

# Village Voice

The Newsletter of Stanton Harcourt & Sutton  
March 2025

\*\*\*THERE IS A VACANT SEAT ON THE PARISH COUNCIL – CLICK OR VISIT THE LINK BELOW FOR DETAILS\*\*\*

<https://tinyurl.com/87dj4hwu>

## March 2025

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup>, 8.00am**, Men's Breakfast, The Harcourt Arms

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7.30pm**, Parish Council Meeting, John Holland Rom, SH Village Hall

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>, 10am to 12pm**, Coffee at the Chapel

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup>, 12pm to 2pm**, Village Market, Village Hall

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>, 7pm**, Sutton Singers Open Mic Night, Village Hall

## April 2025

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>, 8.00am**, Men's Breakfast, The Harcourt Arms

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>, 7.00pm**, Saturday Night at the Movies, WOW, Village Hall

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup>, 7.30pm**, Parish Council Meeting, The Old Guardroom

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup>, 10am to 12pm**, Coffee at the Chapel

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup>, 12pm to 2pm**, Village Market, Village Hall

## Regulars (please see back page)

**Every Thursday** – Lunch Club

**Every Monday and Thursday** – Yoga with Alison Usher-Wilson

**Every Tuesday (term time)** – 7pm Sutton Singers

**Every Tuesday and Wednesday** – Pilates with Nicky Holmes

**Every Tuesday** – Senior Badminton (Tony Baker on 0x 882576)

**Every Thursday (term time)** – Zumba

## Parish Council News

### Roof Insulation

Since the last edition of the Village Voice, I am pleased to inform you that The Old Guard Room has now had its roof fully insulated. Absolute Solar completed the work a few weeks ago, and now we have a warmer room for residents to use.

### Planning Application

A planning application has been submitted in Blackditch for the erection of seven dwellings with associated works to include new access road, carports, parking bays and soft and hard landscaping.

The parish council has objected strongly to the scheme on the following grounds: environmental impact, traffic and transportation impact, increased noise levels and pollution, the effect on the character and appearance of the area, sustainability, and the impact on local amenities and services. The parish council has urged the planning authority to refuse the application.

Best Wishes

Councillor Sandra Cosier

## Monthly Report from West Oxford District Councillor Steve Cosier (SASH)

In January I attended WODC's Lowland Planning Committee and spoke on behalf of residents living on The Old Airfield to ensure that Hayfield and any future management company maintain and enhance biodiversity and ensure long-term management in perpetuity.

After two years Hayfields finally submitted amended soft-landscaping plans. Thanks to the support and patience of residents, I was able to ensure that approved remedial works will be carried out under the strict supervision of a professional ecologist. These works include integrating Bat roosting features and bird nesting opportunities, as well as, making sure that if any trees or shrubs planted as part of the landscaping die or are seriously damaged or destroyed within 5 years of completion, they will be replaced with equivalent species and properly maintained. Also, a hedgerow will be finally planted along the southern edge of the site to the adjacent cricket ground, and it was agreed that the wildflower meadow areas could be cut more regularly for the next 2 years or so to help them to re-establish.

I will of course be monitoring the soft landscaping situation, as The Old Airfield site has much to offer for all residents of Sutton, and Stanton Harcourt, and will make sure Hayfields and the planner adhere to the new planning permission.

### Noise: D&M plant hire Ltd – Dix Pits

Residents might have heard some loud thumping recently coming from the direction of Dix Pits. The noise was the breaking up of concrete by D&M Plant hire. Residents contacted me in Stanton Harcourt and Northmoor about the noise, and I duly spoke to WODC's principal planner. The company has a license to recycle aggregate and soils, but operation compliance falls under OCC. I contact OCC Councillor Dan Levy on resident's behalf and as I write the excess noise has stopped. However, I will be listening out for any future noise disturbance and will act accordingly if it resumes.

