

VillageVoice

The Newsletter of Stanton Harcourt & Sutton

March 2023

Calendar for March

6th – Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm, The Old Guardroom

11th – Litter picking 10am

11th – Village Market & Cafe 12.00 - 2.00pm, Village Hall

13th to 16th – The Cheltenham Festival - traffic increase

19th – Mothering Sunday

Fingers Crossed!

Well, that was not so bad, the first of my efforts completed and a nice note from a villager to say they enjoyed the work and we also had a lovely note from a soon to be villager which is hugely encouraging.

In my last newsletter I mentioned we might cover a village issue or two and so this month's goes to litter. I have taken to picking up what I can whilst out walking our dogs, so my heartfelt thanks to the volunteers that do far more than me and collect rubbish by the bagful (the ones left on the verges for collection), it's a thankless task and one we should applaud. Judith Parker is organising a group litter collection on March 11th – please see details later in this edition.

Parish Council News

Next Parish Council Meeting in the Old Guardroom, Monday 6th March 2022, 7:30pm

Make sure you can vote!

There are changes coming for all of us who want to vote. From May 2023, you will need to take a form of photo ID with you to vote. There is a list of things you can use including your passport, photographic driving licence, EEA card, UK residence permit, blue badge or bus pass. If you don't have any of these items, you can apply for a free proof of age card online from: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate>

For more information on which forms of photo ID will be accepted, visit:

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id> or call their helpline on 0800 328 0280.

Thames Water issues

Are you having any issues with your water supply? The Parish Council are trying to monitor how many issues are being reported to Thames Water so that we can see what is happening. If you do report anything to do with your supply (not your account) please drop the Clerk a line as well on clerk@shpc.co.uk

A member of the Parish Council has been in touch with our MP to find out what news they have from their dealings with Thames Water. The comments back confirm that Thames Water will be increasing capacity at the Witney works and there will be investment in the plant in Stanton Harcourt. If you want to read more, this can be found here <https://www.robertcourts.co.uk/ThamesWater>

Planning Update

WODC have made some planning changes. The planning application process has been updated by the West Oxfordshire District Council to ensure any new applications better consider the local environment and biodiversity of their area; while also making the process more user-friendly for residents.

The changes, which came into effect on the 1st of February, impact the Validation Checklists; which outline the information required by applicants so that their planning submission can be considered 'valid' by the council. There are various documents that are required by law to accompany a planning application; so ensuring these checklists are as clear as possible is vital.

The updated validation lists and all planning related information can be found on our website here - <https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/validationchecklists>

First and Last Mile bus needs your help

The First and Last bus has grown in popularity and has become an important part of life in the village for those that don't drive. Their success now means they need your help. They are after some more volunteers to help keep the service running. As it stands, they just about have enough to keep the service running but do need to have some extra help. If you do think you can spare some time, please drop them a line

<https://www.firstandlastmile.org.uk/volunteer-with-us>

New noticeboards

You may have noticed some changes with noticeboards around the village. There is a new one at the Old Guardroom and the one on the village green is being refurbished. In Sutton Lane, the wooden one there has been replaced by a new metal one further down the road. It now sits in the entrance to the footpath leading to the Leys playground and the school. This should be a safer location for people to read notices rather than standing in the road.

Your West Oxfordshire District Councillors are:

Lynette Nicholls

- Mobile: 07766 251125
- Bus. email: lysette.nicholls@westoxon.gov.uk

Charlie Maynard

- Mobile: 07487 708681
- Bus. email: charlie.maynard@westoxon.gov.uk

Your Oxfordshire County Council councillor is:

Dan Levy

- Mobile: 07852 748362
- Email: dan.levy@oxfordshire.gov.uk

You Member of Parliament is:

Robert Courts

- Phone: 0207 219 5638
- Email: robert.courts.mp@parliament.uk

Your Parish Councillors are:

- Matthew Judson, Chairman, matthew@shpc.co.uk
- Rachel Arnold, Vice Chairman, rachel@shpc.co.uk
- Keith Hickson, keith@shpc.co.uk
- Joe Deane, joe@shpc.co.uk
- Gill Sellars, gill@shpc.co.uk
- Tony Pentland, tony@shpc.co.uk

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

Emergency call for Litter Pickers please

Saturday March 11th at 10:00

A plea from Judith

I'm sure I am not the only one who has noticed the huge amount of litter on the main road at the moment...very depressing.

