

---

# Village Voice

---

The Newsletter of Stanton Harcourt & Sutton

February 2014

---

*First things first.....Happy New Year!*

*If involved with the primary school please see end of page 3*

---

## Roll on Summer – Festival is coming..

Festival Day is 21st June 2014. A week of Glorious Open Events will lead up to this fabulous day. Watch this space....

**Want to get involved?**

Contact [jowiby@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jowiby@hotmail.co.uk)

---

## SHAPE DISCO

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March 7:30 – 9:30pm**

All 11-16yr olds welcome - to party!

Light refreshments included with entry fee, raising the roof & money for SHAPE, more details to follow in March!

'Da best club for miles around!'

---

## Stop Thieves!

The Local CID (Criminal Investigation Department) police team want to publicise the rise in tool thefts and break-ins to non-dwellings (sheds etc) in the local area and urge that residents secure valuable items as best they can and stay vigilant!

---

## Bric A Brac Sale

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2-4pm** at Sutton Methodist Chapel. Including a Freecycle Table-if you can use it, it's yours! Tea, Coffee and Cake available, come and have a browse or just come for the cake!

---

## Oh Christmas Tree ☺

Thank you to everyone who supported the lighting of the Village Christmas Tree in December. It was a fantastic atmosphere, and wonderful to see so many members of the village together. The evening raised £103 in total for SHAPE. A special thank you must go to Cathy and Bob Purvey for providing the tree; to those who helped put the tree up, and dismantle it in January; to Katie and Bear for kindly providing the electricity to power the lights; and to SHAPE for helping with the refreshments.



## News

Our play area's project is making good progress – initial designs for The Leys and Jubilee Field have been drawn up, and we are working hard on having everything ready to make our important grant application to WREN in March. We have kick-started our fund-raising (with thanks to Jenny Posselwhite and the Bounce team for contributing half of the proceeds of their dance display; Sarah Watts for organising the 'Carols around the Christmas tree'; and all those who helped or came along to the recent Table-Top Sale). We have also held the inaugural meeting of the SHAPE Youth Committee (SYC) – with twelve teenagers from the village coming along to discuss designs, equipment and fund-raising – this impressive bunch of enthusiastic and dedicated young people do our village proud. We have some important dates for your diaries and remain grateful for all the involvement and support you can give us as the project moves forward.

## Play Areas Consultation Event

Saturday February 8<sup>th</sup>, from 3pm in the Village Hall – presentation at 3.30pm. SHAPE would like to invite all residents of Stanton Harcourt and Sutton to come and see the proposed designs for the play areas on The Leys and Jubilee Field. There will also be a display of drawings and designs by the children at the school, and the statistical results of the Village Survey. SHAPE and the SHAPE Youth Committee will give short presentations, and there will be a 'questions and answers' session allowing any ideas, concerns or queries to be raised and addressed. SHAPE is working on behalf of our village community and we would like to hear your opinions and get your feedback on our plans – please do put the date in your diary and come along. Children are welcome, and refreshments will be available.

## The Great Village 100 mile Run

Afternoon of Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March

SHAPE is planning a fund-raising 'community run' – with the aim of participants running a cumulative total of over 100 miles in one afternoon. The location will be Steady's Lane, which is traffic-free for most of its length. The idea is that anybody can enter – adults and children, sprinters and slow-coaches, keen runners and reluctant joggers – and can run a distance of your choice – from ½ mile upwards. We need as many runners as possible to clock up the mileage, as well as volunteers to help run the event, act as marshals (no experience necessary), and trained first-aiders. There will be a small entry fee for adults, whilst children will be asked to collect sponsorship. Medals for all children taking part! More details will be given soon, but if you would like to be involved please contact [Clare shapecommittee@btinternet.com](mailto:clare.shapecommittee@btinternet.com) / 01865 881943.

---

## A Night with the Stars

Friday 7th March, 7.30pm in Stanton Harcourt Village Hall (doors open 7pm)

SHAPE and St Michael's Church are proud to present an evening of food and entertainment. Come along and be amazed by award-winning close-up magician (and Sutton boy) Sam Strange who will be performing as you eat, and enjoy music and acts performed by local talent. Be sure to get your tickets early for what will be a popular event.

Tickets £10 adults / £8 children under 12 available from 7th February from Village Shop or contact Sally (884320), Clare (881943), Jane (882361), or Bronwen (883704)

**MORE TALENT WANTED:** do you play an instrument, dance, sing or perform? We would love you to be part of our entertainment line-up on 7th March – please get in touch before 23rd Feb. Call Clare (881943) or email [shapecommittee@btinternet.com](mailto:shapecommittee@btinternet.com)

## Gigaclear fibre network to be live by April

It looks pretty ordinary but the green box that many of you will probably not even have noticed has been installed next to Stanton Harcourt Village Hall is about to transform your lives.