As always if anyone would like to speak to me about district council issues, then please email me on:

[steve.cosier@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:steve.cosier@westoxon.gov.uk)

Take care, Steve

## County Council Update from Councillor Dan Levy Local Government reorganisation

The government has decided that local government will be reorganised. There will be a Mayoral Combined Authority, with responsibilities in areas like public transport and inward investment. It is likely to cover roughly the same area as Thames Valley Police.

There will be an end to two tier areas. So WODC and Oxfordshire County Council will disappear. There will be one or more unitary authorities fulfilling all council matters, including planning, bins, adult social care, children's services and highways.

The government has said that these new councils should have at least 500,000 residents each. The most sensible thing would be to have a single Oxfordshire unitary authority. That would avoid having to split up complicated and critical services like social services.

Oxford City Council has declared that it wants Oxfordshire to be split into an inner core and outer ring, with the central Oxford authority being Oxford and part of each of the surrounding districts. This would have to extend at least as far as Witney. We need to put initial proposals to government

by the end of March, and final ones by the end of November, with an expected start date of May 2027. Council elections will take place on May 1 this year. They will be under the new boundaries established by the Electoral Commission. I will be standing for the Eynsham Division, which includes Stanton Harcourt.

#### Budget

The County Council passed its budget on 11 February. The budget is balanced, prudent and also ambitious. Among other measures were £60m for roads maintenance, £4m in flood measures, and the restoration of annual gulley cleaning which was reduced to once every 4 years by the previous administration. There is additional money for early intervention and support for under 5s, for SEND provision, as well as money for enhancing market towns including Witney, and for active travel in rural areas. You will start to see road conditions being fixed, as the weather improves, starting with the major roads.

#### Your West Oxfordshire District Councillors are:

Steve Cosier

- Email: [steve.cosier@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:steve.cosier@westoxon.gov.uk)

#### Your Oxfordshire County Councillor is:

Dan Levy

- Mobile: 07852 748362
- Email: [dan.levy@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:dan.levy@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

#### Your Member of Parliament is:

Charlie Maynard

- Email: [charlie.maynard.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:charlie.maynard.mp@parliament.uk)

#### Your Parish Councillors are:

James Coleman // [james@shpc.co.uk](mailto:james@shpc.co.uk)

Sandra Cosier // [sandra@shpc.co.uk](mailto:sandra@shpc.co.uk)

Keith Hickson (chair) // [keith@shpc.co.uk](mailto:keith@shpc.co.uk)

Geoff Webster // [geoff@shpc.co.uk](mailto:geoff@shpc.co.uk)

Joe Deane // [joe@shpc.co.uk](mailto:joe@shpc.co.uk)

#### Parish Council Information:

All official communications should be addressed to the Parish Clerk: Trudi Gasser, 5 Woodlands, Standlake, Oxon, OX29 7RA. [clerk@shpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@shpc.co.uk)

#### Anne Tupper

It is with sadness we share that Anne Tupper sadly died on Saturday 15th February 2025. Beloved wife of Eric, Ann lived in Stanton Harcourt for many years before moving to Cirencester to be nearer family. She was a dedicated villager, serving as Parish Clerk on the Stanton Harcourt Parish Council for many years and was friend to many. Details of the funeral are not known at this time. Please feel free to contact Jan Tomlinson who will in due course have details of the funeral. [janviv28@gmail.com](mailto:janviv28@gmail.com) / 01865 881709

### Church Times

#### St Michael's, Stanton Harcourt

#### Lower Windrush Benefice

\*\*\*Evening Prayer said most Mondays and Thursdays at 4pm\*\*\*

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March  
0830 Holy Communion (BCP)

Wednesday evenings at 8:30pm we have a short service of Compline via Zoom. Thursday mornings we have Early Bird Prayer at 7:30am via Zoom. All Zoom codes can be found on [www.lowerwindrushbenefice.org](http://www.lowerwindrushbenefice.org)

