



VillageVoice



The Newsletter of Stanton Harcourt & Sutton

October 2021

Calendar

- 4th Knitting Group** *Wool out all the stops*
- 6th Café at the chapel** *Enjoy some tea and crumpets*
- 9th Village Volunteers** *Help keep our village lovely*
- 9th Village Market** *Warm yourself with coffee or soup*
- 20th Village Voice Deadline** *Please send us your news!!*
- 26th Poppy Appeal Begins** *Look out for collections*
- 31st Halloween** *Let's get spooky!*

Village Market

Saturday 9th October 12-2pm, Village Hall

Come along to Stanton Harcourt Village Market.

What better activity for a lazy Saturday morning? Pop by for a cuppa, a bacon roll or some delicious homemade soup and peruse the fantastic homemade and home grown produce that is on offer. *Free entry.*



A Pat on the back

A message from Pat...

A big thank you to the many people who kindly gave me gifts and cards and sent me greetings on my 90th Birthday.

It was lovely to see so many of you.

I will be eating chocolate until Christmas and then we can start again!



Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 26th October to 13th November 2021

This will be my fourth year as the Poppy Area Organiser for Stanton Harcourt and Sutton.

Despite the restrictions of 2020 the village managed to raise an impressive £380! A marvellous result considering that there were just two collecting sites.

This year house to house collections will resume so I'm asking the question, can you spend an hour or two collecting to help ex service personnel and families and to continue the good work of the RBL by joining our small but dedicated band of collectors?

I have all you need to set up, trays, collecting boxes, poppies and merchandise and can offer advice on collecting as well. As much or as little, just a few houses to a whole street, and if you live on Hayfield Green it could be a good way to get to know your new neighbours.

This year, 2021 marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Royal British Legion. I'm sure the residents of Stanton Harcourt and Sutton will be as generous to the cause as in previous years.

Contact me on 883317 evenings or weekends or email ajdyer961@gmail.com Alan Dyer

Poppy Appeal Organiser, Stanton Harcourt & Sutton.

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

Village Volunteers

The Village Volunteers is for anyone who'd like to help keep the village neat and tidy. As well as regular litter picking, this past year has seen us refurbishing benches and clearing obstructed footpaths. We meet once a month for a couple of hours and welcome villagers who can spare the time to join us.

This month we'll be litter picking on **Saturday 9th October** - meeting at the **Village Hall at 10:10 am**. Picking equipment is provided, but volunteers should wear appropriate clothing. After an hour or two picking, we will go back to the Village Market & Café for a cuppa and something to eat, so don't forget to bring a little cash.

Keep an eye on the Villagers Other Voice for updates (www.facebook.com/groups/VillagersOtherVoice)

Knit, yack, have a snack, coffee - hold the foam

The Knitters will start meeting again from **Monday, October 4th, 10.30-12.30** at Sutton Methodist Chapel. There will be coffee and biscuits, convivial chat and help on hand with your knitting. Not a knitter? Come anyway. All welcome.



Did you know? In China, the autumn equinox is a moon festival. Chinese families eat moon cakes and round foods

200 Club

The 200 club has been running from the depths of time and as the name suggests has 200 numbered tickets which are drawn each month. Half the money is given out in prizes and the other half goes to the upkeep of the church - a beautiful historical monument for our village.

We have several tickets which have become vacant and for the paltry sum of £6 a year per number you can be part of the draw. The top prize is £25.

If you would like to own a number then send an email to oldmotherstrange@gmail.com or ring me on 882020. We will be doing the collection in the next couple of weeks for this year. Liz Strange

September Prize Draw

- 1st Prize S. Gain £25
- 2nd Prize B. Cross £12
- 3rd Prize N. Eagle £8
- 4th Prize Mrs Field £5

August Prize Draw

- 1st Prize Mr C Hart £25
- 2nd Prize S. Jenkins £12
- 3rd Prize Mrs S. Miller £8
- 4th Prize Mrs E. Floyd £5

July Prize Draw

- 1st Prize S. Brown £25
- 2nd Prize N. Florence £12
- 3rd Prize P. Hall £8
- 4th Prize Mrs J. Hill £5



Treasure Ahoy!