And so I am wondering please if as many people as possible could give us an hour picking litter?

I have all the gear from Steve who usually organises this,

Meet at the top of Blackditch. I will have the car to put rubbish in and take to the tip.

Thank you ! Judith Parker

07710 238058

CAFE AT THE CHAPEL

WEDNESDAY 1 MARCH 10.00 – 12.00

FRESH ROASTED COFFEE

SELECTION OF TEAS

TOASTED TEACAKES, CRUMPETS AND
HOT BUTTERED TOAST.

BOOKS AND GIFTS SALE TABLE TO
BROWSE

A PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO ARRANGE
TO MEET UP WITH FRIENDS FOR A CHAT
AND CATCH UP OVER COFFEE WITHOUT
HAVING TO DRIVE OUT OF THE VILLAGE
OR JUST DROP IN FOR A CHAT AND SOME
FRIENDLY COMPANY
WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU!



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Village Shop & Post Office

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



March in the garden

🌱 Take cuttings of perennials – basal cuttings of phlox, delphiniums and other early-sprouting perennials.

🌱 Plant your potatoes

🌻 Lift Snowdrops and divide them, in the green when they are just going over.

🌻 Cut down old growth of perennials and grasses left over winter.

Church News
Lower Windrush Benefice

Wednesday evenings at 8:30pm we have a short service of Compline via Zoom.

Thursday mornings we have Early Bird Prayer at 7:30am via Zoom.

All Zoom codes can be found on
www.lowerwindrushbenefice.org

For more information about all services taking place in the Benefice (Stanton Harcourt, Northmoor, Standlake, Yelford) please visit the Lower Windrush benefice website:
www.lowerwindrushbenefice.org



St Peter's Roman Catholic Church, Eynsham

For information about services at St Peter's please visit

www.stpeterseynsham.org.uk/
SUTTON CHAPEL

*Informal service – SUN 12 MARCH AT 3.00 PM
ALL ARE VERY WELCOME.*

This month's recipe – Lemon Curd

Three egg yolks
Juice and zest of three lemons (unwaxed)
50 g of butter,
100 g of castor sugar.

Method

Add the lemon zest and juice, butter and sugar into a bowl. Place the bowl over a pan of gently simmering water and mix the contents, then add the egg yolks and whisk continuously until the mixture coats the back of a spoon. Usually around 5-10 mins.
Allow to cool. Enjoy!

This month Charlotte is reading...

I Found You - Lisa Jewel

Two women. Twenty years of secrets. And a man who doesn't remember anything. Or does he?

Lily has only been married for three weeks. When her new husband fails to come home from work one night, she is left stranded in a new country where she knows no one.

Alice finds a man on the beach outside her house. He has no name, no jacket, no idea what he is doing there. Against her better judgement, she invites him into her home.

But who is he, and how can she trust a man who has lost his memory?

Lisa Jewel is a best-selling British author and I think it's fair to say that, given Charlotte read the book in a day and ignored me and I had to walk the dogs, it is really rather good.

Poetry Corner - My Mother, Ann Taylor

Who sat and watched my infant head
When sleeping on my cradle bed,
And tears of sweet affection shed?
My Mother.

When pain and sickness made me cry,
Who gazed upon my heavy eye,
And wept for fear that I should die?
My Mother.

Who taught my infant lips to pray
And love God's holy book and day,
And walk in wisdom's pleasant way?
My Mother.

And can I ever cease to be
Affectionate and kind to thee,
Who wast so very kind to me,
My Mother?

Ah, no! the thought I cannot bear,
And if God please my life to spare
I hope I shall reward they care,
My Mother.

When thou art feeble, old and grey,
My healthy arm shall be thy stay,
And I will soothe thy pains away,
My Mother.

The Village Voice presents "Rising Talent".

In this issue we meet Molly Smith, who has lived in the village for seven years.

Molly has had a passion for drama since she was young, and slogged her way through sixth form until she could finally pursue her dream of studying at drama school in London. After getting accepted into the very old, very traditional Italia Conti and attending for a year, she later attended Fourth Monkey, a new, up and coming drama school. Her time at both schools helped her hone her craft as an actor, as well as fuelling a passion for writing and directing.

