

# Village Voice

The Newsletter of Stanton Harcourt & Sutton

February 2023

## Calendar February

6th Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm, Village Hall  
10th Witney Music Society  
11th Village Market & Cafe 12.00 - 2.00pm, Village Hall  
14th St Valentine's Day  
23rd Royal British Legion Stanton Harcourt Branch AGM

## A word from your new Editor, Matthew

As I sit here finally realising the enormity of the decision to take on the Village Voice as Editor my thoughts drift, it's barely light outside and the frost did not leave the ground all day, yet despite this I can see the shoots of spring emerging. It seems like it's been dark forever, and cold, but change is most certainly in the air.

It feels like we are waking up, our old friends in the village slowly making the steps outside showing their faces after a few months of keeping warm behind closed curtains.

It's lovely to see those faces, some who have lived in the villages their entire life, but what if you haven't seen them for a while, take a moment if you can to say hello. I did and the stories I have now heard make me laugh, smile and cry, but more importantly in these very tough times it just feels like the right thing to do.

## Village Market and Cafe

Feb 11th, 12 - 2pm

Lots of fab stalls selling crafts, plants, homemade goodies and lots more!

The Cafe will be serving coffee & cakes, bacon rolls and homemade soups.....pop in! Free entry.

All are welcome.

The 2023 dates for our Village Market & Cafe are as follows (usually the 2nd Saturday in the month although this year we have had to make a few changes to fit with wedding bookings and national/village events....see below):

**February 11th**

**March 11th**

**NO MARKET IN APRIL 8th (Easter Sat)**

**May 13th**

**June 17th** (not 10th as we're kicking off Festival Week with an Alice in Wonderland Mad hatters Party themed market!)

**July 15th** (the hall is booked for a wedding on 8th)

## NO MARKET IN AUGUST

September 9th

October 14th

November 11th

December 9th (Christmas Market)

The markets are open from 12 -2pm. New stallholders welcome (there's no charge for having a stall).

## Royal British Legion Stanton Harcourt Branch AGM

Thursday 23rd February - 19.00-21.00

RBL Members and anyone else interested in supporting the Branch are very welcome to join us.

## Witney Music Society

The penultimate concert of Witney Music Society's 2022-23 season will be given by Ensemble Molière, selected as Radio 3's first-ever New Generation Baroque Ensemble. The programme will include works by Couperin, Rameau and J.F. Rebel. The concert is at 7.30pm on Friday 10 February at High Street Methodist Church, Witney.

Tickets (£15, £1 for under 19s) are available in advance online or at the door from 7pm. For more information, please telephone 01993 898020 or visit the Witney Music Society website:

[www.witneymusicsociety.org.uk](http://www.witneymusicsociety.org.uk)

## Combe Mill Blenheim Palace Sawmills

Combe OX29 8ET

The Riverside Tea Room is open for visitors every Wednesday right through to October 2023. Call in for hot Homemade soup and a roll, baguettes, cakes, Cream Teas, and soft drinks.

Open from 10.30am, to 2.30pm.

While the Mill is closed for the winter maintenance is carried out during this period, ready to welcome the visitors when we open again for the spring/summer season. Our 'In Steam' themed events will start on Sunday March 19th, 2023. The theme is S.T.E. (Science, Technology,

Engineering & Maths) so make a note in your diary for this very

popular event and bring all the family.

CHILDREN now have FREE entry.

Adults £9.00 .....Seniors £7.50

**FREE PARKING**

[www.combemill.org](http://www.combemill.org)

## Parish Council News

### Next Parish Council Meeting in the Village Hall

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023, 7:30pm

Online observation link:

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

### Welcome to The Editor!

We welcome the new Editor into this role and wish him well moving forward. The Village Voice plays an important role in our community, and we are really pleased to see that it has a new home.

### Financial help for those struggling

West Oxfordshire District Council want to try and help everyone get through this tricky time financially, especially as we are now in the colder months with more help available for more people. If you are struggling, there are some useful bits of information and help on their website:

[www.westoxon.gov.uk/news-items/help-if-you-re-struggling-with-living-costs](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/news-items/help-if-you-re-struggling-with-living-costs)

This site has access to things such as help with pension credit, childcare costs, debt advice and much more. You may not have been eligible before, but now are so always worth a check. If you don't have access to the internet, they can be called on 01993 861000 or by popping into the town centre shop in Witney.

### Where does the money go?

With purse strings at the forefront of most peoples minds, the expenditure of the Parish Council can be found on the website:

<https://www.hugofox.com/community/stanton-harcourt-and-sutton-parish-council-13404/finance/>

As a parish council, we are careful with your money and will publish all our expenses online and they are discussed at our monthly meetings. Please remember, everyone is welcome to attend our meetings.

