

# VillageVoice

The Newsletter of Stanton Harcourt & Sutton

February 2021

## Calendar

4th - Harry Potter Book Night *Wands at the ready*  
5th - World Nutella Day *An excuse for extra pancakes*  
12th - Chinese New Year *Year of the Ox*  
14th - Valentines Day *Good excuse for chocolate & cake*  
16th - Pancake Day *More sugary deliciousness*  
27th - International Polar Bear Day *Why not sponsor one?*



Photo taken by Robert Whitehead

## SNOW DAY!

We hope everyone, and their dogs, enjoyed the January snowfall. Some fantastic snowmen were created!

If you have any snow photos you'd be happy featuring in next month's Village Voice please send them to the Editorial Team no later than 20th February.

## Get your wellies on!

More of us than usual have taken to walking in the amazing landscape we have on our door step. However, extra footfall is creating secondary paths away from official routes. We know inadvertently sinking in the mud and leaving a shoe behind isn't much fun, but please do stay to the designated public footpaths.

This is causing crop and habitat damage. Which, in turn, affects the financial income of our local farmers and, more importantly, potential food supply. Why not invest in a pair of sturdy Wellington Boots rather than risk the wrath of our, understandably mildly fed up, farmers?!



Make sure you also take home left over PPE, coffee cups and dog mess! And keep your dogs away from crops or livestock. We're all responsible for keeping the environment we live in clean and safe.



## !! Vaccination scams !!

Whilst the roll out of the vaccine is taking place some wicked people have decided to exploit this. These scams come in many different forms – remember that the vaccine will be free of charge with the NHS, and no vaccine sign up will ask for your bank details. If you get an email, text message or phone call asking for bank details this is a scam, please ignore it!!

## Census Incoming

The Census is coming on Sunday 21 March. By completing it, you will help shape our community for the next 10 years. Census outputs inform where millions of pounds of public funding is spent on services in our local area, such as transport, education and health, and on cycle routes, schools and dental surgeries. Find out more at [www.Census.gov.uk](http://www.Census.gov.uk)

## Village Voice News

Currently, we're only able to provide an online version of Village Voice. We will deliver again once it is possible for us to do so safely.

A supply of physical copies is currently left in the **Post Office and Harcourt Stores** each month.

Please consider printing a copy for those who can't access this online; or let us know and we'll get a copy to them.

For those of you relying on Facebook for Village Voice updates, we'd suggest subscribing to our emails. The Editor isn't a Facebook fan, so it may not always make its way on social media. Plus it is very easy for new posts to get lost on such a well used platform.



To subscribe please use the subscriber link on the home page of the Stanton Harcourt online website <http://stantonharcourt.online/>

## Vandalism



The dark evenings provide cover for all manner of illegal activities; and after the recent vandalism of Christmas lights in December/January we would like to remind villagers to keep an eye out for any suspicious activity. Constant vigilance, folks.

For Emergencies call: 999 Non-emergency 111  
Or email the local neighbourhood policing team at [eynshamNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:eynshamNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

## Are you working from home?



Over the last 10 months of continuous restrictions and now our 3rd lockdown the, normal avenues to raise money have almost ceased and St Michael's Church Fundraising has reached crisis point.

In order to keep this beautiful, 900yr old, historic building safe and open to the public we urgently need to increase our funds.

To all of you now working from home, would you consider donating some of your commute money to our fund?

For details on how to do this please contact

[Stm.fundraising5rj@gmail.com](mailto:Stm.fundraising5rj@gmail.com)

Thank you

St Michael's fundraisers.



## Free Courses



As many of us find ourselves at a loose end or needing to build new skills as a result of job losses, the government are providing free, government funded courses. These courses will give you a NCFE Level 2 qualification in the relevant subject. Please use this link: <https://freecoursesinengland.co.uk/>

Did you know? St. Valentine wasn't just one person: there are at least two men that inspired the holiday.



# Parish Council News

**Next Parish Council Meetings, via Zoom**  
**February: Monday 1st 7:30pm. For Zoom link see**  
**Parish Council Website**

## HAYFIELD GREEN MEMORIAL:

The developers at the new housing development had planned to unveil a memorial plaque dedicated to those individuals who died building or operating from Stanton Harcourt airfield. Due to COVID restrictions the unveiling has been delayed

## PLAYGROUNDS:

The Parish Council hopes to upgrade equipment in the Bury Mead play park this year. During the current lockdown, playgrounds remain open with restrictions. Some of the swings have been removed to help aid social distancing. We do not have the resources to man all play areas; therefore rely on you to help ensure they remain open by looking after yourselves, the safety of your children and observing the guidance that is posted. Please use the play areas responsibly. Please inform the Parish Clerk\* of any concerns with the play equipment.