For more information about all services taking place in the Benefice (Stanton Harcourt, Northmoor, Standlake, Yelford) please visit the Lower Windrush Benefice website: [www.lowerwindrushbenefice.org](http://www.lowerwindrushbenefice.org)

#### Sutton Chapel

Sun 9<sup>th</sup> March  
3.00pm Holy Communion, led by Rev'd Sue Jacobs

#### St Peter's Roman Catholic Church Eynsham

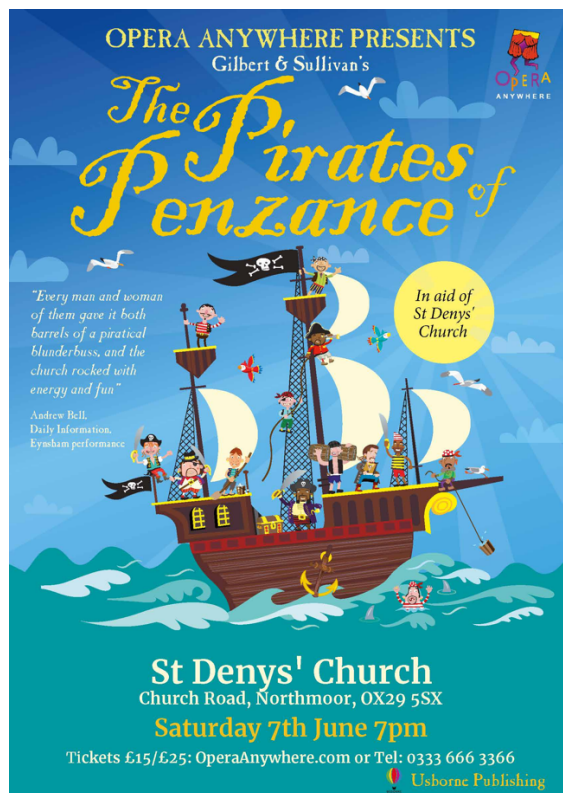
For information about services at St Peter's please visit [www.stpeterseynsham.org.uk/](http://www.stpeterseynsham.org.uk/)

#### Lower Windrush History Club

Lower Windrush History Club meetings all start at 7.30pm on the dates below. Visitors are very welcome to attend, for just £5/person on the door.

- Standlake Village Hall 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025: History of afternoon tea.
- Stanton Harcourt Village Hall 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025: Life on the Home Front

For more details email [lwhscommittee@gmail.com](mailto:lwhscommittee@gmail.com)



#### First and Last Mile

First and Last Mile are pleased to announce that the 471 direct bus service to Witney now runs on a Friday as well as Wednesday. The bus leaves Flexneys Paddock at 09:41 and returns from Witney Market Square at 12:00. Passengers can catch the bus from Sutton Lane or by request from Halifax Way or The Green.

#### Witney Music Society

The final Witney Music Society concert in its 2024/2025 season will be given by Trio Isimsiz, an acclaimed piano trio. Their programme features works by Haydn, Brahms and Schubert. The concert is at 7.30pm on Friday 14 March at High Street Methodist Church, Witney. Tickets (£18, £1 for under 19s) will be available at the door from 7pm or in advance online. For more information, please telephone 01993 898020 or visit the Witney Music Society website [www.witneymusicsociety.org.uk](http://www.witneymusicsociety.org.uk)

#### Sutton Singers

Our Open Mic Night is happening again on 28.3.25 at 7pm - 9pm, at Stanton Harcourt Village Hall. Cost £5 per person to cover hall rental, musical director fee and to raise funds for Sutton Singers. Please come along if you want an opportunity to sing or play to others or if you just fancy an evening of listening to song and music. Bring your own drinks and snacks, there will be a raffle and lots of fabulous music. Sutton Singers will sing a few songs but everyone who wants a go at singing or playing will have a chance. How long you get to sing will depend on how many want to perform but prepare about 10-15 minutes. If lots of folk want to sing it may be slightly shorter. Do get in touch on details above if you want to perform. If we are having fun we might go on a little later than 9pm!!