Want a fun adventure with the family or a different way to explore our local area? Give Geocaching a go.

Did you know there are several geocache sites in Stanton Harcourt?

A treasure hunt for the digital generation: geocaching is a great outdoor adventure. Enjoy the outdoors and discover new places. Use a GPS enabled device (most modern mobile phones) to seek out hidden treasure boxes.

We love a good treasure hunt, so you know what we'll be doing this month! Find out more: www.geocaching.com

Parish Council News

**Next Parish Council Meeting at the Village Hall
Monday 4th October 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.

SpeedWatch.....

By the end of the September the SpeedWatch team will have been out monitoring traffic on 4 occasions. After 3 events the monitoring shows around 21% of cars speeding on each occasion who's details have been passed on to the local police team. If you'd like to get involved in speedwatch events, contact Rachel, email below.

Get Involved!

If you attended the Village Meeting you'll see there are many village groups and activities to get involved in, including the Parish Council! Its everybody joining in together to make the village a nice place to live that makes a village what it is, if you have time to spare why not get involved in many of the village activities, we'll include more info next time or on the PC website.

The Parish Precept

The Parish precept forms part of the council tax bill for everyone living in the village, it's essentially the budget the PC has to look after the village.

The current Stanton Harcourt precept is around 3% of the council tax bill for an average (band D) house, with the remainder going to WODC (~5%), the Police (~11%), and OCC (~79%).

The Parish Council can request any amount of precept that is agreed by the council and we have to account for the increase in houses as it doesn't go up automatically when new houses are built, note the village has increased in house numbers by ~13% with the former airfield site, and will increase a further ~8% with the Butts Piece site.

At present the precept is around 3% which is low compared to other villages with the average precept in West Oxfordshire being ~4.5%, any change to the precept is decided in the autumn and submitted to WODC to be included in the annual council tax review.

The PC and other village organisations are working hard to secure money from S106 (housebuilding) funds, along with other grants available to minimise the need for a high precept. We are also working hard to make good use of money by using it efficiently by reviewing the costs of insurance, village maintenance and grass cutting which is the majority of annual costs.

However, we hope you'll agree that we live in a wonderful village and we are keen to both maintain this and invest in village facilities for the future so will be carefully looking at whether we need to increase the precept slightly to ensure we can invest in the village over the coming years.

Have your say on The Oxfordshire Plan 2050

The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 sets the framework for future planning decisions about housing and infrastructure needs in the county up to 2050. Find the survey here: <https://bit.ly/3qmLfFA>

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 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



Presents

An Evening of Musical Entertainment



Featuring: **The Wooden Tops & Eynsham Morris**
with support from
The Eynsham Acoustic Club
and guests
Eynsham Village Hall
Saturday 23rd October
Doors open 7.00 for 7.30 pm.

Tickets £10.00
Available from
Eynsham DIY
Eynsham Cellars
Roy Wilkinson 01865 883917 or 07970 227364

BAR - RAFFLE - GAMES

All profits for LOCAL and Rotary charities 

Oil Be There For You


Want to pay less for central heating oil? Want to avoid expensive automatic top-ups? Fed up with ringing round for prices and haggling for a discount?

Why not join Community First Oxon's Fuel Scheme and benefit from the power bulk buying while supporting a local charity? For further details visit www.communityfirstoxon.org Or e-mail the local co-ordinator for the Stanton Harcourt & Sutton branch pwjbartrip@gmail.com

Cafe at the Chapel

Wednesday mornings 10.00 – 12.00
6 October 3 November 1 December

Fresh roasted coffee
Toasted teacakes, crumpets and hot buttered toast.
Selection of teas
Craft and gift table to browse
Drop in – we would love to see you!