From here, Gigaclear will soon be distributing fibre optic cables to homes throughout Stanton and Sutton. By this spring residents who until now have had to endure some of the slowest broadband speeds in the UK, will have access to the world's fastest and most future-proof broadband network.

By the time you read this Gigaclear's contractors will have commenced the dig that will connect the cabinet to the fibre optic 'backhaul' which passes under the river near Bablockhythe and on to London where, for all of us, the Internet really begins.

The contractors will lay cables through West End and on into Stanton, providing connection pots at every property en route. When it reaches the cabinet, cables will then radiate out to a series of connection pits around the community, and from there to the individual properties.

The civil works will take several weeks to complete and there will be some roadworks, traffic lights and a bit of mess, for which we apologise in advance and thank residents for their patience, but the first customers should be up and running by March, and the whole process completed during early April (weather permitting).

You should already have received through your door a wayleave form requesting permission to place a pot at your property, which is free and commits you to nothing. The next stage will be to follow up on these and to agree individual pot locations, which will be identified by a blue-topped cane and an identifying number marked in blue paint nearby.

So, not long now – and therefore an appropriate point to extend once again on behalf of both Gigaclear and the community our thanks to the members of the Stanton Harcourt & Sutton Broadband Group, without whose commitment this 18 month project would never have got off, or in, the ground.

## Mistletoe

£250 was raised from the local mistletoe available for Christmas in aid of the church- thanks to all those generous people!

## Parish Council Updates

### Next PC Meeting:

The date of the next meeting has been changed to **Mon 10<sup>th</sup> February**, apologies for any inconvenience.

**Planning** - permission has now been granted for the Waste Transfer Station next to the tip.

### Traffic - *Parish Council Chair email to Highways*

Could we ensure please that future Planning Applications (or updates) from Stanton Harcourt and the industrial estates on the A415 Standlake to Witney road (like Lakeside/Cotswold Dene) and from Eynsham have, where applicable, routing agreements to avoid more HGVs going through Sutton B4449 and give a 106 contribution to the dormant but much needed Sutton bypass.

### Floods -*PC Chair Writes on the flooding*

Dear Residents, I have at last arranged a meeting with a senior executive with Thames Water where I am going to bat on behalf of everyone who has experienced regurgitated sewerage water in house/washing machine/shower/garden in the last five years. I believe that Thames Water can no longer dismiss client concerns/inconvenience and continue to neglect their responsibilities while paying extreme salaries and boni and expending, or proposing to spend large sums on new and exorbitant schemes like Northmoor Weir or the Hanney reservoir. It is my strong contention that Ofwat should ensure the existing infrastructure is in good working order before TW embark on grandiose new schemes.

Can you please let me know of any sewerage flooding occurrences in the last two years to date (under the above heading) so I have more ammunition to address the problems with TW. All previous attempts have been unsatisfactory in conclusion or more correctly lack of conclusion.

I can confirm that some twelve other Councilors have informed me of problems in their divisions (often in several areas) reflecting similar problems.

I do have a temporary solution to offer and will be seeking their agreement.

### Tar Lane Update – email to WODC

We are increasingly concerned that WODC have not applied to Mr. Justice Harris to bar permanently the Delaneys and their clients from the site; you will recall that they are temporarily banned until certain conditions were met about two years ago. Those conditions were not met, a further Planning Application was refused and no permanent ban has been requested from Mr. Justice Harris. Would you please give me in the next week the WODC rationale of not carrying out this request while there are no barriers in planning terms to such? If the Parish Council has further expense as a result of this not being done, I will be looking to WODC to reimburse them for any consequential costs that they incur. I would remind you that this is not the first time this request has been made; previous requests were ignored. We seriously believe that the door must be closed as soon as possible in the interests of all parties

With best wishes, Charles Mathew, Chairman Stanton Harcourt Parish Council

The Parish Council encourages all residents to write to WODC to express their view to encourage the temporary occupancy ban to be made permanent.