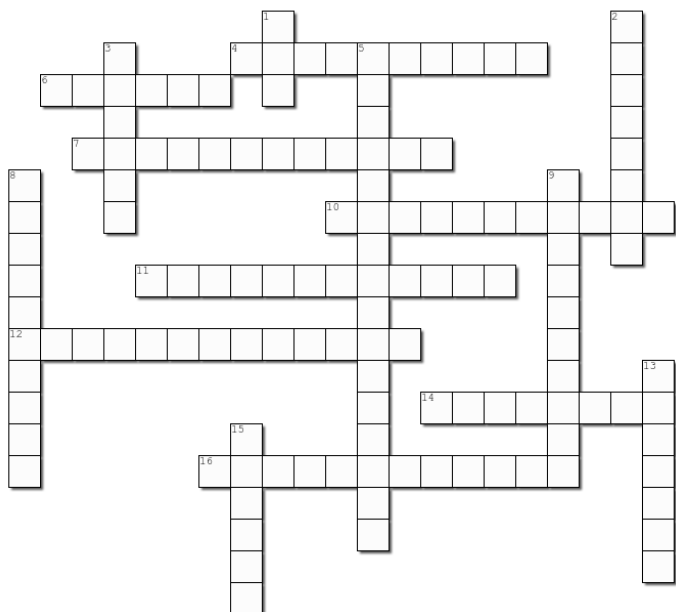
Molly's ultimate goal is to write and direct her own films, after gaining enough experience as an actress so that she can understand the mechanics of making

a perfect film. As a self-professed perfectionist, she would like full creative control of her work. She enjoys emotional films that are full of grit and complex studies of character, and these are the types of movies she intends to make. From talking to Molly it is clear that with her passion, determination and bossiness, she has the tools and the drive to be successful in this hugely competitive industry.

Molly has an agent and is currently saving up to go back to London and continue pursuing her dreams. Good luck, Molly!

Hardly The Times is it?

Test your knowledge of local house names and more!



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Across

4. Aunties Point
6. Home of the Anvil
7. Parish meeting place
10. Heads home
11. Precious crossing
12. Welly mineral extraction
14. Boring paint wonderful tree
16. Volunteers needed for vital service

Down

1. Our greatest tree
2. Our local river
3. Teddies in the Window, nothing shrinking
5. A recipe for march
8. Straw Roof
9. Spikey farmed Scottish land
13. Quoits hairy visitor
15. The summer sound of leather on

A little local history...

Newer residents of our lovely villages might not be aware of the amazing finds several archaeological digs of the last few decades have thrown up. The most recent excavation at Butts Piece, carried out by Thames Valley Archaeologists before the house builders moved in, confirmed what earlier excavations at nearby Gravelly Guy established – that our villages have been inhabited continuously in some form or other since the neolithic and then bronze ages. Countless families have found settlement here, at this spot between the Windrush and the Thames. Homo sapiens aren't the only creatures to have enjoyed our corner of the world either. A chance find, then extensive dig at Dix Pit, just to the south east of the Quoits, discovered a very rare find – a trench of approximately 200,000-year-old fossiliferous deposits that contained the remains

of steppe mammoths, straight tusked elephants, horses, bears, lions, wolfs. These animals roamed an open landscape with some woodland that would have suited hominids (our very early forebears) perfectly. These discoveries along with the remains of other creatures considered from more temperate climes led to a change in opinion about the climate at the time. All that, right on our doorsteps. Amazing!

TRUSTEES WANTED

Campaign to Protect Rural England - Oxfordshire

Do you care about your local countryside?
Want to make a difference?

Due to retirement of current trustees, we are looking for an Honorary Secretary and a Board Member to join our team.

This is an excellent opportunity to play an influential role in a respected and long-standing environmental charity, applying your experience to make a real difference and to be part of a friendly group that is passionate about the Oxfordshire countryside. Application deadline is **30 March 2023** in the first instance, but we are happy to receive expressions of interest on an ongoing basis. For further info, please contact our Branch Director, Helen Marshall.

E: director@cpreoxon.org.uk

T: 01491 612079

See our website for more information:

www.cpreoxon.org.uk

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.

We urgently need distributors for The Village Voice please email the editor if you are interested.

Please email me: village-voice@hotmail.co.uk

As we go to print we are sad to report the unexpected passing of Nigel Eagle. Nigel was a local legend and dear friend to many in the village and beyond, and will be greatly missed. We hope to provide further tribute to Nigel in future issues until then our thoughts and sympathies are with his family.