



VillageVoice

The Newsletter of Stanton Harcourt & Sutton

December 2020

Calendar

30th Nov – 13th Dec - FOSHS 12 Days of Christmas
1st Dec – 24th Dec - Advent Window Trail

6th - Gift Giving Drop In - St Michael's Church
13th - Benefice service - St Michael's Church
24th - Christmas Eve - *don't forget your carrot & mince pie*
25th - Christmas Day - *much food & cheer required*
26th - Boxing Day - *time for a nap and some festive cheese*



FOSHS are pleased to announce that from the 30th November until the 13th December (inclusive) families will be able to take part in a fun family trail around the village.

Based on the 12 days of Christmas, families can follow a route around the village (either in one go or spread over different days) and spot the '12 days of Christmas' houses and a special letter at each house. These letters will rearrange to spell a word. Once you have solved the anagram, you will enter a prize draw for a hamper of goodies.

To join in the fun and raise much needed funds for FOSHS, please collect a trail map from Stoneleigh, Main road (Dowell's house) anytime from 28th November. Trails cost £2 and we are working on an honesty system due to covid restrictions, so please drop your £2 donation in the box when you take a trail. No change available sorry and no need to knock on the door.

Funds raised will be used to pay for the Christmas party boxes we are supplying each bubble in school to give them a Christmas to remember at this tricky time.

FOSHS is a registered charity no.1061604

We have a new Editor!!

Sadly, our amazing Editor, Joe Deane, is stepping down this December.

After 7 years of being the editor, we can all agree that Joe deserves a massive THANK YOU for all his hard work on the Village Voice over the years.

Luckily, we have found someone who is prepared to take on the task of being the official editor. Our new editor is Sarah Watts!! We hope you will join us in welcoming Sarah to the fold.

Our excellent assistant editor, Queen Lucy, will be working with Sarah. If anyone else would like to join our editorial team please drop us an email.

And whilst we're here....

Your Village Voice editing team would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Thank you all for your continued support. We hope to keep bringing you news, useful information and amusing titbits as we enter 2021. Let's hope it's a slightly better year all round!

New Tier!!

After 2nd of December we're allowed out of Lockdown 2.0. Wahoo!!!

Unfortunately, but necessarily, we will be going into Tier Two, which has another set of rules that we need to get our heads around.

The handy link below gives more information about the new rules and regulations we need to follow.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know>

At the moment it isn't quite clear what the village will look like after lockdown 2.0. But hopefully we'll all be able to meet again and enjoy the company of people in 3D instead of screens soon!

Coronavirus

Covid-19 is still a real threat in the community and we'd like to remind villagers what to do if you find you have symptoms...

- Symptoms can include: a high temperature, a new or continuous cough, or a loss of / change of sense and smell.

- If you do have symptoms you and your household must self-isolate and stay home!

- Get a test if you have symptoms and the track and trace will contact you with further steps.

- You may also need to self-isolate if you have come into contact with someone who has tested positive. Normally this means two weeks of isolation at home but your family members can still go about their normal business.

We know this can be disruptive (especially if you've had to self isolate multiple times like our assistant editor!), but it is essential to stop the spread of the virus.

If you are 16+ we recommend considering downloading the track and trace app. Hopefully, with time and patience, we can get this virus under control.

Looking after neighbours

This year, in particular, it is essential to look after our neighbours/the community. If you are going through a tough time there are so many people you can talk to that are here to help you!

If you are also suspicious of any one being at risk from abuse please report to the police either by calling 999 for emergencies or 101 for non-emergencies.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/mental-health-helplines/>

Is this a paper copy? Help Yourself

We've left printed copies stapled to things in the village, so you can pick one up to keep or pass on to anyone who doesn't have this new-fangled internet thing. It should just tear off, if the notice board comes with it you can help us make some more notice boards perhaps....

Go to your Doctor!

This year, more than any year, it is important to look after yourself. If you are worried or concerned of any symptoms you, or someone else, may be experiencing please contact your doctor for advice.

They are here to help you!



Remembrance Day

Unfortunately, this year the outdoor remembrance service could not go ahead as planned; but a short act of remembrance was held, and the names of the fallen were read aloud by John Holland.

The wreaths still remain on our village war memorial, serving as a great reminder of the huge sacrifices people have made, and continue to make to this day.



