

# Village Voice

The Newsletter of Stanton Harcourt and Sutton

July/August 2013

## ***What an Egg-cellent Festival Week!***

The Festival Week baton has been well and truly handed on, as the new Committee delivered an excellent week of events and activities. The weather could only be described as unsettled, but Jo Wilby and the team did a great job of coordinating an enjoyable mixture of old and new events, culminating in Festival Day.

Following another cracking gig from Cooper Black to start the Week, Sunday saw a new event in which residents of Stanton Harcourt and Sutton displayed items they had made. These included everything from paintings and drawings to pottery, knitting, models and woodworking. During the exhibition, Ma Strange and her team were at full pelt serving a steady stream of delicious cream teas and cakes.

Food was on the menu again later in the week, as there was a great turn-out for the old favourite Big Breakfast. As the picture on the right shows, you can't make a Big Breakfast without breaking eggs ... lots of eggs!

Heroes and Villains were very much in evidence on Festival Day, with loads of Supermen and Superwomen of all shapes and sizes, and, in the School's performance, enough James Bonds to populate the whole of the Secret Service. The Day had started with the procession, including Festival Queen Thea Watts and her entourage, and the fête wound up on the School field with a jousting competition and the traditional tug-of-war.

So a big thank you to Jo and the Committee as well as everyone else who opened their gardens, organized activities, and generally worked away in the background to put up, take down or otherwise make Festival Week a success. And, of course, thanks to everyone who has supported the many different events!

As Linda and I complete our final issue of *Village Voice*, David Vaughan has kindly both taken the photos for this year's Festival Day picture spread and also laid it out, so a big thank you to him.



## **Tar Road Planning Applications Dismissed**

The Lowlands Planning Committee accepted the recommendation of the planning officers and unanimously refused all three planning applications for change of use to a gypsy site at their monthly meeting on Monday 17 May. A big thank you to the many local residents who turned out to witness the debate, and heard Emma Hare and Charles Mathew speak.

The Inspector found that: "development of the site would give rise to unreasonable living conditions for the occupiers of the site and the occupiers of adjoining properties by reason of the risks of living on a landfill site, that the development harmed the setting of a listed building, harmed the character and appearance of the area and represented unsustainable development, poorly served by pedestrian modes of transport and severed from local facilities, with some additional harm to the amenity of adjoining occupiers, and that the benefits of the scheme in terms of meeting a need for such sites, the personal circumstances of the applicants and the availability of alternative sites did not outweigh these concerns.

"The Local Planning Authority are not persuaded that the limited additional information provided seeking to address the contamination issue nor the changes to legislation have materially altered the position such that an approval could be justified.

"In addition, it has not been demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority that the development can be undertaken without harm to a protected species. It is not considered that the benefits of the development outweigh the harm."

## Once again, we have an outstanding School!

Stanton Harcourt CE Primary School was inspected recently by the National Society, the body which monitors the distinctiveness and effectiveness of Anglican schools. The School was judged as Outstanding – the highest possible grade – in all categories: meeting the needs of all learners, the impact of Collective Worship, and the effectiveness of leadership and management of the School. The staff work hard to ensure that all children have an outstanding education at the School and this is an excellent result, highlighting especially the emphasis on Christian values and behaviour, and the close links we have with St Michael's Church.

The School has also had a very productive time in May and June this year, including a couple of float painting sessions for Festival Week. Other activities have included a visit from Mr Laurence Bee to talk about fossils (see picture opposite), using the outdoor classroom and explaining what fossils are and where they can be found. The children in Class 3 were particularly keen on the ammonites!

The travelling book fair visited the School in late May. This is always a popular event and the choice of books for sale seems to appeal to all ages across the School. Class 2 had great fun with a drama workshop by the excellent Creation Theatre group – their theme was based on Aesop's fable of the goose which laid the golden eggs.

The School also organised its important yearly Disability Awareness Day, everyone brought their teddy bear, and £73.50 was raised for Action Medical Research for Children. The day was led by Mrs Becky Clark and this time the focus was on people with sight and hearing impairments. Some of the children were blindfolded, trying to identify various objects by touch only.

There has also been an accelerated Maths Day for some Year 6 children, and Class 2 participated in the Festival of Voices in late June. The very popular Teacher Swap day is also coming up in July!

The School is urgently looking for more community members who would be able to help with extra-curricular activities, especially reading – any help is hugely appreciated.

**Finally, do you have any Lego you could donate to the School?** The children would like to start up a Lego club and, although they're interested in bringing and showing off their own creations, the School itself doesn't actually have much Lego! Can you help?



**Next Village Market – Sat 6 July**  
12 noon – 2.00 pm in the Village Hall

Further date: 7 September

For more information or to book a stall,  
please email [jo@marketing-sense.co.uk](mailto:jo@marketing-sense.co.uk)

### **Village Treasure Hunt** **Saturday 13 July**

Join us at 2.00 pm at the Harcourt Arms to receive your clues, which will take you on a little tour of the Village.