## VILLAGE VOLUNTEERS:

Don't forget, the 'Village Volunteers' are still ready to help with shopping, errands, prescription collection, or just to chat. Please don't hesitate to ask for any help you need – there are plenty of willing neighbours ready to help.

## OXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL (OCC):

The OCC 2021/22 Budget consultation closed on the 13th January. The council's Cabinet met to formally agree the proposed budget ahead of the annual meeting on 9 February when the budget will be debated. Proposals include a 1.99% rise in basic council tax plus an extra 1%, which would be required to be spent on adult social care under national rules, making a total of 2.99%. An update will be provided in the next issue.

## PILOT ELECTRIC SCOOTER HIRE SCHEME:

Residents in Headington, Oxford will soon be able to rent an e-scooter as part of a trial to allow residents to travel in a socially distanced manner and cut carbon emissions. The launch is part of a 12month trial led by OCC and Swedish e-scooter operator Voi Technology.

## FLOODING:

Discussions are planned with the Environment Agency re Bablockhythe, with the aim of lessening their flooding risk. A flood warning means that flooding is expected and immediate action is required. More detail is provided by the Environment Agency.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/311020/flood\\_warnings\\_LIT\\_52\\_15.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/311020/flood_warnings_LIT_52_15.pdf)

Oxfordshire County Council has a flooding toolkit (<https://www.oxfordshirefloodtoolkit.com/>), giving advice to residents, business and landowners on how to prepare and respond to flooding.

## DUMPING RAW SEWAGE IN OUR WATERWAYS:

Philip Dunne, M.P for Ludlow, has tabled a Private Member's Bill aimed at stopping the Water Companies from dumping raw sewerage into rivers and streams. Many of the ditches on the path between Sutton to the Thames are contaminated with effluent from the local sewage works and Thames Water is currently pumping out Standlake and transporting to Eynsham putting extra traffic on the B4449 through Sutton 24 hours per day.

The second reading of this bill did not go ahead as planned. But it continues to remain an extremely relevant issue to our local community.

The most recent press release can be found here:

<https://www.theriverstrust.org/2021/01/22/defra-sewage-bill/>

## OXFORD FIRE AND RESCUE:

Remind you that in winter weather it is even more important to look after our vehicles. Lights must be clean and working; wipers must be in good condition; and washer bottles topped up with water and screen wash. Adjust your driving to suit the conditions.

## SUPPORT YOUR RELATIVES AT HOME:

NHS and social care staff in Oxfordshire are asking families to help support their loved ones when leaving hospital. For some people the medical, nursing, and therapy care they need is able to be delivered at home, which avoids the need to go to hospital in the first place. As pressures in local hospitals grow, families are reminded of their pivotal role in how they can support this approach.

## OXFORD COVERED MARKET:

As the jewel in the crown of the city centre, Oxford City Council has begun a project that could see the Covered Market transformed for future generations. The City Council will set out how the market could be regenerated and improved during the course of 2021.

## QUICK CONTACTS:

Your Parish Council: All official communications should be addressed to the \*Parish Clerk: Trudi Gasser, 5 Woodlands, Standlake, Oxon, OX29 7RA. [trudigasser@rocketmail.com](mailto:trudigasser@rocketmail.com)

West Oxfordshire District Council: Cllrs Edward James 01865 731009, Dan Levy 07852 748362, Carl Rylett 01865 883643, offices 01993 861000

Oxfordshire County Council: Cllr Charles Mathew 01865 882205, County Hall 01865 792422 MP: Robert Courts 58-60 High Street, Witney OX286HJ, 01993 225020 [robert@robertcourts.co.uk](mailto:robert@robertcourts.co.uk)

## 200 club

Recent 200 Club winners:

NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY
1 st 271 S. Jenkins	1st 291 L. Loder	1st 193 Paul Harrison
2 nd 106 B. Marslin	2nd 146 J. Purvis	2nd 230 Julie Adcock
3 rd 208 M. Powell	3rd 279 Kay Wood	3rd 119 Mrs J. Hill
4 th 216 Julie Parker	4th B. Strange	4th 192 Mrs A Shepherd

If you'd like to buy a number and be in with a chance of winning a prize each month, please contact Liz Strange ([oldmotherstrange@gmail.com](mailto:oldmotherstrange@gmail.com)) Oxford 882020

*Did you know? The Valentine's tradition of giving chocolate was started in the 19th century by Richard Cadbury, of the British chocolate manufacturing family.*

## Campaign to tackle river pollution

A message from Robert Courts, MP for Witney:

*The Government's landmark Environment Bill, currently progressing through Parliament, will for the first time ever place a statutory requirement on water companies to produce drainage and sewerage management plans committing them to network upgrades and to addressing the risks their sewerage assets may pose to the environment.*

*The Government and the Taskforce has committed to a series of short, medium, and long-term actions focused on the ambitious goal of eliminating harm from storm overflows – a system that has been operating since the Victorian Era.*

*Making sure our local rivers are clean and healthy has been a priority of mine I welcome today's announcement which, together with the measures in the Environment Bill, will ensure we tackle and ultimately end the harm of storm overflows.*

## Covid News

From Wednesday 6th of January the UK was placed into another national lockdown.