### Speedwatch

Speedwatch is still struggling to get enough active members on the system. We now have a scheme registered with the police but can't use it until we have enough volunteers. The volunteers will need to pass a simple online test to be registered. Without the right numbers the scheme will not be able to operate, which means we cannot monitor speeding traffic through the village.

This is an important initiative, if you can spare the time, please contact [tony@shpc.co.uk](mailto:tony@shpc.co.uk) for more information.

### Your West Oxfordshire District Councillors are:

*Lynette Nicholls*

- Mobile: 07766 251125
- Bus. email: [lysette.nicholls@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:lysette.nicholls@westoxon.gov.uk)

*Charlie Maynard*

- Mobile: 07487 708681
- Bus. email: [charlie.maynard@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:charlie.maynard@westoxon.gov.uk)

### Your Oxfordshire County Council councillor is:

*Dan Levy*

- Mobile: 07852 748362
- Email: [dan.levy@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:dan.levy@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

### You Member of Parliament is:

*Robert Courts*

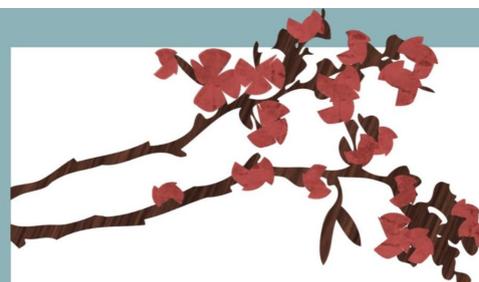
- Phone: 0207 219 5638
- Email: [robert.courts.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:robert.courts.mp@parliament.uk)

### Your Parish Councillors are:

- Matthew Judson, Chairman, [matthew@shpc.co.uk](mailto:matthew@shpc.co.uk)
- Rachel Arnold, Vice Chairman, [rachel@shpc.co.uk](mailto:rachel@shpc.co.uk)
- Keith Hickson, [keith@shpc.co.uk](mailto:keith@shpc.co.uk)
- Joe Deane, [joe@shpc.co.uk](mailto:joe@shpc.co.uk)
- Gill Sellars, [gill@shpc.co.uk](mailto:gill@shpc.co.uk)
- Tony Pentland, [tony@shpc.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:Clerk@shpc.co.uk)



## OXFORDSHIRE CHINESE BRUSH PAINTING GROUP

LESSONS ONLINE BY ZOOM, DIRECT FROM CHINA  
AND IN PERSON, AT

STANTON HARCOURT VILLAGE  
BLACKDITCH, STANTON HARCOURT  
WITNEY OX29 5SB

BEGINNERS WELCOME!

Come along and learn the ancient art of Chinese Brush Painting and Calligraphy. We supply the materials to get you started.

Contact: Tricia Wormald on [ocbp.art@gmail.com](mailto:ocbp.art@gmail.com)  
[www.cbpxon.home.blog](http://www.cbpxon.home.blog)

We are on Facebook@ Oxfordshire Chinese Brush Painting Group

## Poetry Corner - Desiderata

Go placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence.

As far as possible, without surrender, be on good terms with all persons.

Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even to the dull and ignorant; they too have their story.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons, they are vexations to the spirit.

If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain and bitter, for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.

Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans.

Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.

Exercise caution in your business affairs, for the world is full of trickery.

But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals, and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is as perennial as the grass.

Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth.

Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune.

But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself.

You are a child of the universe no less than the trees and the stars;

you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you,

no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be.

And whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace with your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams,

It is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.

**Max Ehrmann**

## February in the garden

- 🌸 Time to prune Clematis, Wisteria, Winter Jasmine, Hydrangea Buddleia and climbing Roses
- 🌱 Start getting excited about potatoes
- 🌻 Clean the patio
- 🌻 Order your Dahlias

## Easy Banana cake

If you're like me and find your bananas are a bit over ripe it's time to think banana cake - if I can make this I'm sure anyone can.

- 8oz soft butter
- 12oz golden granulated sugar
- 4 eggs
- 4 ripe bananas - chopped
- 16oz self raising flour - sifted
- 50ml Marsala wine (optional)

### Method

Beat the sugar and butter until soft a creamy

Beat in eggs

Add flour and mix in gently

Add chopped bananas and mix gently

Add Marsala wine and mix gently

Line a 9" cake tin with greaseproof paper and then fill the tin with your mixture.