PLEASE SEND YOUR CORRESPONDENCE VIA  
EMAIL TO: [hilary.fenton@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:hilary.fenton@westoxon.gov.uk),  
[barry.norton@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:barry.norton@westoxon.gov.uk) PLEASE SEND A  
COPY TO: [trudigasser@rocketmail.com](mailto:trudigasser@rocketmail.com)

### Parish Council Information

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)

Parish Council website: [http://www.wospweb.com/  
site/Stanton-Harcourt-Parish-Council](http://www.wospweb.com/site/Stanton-Harcourt-Parish-Council)

## Criminals, Hang up on Em!

Another phone scam has also been reported occurring locally, as before this involves \*\*\*\*ards ringing up and convincing elderly people to hang up, and phone another number (while staying on the line to pretend to answer and steal your information or money). This time the caller asks you to ring 999 and then convince you to supply cash to them. **Don't Do It!**

This scam works by preventing the phone line clearing between calls, to prevent it just hang up on them and the line will clear when they hang up, to check the line is clear you could call someone you know, after all – it's good to talk!

## St Michael's Annual Christmas Raffle

The St Michael's Church Christmas Raffle raised £757.50 towards the general running costs of the Church. Thank you to everyone who bought and sold tickets and donated all the wonderful prizes. Thanks to the W.I. for providing the hampers, hosting the 'Draw' at their Christmas party and picking out the winning tickets. *St Michael's Church Fundraising Group*

## Village Markets

Village Markets will take place on Saturday 5th April, Saturday 3rd May, Saturday 7th June. The markets take place at the village hall and help raise funds to run the hall. Admission is FREE, do come along for coffee, lunch or simply the unique local shopping scene. New stall holders always welcome. Email [jo@marketing-sense.co.uk](mailto:jo@marketing-sense.co.uk).

## Your Village Hall Committee Needs YOU!

New committee members wanted, we meet 4 times a year so it's not too onerous, anyone interested should contact Jane Eagle on 880736



## School News

Dear Parents and Stanton Harcourt community members

On Wednesday evening a meeting was held to begin to consult with you about the proposed Eynsham Partnership Academy of schools. On Tuesday next week, the 4th of February, there will be a chance to have school-specific queries answered. The meeting will be held at school at 7pm and all are invited. In attendance will be some of our governing body and Adrian Smith who is the project manager advising the EPA steering group.

Please come and find out more.

I look forward to seeing you here.

*Karen Jupp, Headteacher*

## Downton Fan?

Like the Downton off of the tele? Why not visit: [www.oxfordshirecotswolds.org/downton](http://www.oxfordshirecotswolds.org/downton) for info on locations, tours and more!

## Local Man Plays the Hits

Mr Stevie G will be hosting the "A to Z of Music Hits Show" each Thursday 9.00pm on WITNEY RADIO, currently internet based but soon to have an FM license, for more info (and to listen) visit: [www.witneyradio.co.uk](http://www.witneyradio.co.uk)

## St Michael's Church 200 Club January draw

1st 119 J Hill	3rd 253 C Hart
2nd 188 H Floyd	4th 225 R Lucas

*Chris, Amanda & Bow Welcome you to:*

## The Harcourt Arms



### Valentines Day

Friday 14th £25pp 3 course meal and coffee to finish

**New Lunch & Evening Menu and Weekend specials...ask at the bar for details!**

*And a Pool Table arriving soon!*

*Regular menu offers:*

### Wednesday Lunch Offer

senior lunch £7.50 for 2 courses or 3 for £10.00

### Wednesday Night

Fish and Chips & a free drink ~ £10.95

### Thursday Night

Steak night from £8.95 pp & free pudding

### Lunchtime à la carte menu

now available 12.00–2.30 pm

### À la carte dinner menu

Available Tuesday to Saturday from 6.00 to 9.30 pm

### Sunday lunch ~ from £9.50 pp

Tel: 01865 881931 Emails: [ahailes@btinternet.com](mailto:ahailes@btinternet.com)  
and [calleyone@hotmail.com](mailto:calleyone@hotmail.com)

## Page 3 Bird

This months page 3 bird is a 'Goldcrest', with it's cousin the 'Firecrest'. They are the smallest birds in the UK, quite lucky as we didn't have much space this month!



They can be identified by the gold or fiery orange stripe along their head, they like to eat small, insects particularly spiders. They are not common but can be found in evergreen trees in the winter when everything else is grey, and the gold and orange stripes stand out!