Standing with Giants

This year, Dan Barton and a team of amazing volunteers created an outstanding display of 200 soldiers and 75 poppy wreaths at Blenheim Palace.

The instillation has been packed away for another year, but there are still videos of this wonderfully poignant display that are definitely worth checking out.

After just over 2 weeks the team raised £39,777, with gift aid.

Well done to all the volunteers and Dan Barton for the amazing work.

Keep a look out on social media for future projects!!

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

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/standingwithgiants>



Welcome to the Village

We've had a lot of new comers to the village recently, so we we'd like to say a big "Welcome!"

You have just moved into an amazing community where lots of events take place. Get ready for a full diary after covid!

There is so much you can get yourself involved in here, and new faces and volunteers are always welcome.

A good place to direct any questions is to the 'Villagers Other Voice' facebook page, where you'll be sure to find many helpful responses.

We hope you enjoy your time in Stanton Harcourt and Sutton!!!

Parish Council News

Next Parish Council Meetings, via Zoom

December: Monday 7th 7:30pm

January: Monday 4th 7:30pm.

For Zoom link see Parish Council Website



Merry Xmas

The Parish Council would like to wish all residents a Merry Christmas. A celebratory Christmas tree has been placed on the Stanton Harcourt Green by your Parish Council please enjoy this special period whilst staying safe.

Oak Tree Planting

The Parish Council would like to thank those who provided oak trees, all home grown, and those who helped to plant the trees in front of the village hall and on the Jubilee field last week.

Temporary Road Closure

Road resurfacing is scheduled for the Main Road Stanton Harcourt between 14 December 2020 up to and including the 16 December 2020. This will operate between 08:00 and 15:30. The area on the map appears to show the Main Road approximately 50 meters before and after Steady's Lane. Access will be maintained for emergency service vehicles and for those frontages within the closure area.

Waste and Recycling

Normal	Revised
Wed 30 Dec	Mon 4th Jan
Wed 6th Jan	Sat 9th Jan
Wed 13 Jan	Fri 15 Jan
Wed 20 Jan	Thurs 21 Jan

There will be no Garden Waste collection between 25th Dec 2020 to 17th Jan 2021

Extra Recycling will be collected if placed in clear open bags or cardboard boxes

Please note – Foiled wrapping paper and glittered cards cannot be recycled. Black bags, carrier bags, squashy plastic film or textiles must not be put in your recycling. Glass bottles and jars should be recycled using your black kerbside box

Expansion of Bartholomew School

Consultation on the plan to extend Bartholomew School is underway.

The Eynsham Partnership Academy, supported by Oxfordshire County Council, now proposes the following changes to meet the needs of local population growth:

- Expand Bartholomew School from 1,300 secondary school places to 1,900 secondary school places;
- Achieve this by establishing a "satellite school" within the Garden Village development, which will accommodate Years 11-13;

- Extend the age range of Bartholomew school from 11-19 to 2-19, to include 3 forms of entry in primary provision, totalling up to 630 primary pupils and 120 nursery pupils.

Additional Electrical Charging Points

West Oxfordshire Council are installing electric charging points in some of their car parks. Initially they will be installed in Woodford Way, Witney; Back Lane, Eynsham; Black Bourton Road, Carterton; Hensington Road, Woodstock and New Street, Chipping Norton.

WODC support for local business

Local businesses in West Oxfordshire that are affected by the national lockdown are able to apply for a Support Grant from 16 November 2020 with payment expected prior to Christmas.

Sewage pollution of local Rivers

The campaign against the dumping of sewage in our waterways is gaining momentum. West Oxfordshire Councillors have backed a petition demanding action against the pollution of rivers with sewage by Thames Water.

Potential Rail link Witney to Oxford

As part of the upgrading of Oxford Rail Station a new 16km, £260M rail link from Witney to Oxford is being considered. With an aim of reducing transport on the A40 and creating new transport options. The line would run east from Witney to Yarnton, where it would join the main line running south into Oxford.

Commemoration of the fallen

The Parish Council have worked with Hayfield, the developers of the Airfield site, to place a fitting memorial plaque on the site to ensure the origin of the site and those who lost their lives defending this country are not forgotten. The plaque will be installed on 14th January 2021

Village Volunteer Group

The Stanton Harcourt with Sutton Volunteer group is a Parish Council initiative run entirely by a large group of volunteers and exists to support anyone in need within our village. Prior to COVID-19 many villagers were helping their neighbours with a variety of tasks including local shopping, changing light bulbs or catching up over a cup of tea, this is simply an extension of the fabulous community spirit, in such unique times.

