



# VillageVoice

The Newsletter of Stanton Harcourt & Sutton

November 2021

## Calendar

2 <sup>nd</sup> Historical Society	Oxfordshire Country Houses
3 <sup>rd</sup> Café at the chapel	enjoy good company & crafts
4 <sup>th</sup> Knitting Group	Knit, chat and coffee
5 <sup>th</sup> Guy Fawkes Night	Hot dogs & sparklers all round
11 <sup>th</sup> Remembrance Day	We will remember them
13 <sup>th</sup> Village Market	Pop in for local goods & tasty food
14 <sup>th</sup> Remembrance Sunday	Service of remembrance
25 <sup>th</sup> British Legion AGM	7.30pm Village Hall

## Stanton Harcourt Cricket Club

Over the last three seasons Stanton Harcourt CC has been developing youth cricket at the club. We have been running the ECB All Stars and Dynamos programs with great success. However this summer we took the next step and entered the Oxfordshire U11 softball league. We were placed in a pool with Wootten & Boars Hill CC, Cholsey CC and Faringdon CC and I'm happy to say Stanton Harcourt team came top!

We have had many girls and boys of various ages turn out to represent the village and it has been fantastic to see the team gain confidence and learn, particularly in fielding awareness and the tricky art of running between the wickets. The team now have team shirts kindly sponsored by OSTMA and Inspired Construction.

Competing in the league has unquestionably been a valuable experience for the junior squad and the club as a whole. The positive attitude of the opposition coaches is fantastic to see and the priority is always on making the match as fun and entertaining as possible. If you think your child would like to play next summer then please contact me or look for details on the club website:

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

So, thank you to Oxfordshire Cricket for organising, to all our junior coaches that get the game on and of course to the players for making the contest come alive.

Edwin Apps [Edwinapps@me.com](mailto:Edwinapps@me.com)



## Deliverer Wanted

We have two delivery rounds up for grabs! They're short rounds so one person can take them both on, or they can be split between two people.

If you'd like to earn some extra money (£0.10 per copy) and help deliver Village Voice to your community please get in touch at [village-voice@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:village-voice@hotmail.co.uk)

4<sup>th</sup> November is Diwali, an important religious festival originating in India. Diwali is a celebration of good triumphing over evil, celebrated with lights



## Remembrance Sunday

14th November 2021



There are a number of acts of remembrance taking place in the village this year...

- \* Service of Remembrance at the **Hayfield Green Memorial – arrive 9.45am for 10.00am start**  
All welcome. This service is complementary to the village memorial service and will finish at 10.25, so that people can then walk to the **Church for the 11.00 Act of Remembrance.**
- \* **Gather in St Michael's churchyard at 10.45am.**  
The Act of Remembrance at the village war memorial will be followed by the **Remembrance Service in St Michael's church at 11.00am.**

Hayfield Homes donated £2000 to the local Poppy Appeal



## ADVENT WINDOWS

2021

St Michael's 6<sup>th</sup> annual event.



Last year we had more families joining in with this special event. This year we would like as many homes as possible to join in with decorating and lighting a window for advent. Just pick a day and keep the window display up and lit from your chosen day until Christmas. Please let us know asap which date (between December 1<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>) you have chosen and we will include you on the map. The map will be put on the "villagers other voice" and/or sent in an email.

Contact Carole on 01865 880416 or send an email to [st.m.creamteas@gmail.com](mailto:st.m.creamteas@gmail.com)

This is a lovely thing to do and the more the merrier!!

## Festivities on the horizon...



Watch this space for information regarding the annual Sutton Singer's Christmas concert at St Michael's Church on 14<sup>th</sup> December.

This always proves to be a fantastically festive affair with great music, good company and tasty festive refreshments.

## Village Market

Saturday 13th November 12-2pm, Village Hall

Come along to Stanton Harcourt Village Market.