## Thankyou

To Liz & Peter Strange, and the Harcourt Arms for the various refreshments before and after the village New Years Day walk

## Eynsham Rotary Club Barn Dance!

Eynsham Village Hall 7.30 Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March.  
Music by Jack's Maggot, tickets £10 including supper.  
Contact Ruth Spencer - 01865 881025

## Bunch of [REDACTED]!

It's time to discuss poop, again – poop poop! This time humungous poop, allegedly from horses but potentially from heffalumps or even gruffallos, and it's all over the leys footpath. We have been asked to point out that the leys is indeed a footpath according to Ordnance Survey and horses are not permitted on footpaths, bicycles aren't technically either but so far none of the bicycles have [REDACTED] on the path making it less of an issue.

If you (your horse, heffalump or gruffalo) are [REDACTED] on the path stop it right now and CLEAR IT UP!



## Blown Away at Christmas

During the strong winds around Christmas, we had a piece of children's play equipment blow into our garden in Bury Mead. We think it's from a house along the north side of Blackditch. If you think it could be yours, please give us a call and we'll try to identify it. Thanks, Phil and Linda Loder (01865 883016)

## New Rector In Town!

The new Rector of the Lower Windrush Benefice will be the Rev Andrew Tweedy, who will be formally installed on May 1<sup>st</sup> in Standlake Church. Andrew is currently the Chaplain to the Anglican congregation in Barcelona, but he is no stranger to this part of the world since he was a Curate in Carterton and he has family members who live locally. He and his wife Billie, who is a licensed Lay Reader, will be moving into the Rectory sometime after Easter and we are looking forward to getting to know them.

As for Rev Sharp, Rev Tweedy will be looking after Stanton Harcourt, Northmoor, Standlake AND Yelford parishes.

## The Local Plan and the SHMA

The 'Local Plan' is produced by West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC) and is used as a basis for determining planning decisions within the district. The current local plan was adopted in 2006, but a new local plan is underway and will be complete once the SHMA is complete!

The SHMA is the Strategic Housing Market Assessment, this works out how many houses should be built, and where. They've promised to finish the SHMA by the end of January so we'll find out in due course what this means for us!

If you are interested in planning policy and the local plan, why not check out the WODC website at: [www.westoxon.gov.uk](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk) they've just revamped their website but you can still find out all about planning applications as they happen, when the bins get collected and order new recycling boxes (for free) amongst other exciting things!

## St Michael's Church

### In 'Inter-Regnum' – but not for long!

*While there is no resident Rector please contact Pat Burden for help or advice on service arrangements:*

☎ 01865 880652

### February

2<sup>nd</sup> 9.30am Candlemas – **Stanton Harcourt**  
Parish Communion with Sunday School.

9<sup>th</sup> 10:30am Benefice Communion – **Standlake**

16<sup>th</sup> 10:30am All Age Worship – **Stanton Harcourt**

23<sup>rd</sup> 8:00am Holy Communion – **Stanton Harcourt**

March 2<sup>nd</sup> 9:30am **Stanton Harcourt** Parish  
Communion & Sunday School

## Sutton Methodist Chapel

Contact: Rita Stockill

☎ 01865 880200

### February

2<sup>nd</sup> 10.00 am Rev R Donoghue Family Service

9<sup>th</sup> 10.00 am Local Arrangement

16<sup>th</sup> 10.00 am Mr Andrew Maisey

23<sup>rd</sup> 10.00 am Mr Keith Crawford

Wed 5<sup>th</sup> February: Coffee morning, 10.00–11.30 am. All welcome – if anyone would like to come and requires a lift to Chapel and home afterwards, please call 882051.

## The Catholic Church of St Peter

*Abbey Street, Eynsham. The Catholic church for Sutton & Stanton Harcourt*

Fr Martin Flatman

☎ 07719 646790

✉ [frmartinflatman@gmail.com](mailto:frmartinflatman@gmail.com)

Website: [www.stpeterseyنشam.org.uk](http://www.stpeterseyنشam.org.uk)

### December Weekend Services

Sunday Mass 10.00am with a Children's Liturgy

Saturday Mass 7.30pm;

### Special Events of the Season

Pancake Feast, Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March 10:30-1pm in the Tolkien Room at St Peters

## A note from the editor

It's February already, and a short month it is too. If you have comments, contributions or suggestions for March's Village Voice, please don't be shy!

We don't have a fun quiz this month as the editor has been working rather long hours due to a problem with the fusion reactor, if you would like to help with the fun quiz next time let us know!

**Deadline for February's issue is 22<sup>nd</sup> February**  
**[village-voice@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:village-voice@hotmail.co.uk)**

If you don't have / don't like email then why not drop it off at the pub old-school style on paper

**AS ALWAYS – Thank you to this month's contributors, reviewers, folders & deliverers**

*Published on behalf of Stanton Harcourt Parish Council*

*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.*