We are offering to help any villager in need, free of charge - post letters, walk the dog, collect shopping or prescriptions, etc. We are also happy to keep in touch by telephone if you are feeling isolated. We will simply do what we can to assist whilst following government guidelines.

If you need help, call any of the following numbers. You can leave a message any time or if you want to speak with someone call between 9:00 and 18:00 from Monday to Saturday, and they all have access to a large group of volunteers linked together via a WhatsApp group so can find the support you need.

07778 924 964 Gill Sellars
07977 502 209 Matthew Judson
07803 133 141 Michelle Poynter
07717 755 497 Tami Warriner
07966 506 426 Gil Hilleard

If you would like to volunteer and join our community group make the call, provide us with your mobile phone number and we will add you to the WhatsApp group – the more the merrier.

Village Voice Retiring Editor

The Parish Council would like to thank Joe Deane, who as Editor, has generated and ensured the circulation of our village newsletter for the last 7 years and to say welcome to our new Editor Sarah Watts.

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.
trudigasser@rocketmail.com

Christmas Morning 2020 St Michael's Church, Stanton Harcourt

We would love as many people as possible to be able to attend our
10.30am Christmas morning service

In order for us to fit everyone who wants to come in our beautiful church, and due to covid regulations, it is imperative that you
pre-book your seats
so we can work out a seating plan.

Families of 6 can sit together, so please let us know by **December 20th**
your name and the number in your group.
Sadly, if you don't pre-book you may not be able to come in.

Please drop Sarah an email to confirm your attendance and she will confirm your booking. Thank you

wattssar@googlemail.com

Rotary Christmas update



Rotary Club of Eynsham is still hoping to be able to help Santa with his Christmas duties. At present we have 3 provisionally booked static events at the Eynsham Lights

event, with Stanton Harcourt PTA and at Cassington village green. Details of these and, if we are allowed, the street tours will be published in Eynsham Online. Please check regularly to find out what will be happening in your area.



Page 3 Bird -Red cardinal

With his cute little red tuft of feathers, the red cardinal can be found in south-eastern Canada, through the eastern United States from Maine to Minnesota to Texas, and south through Mexico, Belize, and Guatemala.

Their red colour is also a symbol or reminder of the blood Jesus Christ shed for us on the cross. That's why



the cardinal is so often seen on Christmas cards and as decorations on trees, wreaths, and garlands as well as painted on shop windows in winter or Christmas scenes.

Let's talk **together**

Talk/together have launched a coalition survey set up by names like

the NHS and the Scouts. The survey plans to find what brings people together, with the aim of producing campaigns for change & planning activities that bring people together. Especially important at the moment!

Click on the link to have your say: <https://together.org.uk/>

Village Shop & Post Office at the Village Hall

As well as Newspapers and Basic Food items we now provide banking services via the Post Office. You can make cash withdrawals, make deposits (cash or cheques) and obtain balances from your personal or business account.

Monday	8:00 - 10:00	Shop only
Tuesday	8:00 - 11:30	Shop & Post Office
Wednesday	8:00 - 10:00	Shop only
Thursday	8:00 - 11:30	Shop & Post Office
Friday	8:00 - 10:00	Shop only
Saturday	8:00 - 11:30	Shop & Post Office
Sunday	8:00 - 10:00	Shop only

The Shop and Post Office will be closed
Dec 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th and Jan 1st



Gift Giving Drop In

St Michael's Church - Sunday 6th December
2pm - 4pm

In lieu of our annual Carols by Candlelight Service,
this year we are holding a

Gift Giving Drop In Session at St Michael's Church

Hundreds of children in Oxfordshire would not receive anything for Christmas without the help of the Salvation Army.
This year, more than ever,
The Salvation Army need our help in order to ensure children from situations less fortunate than ours receive something this Christmas

St Michael's Church will be open on
Sunday 6th December between 2pm & 4pm
to drop off gifts.

We will have several Advent Stations (all covid safe), which aim to bring some festive advent cheer and a time for some peace, reflection, and hope in these difficult times

Please bring an un-wrapped gift for children aged 0-16

If you feel unable to join us but would like to contribute, please use the below Salvation Army gift link
<https://amzn.eu/6IKIWIq>

Social distancing and covid guidelines will be observed



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

St Michael's Church, Stanton Harcourt

St Michael's church will be open as usual on Sundays and Wednesdays during daylight hours for private prayer.

