



# Village Voice

The Newsletter of Stanton Harcourt & Sutton

February 2015

*Happy New Year! Welcome to the February issue, apologies it's a little late, my computer froze with all this cold weather.*

*This month we are saying farewell to some fond village institutions, please try to get involved in village activities – to encourage you, every new participant will get a free copy of village voice!*

## Goodbye to the W.I.

After 94 years we are sad to announce the closure of the WI. We have been struggling over the past few years to keep our numbers up and comply with the rules as to number of committee members. Unfortunately we have now had to resign ourselves to the fact that we can no longer hold on to this institution.

Stanton Harcourt WI was formed in 1921 when married ladies stayed at home and had very little in the way of a social life. The WI was a monthly meeting (with hat and gloves) where they could discover many new household skills – jam and Jerusalem of course – as well as learn about the world. There was no TV in those days! It was an evening just for the ladies so was much looked forward to.

We will miss our monthly meetings. We have had fun and comradeship and have enjoyed taking part in all the village activities. We have raised money for many good causes, not forgetting our famous Christmas hamper for the Church raffle.

A big thankyou to all the members who have made the years so enjoyable.

## Royal British Legion

First meeting of 2015, with the new committee Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 8pm in Stanton Harcourt Village Hall.

*Prospective new members will be welcomed*

## St Michael's Church Christmas Raffle

Thank you to all who so generously sold and bought tickets and donated all the wonderful prizes. Thanks to Rev. Drew for pulling out the winning tickets at the WI Christmas Party. £760 has been raised for St Michael's Church. A great team effort!

*St Michael's Church Fundraising Group*

## Village Markets

### Next Village Market 7<sup>th</sup> March

12 -2pm Free entry – all welcome.

*New stall holders always welcome. Email jo@marketing-sense.co.uk.*



*Jem & Joe's Christmas Quiz raised £31 for Helen and Douglas House, well done to all the quizling folk*

## Time at the Bar!



Sadly the Harcourt Arms and Village Shop will be closing at the end of February.

Chris, Amanda & Bow, thank those villagers who have supported them over the last two years.

**HedgeHog – No Longer!** Good Job, and thank you to those involved in tackling the hedge along the main road, you can now see traffic coming before it runs you over, although my new glasses help too! A new traffic 'calming' chicane and a 'casual' crossing are also coming down the road!



It is with regret that as no one has come forward to help at or take over Rainbows the unit will close at the end of the summer term in July. Thank you to everyone who has supported us over the years.

## Northmoor Handbell Ringers raise £377 for Ebola Appeal

In the run up to Christmas the team of handbell ringers, drawn from Northmoor, Stanton Harcourt and Standlake, organised a coffee morning with entertainment on the handbells in Sutton Methodist Church. The programme was later repeated for the Thursday Club. As a result we were delighted to be able to send off £377 to the Ebola Crisis Appeal and thank everyone who contributed so generously.

## FOSHS spring jumble sale

**Saturday 21 March, 2-4pm, Stanton Harcourt Village Hall**

Lots of nearly new toys, clothes, books, housewares, plus refreshments...come and grab yourself a bargain and catch up with friends over a cuppa and cake. Jumble donations also welcome at the hall from 12pm on the day. *Friends of Stanton Harcourt School (FOSHS) is the village school's fundraising charity, registered charity no. 1061604. Please come along and support us!*

## Stanton Harcourt Cricket Club

Did you know? Stanton Harcourt cricket Club had a very successful last season winning the Division 5 Oxfordshire cricket League, now playing at the highest level in the clubs history in division 4 of OCA and first season for the 2nd team which plays in division 10 of the OCA cricket League.

We run 2 league sides a Sunday side and a midweek side. New members are welcome and it would be good to see more support from the village. We have a new club house/Pavilion and a Bar open during match days, more news to follow as the weather warms up!

**Dog Doo – DON'T** – My esteemed colleague has informed me there is a notable increase in the amount of Dog Doo left up blackditch....and she is not happy about it! You have been warned.....

**The Weather Report** - *It's cold...Drive Carefully!*

It's all going to happen this year!