*Did you know? In Greek mythology, autumn began when Persephone was abducted by Hades to be the Queen of the Underworld. In distress Persephone's mother, Demeter (the goddess of the harvest), caused all the crops on Earth to die until her daughter was allowed to return, marking spring.*

Lower Windrush Valley Project

The Lower Windrush Valley Project (LWVP) is looking for a representative from Stanton Harcourt. Charles Mathew sat on the LWVP Steering Group from 2013 - 2021 as representative of both OCC, in his role as county councillor, and Stanton Harcourt. The role is now open for someone new to get their teeth into and can be filled by a member of the parish council or a resident can be nominated. If you're interested please contact Stanton Harcourt Parish Council.

For more information please see the following links:
<https://bit.ly/3iZ25MN> <https://bit.ly/3vGbo7b>

Royal British Legion Social Event

The Stanton Harcourt branch of the Royal British Legion, which celebrated its centenary this year, are developing plans for a social event for currently serving and retired members of the armed forces and their families in the village. If you would like to be involved please contact the branch secretary - Lucy Elphinstone by email: lucy.elphinstone@gmail.com

Poetry Corner

National Poetry Day is 7th October.

This month we're sharing one of our favourite poems, in honour of our purple diva for her 90th birthday...

*When I am an old woman I shall wear purple
With a red hat which doesn't go, and doesn't suit me.
And I shall spend my pension on brandy and summer gloves
And satin sandals, and say we've no money for butter.
I shall sit down on the pavement when I'm tired
And gobble up samples in shops and press alarm bells
And run my stick along the public railings
And make up for the sobriety of my youth.
I shall go out in my slippers in the rain
And pick flowers in other people's gardens
And learn to spit.*

*You can wear terrible shirts and grow more fat
And eat three pounds of sausages at a go
Or only bread and pickle for a week
And hoard pens and pencils and beer mats and things in boxes.*

*But now we must have clothes that keep us dry
And pay our rent and not swear in the street
And set a good example for the children.*

We must have friends to dinner and read the papers.

*But maybe I ought to practise a little now?
So people who know me are not too shocked
And surprised*

*When suddenly I am old, and start to wear
purple.*

Jenny Joseph 1932 -



Page 3 Bird: Swallow

Hi, I'm Simon the swallow - you may have seen me flying around your lovely village. At the moment my friends and I are gathering to fly to Africa as it's getting colder in the UK.

We are the last few to leave as most of our other friends have left already. Our journey to Africa takes about 6 weeks and my friends come from all over Europe. We migrate as Britain's temperature drops, the trees lose their leaves and many insects hide away and begin hibernating, meaning we have little food. We then come back to the UK from Africa when it gets warm again because there are too many predators in Africa. Before we leave, we need your help - what is the airspeed velocity of an unladen swallow?

Town frowns: Thames clowns make river brown

Your Parish Council needs your help...

Raw sewage is being dumped in rivers and streams near where you live, in ever increasing frequency, duration and volumes. The current inadequate system of government regulation means that even where sewage works are failing to cope on a catastrophic and illegal scale, more housing can be and is, routinely added to the Network. Take Stanton Harcourt sewage works, as an example. It dumped untreated sewage on 132 occasions for a total of 2,484 hours into a small woodland brook which flows into the Thames near the Eynsham toll bridge and Swinford Water Treatment Works. Between September 2019 and March 2020, the works actually dumped untreated sewage almost continuously - for about 6 months. With similar events happening all over the county and country. Whose fault is this? Thames Water is your water company and, no, you can't change it as it is a monopoly and it has never been forced to invest to cope with demand. This needs to change and we need to pressure both Thames Water and the government to change their approach. You can read more about all of this on the www.windrushwasp.org website.



What can you do? Please write and complain by email: customer.feedback@thameswater.co.uk or in writing to;

Thames Water, PO Box 436, Swindon, SN38 1TU

Lower Windrush Historical Society



The Lower Windrush Historical Society is running face to face talks: a perfect way to find out more about the rich local history in our area. New members are always welcome.

