

Village Voice

The Newsletter of Stanton Harcourt & Sutton

October/ November 2020

Calendar

October 31st Halloween (All Souls Eve)
November 5th Guy Fawkes Day
November 8th Remembrance Sunday
November 11th Armistice

Remembrance Sunday 8th November 2020

A Service of Remembrance will be held at the war memorial in St Michael's churchyard, Stanton Harcourt on Sunday 8th November commencing at 10.50.

The 20 minute service has been arranged with the approval of West Oxfordshire District Council and is in compliance with COVID regulations for public worship.

There is no restriction on overall numbers attending, but we will spread out into the churchyard to a greater extent than usual. There must be social distancing maintained between household groups - rule of six applies.

Remembrance & Armistice

Like every year, this year we will remember the men and women who have fought for our nation and freedom. Especially this year after the Pandemic we need to remember those who have put their lives and families on hold to help us again in our time of need. From the testing to delivering vital equipment to flying home people stranded in other countries to working with the sick and most vulnerable. The first Remembrance Day was in 1919 when they remembered the armistice day from the year before. This was continued on every year. The poppy first came about around 1921 was based on the poem 'In Flanders Field' written by a Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae in 1915. The poppy was therefore adopted by an American academic named Moina Michael to adopt the poppy in memory of those who had fallen in the war. Unfortunately, this year the Remembrance services won't be as big but that doesn't mean they won't be as meaningful. You can put up poppies in your front windows wear a poppy when you leave the house. These are all on the royal British Legions website <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/>

This year we are also lucky enough that on Sunday 8th November at St Michael's churchyard, there will be an outside service commencing at 10:50.

We will remember them!



On Saturday 31st October
treat yourself to a take away
bacon roll.
£3.00 each!



**Served
8-11am**

Take away tea or
coffee available.
£1.00 a cup.

Payment by cash
or bank transfer.

Served from the village hall garden.
Order from the garden doors of the
meeting room.

All Covid rules apply.
Proceeds to St Michael's Church.

New Editor News.....

A new editor has stepped forward for the short term and received Royal assent from Queen Lucy. However, editing is a lonely job and we're keen to take a more team approach, so if you're interested in helping or writing even just a little bit why not let us know! More news next time.

IS THIS A PAPER COPY? HELP YOURSELF!

Halloween

Hello Everyone, as many of you know FOSHS traditionally host a very lively and fun Halloween event in



the village hall each year, kindly supported by our local resident DJ, Joe Deane. Sadly this year it simply isn't possible or safe to do so and we are very sorry about this.

A number of ideas have been floating around about how to celebrate Halloween safely, and an idea raised on the FOSHS page previously seems to have gained the most favour so it seemed a good idea to share it again in the hope that this helps to make Halloween happen for those who still want to celebrate the day in Stanton Harcourt and the surrounding areas...

Basically families decorate the outside of their houses with a pumpkin and as many other decorations as they wish. They also purchase a select number of sweets. Children dress up as usual on Halloween and head out around the neighbourhood as if to trick or treat. Every time children come across a decorated house or see a pumpkin they 'earn' a sweet from those which you have purchased yourself. This way children still get to dress up and go out in the dark (the best bit) and they get lots of sweets (also a very important part of Halloween in the eyes of the children!) but there is no contact between your family bubble and others in any way, shape or form apart from passing (socially distanced) in the street.

We hope this offers a safe alternative for everyone and saves the problem of people knocking on doors when individuals inside may be vulnerable or isolating (otherwise it could be a long night for them!).

We hope you have fun whatever you decide to do but please share this suggestion to help make Halloween safe this year! From FOSHS



Litter Picks – Now happening in a Covid secure way each month (2nd Saturday), details on the facebook. **Remember Hands, Face, Space (and don't drop litter!)**

Avis Morgan

Sadly, Avis Morgan, resident of Burr Close, Sutton, for well over 30 years, has passed away. She died peacefully on 21st October 2020, aged 90, after two years at Southerndown Care Home in Chipping Norton. Avis spent many happy years in



Sutton. Her involvement in the community included being a member of the WI, the Sutton Singers and the Methodist Chapel. Along with many of her close friends in Sutton, she was also a dedicated member of Witney's The Wesley Players. Her daughter, Liz, especially remembers her professional portrayal of Mrs Danvers in *Rebecca*. Avis's garden at Burr Close was her passion during her later years, sometimes offering cream teas to raise money for charity. She also loved to stop and chat or smile to villagers when she walked her poodle down Sutton Lane.