*Lots of fun for all the family!*

*£5 entry fee per family/team*

*Meeting back at the pub after the*

*Treasure Hunt for a barbecue*

**CASH PRIZE FOR THE  
WINNING TEAM!**

All proceeds to FOSHS

### **Bridewell Organic Gardens**

*Therapeutic Gardens in West Oxfordshire*

*Walled garden and vineyard in Wilcote (OX7 3EB)*

**Open Afternoons (2.00–5.00 pm)**

Sundays 14 July, 18 August

**Community Afternoons (2.00–4.00 pm)**

Wednesday 3 July; Thursday 25 July; Friday 9 August

*Registered Charity Number 1069878*

### **Small Breakfasts**

**Saturday 20 July and 21 Sept at 9.00–11.00 am**

Why go home and put the kettle on after you have bought your paper? Join us at St Michael's Church for a bacon roll, hot drink and a chat for just £2.50

## **John Faulkner**

This issue of *Village Voice* must contain a mention of John Faulkner, the originator of the newsletter, whose memorial service was held on Monday 24 June. John's contribution to Stanton Harcourt and Sutton was extensive. As well as starting *Village Voice*, he was Chairman of the Parish Council and was involved in the youth club, Village cricket, the Festival, the annual murder mystery, the Royal British Legion, and the Village Hall – a fine and inspirational legacy.

At John's memorial service, one of his godchildren summed up his traits as: giving of his time freely; integrity; and sense of fairness. When at West Oxfordshire District Council, he used to say: "I may disagree with you completely, but will always defend your right to speak."

*Thelma Faulkner and family would like to thank everyone for their cards, flowers and condolences*

## **FOSHS Jumble Sale**

**Saturday 28 September, 2.00–4.00 pm**

*Stanton Harcourt Village Hall*

All donations of clean and saleable jumble are welcome, and can be left at the Village Hall from 9.00 am on the day of the sale. If you need to deliver jumble before the Saturday, please contact Darren on 07872 607706.  
*Friends of Stanton Harcourt School – Charity No 1061604*

*St Michael's Church and  
Witney Model and Collectors' Club present*

## **Models, Engineering and Collectibles Exhibition**

*St Michael's Church, Stanton Harcourt*

**Saturday 21 September 2013,  
10.00 am – 4.00 pm**

Tombola • Refreshments • Cake stall

**Adults £2, children under 16  
and concessions free**

*For further information contact Alan on 883317*

## **St Michael's Church 200 Club**

### **June draw**

1st 210 G Gray	3rd 258 B Read
2nd 122 V Eden	4th 101 P Burden

## **Royal British Legion Drumhead Service**

**Tuesday 16 July at 7.30 pm**  
*Stanton Harcourt Village Hall*

## **Parish Council Updates**

**Tar Road travellers' site:** Please see the front page for details of the refusal of the planning applications.

**Parish Councillors:** If you would like to know more about becoming a Parish Councillor, please contact the Parish Clerk or talk to any of the other councillors.

***As The Leys has now been turned into a play area, please take extra care to clear up after your dog.  
Thanks to those who already do.***

## **Stanton Harcourt and Sutton Ultra-Fast Broadband – almost there, but need your help**

It is now almost a year since we formed the Stanton Harcourt and Sutton Ultra-Fast Broadband Group, with the goal of providing the Village with a state-of-the-art fibre optic broadband network. We identified and recommended Gigaclear's pure fibre network as the only viable solution, and have been working hard since then to reach Gigaclear's target of 140 sign-ups that will trigger the design and installation of the network. 140 households represents ~30% of the Stanton Harcourt and Sutton community and is the minimum level of take-up for the project to be financially viable.

In mid June, we had 107 orders confirmed with Gigaclear, with another 10 or so anticipated from recent discussions. This would get us to 117, leaving us just 23 more to get us across the finishing line! There continues to be a slow but steady trickle of new sign-ups.

We are now very close to hitting the target and joining communities including Appleton with Eaton, Fyfield and Tubney, Frilford, Cothill and Garford, and Otmoor, which are already either enjoying or about to enjoy all the benefits of high speed connectivity such as:

- Fast internet browsing
- HD video streaming
- Catch-up TV such as BBC iPlayer
- High-quality and low-cost phone connections
- Skype
- The ability to download and upload unlimited data at ultra-fast speeds.

However, we also know that there are many other communities nearby and further afield that are doing what we're doing now, and desperate to get ahead of us in the queue. We need to make sure that Stanton Harcourt and Sutton do not fall down the priority list so must make our 140 target as soon as possible.