The Rector, Jo Hurst, will be working part-time until late January. For now her working days will be Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.

All Church services planned are subject to government regulations. Information about all services taking place across the Benefice can be found on the Lower Windrush Benefice website, or the 'A Church Near You' website. <http://lowerwindrushbenefice.org/>

DECEMBER 2020

- **Sunday 6th December** - 2.00 - 4.00pm Alternative Gift Giving Drop In, with interactive (Covid Safe) Prayer Stations – Please bring gifts for Salvation Army Children's Collection
- **Sunday 13th December** - 10.00am Benefice Holy Communion
4.00pm Take-away Christingle – Zoom (details re Zoom link to be announced)
- **Thurs 24th December** - Christmas Eve - 11.30pm Holy Communion
- **Friday 25th December** - Christmas Day - 10.30am All Age Celebration. Please book seats, email wattssar@googlemail.com
- **Sunday 27th December** - Christmas 1 - Join with Diocesan Service – Online Service

Wednesday evenings at 8.30pm: the Service of Compline (Night Prayer) is held weekly, online via Zoom.

Please note there will be no Compline on Wednesday 30th December. A link to Compline and the Order of Service are available on the Lower Windrush Benefice website.

St Peter's Roman Catholic Church, Eynsham

St Peter's is open for services on Christmas Eve 5.00pm and 8.00pm Christmas Day 10.00am.

Christmas Masses are by ticket only. There is limited seating capacity. Please contact Father Mark to request a ticket.

<http://www.stpeterseynsham.org.uk/>

! Beware Scams !

With Christmas approaching the scammers are out in force again.

Please look out for any scams that may come your way, and especially check in with any vulnerable neighbours.

If anyone asks for any personal passwords, PIN numbers or bank details DO NOT give them out without being 100% sure they are legitimate.

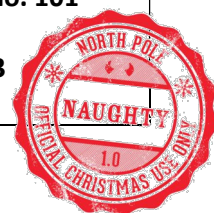
If you suspect you have been a victim of a scam or fraud please contact either of the following:

Thames Valley Police non-emergency no. 101

Action Fraud 0300 123 2040

Trading Standards 0808 223 1133

Crimestoppers UK 0800 555111



Free Parking!!

Are you planning to support local businesses this Christmas? Oxford's five park and ride sites will have free parking from Saturday 5 December through to Sunday 27 December. More information found on the Oxford City Council website:

<https://www.oxford.gov.uk/>

From the Festival Committee:

Sadly, there was no Village Festival week this year, but with some extra time (and thyme!) on their hands over the summer, the Festival Committee have turned their attention to a couple of Village projects which we hope you will all appreciate!

Village and Church Information Leaflets

We have created two information leaflets for our villages.

One is a leaflet that contains information about St. Michael's Church and the other is a general information leaflet covering Stanton Harcourt and Sutton. We hope that you and any visitors to the villages will find these leaflets useful.

The leaflets will be available (we hope) from The Harcourt Arms, The Harcourt Stores, The Village Shop, The Village Hall and of course The Church.

If you need quantities of the leaflets then email mikeparker12@gmail.com.

(And particular thanks to Gill Salway, Phil Pryse and Clare Rich for their contributions to the leaflets.)



Village Herb Beds

The village festival committee have also funded (and dug) three small plots of herbs which we hope will brighten up the immediate area but primarily to provide a source of herbs for villagers to use.

All three beds contain Sage, Rosemary and Thyme and two also include a small bay leaf tree.

They are situated in the following locations:

- By the Green (behind the pillar box)
- Halfway along Blackditch (outside Long cottage and opposite Foxbury court)
- At the junction of Steady's lane and Main road.



Our thanks go to those residents living close to these plots who have agreed to water, prune and keep them tidy.

So, if anyone wants or needs a bayleaf, some rosemary, sage or thyme do help yourself!

We would like to plant two more plots so if anyone wants to suggest a suitable place to put one then please contact Mike on mikeparker12@gmail.com)

We hope to be able to update you on plans for Festival 2021 as soon as we can but clearly need to wait to see how things develops over the next few months. In the meantime, stay safe and well everyone!



The Festival Committee