£20 to become a member and attend all 6 talks, or £5 per talk if you only wish to attend one off talks. Contact Jenny Beilby: whsconmittee@gmail.com for more information.

Talks are all held at **7.30pm at Standlake Village Hall.**

5th October - Brewing in Oxford

2nd November - Oxfordshire Country Houses

7th December - Airfields of Oxfordshire

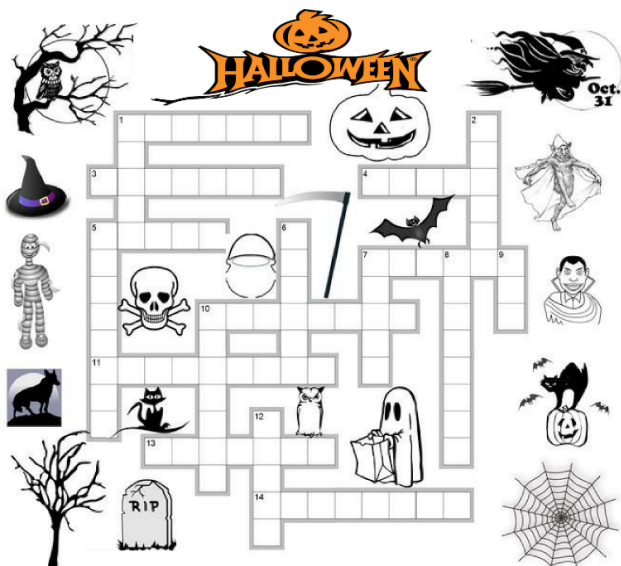
1st February - History of RAF Brize Norton

1st March - Romans of Oxfordshire

5th April - Further Tales of HEIR (historic images of Oxfordshire)



Did you know? In Australia and New Zealand, autumn officially begins on 1 March and ends on 31 May.



Across

1. a large, round vegetable with hard yellow or orange flesh
3. believed to be visited by ghosts
4. a dead body wrapped in long narrow pieces of cloth
5. the bones of the head
7. a net that a spider makes out of thin sticky strings
10. a large round metal container used for cooking over a fire
11. a large, flat stone that lies over a grave or stands at one end, that shows the name, age, etc. of the person buried there
13. a character in stories who appears at night to bite people's necks and suck their blood
14. an area of ground where dead people are buried



Down

1. a trick that is done to someone usually as a joke
2. a farming tool with a curved blade and long handle that is used for cutting grass, grain, etc.
5. the set of bones that supports a human or animal body
6. (in stories) a small, ugly creature that is harmful to humans
7. a long coat without sleeves, that fastens around your neck
8. someone who, in stories, changes into a wolf at the time of the full moon
9. a small animal like a mouse with wings that flies at night
10. a set of clothes worn in order to look like someone or something else
12. a woman in stories who has magic powers



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

LOWER WINDRUSH BENEFICE SERVICES

Sunday October 3rd

8:30am HC BCP followed by breakfast – Stanton Harcourt
11am Harvest Family Service – Northmoor
11am Informal Harvest Communion – Standlake
6pm Evensong BCP – Yelford

Sunday October 10th

10am Harvest Communion – Stanton Harcourt

Sunday October 17th

8am HC BCP – Yelford
10am Benefice Holy Communion – Standlake

Sunday October 24th

9:30am HC – Standlake
11am Choral Eucharist – Northmoor
3pm Wild Wonder at Stanton Harcourt – venue to be announced – keep an eye on our website and Facebook page!

Sunday October 24th

11:30am short Benefice Holy Communion followed by Bring and Share lunch at Northmoor.

Every WEDNESDAY evening at 8.30pm: Compline Night Prayer online via Zoom.

For more information visit www.lowerwindrushbenefice.org

SUTTON METHODIST CHAPEL

Sunday 10th October

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.stpeterseysham.org.uk/



Village People

We've been reminiscing and came across this article from 2009. Should we bring conkers back as a village tradition?