Grab yourself some excellent homemade produce and crafts and maybe get an idea or two for those elusive Christmas gifts... Free entry



# Parish Council News

## Next Parish Council Meeting at the Village Hall

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November 7:30pm**

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

### Sir David Amess MP

The killing of Sir David Amess MP while he was delivering the role he was democratically elected to deliver is a tragedy, not only for his family and those who knew him but also a blow against democracy.

Alongside Councillors of all levels within Oxfordshire (County, District, Town and Parish) the Stanton Harcourt and Sutton Parish Council send our condolences to Sir David's family and give thanks for the uplifting message they published.

All elected representatives whether they belong to a political group or a volunteer group, such as a Parish Council, seek to make a positive difference to people's lives and such representatives should remain free and safe to deliver their role as best they can free from violence. We must not retreat behind closed walls or, worse still, cease to meet with individuals face to face to try to help them solve their problems.

### We Will Remember Them

Remembrance Sunday takes place on the 14th of November this year. This is our opportunity to remember the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedom and protected our way of life.

### The "Guard Room"

By the time you read this Newsletter the "Guard Room" will have been transferred by Hayfield Homes to the Parish Council. The facility will be made available to the public, in a similar way that the Village Hall is, once the Parish Council have furnished it ready for use – watch this space for further details soon.

### Bonfire Night

There are several excellent organised firework displays nearby, these displays reduce the risk of unnecessary injuries, house fires and stressed animals. The emergency services have enough to do without us adding to it. Please think carefully about your neighbours and act with consideration before deciding to let off fireworks at home.

### Don't contaminate your recycling waste please.

Do you ever find it difficult to know how to dispose of household items – or wonder whether they could be re-used or repaired for another's use locally? Oxfordshire County Council has a free online tool on their website to help identify how best to process your waste. Waste Wizard was launched in January 2020 to tackle the increasing issue of contaminated recycling, which can't be processed. It can also help you to recycle more – research identified that half of things put in the general waste bin could have been recycled or donated for repair and re-use.

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

### The local transport we've been waiting for: provisional routes and timetables

Unfortunately, there will be a short delay in the launch of the new First and Last Mile bus services 411 and 418, due to the lengthy and rigorous legal process that is taking a little longer than hoped for. The service is now expected to start no later than 4 January 2022 - exact date to be confirmed in due course.

They have obtained their first Minibus and hope to have 3 buses with 2 operating during the day and one spare. Once up and running it is hoped that an integrated ticket system will be in use to allow single ticketing between Stanton Harcourt and Oxford, changing at Eynsham. Concessionary bus passes will be available on all services after 9:00am in line with other operators. The project needs lots of volunteers to thrive and survive so please see all their volunteering opportunities!

<https://bit.ly/3mbXF9n>

The provisional routes and timetables for the 411 Service from Hanborough to Eynsham and the 418 Service from Standlake to

Eynsham have been published on their website.

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

### Butts Piece

Work on the Butts Piece development has commenced. Please ensure that you don't park your vehicles on the road near the site entrance.

### Play Parks

A reminder that dogs are not allowed within Jubilee Field play park or in the Leys play area. When walking on the path through the Leys please keep your dog on their lead. These play areas are for the benefit of our young people and not dogs.

### Dix Pit

Several household waste recycling centres in Oxfordshire are set to close during November to enable them to carry out deep cleaning and 'essential' maintenance. This includes jet washing the sites and structures, repainting lines and safety areas, and carrying out improvement work.

Dix Pit, Stanton Harcourt is scheduled to close on Tuesday 23 and Wednesday 24 November

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](http://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



*The word Diwali (or Deepavali) means "row of lights" in an Ancient language of India, called Sanskrit. During this festival, people decorate their homes with lights and oil lamps, called diyas.*

## Sutton Singers are singing again in The Methodist Chapel!

It has been a very long time since we have sung together in The Chapel - it is a delight to be back with walls to boost the sound of our voices.