As restrictions are subject to regular change we suggest keeping up to date using the government website

<https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/>

**Please DO NOT phone your GP about getting a vaccine. The vaccine roll out is being expedited as we write.**

**If you are eligible you will be contacted by your GP.**

**Health professionals are dealing with a back log of calls, which is preventing them getting the correct care to those who urgently need it.**

Due to increased testing capacity if you have just one mild symptom, please get tested!

**Book a test at [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://nhs.uk/coronavirus) or calling 911**

## Getting rid of an old gadget?

Whether you're getting rid of an old gadget or buying a second hand gadget it is important to keep your data safe and secure.

The NCSC (National Cyber Security Centre) have produced a handy guide to help erase all personal data. Personal data can include names, addresses, emails, bank details etc. Make sure you get rid of this personal data before passing on a gadget, including phones, tablets, laptops, smart watches and games consoles.

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/buying-selling-secondhand-devices>

## Poetry Corner

February 7th is Charles Dickens Day. Whilst Dickens did write some poetry, he is better known and respected for his novels. As this section is meant to lift and inspire us, we decided Dickens' poetry didn't quite hit the spot. Instead, please enjoy extracts from his prose: poetry in their own way...

**"No one is useless in this world...who lightens the burden of it for any one else." *Our Mutual Friend***

**"Never...be mean in anything; never be false; never be cruel." *David Copperfield***

**"There are dark shadows on the earth, but its lights are stronger in the contrast." *The Pickwick Papers***

**"...while there is infection in disease and sorrow, there is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good-humour." *A Christmas Carol***

**Charles Dickens (1812 - 1870)**

## Liz's Lockdown Pick-me-up!

Have you, like me, been reading cookery books and bemoaning the fact that no-one will be popping in for a slice of that cake you want to try? My solution is to bake and fill that cake, take a picture to share on line, then slice it all up and wrap each slice individually in cling film. Put them all in a plastic freezer box and chuck in the freezer. Whenever you feel down, or as a reward for that exercise video you sat through, take out a slice to thaw for 30 minutes and enjoy with a well earned cup of coffee. Job done!



## Do you have any hidden talents?

*This is a community newsletter, and we'd love to feature content from members of our fantastic village community...*

### Recipes

Do you have some great seasonal recipes, perhaps a dish or bake you've discovered in lockdown, or simply a family favourite you keep coming back to? As long as they're tried, tested and tasty we're not fussy!



### Poetry



Calling any budding poets in the village – send us your words and rhymes. The more fun and unusual the better (but keep them clean and sensible folks, please). You can remain anonymous if you prefer, but why not shout your talent from the rooftops?!

### Easy instructions for DIY & Crafts

Are you handy or crafty? We know lots of you are – and plenty of us are useless! Why not share your knowledge to help us poor talentless folk while away the time in a winter lockdown?

Simple instructions for useful or fun things to make are preferred. Best to walk before we can run!



If you can help with any of the above please email [village-voice@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:village-voice@hotmail.co.uk)

## Page 3 Bird – Wax Wing

Arriving in small flocks from central Europe, these exotic peach-tinged birds with black eyeliner and debonair crests are a sign that it's even colder on the continent than it is here. Waxwings love hedgerow berries. Some of the wing feathers have red tips, the resemblance of which to sealing wax gives these birds their common name.



## Scams

Information from our local PCSO Helen Keen:

*If you think you've uncovered a scam, been targeted by a scam or fallen victim to fraudsters, contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or via their website, [www.actionfraud.police.uk](https://www.actionfraud.police.uk).*

*Call the Police on 101 if you know the suspect, or they're still in the area. Reporting crime, including fraud, is important.*

### Courier Fraud:

Victims receive a phone call from a criminal, pretending to be a police officer or bank official. They ask victims to move money to a 'secure location' or withdraw money for a courier to collect. Please don't fall victim to scams. If something doesn't seem right don't respond and report it!



**Wild  
Oxfordshire**

## Bee Friendly Gardening

*There are lots of ways that you can make your garden friendly for wildlife.*

- Leave dead plant stems over winter. Hollow stems may be used by bees for over wintering.
- Provide flowers throughout the year – some bees emerge as early as February.
- Buy organic to ensure bulbs and plants haven't been treated with Neonicotinoids.
- Have a flowering lawn.
- Provide a source of water for bees.
- Leave a patch of bare earth – mason bees gather mud to build egg cells.



