves with a little olive oil and put on top.
6. Pop it into the preheated oven and bake for 15 minutes or until golden and bubbling. Serve with a crisp green salad.

TIP: Try adding a chopped fresh chilli to your tomato sauce.



Eynsham Arts Group

Eynsham Arts Group will resume monthly meetings for both members and visitors from September. These will be held at The Music Room (entrance at the top of Queen Street, on the right and behind the Indian restaurant). Meetings will now be held on the last Thursday of every month, beginning with a talk and demonstration of



Collagraphic Printing by Janet Lueck, Thursday 30th September, starting at the slightly earlier time of 7 pm until 8.45 pm. Non-members to pay a small fee at entrance. All are welcome.

Our Art Exhibitions will resume as soon as possible, depending upon completion of the restoration of The Bartholomew Rooms in Eynsham Square.

Handy Hints for Horticulturalists



- * Plant spring flowering bulbs
- * Leave sunflower seedheads in place for birds to feed on
- * Collect and sow seed from perennials and hardy annuals
- * Keep summer bedding flowering until the first frost by deadheading and feeding regularly
- * Plant wallflowers, pansies, forget-me-nots and other spring bedding in pots and borders



Subscribe to Village Voice emails and updates using the QR code or visit <https://bit.ly/3yb2cZA>

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.

Church News

LOWER WINDRUSH BENEFICE SERVICES

Sunday September 5th

Trinity 14

10am Benefice Holy Communion – Stanton Harcourt

6pm Evensong BCP – Yelford

Sunday September 12th

Trinity 15

10am Benefice All Age Communion with baptism – Standlake

Sunday September 19th

Trinity 16

8am BCP Holy Communion – Yelford

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 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/



Did you know? It has been said that Roald Dahl created more than 250 new words. Many of them appear in The BFG.

Who Do You Think You Are?



Are you someone who enjoys investigating your family history? Could you help others find out about their ancestry?

Looking into family history is easier than ever with lots of records online. Nigel Tomsett and his wife visited the village in early July to help understand what they had investigated about his ancestry during lockdown.

Nigel's mother was Sylvia Winifred Akers. She lived in the house called Akers in Sutton until she went into service in the late 1920s. Sylvia got married in Stanton Harcourt church in 1932. She was in service with Miss Arnatt at Parsonage House before leaving the village for service elsewhere.

Nigel's grandfather, great grandfather and great, great grandfather ran the Harcourt Arms from the early 1800s until about 1910. His great great grandfather also ran the Masons Arms at Brize Norton.

If anyone is able to shed any further light on any family connections please let Nigel know via email: ntomsett60@gmail.com.

Nigel also credited Ellie and Sean at the Harcourt Arms saying "they were extremely helpful to us" and commented that "we found everyone we met in the villages friendly and charming. Your community is a credit to you all and your publication is a good example."

Family history is fascinating, for example, our apprentice editor Lucy Taylor is related to the Arch Bishop of Canterbury when Henry VIII was King (Arch Bishop Warham). And also has many relatives buried in St Michael's Church and St Mary's in Witney.

If anyone else has any interesting family or village history they'd like to share we would love to feature it. Understanding our village's history is important and useful, as everything people have done before has shaped the village we live in today.