So, please, encourage your friends, family and neighbours to sign up without further delay so that we can get the planning phase underway and set a date to break ground and start the installation. If you have any questions or would like more information, please feel free to contact any of the Group members.

Nigel Elliott [nigelv8@btinternet.com](mailto:nigelv8@btinternet.com)

## Combe Mill Events

**Sunday 21 July** – Blacksmiths at Combe

**Sunday 18 Aug** – Water power at Combe

**Sunday 15 Sep** – Steam on Wheels

**Sunday 20 Oct** – Country Crafts and Skills

For news of everything going on at Combe Mill take a look at [www.combemill.org](http://www.combemill.org)

## Men's Breakfast and Ladies' Lunch

**Men's Breakfast: Saturday 13 July** at the Red Lion, Northmoor. Please book with Phil Birkett on 300545.

**Ladies' Lunch: Tuesday 2 July.** For bookings, please call Lilian Wetherald on 300523.

## The Harcourt Arms

Regular menu offers:

**Tuesday Night** ~ Pizza night ~ £8.95 pp

**Wednesday Lunch Offer** ~ senior lunch £7.50 for 2 courses or 3 for £10.00

**Wednesday Night** ~ Fish, chips and proper mushy peas ~ buy one at £10.50 and get the second for half price

**Thursday Night** ~ Steak night from £8.95 pp incl 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: [ahales@btinternet.com](mailto:ahales@btinternet.com) and [calleyone@hotmail.com](mailto:calleyone@hotmail.com)

## St Michael's Church

**Rev Sarah Sharp**

☎ 01865 880249 ✉ [s550sharp@btinternet.com](mailto:s550sharp@btinternet.com)

July

7 9.30 am Parish Communion with Sunday School  
14 10.30 am Benefice Communion in Yelford *with a talk on SCOP (Spirituality of Older People) by Alison Shaw*  
21 10.30 am All Age Worship  
No Late 8ers this month  
28 8.00 am Holy Communion

August

4 9.30 am Parish Communion  
11 10.30 am Benefice Communion in Standlake *with a talk by Rev Michael Farthing on receiving the Maundy money*  
18 10.30 am All Age Worship and baptisms  
25 8.00 am Holy Communion  
7.00 pm Late 8ers BBQ at the Rectory

**The Four Pilgrims' Progress: Weds 17 July at 7.30 pm at Standlake School:** From the pilgrims who travelled to the Holy Land with Bishop John. Relax over light refreshments and see photographs, a scrapbook and guidebooks etc. Come and hear about the historic churches and sites, and about the 'living stones' – the small minority of Christians working and worshipping in the Holy Land today. All welcome!

**Children's Workshop: Friday 9 August at 10.00 am – 12.00 noon in Stanton Harcourt Church:** For all primary-aged children. £1.

**Jelly and Cakes for Pre-schoolers and Families: Monday 12 August at 3.00–4.30 pm on the Rectory Lawn:** Sadly, this event will be cancelled if it is wet.

## Sutton Methodist Chapel

Contact: Rita Stockill ☎ 01865 880200

July

7 10.00 am Mr I Prince, Family Service  
14 10.00 am Local arrangement  
21 10.00 am Mrs S Bristow  
28 10.00 am Rev R Donoghue, incl Holy Comm

August

4 10.00 am Mrs M Broadberry, Family Service  
11 10.00 am Mr O Carney  
18 10.00 am Mr A Maisey  
25 10.00 am Mr E Fowler

**Weds 3 July and 7 Aug:** 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

**Fr Martin Flatman**

☎ 07719 646790 ✉ [fmartinflatman@gmail.com](mailto:fmartinflatman@gmail.com)

**Services:** Sunday Mass 10.00 am with a Children's Liturgy  
Saturday 7.30 pm; Monday 5.30 pm; Tuesday 7.30 pm;  
Wednesday 9.30 am; Thursday 12 noon; Friday 6.00 am.

**Barbecue and Fête:** Sun 14 July from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm.

## And finally ...

### ... it's goodbye from us

As Linda and I complete this issue, it looks hopeful that *Village Voice* will continue in September, although we're not sure of the arrangements yet. In the meantime, we would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has contributed to VV over the past five years. Have a great summer!

## Parish Council information

All official communications should be addressed to the Parish Clerk: Trudi Gasser, 5 Woodlands, Standlake, Oxon, OX29 7RA.

☎ 01865 301720 ✉ [trudigasser@rocketmail.com](mailto:trudigasser@rocketmail.com)

Parish Council website: <http://www.wospweb.com/site/Stanton-Harcourt-Parish-Council>

Thank you to this month's contributors.

## Currently a September issue deadline has not been confirmed

*Published on behalf of Stanton Harcourt Parish Council by Phil and Linda Loder, 25 Bury Mead, Stanton Harcourt, OX29 5SD.*

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