Whilst this is more recent history, we are hoping to include more nostalgic titbits for our readers. From family history to stories and local legends, or information about our village's fascinating past.

Do you have any stories or family history you'd like to share? Are there any topics you're an expert on, or would like to see more information about in Village Voice? Your editing team are history enthusiasts and would love to hear from you! village-voice@hotmail.co.uk

Conkering Hero



November saw the annual conker competition held at The Fox. Phil Taylor put up a mighty fight against Nigel Eagle (above) for the title of Conker Playing Champion of the Year (the Conker Conqueror?!), but Phil's old faithful was smashed at the last minute by Nigel's new season younger model, so this year's title belongs to Nigel.

Well done, Nigel!



Apple of my Pie...



Apple Crumble Blondies It's Apple Day on 21st October. Celebrate with this tasty combination of apple delicacies

Ingredients (makes 9)

Crumble

-115g butter cold and cubed - 55g brown sugar
- 50g cup sugar - ½ tsp cinnamon - 125g flour

Blondies

- 155g cups flour - 2 tsp cinnamon - ½ tsp nutmeg
- ½ tsp salt - ½ tsp baking soda - 1 egg
- 115g unsalted butter, melted - 110g cup brown sugar
- 55g maple syrup - 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 apples, cored and diced - 1 tbsp lemon juice

Method

1. Preheat oven to 180°C
2. *The Crumble:* In a bowl, add the butter, brown sugar, sugar, cinnamon and flour. Use a fork incorporate all of the ingredients until a coarse crumb forms. Chill until ready to use.
3. *The Blondies:* In a bowl, add the flour, cinnamon, nutmeg, salt, and baking soda, stir to combine.
4. In a large bowl, add the butter, sugar, and maple syrup. Whisk until fully incorporated
5. Add the egg and vanilla to the bowl with the butter and mix until fully incorporated.
6. Add half of the flour mixture, and mix until just combined.
7. Add the second half of the flour mixture and mix until there are streaks of flour still showing, making sure to not overmix. Pour the lemon juice over the apples then gently fold the apples into the batter.
8. Spread batter evenly into a greased 9-inch (23 cm) square cake pan.
9. Sprinkle crumble mixture over the top, creating different size crumble pieces by squeezing some small clumps together in your hands for varying texture.
10. Bake for 25 minutes, until a toothpick comes out clean, cover with foil the last 5 minutes
11. Cool for about 20 minutes, slice and serve.



Did you know? We typically think of 'fall' as the American word for 'autumn', but it was in widespread usage in England until relatively recently. Originally a shortening of the phrase "fall of the leaf", the phrase was common in England in the 17th century. The word autumn entered English from the French "automne" and didn't become common usage until the 18th century.



Handy Hints for Horticulturalists



Almost time for our gardens to sleep, but first...

- * Cut back perennials that have died down
- * Finish collecting seeds from the garden to sow next year
- * Harvest apples, pears, grapes and nuts
- * Last chance to mow lawns (hooray!) and trim hedges
- * Enjoy soup or pie made with all the tasty things you've grown

Grim Grinning Ghosts

Ever wandered the idyllic paths of the village and suddenly been struck by a sense of dread and a chill in the air? Perhaps you've heard whispers on the wind? Shrieks in the night? Footsteps approaching, yet no one there? You may have encountered our resident ghosts.



Have you heard of the Lady Pool? Legend has it that two ghosts of Stanton Harcourt are laid to rest here; their restless spirits kept at bay only whilst the pool holds water.

Are you a budding writer and in school years 1 – 6? Fancy winning a prize for your writing?

We're looking for a short ghost story for next issue. Perhaps you could research our resident ghosts? Or create your own spooky tale. **No more than 500 words.** Please submit your entries to us no later than **Wednesday 20th October.** village-voice@hotmail.co.uk



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