Pop cake into preheated oven at 130°C

Cake is ready when you can insert a skewer into the middle and it comes out clean.

## This month Charlotte is reading

Strike - The Ink Black Heart by J K Rowling

When frantic, dishevelled Edie Ledwell appears in the office begging to speak to her, private detective Robin Ellacott doesn't know quite what to make of the situation. The co-creator of a popular cartoon, The Ink Black Heart, Edie is being persecuted by a mysterious online figure who goes by the pseudonym of Anomie. Edie is desperate to uncover Anomie's true identity.

Charlotte found the book quite hard going at the beginning but seems to be enjoying it as the pages keep turning - personally I like watching it on TV!

## 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*

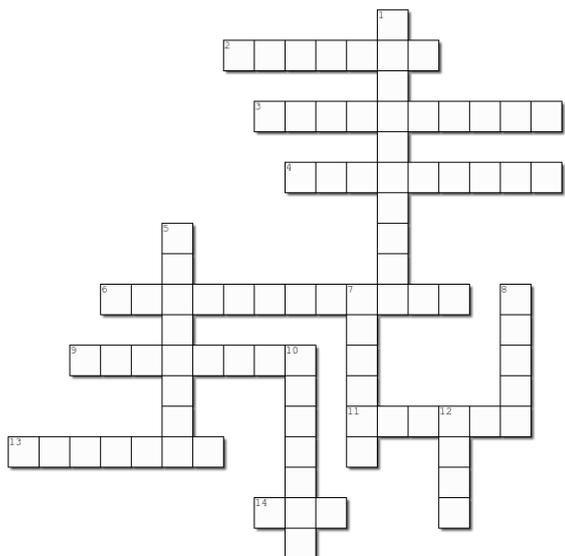
*Friday Shop only 08:00 - 10:00*

*Saturday Shop & Post Office 08:00 - 11:30*

*Sunday Shop only 08:00 - 10:00*



### Hardly the Times is it?



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

#### Across

2. Sending a letter
3. A place of great learning
4. kissing underneath
6. Resting place of the New Year's Day walk
9. Every shoe has them
11. The base of good soups
13. Long time until one for this King
14. It ate my chickens

#### Down

1. Pontiff's tall home
5. Next to the cows home
7. Finally retired
8. Every good cricketer should have one
10. Farmstead by the Stones
12. Spanish Penelope

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

*Carrying on Sarah's many years of wonderful work for this village newsletter, it will come as no surprise to those who read the Village Voice that an awful lot of effort goes into it every month, from printing, to delivery, to contributions of content - the work involved is extensive. As your editor I would like to thank all those involved and most importantly you, the readers.*

*In 2023 I plan to deliver a number of small changes that will allow the Village Voice to continue to be an integral part of our lives.*

*In this month's issue I have introduced a crossword that focuses on our villages (answers in next month's issue) and in next month's issue we will meet Molly Smith, an aspiring drama and film talent from our village. It would be great if you could introduce me to any other young talented individuals who reside in our villages. I believe it is important to celebrate talent and to nurture those that require it in these challenging times.*

*I don't anticipate that the Village Voice will become a shouting match regarding dog poo, traffic calming and speeding, littering or local planning but I am sure that we will include these troublesome items in further issues.*

*We have fantastic villages and communities that should be celebrated and I would like to encourage everyone to send me any contributions or ideas so the Village Voice remains as relevant as possible. I cannot promise that I will include everything but I will do my very best to give a balanced view of village life and its challenges.*

*Finally I would like to say thank you to Helly for her assistance in putting this newsletter together and welcome any comments, feedback or offers of assistance for future issues. Please email me:*

**[village-voice@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:village-voice@hotmail.co.uk)**

#### **THE LAST WORD**

*I was delighted to hear that so many folks got together to walk on New Year's Day, despite the water levels - well done to all those who organised the event, The Harcourt Arms for refreshments, and also to all those that took part, without these types of event we may lose a little of our village voice.*

## Church News

### Lower Windrush Benefice

**St Michael's Church, Stanton Harcourt**

**Sunday 5th February**

**8:30am HC BCP at St Michael's, Stanton Harcourt**

**Sunday 12th February**

**10:00am HHC BCP at St Michael's, Stanton Harcourt**

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](http://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](http://www.lowerwindrushbenefice.org)



### 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/)

## The Quoits - let's make a difference

Helly would love to hear from anyone interested in joining a working group to look at ways we could improve the Quoits and the lake and make them both more of an asset to the village and local community. Please contact Helly on [helly.worsdell@gmail.com](mailto:helly.worsdell@gmail.com)