

VillageVoice

The Newsletter of Stanton Harcourt & Sutton

January 2021

"And now let us believe in a long year that is given to us, new, untouched, full of things that have never been..." – Rilke

Calendar

1st – New Year's Day *nurse those sore heads*

6th – Epiphany *The wise men finally arrived!*

25th – Burns Night *"now's the day and now's the hour"*

Thank You!! As a New Year dawns we thought it appropriate to show how grateful we are for certain people and services within our community. Huge thanks to the following...

- ❖ Hitesh and Anita for running the shop and posting all our parcels, cards and letters over the lockdown/Christmas period. Hitesh went above and beyond for villagers, ensuring they had all the essentials and doing all he could to find products that you couldn't get in the supermarkets.
- ❖ The Parish Council for supplying the village with a lovely Christmas tree.
- ❖ The Harcourt Stores for providing the village with supplies and yummy treats without villagers having to leave the boundaries of the village.
- ❖ Also to the Harcourt Arms for all the delicious take away meals, and providing a safe place to eat and socialise when they could open.
- ❖ The Rotary Club arranging for Santa's Sleigh to tour the village, bringing some much needed cheer and music.
- ❖ Litter pickers across the village, helping our environment stay clean and clear
- ❖ To everyone in the village getting into the festive spirit by decorating their houses with festive lights and displays that brightened the dark and damp winter evenings.
- ❖ And last, but certainly not least, to everyone who looks out for and helps neighbours; not only during the lockdown, but always.

What an amazing, friendly and caring community we live in!!!!



Recycle Your Christmas Tree!

Don't forget to recycle your trees once you've finally had enough of the Christmas cheer and needles all over the house!

If you're signed up for garden waste collections simply put the tree out with the next collection. Trees should be *cut up and placed inside* the garden bin.

If your garden bin is full, the tree can be *cut up and left next to* the full bin for collection. Trees larger than 90cm / 3ft should be cut into manageable pieces before being put out.

Or, just feed them to your goat – they love a good Christmas tree!



Facebook Groups

Did you know there are multiple Facebook groups for Stanton Harcourt and Sutton?



All groups allow members of our community to post information about events taking place, share news, ask questions or request recommendations for services required, such as electricians and plumbers.

A few groups of note...

👍 **Villagers Other Voice:** private group, but once you're a member you can see all information posted within this group and make posts yourself.

👍 **Stanton and Sutton Neighbourhood Group:** public group, meaning people who don't have a Facebook account (the editor doesn't blame you!) can still access posts within this group and keep on top of village news.

👍 **Memories of Stanton Harcourt and Sutton:** public group where folk can take a trip down memory lane, ask questions if they are trying to track down old acquaintances or simply confirm a fuzzy memory

When using Facebook and posting or commenting on any online forum please be respectful of others and the rules of that community.



Subscribe to Village Voice

Village Voice is aiming to become predominantly paperless in the future.

We know this is not possible for all members of our community, and for those people we will continue to provide paper copies for in the future.

If you are happy joining our online community please feel free to subscribe to our mailing list. You'll receive Village Voice updates, prompts for news items for future issues, and a PDF copy of each new edition.

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

Post Office News!

POST
OFFICE

Hitesh can now bank cheques and cash for us from the Village Hall Post Office. So, no need to wait in queues elsewhere or travel all the way to your bank.

What a fantastic service to have at our fingertips!

Parish Council News

Next Parish Council Meetings, via Zoom

December: Monday 4th 7:30pm.

For Zoom link see Parish Council Website

New Parish Councillor

The Parish Council would like to welcome our new Parish Councillor Keith Hickson to the team and to thank the other excellent candidates, Rachel Arnold and Mike Parker, for stepping forward. It had been a difficult decision with such good candidates.

Christmas Tree

Many thanks to Matthew Judson, David Wallom and Rob Brown for placing and decorating the village Christmas tree.