We are learning new songs and singing songs we already know for fun! We hope to be able to do some kind of performance around Christmas. Watch out for details.

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](mailto:janandpaultomlinson@gmail.com)

Keep singing! It's good for breath control, relaxation and fun!!

**Thank you!** Freda Ford of Flexneys Paddock would like to thank the villagers that supported her for running the Oxford Half Marathon on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October. Freda ran to raise money for the Children's Air Ambulance. You can still sponsor Freda and help support The Children's Air Ambulance by using the following link  
[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Freda-Ford1](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Freda-Ford1)



## British Legion AGM

The Stanton Harcourt Royal British Legion annual general meeting will be held on Thursday 25th November starting at 7.30pm in the back room of the village hall. It is open to all who are interested in attending. Please contact the Secretary, Lucy Elphinstone, for further information.  
[lucy.elphinstone@gmail.com](mailto:lucy.elphinstone@gmail.com)





## 200 Club

Thank you to all those that bought a number after last month's message, still a few left, don't miss out!

### November Prize Draw

177. P Salway. £25      284 H Lucas. £12

195. G Purvis. £8      150. Mrs C Birch. £5

oldmotherstrange@gmail.com / 882020. Liz Strange



## First and Last Mile CIC

I can confirm that the new minibus service from Standlake to Eynsham via Stanton Harcourt and Sutton will start no later than 4 January 2022. This is slightly later than the planned November start but the short delay is due to unavoidable legal processes. First and Last Mile would like to thank everyone for their patience. There will be promotional events before the launch and we will have regular updates. For more information and timetables please see our website: [www.firstandlastmile.org.uk](http://www.firstandlastmile.org.uk) or contact us on [info.firstandlastmile@gmail.com](mailto:info.firstandlastmile@gmail.com)



*The city of Leicester, in the United Kingdom, holds the largest Diwali celebrations outside of India.*

## Ladies Walking Group

Fancy walking with others? We are a group of ladies who get together at 9.30 on a Monday Morning to walk! Mostly for about 2 hours locally. Sometimes stopping for coffee at the end.

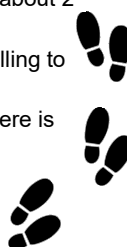
When there is no pandemic we also go further afield travelling to nearby walking routes within a 15-30 minute drive.

There is no pressure to attend every week - sometimes there is just a couple of us and another day it will be 10.

We walk at a pace that works for those attending.

For more information contact Jan Tomlinson

01865 881709 / [janviv28@gmail.com](mailto:janviv28@gmail.com)



## Handy Hints for Horticulturalists

### Get your garden winter ready...

- \* Plant bulbs ready for a spring display
- \* Clear fallen leaves
- \* Put out bird food to encourage winter birds into the garden
- \* Insulate outdoor containers from frost
- \* Prune roses
- \* Rejoice that the mower can go into hibernation!



## Page 3 Bird: Crow



This is Russell, one of our local Crows. When he's not busy auditioning for his next role he can be found spending time with his family or plotting his next prank. He may seem like just any other bird but crows are actually highly intelligent and, proportionally, some crows' brains are bigger than a human brain.

Crows are usually smaller than ravens, and are related to jays and magpies – this would explain why you might find Russell flying away with your car keys!

In mystical legend the crow is considered to be a powerful carrier of magic and is associated with wisdom. The Ancient Greeks believed seeing one was a symbol of good fortune: maybe you didn't need those car keys after all... keepers of secrets and memories the crow is the perfect bird for this November.

## Lower Windrush Historical Society

Join us to hear the fascinating history behind Oxfordshire Country Houses by Alastair Lack. 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 7.30pm at Standlake Village Hall. Email [lwhscommittee@gmail.com](mailto:lwhscommittee@gmail.com)



## The Harcourt Arms & Stores

Now taking bookings for Christmas parties and the day itself. Party menu available online. Please send us an email or give us a call to make your reservation ([theharcourtarms@barkbygroup.com](mailto:theharcourtarms@barkbygroup.com) / 01865 416516) The Harcourt Stores are now offering fresh baguettes, made-to-order. Don't forget: they are still taking orders for butchery and fresh groceries.