## **Defibrillator Installed at the Old Airfield in Memory of**

### **Kevin Watts**

Kim and her family would like to thank everyone who donated in memory of Kevin. We are pleased to report that the defibrillator (AED) has already been installed on the outside of the Old Guardroom and is registered and ready for use.

Here is a link to a professionally recorded demonstration training session of the AED including FAQs. This can be downloaded and shared remotely with others: <https://vimeo.com/557677120/e7524918c5>

We plan to organise Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Training later in the year for anyone interested in learning this life skill. If you are interested please let us know, so we can determine the level of interest: [info@physiquepilates.co.uk](mailto:info@physiquepilates.co.uk)

We hope the community will find it reassuring to know that we now have two defibrillators in the village available 24/7, should they ever be needed. At the Millennium Village Hall and the Old Guardroom. There is also a third defibrillator at the school but is only accessible during school opening hours. Thank you, Jacqui and Nicky.



### **Stanton Harcourt and Sutton Summer Festival 2025 “A Century of Television”**

A reminder that Festival 2025 will be celebrating the joys of television! The key dates to remember are:

**Festival Events: 14th June to 22nd Jun**

**Festival Day: Saturday 21st June 2025**

#### **Festival Royals – Attendant required!**

Emma Apps will be crowned “Festival Queen” on Festival Day this year. We are looking for an attendant to accompany Emma on the Royal Float and become Festival King/Queen in 2025. If you are in school year 7 or above and would like to be our Festival Attendant, email your details to [jowilby@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jowilby@hotmail.co.uk) before 6pm on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March. We will announce the name of our attendant in May's edition of Village Voice. Our Festival Prince and Princess will also be chosen in a draw that will be made at Stanton Harcourt School before Easter.

#### **A Century of Television - Scarecrow Competition**

The Scarecrows are back for Festival 2025! We will be offering prizes for the best TV themed Scarecrows on display in gardens in the weeks leading up to festival this summer so start planning your display now!

#### **Village gardeners – Plants and cuttings required!**

The Festival committee will be running a plant stall again on Festival Day and would very much welcome any donations of plants in June. As you all start to sow your seedlings or take cuttings over the spring perhaps you could sow a few extra seeds and donate some plants to us in the summer. Many Thanks!

#### **Festival Week Events**

If you or your village organisation would like to hold an event during the week, get in touch with Keith Hickson (07764 132178, email [keith@shpc.co.uk](mailto:keith@shpc.co.uk)) who is co-ordinating the event schedule for the week. Hosting a festival event is a great way to raise funds for your organisation or for your favourite charity.

#### **Festival Day Stalls**

If you would like to have a stall on the field on Festival Day then please contact Lucy on 07775 604466 or email

[lucylowe1974@gmail.com](mailto:lucylowe1974@gmail.com)

#### **Programme Booklet**

If you are involved in a local business and would like to place an advert in the Festival Programme booklet then contact Gill [gill@gillmason.com](mailto:gill@gillmason.com)

For other information about Festival email Jo Wilby at [jowilby@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jowilby@hotmail.co.uk)

#### **The Festival Committee**

### **Reducing the Risk**

#### **ARE YOU EFFECTED BY DOMESTIC ABUSE?**

##### **Do you need help and support?**

##### **If you are in immediate danger, call 999**

- Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Helpline 0800 731 0055 (open Mon to Fri 10am to 7pm)
- National Domestic Abuse Helpline 0808 2000 247 (open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)
- Victims First 0300 1234 148
- Men's Advice Line 0808 8010 327 (open Mon to Fri 10am to 5pm)

##### **More information and help available at**

[www.reducingtherisk.org.uk](http://www.reducingtherisk.org.uk)

#### **Village Shop & Post Office**

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



Stanton Harcourt Royal British Legion  
are celebrating

### **VE80**

7pm till 11.45 on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

The Village Hall, Stanton Harcourt, OX29 5SB

Join us for an evening of music and dancing with the Clive Fortune Big Band, a licensed bar and a Fish and Chip Van.