She will be dearly missed by family and friends. Her funeral service is at 3pm, Monday 9th November at South Oxfordshire Crematorium. For attendance please enquire to Co-op Funeralcare, Witney, 01993 706778. In place of flowers, please donate to Alzheimer's Society c/o Midcounties Co-operative Funeralcare Cemetery Lodge, Tower Hill, Witney OX28 5ES.

Santa's Tour re – Covid

The Rotary Club of Eynsham is hoping that we will be able to organise some kind of presence for Santa in the villages which we normally include in our Christmas tour. This may have to take a different form from the usual, for example a static presence at an agreed position within the village or area. As we are unlikely to know exactly what the Covid related restrictions are until much nearer the time, plans will be formalised at the last minute and will be published in Eynsham Online, so please check there for details.

We have already been asked to attend an event at a primary school, so if anyone has a Christmas event, at a school, village hall, or other appropriate space, where they think it would be useful and beneficial for Santa to attend, please do get in touch through our general contact email address: info@eynshamrotary.org.uk With best wishes from us all to you all.

St Michael's Church 200 Club

May Draw

1st 283 Mrs K Lucas

2nd 297 P Hall

3rd 167 L Mugglestone

4th 277 Mr & Mrs Jones

July Draw

1st 124 Mrs P. Lewis

2nd 262 Mrs Roberts

3rd 251 J & P Thornton-Kitchner

4th 190 L. McEachern

September Draw

1st 103 Jane Watts

2nd 227 Alice Matthew

3rd 170 G. Mitchell

4th 207 Mrs S. Miller

WILL YOU BE A WINNER IN NOVEMBER? BUY A NUMBER NOW FOR NEXT DRAW!

June Draw

1st 128 A Cross

2nd 245 Emma Hare

3rd 117 C Purvey

4th 136 C. Loder

August Draw

1st 256 M. Carr

2nd 173 Mrs J. Harrison

3rd 101 Mrs P. Burden

4th 101 Mrs P. Burden

October draw

1st 189 E. Floyd

2nd 179 P. Shellar

3rd 236 M. Boover

4th 211 S. Adcock

I am not certain when the 200 club started in this village but certainly for over 40 years. It is set up for 200 tickets to be purchased for £6 a year (50p a month). The prizes are drawn monthly £25, £12, £8 and £5. This ensures a reward for investors and a small income each year for the church. It is still running but there are lots of numbers available, especially as it was mostly the original village residents who had numbers. My husband Peter was the organiser and main collector, so I have been left with this task. If you feel you could spare £6 a year to purchase a number, then please contact Liz Strange (oldmotherstrange@gmail.com) Oxford 882020. I am hoping to get only one collection a year around August/September/October time to make life simpler, as previously this was done a few at all times of year.

Oil Central Heating?

Want to pay less for central heating oil?

Why not join Community First Oxon's Fuel Scheme and benefit from the power bulk buying? For further details visit <http://www.communityfirstoxon.org/community-first-oil-lpg/oil/>

Or e-mail the local co-ordinator for Stanton Harcourt & Sutton (pwjbartrip@gmail.com)

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Homing Pigeons where used during WW1. Homing pigeons have been used for eras before to be able to deliver messages to people's homes. Around 100,000 pigeons served in the war delivering messages across dangerous territory. Despite the technological advances the pigeons where still vital to be able to deliver information. They where around 95% successful in delivering messages so the German's had to bring in Hawkes to hunt down the pigeons. They where also much more sensitive to poisonous gas so would be used to detect if poison was around before the soldiers would be brought in.



Parish Council News

Next Parish Council Meetings

November: Monday 2nd 7:30

December: Monday 7th 7:30

Village Volunteer Group

The Parish Council would like to pass on their thanks to all community members who volunteered to be part of the Stanton Harcourt and Sutton Volunteer WhatsApp group. This group is still available and able to help you if you are in need.

Launch of the NHS COVID-19 app

The new NHS COVID-19 app has been launched in England and Wales. This is part of the NHS Test and Trace service, which will be used alongside traditional contact tracing to help trace individuals who may have come into contact with a confirmed case of coronavirus. The app allows people to check into venues by scanning a QR code. No personal details will be shared with third parties during the process. It also provides them with an alert if they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive and helps them check if they have symptoms and book a test. You can find out more about the app [here](#).