**Project Update:** Thanks to the generosity of many local people and businesses, and the support of WREN, West Oxfordshire District Council and Oxford County Council, we have now nearly met our fund-raising target and will soon be in a position to go ahead with developing play areas on Jubilee Field and The Leys.

To meet the terms of WODC's planning consent for Jubilee Field and to help ensure the safety of children crossing the main road to access Jubilee Field, a traffic calming measure in the form of a road 'build out' must be put in place before the play area can be developed. The complicated logistics involved in organising this work have meant that we haven't been able to advance the play area plans as rapidly as we had hoped. However, we now have a probable start date for the highways work, and will soon be appointing contractors to develop Jubilee Field and The Leys in late spring/early summer.

**The Second Great Village Run** – Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2015. On a gloriously sunny spring day last year, 144 people from our villages took part in the first ever "Great Village Run" – clocking up a total of 342 miles and raising a substantial amount for SHAPE. Such a good time was had by all that we would like to make this event an annual event. Please put the date in your diary and dust your running shoes/walking boots off....our aim is to beat last year's mileage and raise some more pennies for SHAPE funds (we will still need funds for maintenance once the play areas are in place). More details to follow, but please do let us know if you are keen to participate or able to help us on the day (marshals and first-aiders will be required!)

**YOUR help needed** Once the play areas are finished, we will compile a rota of volunteers to regularly check the sites – litter picking and inspecting the equipment (for which instructions will be given!). It is very important that the sites are looked after and we very much hope that lots of people will be willing help out (we would like this to be seen as a community responsibility – not down to the three exhausted ladies on the SHAPE Committee!) More details will follow, but please consider volunteering when the time comes, or contact us now to let us know that you are willing to be involved.

### **This Month's Brain-Teaser!**

What tastes better than it smells?

*Answer to last month's: 'Only Peahens lay eggs! Peacocks are boys!'*

### **Fashion in the First World War**

A talk at the Oxfordshire Museum

14<sup>th</sup> February 3pm

For more information visit [www.FriendsOfTom.co.uk](http://www.FriendsOfTom.co.uk)

## **Parish Council News**

**NEXT PC MEETING:** Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 7:30pm

### **Playground Progress**

The Parish Council are thrilled to announce that the first move in the final chain to build the Playground on Jubilee Field is programmed for action. The construction of the chicane, which, as many of you know, is a prerequisite for the safety of access to the Jubilee field from Flexney's Paddock and Blackditch, will commence on March 2nd; the road will be closed and diversions will run for about a week during work. Details and confirmation of the road closure and diversion will be published when confirmed on the Parish Council website, village notice boards and via email lists.

Many of you will have noticed the hedge on the North side of the road has been lowered very considerably to a height where far greater visibility exists from both directions. The Police approved this as a great improvement in safety terms.

It is a great relief to SHAPE and your Parish Council that all the effort expended to achieve this has been worthwhile. Thank you to all concerned. Exciting days!

### **Poppies in Church**

The major art installation Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red at the Tower of London, marked one hundred years since the first full day of Britain's involvement in the First World War. Created by artists Paul Cummins and Tom Piper, 888,246 ceramic poppies progressively filled the Tower's famous moat between 17 July and 11 November 2014. Each poppy represented a British military fatality during the war.

The poppies encircled the iconic landmark, creating not only a spectacular display visible from all around the Tower but also a location for personal reflection. The scale of the installation was intended to reflect the magnitude of such an important centenary and create a powerful visual commemoration.

All of the poppies that made up the installation were sold, raising millions of pounds which were shared equally amongst six service charities.

The Parish Council purchased on behalf of the village two of the Tower of London Poppies and these have now arrived.



It is intended that they should be displayed in the Church and they will be a dedication at morning service on Sunday 1st. March at the 9.30am service. All are very welcome to be present at this memorial event, which will be a further reminder of the sacrifice made by members of this community fifty years ago.

### **The Harcourt Arms**

Many will know that Punch Taverns have received an offer for the Harcourt Arms, which they have accepted. The Shop and PO are said to be closing down in the near future for refurbishment. Discussions have been taking place to ensure continuity for both and it is probable that this may be achieved.

### Dog Poo... again

Yet again, members of the public are expressing concern at the amount of Dog Poo in the village - please, please clear up after your dog. There are a number of bins spread around the village for disposal of dog poo, so there is no excuse.