Hayfield Development and The Stanton Harcourt Airfield

Unfortunately, the change to the road layout around the entrance to Hayfield Green has resulted in flooding at the gateway to the cemetery. Hayfield has agreed to build a drainage channel in front of the gateway to prevent this.

Dog Waste

This has been a constant problem for many years. Please pick up your dog poo, there are plenty of bins in the village, and a fine if you are caught not doing so!

May 2021 elections

Elections are scheduled to take place on 6 May 2021, COVID-19 willing, including those postponed in May 2020. County, District and Parish seats need filling!

Keeping our roads safe

December saw the first forecasts of freezing temperatures and we can expect this to continue through the early part of 2021. Although OCC grit main roads they do not look after all rural roads. Our community needs volunteers to spread small amounts of salt (provided by the parish council) in high-risk areas prior to a freeze. If you would be willing to be one of these volunteers, who helps to keep our village safe for all road users, please let Trudi Gasser know *.

Litter Pickers

The Parish Council would like to thank all those who organised and/or participated in Litter Picking, in or around our village throughout 2020. Whether you participated as part of the Litter Picking group or simply turned a regular walk into an opportunity to collect rubbish left by others – you all helped to keep our village looking attractive and cared for.

Planning Consultations

There are a four important Planning Consultations that we hope you will review and provide feedback on.

1) A40 Improvement and Park & Ride Planning Application

The deadline for comments on this consultation is 11 January 2021. Oxfordshire County Council is consulting on their plan to construct a large park & ride on the edge of Eynsham. It includes a new roundabout with access onto A40, an eastbound bus lane from the park & ride site to the A40 bridge over the Dukes Cut canal, along with two sections of westbound bus lane. All the [documents can be found here](#).

2) OCC Budget consultation 2021-22

The deadline for comments is 13 Jan 2021. On 9 February 2021, Oxfordshire County Council will meet to agree its budget. They are asking residents, businesses, and stakeholders for their views on their budget proposals for 2021/22 and their proposed council tax increase. Their proposals can be viewed [here](#).

3) Ground Mounted Solar Array

Sheehan Haulage have requested planning permission to install a Ground Mounted Solar Array at their Recycled Aggregates Plant by Dix Pit.

The installations would consist of a ground mounted solar array and battery compound in the southwest corner of the restored

landfill area, and roof mounted solar panels on the existing buildings within the plant site area.

Any observations you may wish to make on this application must be made before 12 January 2021. The details can be found [here](#).

4) New Classrooms

To meet the needs of the increase in pupils at Stanton Harcourt Primary School, an application has been made for planning permission to construct a new stand-alone Early Years building to replace the existing single modular classroom unit and provide an additional two classrooms.

If you have any comments please submit them on the WODC [planning portal](#) by 10 Jan 2021

Keeping our waterways clear

The 'Sewage (Inland Waters) Bill 2019-20' tabled By Phillip Dunne MP is scheduled for its second reading on Friday 15 January. The aim of this bill is to place a duty on water companies to ensure that untreated sewage is not discharged into rivers and other inland waters; and for connected purposes. Mr Dunne is encouraging people across the country to ask their MP to back his Bill.

For more information regarding this visit this site:

<https://www.sas.org.uk/EndSewagePollution-SewageBill>

We also have a local organisation Windrush Against Sewage Pollution (WASP) that monitors and campaigns on this issue at a local level that needs your support.

Parish Council Information. All official communications should be addressed to the *Parish Clerk: Trudi Gasser, 5 Woodlands, Standlake, Oxon, OX29 7RA. trudigasser@rocketmail.com

Village Volunteer Group

We offer assistance (free of charge) with anything from posting letters, walking the dog, collecting shopping or prescriptions, etc. Or an ear on the phone if you are feeling isolated.

Leave a message any time or if you want to speak with someone call between 9:00 and 18:00 from Monday to Saturday

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

COVID-19 – Tier 4

From 26th December Oxfordshire is in Tier 4.

For all up to date government guidance please refer to the gov.uk website <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Do not hesitate to get a test if you are displaying any of the symptoms of COVID-19.