You will start to see posters with QR codes being put up in businesses and venues across the county including our Village Hall. From 24 September, it will become a legal requirement for all designated venues to display an official NHS QR poster. Designated venues include:

- Hospitality services, including pubs, bars, restaurants and cafés
- Tourism and leisure services, including gyms, swimming pools, hotels, museums, cinemas and theme parks
- Close contact services, including hairdressers and barbers
- Facilities provided by Local Authorities for the public, including town halls and civic centres for events, community centres, libraries and children's centres

Self-Isolation Grants

If you receive certain means-tested benefits, and you have to self-isolate, but you're unable to work from home and so lose income, you'll now be eligible for a payment of £500 for each period of self-isolation you're required to undertake (10 days if you've been tested positive; 14 days if someone in your household has tested positive). From Monday 28 September, each time an eligible person is told to self-isolate by 'Test and Trace' - the NHS service set up to combat Covid-19 by tracking down those who come into contact with the virus - they will be able to claim £500 for the time you or a family member has to self-isolate. It's not a one-off payment, meaning you can claim it EVERYTIME you have to self-isolate. This is how it works:

- You must be in receipt of one of the following benefits: universal credit, working tax credit, income-based employment and support allowance, income-based jobseeker's allowance, income support, housing benefit or pension credit.
- You must have a notification from the NHS Test and Trace Scheme asking you to self-isolate. This will include a unique ID number. This can be because you've tested positive for Covid-19 or if you've recently been in contact with someone who has tested positive.

- You will need proof of your employment. Plus, a confirmation from your employer that you are unable to work from home.
- If you are self-employed, you will need to show evidence of self-assessment tax returns. Plus, proof that you cannot run your business without social contact.
- Even if you make a joint claim for universal credit, you claim the support payment as an individual, so if you AND your partner need to self-isolate, you can each make separate claims for the £500 payment.
- If you need to self-isolate again, you can claim a subsequent payment, as long as you meet the criteria.
- The payment won't affect your benefits. The DWP has confirmed that the payment will be 'disregarded' for benefits purposes, but you will still need to log it as a payment in your online journal.
- The payments are subject to income tax, but not subject to national insurance contributions.
- Anyone who qualifies for this payment will receive it on top of any statutory sick pay they are entitled to.

As soon as you get the notification to self-isolate, you'll need to contact your local authority, online or by phone.

Hardship Fund

The Government has allocated funds that will allow West Oxfordshire District Council to grant up to £150 to a resident if they are of working age.

You are now able to apply to the Hardship fund for assistance with your Council Tax. This is a discretionary grant and you do not have to be receiving Council Tax Support. You will need to complete the form of the West Oxfordshire District Council web site.

Home Insulation Grants

Homeowners and landlords in England can apply for a voucher towards the cost of installing energy efficient and low-carbon heating improvements to homes

The Green Homes Grant scheme, first promised in July, is now live. It can provide serious amounts of cash for home improvements such as insulation, double glazing and heating controls, which should improve a home's energy efficiency, and its value – up to £10,000.

Any homeowner or residential landlord in England can apply, apart from owners of as-yet-unoccupied new builds. The max standard grant is £5,000, but some benefit recipients get double. For most people the state offers it as vouchers to pay as much as two-thirds of energy improvement costs, up to a max £5,000 for most. So, if it costs £4,000, you pay about £1,320 and get the rest in vouchers. Some on benefits get 100% of costs, up to £10,000, covered. The first stage is to get vouchers to install a primary improvement, which includes new or top-up (not replacement) insulation and low-carbon heating systems. If, and only if, you get that you can then apply for secondary improvement vouchers up to the same value. This is where much of the good stuff many people want is, including draught proofing, double/triple/secondary glazing (to replace single glazing), replacement doors and heating controls etc. You need quotes before you apply for the vouchers. You'll first need to use the Govt eligibility calculator, then get quotes from installers, and only then can you apply. Full info & links in check eligibility and apply, which also

includes how to find registered installers. All work needs to be completed by 31 Mar 2021 (i.e., 6mths from now).

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. trudigasser@rocketmail.com



Standing with Giants

This year Dan Barton and family are again making thousands of soldier silhouettes and poppy wreaths to go up and down the country. This year they are looking for volunteers to help with painting social media etc. To help this amazing project go ahead donations are needed and more volunteers are wanted. If this is something you would like to get involved in then please contact Jo Wilby at jowilby@hotmail.com

Adam Sweirgon on the Radio

As some of you may know Adam Sweirgon is on Witney radio on Sunday nights between 6-7. Please show your support for Adam by tuning in and sending in some requests.



Surviving Lockdown

Although we are allowed out a lot more please do stay safe and wear your mask. We recently posted a contacts list so please do use it :)

we still have a fantastic volunteer group within the village ready to help anyone in need - for example self isolating, needs shopping or a letter posted, simply want a cheerful voice to chat to (social distanced of course), prescription collecting, change a light bulb etc contact list on the Parish Council website and other places around the village

Deadline for next issue is 20th of the Month

village-voice@hotmail.co.uk

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