We hear that in some villages, dog poo is being DNAed in order to identify the culprits.....you have been warned .... Again

### Defibrillator Update.

In addition to the Stanton Harcourt Defibrillator, Defibrillators now are up and running in the following locations: Northmoor – Red Lion, Bablockhythe, South Leigh – Village Hall, Eynsham – Coop, Cassington – Village Hall, Standlake – Village Hall & Primary School.

### Missing

A wire-caged vermin trap has gone missing - if you have seen one around the village, or lying in a hedge, etc, please call 01865 882205.

### 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>

**Surviving Winter!** *Is a campaign run by Oxfordshire Community Foundation to help more vulnerable people in the County, to find out more visit [www.oxfordshire.org](http://www.oxfordshire.org) or just do you bit by helping out the people you know who could use a hand!*

### Witney Music Society 2014-2015 Season

The next concert for the Society will be on Friday 13 February at 7.30pm at Wood Green School, Witney. The Selected artist for Making Music, Philip and Dorothy Green Awards for Young Concert Artists 2013-2014 is Joseph Houston - piano. Joseph's programme will include music by Beethoven, Chopin and Debussy. Do visit our website [www.witneymusicsociety.org.uk](http://www.witneymusicsociety.org.uk) or telephone 01993 702296 for further details of the Society and future concerts.

### Volunteer drivers wanted

**A local CHARITY is looking for volunteer drivers for a pilot project helping people live well and successfully after a spell in hospital.**

The aim of the Circles of Support project, which runs until May 2015, is to ensure ex-patients are supported in their activities, helping to build relationships and reduce isolation. This might involve journeys to see friends, families, lunch clubs etc, and this is where a volunteer driver – who will be reimbursed for mileage – will help. For more information, visit the ORCC website: [www.oxonrcc.org.uk](http://www.oxonrcc.org.uk) or call Emily or Sue on 01865 883488.

### Lower Windrush Valley Project Talk

*Later prehistoric and Roman landscape and settlement in the Windrush Valley at Gill Mill*  
Ducklington village hall

**Thursday February 26th 7.30pm**

This is a free event but a small contribution towards the hire of the hall and speaker's costs will be most welcome. For more information please contact Jane Bowley at [lwvp@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:lwvp@oxfordshire.gov.uk) or 01865 815426

## The Page 3 Bird

This Month's Bird is Madge, the Lyrebird, in honour of the upcoming general election! Lyrebirds are native to Australia and can fool you with their cunning calls perfectly impersonating chainsaws and car alarms among other things. They grow up to a meter in length, like to eat creepy crawlies and politicians that don't honour their manifesto!



## Overthrow Parliament – Or Not?

It's less than 100 days till the next general election on May 7<sup>th</sup> – Nominations for candidates close on 9<sup>th</sup> April so it won't be long until you can find out who's running. If you haven't registered to vote yet then there is still time – visit [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote) it only takes 5 minutes.

Parish Council have reminded me the newsletter should not be politically biased so this year we're voting for voiting itself and encourage you to get invovled!

There's around a thousand voters in the village, so that's around a thousand votes, if I understand democracy correctly!



### School News

No news this month – far too busy studying.....

## New Rubbish Bin (stickers)

New stickers have been put on rubbish bins suggesting you don't put food in (but use the food caddies provided instead)....Or why not have a compost heap – and get free compost!

**Avoid Waste** – Jimmy and Jamie say it's only 'Use By' dates that are important, 'Best Before' and 'Display Until' dates are meaningless with respect to food safety and are just put there by 'super' markets to confuse us! If in doubt sniff it and make up your own mind! (provided it's not past its 'Use By' date of course!)