There are plenty of options to do so across the county, with testing capacity increased, and testing sites local to us. Booking is required for all testing, and there are plenty of slots available across all the county's sites.

Anyone with symptoms should book at nhs.uk/coronavirus or by calling 119.

We've chosen not to publish specific rules in this issue as we suspect the guidance is likely to change at least once more after publication, and we don't want to confuse what is already an increasingly confusing situation!

New Year Fun Facts!

– England didn't adopt January 1st as New Year's Day until 1752, when they adopted the Gregorian calendar. Before that the year began on March 25th.

– Officially in England, 1751 was the shortest year ever, lasting only from March 25 to December 31. (perhaps we should have cut 2020 short as well...)



Local news

Eynsham Medical Centre Update

Eynsham Medical Group is working with Witney practices to deliver the COVID-19 vaccination program.

We will begin by vaccinating at Windrush surgery in Witney, and it may take 6-9 months to complete the program.

The vaccine will be given in stages starting with the most vulnerable.

We will contact eligible patients **directly** to arrange the vaccination. **Please do not contact the surgery to book; we will have to refuse unless you have been invited.**

Please bear with us as we step up to deliver the vaccination program alongside normal general practice and consider other resources such as the NHS website and local pharmacies to help self-manage problems when appropriate.

Consider volunteering to be trained to give vaccinations, particularly if you have any medical, nursing or first aid training; or to work as a steward.

To volunteer email: occg.emg.covidvolunteers@nhs.net

For more information about the vaccine:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/>

For information about how we are delivering our services:

<https://www.eynshammedicalgroup.org.uk/coronavirus-changes-in-gp-care-update/>

Thank you for your continued support.

Eynsham and surrounding area PCSO

Police Community Support Officer Helen Keen is back, taking over the post covering Eynsham and the surrounding villages.

Helen has been a PCSO for fourteen years, serving in Witney & Woodstock. She has covered Eynsham and villages for over 10 years prior to her Woodstock posting.

"I know the area well and am looking forward to being a part of your community again. I hope to carry on the excellent work of my colleagues from the West Oxfordshire police team. I am very keen, pardon the pun! to become part of your community again, and help you in any way that I can. I look forward to meeting as many of you as I can in the coming weeks and months. Please introduce yourself to me when you see me out and about."

To contact Helen please either **ring 101** and quote her name and shoulder number, **Helen Keen C9862**, or email eynshamNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Page 3 Bird - Phoenix

Whilst this magnificent bird isn't actually real, it is significant for the New Year.

In Ancient Greek folklore, a phoenix is a long-lived bird that cyclically regenerates or is otherwise born again. Associated with the sun, a phoenix obtains new life by arising from the ashes of its predecessor. Some legends say it dies in a show of flames and combustion, others that it simply dies and decomposes before being born again. Perhaps 2021 will rise like a phoenix from the ashes of 2020. We can live in hope!



Put your best foot forward...

We are lucky to have wonderful walks on our doorstep. Why not enjoy a bracing winter ramble in our beautiful countryside: get outside in the fresh air and blow the cobwebs away. Plus, being out in nature is proven to improve mental health; which is pretty important in our book, especially at the moment!



The Ordnance Survey has launched their **GetOutside** app for family-friendly things to do outside.

For ideas of walks in the local area and to download their app follow the link below:

<https://getoutside.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/local/stanton-harcourt-west-oxfordshire>

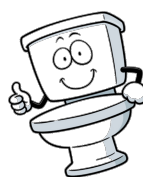
Call for Old News

Do you have any old copies of Village Voice gathering dust?

We hope to track down copies pre 2010 – the older the better!

The aim is to build an archive of village news to give us all a flavour of how village life has evolved over time, and also provide a giggle at some of the antics the older village residents used to get up to!

If you have any old copies of Village Voice you're happy sharing, please get in touch with the editor: village-voice@hotmail.co.uk



Let it flow!

Have a thought for the mains sewer: it has to cope with the excess rain water, as well as the waste from our houses!