More information can be found:

<https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/communities/resources/>



## 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

## National story telling week

30th Jan – 6th Feb 2021

If you're like most parents and this 3rd lockdown has dried up your enthusiasm for home schooling and creative ideas then we have a temporary solution for you.

Taika Waititi (director, producer, screenwriter, actor, and comedian) presented an episodic reading of **Roald Dahl's James and the Giant Peach** on the Roald Dahl HQ Youtube Channel last year.

Join Taika and a host of well know celebrity friends, including Meryl Streep, Benedict Cumberbatch and Liam + Chris Hemsworth, for a hilarious reading of this well loved book.

Give yourself a break whilst the children enjoy someone else reading to them. Or tune in to enjoy the hilarity yourself with a nice cup of tea and a slice of cake

<https://www.youtube.com/user/officialroalddahl>



## Eynsham Rotary's Successful Santa Events



The Rotary Club of Eynsham were able to work around the restrictions and, with the help of various school and PTA members, staged a couple of events and a tour.

The primary schools at

Eynsham and Stanton Harcourt staged events to support Father Christmas.

Despite no actual collections, we raised some funds for the schools and certainly raised some cheer.

Thanks go to all those at the respective schools for their considerable help in making the events a success and to the elves from the CoOp who supported Santa on his way

## Church News

### St Michael's Church, Stanton Harcourt

All services will be held online for the foreseeable future.

Updates regarding services, along with Zoom service links can be found on the Lower Windrush Benefice website, or the 'A Church Near You' website. <http://lowerwindrushbenefice.org/>

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

For information about services at St Peter's please visit <http://www.stpeterseynsham.org.uk/>

Did you know? The tradition of giving Valentine's Day flowers dates back to the 17th century.

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.

## Letter to the Editor

With the massive increase in the use of footpaths, maintained by local farmers, during yet another lockdown now that most other forms of exercise have been banned. People might be interested in this letter written almost exactly 170 years ago! It would be nice if people using footpaths near the village took home their discarded PPE, coffee cups and dog mess! Stanton Harcourt Farms

[From *Letters of T. E. Brown*, 1900]

LETTERS OF T. E. BROWN

TO HIS MOTHER.

CHRIST CHURCH, March 11, 1851.

I was very glad to get your letter, which reached me yesterday. I had rather expected to hear before, but (as Mr. Toots said) 'it's of no consequence in the world, thank 'ee.' My health (always the primary consideration) is still unimpaired: and in fact the other day I felt quite ashamed when, after a bit of a run in the wind, I found a most delicate crimson glow spreading over my exquisite features.

A fortnight ago last Monday I and another man walked about twenty-six miles; it was St. Matthias' Day (I'm much obliged to his saintship), and therefore we had no lectures; so we took the whole blessed day, and started about 10.15 a.m., after breakfast.

First we went through Cumnor, where an inn called the 'Bear and Ragged Staff' still purports to be kept by one Giles Gosling of Kenilworth celebrity. (This however I had been at before.) Thence we proceeded to Bablockhythe Ferry, where we crossed the Isis and kept on through very pleasant rural scenery to Stanton Harcourt, where there is a rum old Manor House, with a kitchen of earlier date than the rest of the building-being, in fact, the kitchen where good Queen Bess had her dinner cooked when staying at Stanton H. I never saw such an old thing. They were killing pigs in it when we were there.

## DIY Valentine Gifts

Spread the love this year with a thoughtful, yet easy, gift for your loved ones (or, you know, just treat yourself!)

### Mug of gifts

1. Get yourself a nice big mug or bucket (valentine themed optional)
2. Fill with anything red e.g. chocolates, lipstick/lip balm, hand cream, aftershave/perfume, a fancy bow tie, confetti, rose petals, bubble mixture, anything that takes your fancy...
3. Add a note, e.g. this one says "it's RED-iculous how much I love you". Or make it personal: use your imagination



### Creative Chocolate

1. Use foil wrapped chocolates e.g. Rolos. Wrap them in red paper and seal with tape. Create three cylindrical wrapped towers of chocolate (pictured)
2. Tie the three towers together with black ribbon/string/pipe cleaner
3. Add a black pipe cleaner to the middle for the fuse.
4. Add a note saying 'you're dynamite' or 'you're the bomb.'



## The Croods are coming to town...hopefully!

The CoOp, in partnership with 'The Croods 2: A New Age' (soon to be released) and Neighbourhood Watch, **want children up to the age of 16 to design their very own Croods 2 inspired tree house for their local community.**

The winner will have their tree house brought to life and built within a nearby Wildlife Trust location. For more information and to enter, visit: <https://www.co-opinsurance.co.uk/home-insurance/croods-2>



Challenge: How many of these Valentine hearts can you find?