## Tai Chi Classes Starting



**Tuesday's from January 2015 at 10.30 am  
in Stanton Harcourt Village Hall**



(Ongoing classes on Wednesdays 10.30 am in  
Bampton Village Hall)

Tai Chi is a Chinese practice for health and wellbeing; come and enjoy a series of graceful, flowing movements that will help you become flexible, strong and relaxed all at the same time. It will restore your energy, improve your balance and posture, and will reduce stress. Suitable for everyone, whatever age, with an open mind

Golden Flower Tai Chi School, Instructor: Marie Carty 01865

301844 [mariecarty8@gmail.com](mailto:mariecarty8@gmail.com)





## St Michael's Church

For help or advice on service arrangements contact Rev Andrew Tweedy: ☎ 01865 880914 or Church Warden Pat Burden: ☎ 01865 880652

### February

1 <sup>st</sup>	9:30	Parish Communion & Sunday School	Stanton Harcourt
8 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 18:00	Benefice Communion Taizé Prayer Service	Northmoor Stanton Harcourt
15 <sup>th</sup>	10:30	Family Service	Stanton Harcourt
18 <sup>th</sup>	10:00	Ash Wednesday Communion	Standlake
22 <sup>nd</sup>	8:00	Holy Communion (BCP)	Stanton Harcourt

### Lent Course:

Monday's 11am to 12.30pm, 23rd Feb to 30th March at the Ferryman Inn, Bablock Hythe, each session ending with optional soup lunch. We will be thinking and praying about the violence we find in the Bible, following themes and questions raised in the recent book "Disarming Scripture" by Derek Flood. All are welcome: call the Rector on 880914 for further details.

## Sutton Methodist Chapel

Contact: Rita Stockill ☎ 01865 880200

### February

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	10am	Mr Eddie Fowler
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Rev Nicola Blois
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Local Arrangement
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10am	Mrs Rachel Prince

**Coffee Morning – First Wednesday of each month**  
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

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

### Weekend Services

Sunday Mass 10.00am with a Children's Liturgy

Saturday Mass 7.30pm;

### Special Events

**Pancake Feast!** – 14<sup>th</sup> February, 10:30am – 1:30pm

**Ash Wednesday** – 18<sup>th</sup> February Ashing at 10am and 8pm

**Lent Course** – Tuesday evenings in Lent at 8pm

Deadline for next issue is 20<sup>th</sup> February  
[village-voice@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:village-voice@hotmail.co.uk)

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

## There Can Be Only One?

Oxfordshire County Council have suggested the need for a 'Unitary Council' (a single council for Oxfordshire) to address budgetary constraints.... The four district councils have told them where to go (they are not happy about it and haven't been consulted)..... What does this mean for Stanton Harcourt.... Who knows?... Smaller bins, and bigger pot-holes - probably! We'll find out more for next time!

## ASH LOGS & CHIMNEY SWEEPING



### Suppliers of Kiln dried Hardwood

- Next day delivery available.
- Cubic metre loads, not 'tonne bags'.
- Carbon Neutral fuel, dried in Biomass kiln.

Call to book, or enquire 01865 884320

or 07762 816185 [www.ashlogs.com](http://www.ashlogs.com)

### Chimney Sweeping Service

- NACS trained and registered \*All stoves, flues and chimneys undertaken
  - RODTECH power sweep service available
  - Landlord/insurers certification available for
  - Thatched or rented properties
  - Prices start from £45
- Call to book on 01865 884320 A Clean Chimney is a Safer Chimney!

## Recipe of the Winter: Honey\* FlapJack

### Ingredients:

- 200g Unsalted Butter (Butter will do)
- 200g Demerara Sugar (Sugar will do)
- 200g Honey\*
- 400g Porridge Oats (Oats)
- 50g Fruit and/or nuts (optional –e.g. raisins, coconut etc)

You will also need a 8inch x 12inch tin (any tin will do really)  
Top tip – if you use baking or silicone paper in the tin then you can lift it out to cut without stickin in the tin, else you'll need to butter/grease the tin well!

Put the Butter, Sugar, Honey in a saucepan, heat and stir until it is all dissolved, take off the heat and stir in the oats and fruit/nuts if opted for until its an even mix.

Transfer the mixture to the tin and bake in a preheated oven at 180°C/Gas 4 for 15-20 minutes until lightly golden around the edges but slightly soft in the middle. Let it cool in the tin then turn out and cut into portions.

*\*if you don't have honey you could try golden syrup – but it might have less Buzz!*



WEST OXFORDSHIRE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Be in the know!

Find out what's happening in  
your neighbourhood...

Register at [www.westoxon.gov.uk](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk) to  
be notified of planning applications  
near your home.

### Published on behalf of Stanton Harcourt Parish Council

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