DO NOT flush wipes or sanitary products down your toilet. And do not tip cooking oil or fats down your drains.

We want to avoid those pesky fatbergs!!

Thames Water spent a lot of time this year clearing out the drains – let's not undo that hard work – it's not a pleasant job!

Poetry corner

A new feature for 2021 (when space allows). Poetry corner will bring you poems or quotes to inspire/cheer us amid the chaos. Suggestions welcomed!

**'Hope' is the thing with feathers
by Emily Dickinson (1830 -1886)**

***'Hope' is the thing with feathers –
That perches in the soul –
And sings the tune without the words –
And never stops – at all –
And sweetest – in the Gale – is heard –
And sore must be the storm –
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm –
I've heard it in the chilliest land –
And on the strangest Sea –
Yet – never – in Extremity,
It asked a crumb – of me.***



Recipe of the Month

January is Veganuary month!

We're not trying to convert anyone, but trying new recipes is fun. After all, variety is the spice of life!

Veganism has gained popularity over the last few years. Not only does it involve eating a diet where no animals are harmed for food, but going 'plant based' can help us have a diet where significantly less green house gases are produced.

So why not try some new foods!

We're easing you in gently with a vegan twist on an old classic (banana bread), and an excellent winter warming stew that can be adapted for meat eaters too.

Both dishes are tried and tested by the editorial team!

Smokey Chickpea Stew with Butternut Squash:

- 2 garlic cloves, peeled and grated
- 1 small onion, diced
- 1 tbsp of tomato puree
- 1 TBSP of olive oil
- 1 can of chickpeas, drained and rinsed
- 1 can of chopped tomatoes
- 1 small tin of sweet corn
- 1 Jar of roasted peppers, drained and roughly chopped (or 2 fresh peppers)
- 1 tsp smoked paprika
- 1 tsp cumin • 1/2 tsp cayenne pepper
- 1 tsp of sugar • 1/4 tsp salt



1. Heat up the oil in a large saucepan over a medium heat. Fry the garlic and onion until soft and translucent for 3-5 minutes.
2. Add all the ground spices and tomato paste and cook for another 1 minute
3. Next add the peppers, sweetcorn, chopped tomatoes, and chickpeas.
4. Bring to the boil and allow to simmer for 20 minutes, stirring occasionally.
5. Best served with roasted butternut squash or rice!

Optional Extras:

- Quorn 'Chicken' pieces or diced Chicken (for non-vegans!)
- Spinach or kale to pack in some extra greens!

Vegan Banana Bread:

- 1/3 cup melted coconut oil or olive oil
- 2 cup honey or maple syrup
- 1/2 cup of apple sauce (plus • 1 tsp baking powder)
- 1 cup mashed ripe bananas (about 2 1/2 medium or 2 large bananas)
- 1/4 cup water
- 1 tsp baking powder • 2 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp vanilla extract • 1/2 tsp salt
- 2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 3/4 cup all-purpose flour



1. Preheat the oven to 175c and grease a loaf tin.
2. In a bowl, beat the oil and honey together with a whisk. Add the apple sauce and beat well, then whisk in the mashed bananas and milk/water.

3. Add the baking powder, baking soda, vanilla, salt and cinnamon, and whisk to blend.
4. Add flour, and stir just until combined (Some lumps are ok) If you're adding any additional mix-ins, gently fold them in now.
5. Pour the batter into your greased tin. Bake for 30 to 34 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the centre comes out clean.
6. Place the cake pan on a cooling rack and let the cake cool

Church News

St Michael's Church, Stanton Harcourt

St Michael's church will be open 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.

Since we are now in Tier 4 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/>

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



St Peter's Roman Catholic Church, Eynsham

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

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

Closed on January 1st

POST OFFICE

A thank you note...

I wish to thank from the depths of my heart this anonymous Christmas Eve greeting on my gate- it is mightily appreciated. Charles Mathew



Deadline for next issue is 20th of the month

village-voice@hotmail.co.uk

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