## Lower Windrush Valley Project

### Annual Forum 16th November 2020 at 7pm

Join the LWVP annual forum event for an update on our work during the last year and two guest speakers. Anne Cotton will give us an introduction to floodplain meadows, followed by Catriona Bass who will tell us about the Thames Valley Wildflower Meadow Restoration Project. This event will be held online and booking is required via Eventbrite. Please email [LWVP@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:LWVP@oxfordshire.gov.uk) for more information.

## Poetry Corner

This month we have a poignant poem written by one of our readers about one of the most notable and unusual features of our village...

### Devil's Quoits!

*The devil plays quoits for souls*

*A beggar lost the game*

*A slave to devil ways*

*Forever a lost soul with no name*

*The stones laid there through time*

*Folks afraid to evoke dark magic*

*Some had no fear and stones reused*

*Until at last only three – how tragic*

*Then war intervened and needs must*

*A runway for bombers made*

*The last three stones lost their fight*

*To stay upright, now memory fades*

*Old photos remain, to show of their plight*

*Old stories told where they laid buried*

*In runway or ditch, location hidden*

*War blasts around and souls are buried*

*Wartime gone, gravel needs took hold*

*Extraction delayed, excavation of stones*

*A plan of it all was made clear of*

*Ditches and stones, then made clones*

*Up from the earth they again stand tall*

*Of ritual, belief and people from the past*

*Telling the story of times gone by*

*Standing Proud now the stones recast*

Jan Tomlinson

If you have any poetry you're happy sharing, or a favourite poem you'd like to see featured one month then please let us know – we love getting your suggestions and seeing how creative our community is!



## Competition Winner!

The winner of our ghost story writing competition is **Luna Winter, age 8, in Year 4** at Stanton Harcourt Primary School. Well done Luna – you've won yourself a book token to help expand that imagination! Please enjoy Luna's spooky tale...

*The sound of nails being dragged down wood woke Tim immediately. He sat bolt up in bed, his breathing getting heavier as he tried to reassure himself that it was all just a nightmare. Tim's eyes darted around the room for any signs of what could have made the noise and jumped at a ghostly figure projected onto the wall behind his bed. Trembling in bed, he stomachached the courage to get up and investigate and realised that the window was open a small amount, wind blowing the curtain into a ghost like shape. The noise that had woken him caused by a tree scratching at the window. With a sigh of relief Tim got back in bed and settled down for the night. Just as his eyes were beginning to close he heard the creak of his bedroom door opening slowly. Followed by a long bony hand reaching in to the room. He screamed. For the nightmare was real and just beginning.*

*"Happy Halloween!" his mum shouted as she entered the room. "I hope my costume isn't too scary!"*



## 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

## Asylum Welcome

Asylum Welcome offers information, advice and practical support to asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable migrants living in Oxfordshire.

Stanton Harcourt resident, Nasser Salehi joined as a volunteer in the first week of October and already feels being involved in such a worthy cause has given him a clearer purpose in life.

Anyone who knows Nasser knows he's the man to go to for bicycle advice, so it's no surprise he has got involved in Asylum Welcome's Recycled Bicycle Scheme. The charity receives donations of bikes, fix and service them, then distribute them to all asylum seekers, refugees and their families if in need of bikes. Each bike is supplied with lights, lock and new helmet.

Nasser recently put a note on the Villagers Other Voice Facebook group asking for local bicycle donations and received an incredibly heart warming response: in less than 48 hours some 11 bikes, donations for servicing and countless well wishes were received.

Nasser would like to take this opportunity to mention how proud he is of the village; and ask for some extra help if any villagers are able to assist.

If you feel you can help with donations then please contact Nasser, or visit Asylum Welcome's website <https://www.asylum-welcome.org/bicycles/>. Nasser is also providing bike servicing for anyone who needs it, with all proceeds from the servicing going to charity.

Contact Nasser: [dearnasser@hotmail.com](mailto:dearnasser@hotmail.com) / 07799838554



CAFE AT THE CHAPEL  
WEDNESDAY 3 NOVEMBER 10.00 - 12.00

FRESH ROASTED COFFEE

SELECTION OF TEAS

TOASTED TEACAKES, CRUMPETS AND  
HOT BUTTERED TOAST.

CRAFT AND GIFT TABLE TO BROWSE

DROP IN - WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU!



## Star Gazing

The nights are drawing in, and with these darker evenings the night sky comes alive for us to marvel at a much more sociable hour.

We're lucky to live in a village without street lights contributing to our local light pollution; which means a much better view of those diamonds in the sky.

Why not keep an eye out for a clear night: wrap up warm, grab yourself a blanket and take a moment to stop and look up at the stars? We'd recommend packing some hot chocolate, mulled cider or a bottle of red to keep you company.

Not many people can say they live somewhere that offers star gazing in your back garden. Who knows - you might even see the ISS or a shooting star.

How about trying a Sky App like Sky Map (on android) or SkyView (on iOS) for your phone to help you find your way and learn about our solar system?



Diwali is a time to have fun with friends and family! People exchange gifts and sweets, enjoy delicious feasts and watch firework displays



## Church News

### LOWER WINDRUSH BENEFICE SERVICES

Sunday November 7<sup>th</sup>

8.30am HC BCP followed by breakfast - Stanton Harcourt

Sunday November 14<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Sunday

10:00am Short ceremony at the memorial at Hayfield Green, Stanton Harcourt (all welcome) followed by a village Act of Remembrance at the war memorial in St Michael's churchyard, then into church for Remembrance Service.

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> Advent Sunday

9:30am HC CW - Stanton Harcourt

3.00pm Wild Wonder (outdoor Christingle) - 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.

For more information visit [www.lowerwindrushbenefice.org](http://www.lowerwindrushbenefice.org)

### SUTTON METHODIST CHAPEL

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November

3pm Informal service - all are very welcome.

### St Peter's Roman Catholic Church, Eynsham

For information about services at St Peter's please visit [www.stpeterseynsham.org.uk/](http://www.stpeterseynsham.org.uk/)

## Fajitas with Guacamole

The Mexican holiday of Dia de Muertos takes place over 3 days (31st Oct to 2nd Nov 2021). The festival is a happy celebration with gatherings of family and friends to pray for and remember friends and family. Why not get together with some of your loved ones and make this tasty, yet simple, Mexican inspired meal.

Ingredients (serves 4)

### Fajitas

4 Chicken breasts, cut into strips 4 red peppers, cut into strips  
1 large white onion or 2 small red onions  
2 chilli peppers (with seeds if you like it hot)  
1tbs smoked paprika 1tbs cumin  
1tsp cayenne pepper (optional)

### Guacamole

4 Avocados 1 lime, juice of Coriander, finely chopped  
Large tomato, finely chopped chopped chilli if you like spicy guac

### Extras

12 tortilla wraps Tub of sour cream  
Salsa Grated cheddar

### Method

1. On the hob, heat some oil in a pan on a high heat
2. Drop all of the fajita ingredients into the pan, except the spices
3. Once the chicken is sealed add the spices
4. Whilst the chicken mix is cooking smash up 4 ripe avocados in a bowl with the chopped tomato, coriander and lime juice
5. Serve the fajita mix still sizzling with the guacamole, grated cheddar, sour cream and salsa in warmed tortilla wraps
6. Grab some extra limes and good quality tequila and wash it all down with some homemade margaritas. Buen Provecho!



Deadline for next issue is 20th of the month  
[village-voice@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:village-voice@hotmail.co.uk)

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