Option to dress in the fashion of the 1940's

Tickets Cost £12/per person

Tickets can now be purchased online at:

<https://buytickets.at/theroyalbritishlegion/1578846>



Deadline for next issue is 20th of the month  
[village-voice@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:village-voice@hotmail.co.uk)

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### Village Market & Cafe 2025

Our monthly Market & Café is back from February – a very popular meeting place for villagers to enjoy coffee or bacon rolls & soup and browse the stalls. It's all in aid of Village Hall funds, so a good village cause, that warrants everyone's support! Dates for your diary...

**March 8th**  
**April 12th**  
**May 10th**  
**June 14th**  
**July 12th**

**August 9th**  
**September 13th**  
**October 11th**  
**November 8th**  
**December 13th**

### Café at the Chapel

Every first  
Wednesday of the month



**Wednesday 5th March**  
**10.00 – 12.00**

FRESH ROASTED COFFEE / SELECTION OF TEAS  
TOASTED TEACAKES, CRUMPETS AND HOT BUTTERED  
TOAST.

BOOKS AND GIFTS SALE TABLE TO BROWSE  
WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU!

**Community Action Plan for Zero-Carbon Energy (CAPZero)**, the first in the UK. It shows how a cluster of communities in West Oxfordshire can create a zero-carbon energy system in their area by taking action now. More here: [www.lowcarbonhub.org/cap-zero](http://www.lowcarbonhub.org/cap-zero)  
Your parish is covered by this Plan, and we'd love for local residents to come to our free Big Home Energy Day on Saturday, 22 March, 2-5pm, at Eynsham Village Hall.

Join us at our Big Home Energy Day this March to find out how to make your home warmer and cut your bills, plus your chance to sign up for a discounted home energy assessment.

As part of our [Community Action Plan for Zero-Carbon Energy](http://www.lowcarbonhub.org/cap-zero), this event will include advice, talks and stalls for the Eynsham community, including;

- What changes people in your community have made to their homes
- Easy ways to save energy and reduce your bills
- Financial support for making upgrades to your home
- Community transport initiatives
- How you can get involved in local projects

Plus, there'll be the opportunity to **try out a thermal imaging camera** which can show you where a building loses its heat, get more **information about solar panels, heat pumps, batteries** and other low carbon tech, and **speak to energy advisors**.

If you're bringing smaller members of the community (or particularly arty ones!) we'll have a resident face-painter on duty, with plenty of snacks and drinks available as well as prizes to be won.

- **Free Event**
- **2-5pm, Eynsham Village Hall, Sat March 22nd**
- **Everyone welcome!**

## Wild Oxfordshire

Our hedgehogs will be waking up this month. With the unpredictable weather, their hibernation patterns are less certain but usually they won't go back into hibernation now until the winter. This means they will be hungry and thirsty after a long dormant period and will need to build their fat reserves and energy ready for the breeding season.

- You can put out meat-based cat food for hedgehogs (with meat not fish). Go Cat dried cat biscuits are recommended as an easy option by the Kirtlington Hedgehog Highway group.

- Put out the food at dusk and remove any that's left the following morning so it doesn't go bad

- You can use a hedgehog feeding station to prevent cats from eating all the food. These include a right angle that the hedgehog has to use as they can bend at this angle easily whereas a cat cannot.

- Put out shallow water dishes or accessible ponds for hedgehogs to drink from

- Natural food sources come from our slugs, snails and other invertebrates. Do not use slug pellets or insecticides as these will also harm hedgehogs that eat the infected 'pests'.

- Rats? I had rats come into my garden, so I didn't put out hedgehog food. I had to rely on the invertebrates to feed the hedgehogs. Fortunately, I had a hedgehog forage in my lettuce patch most nights and I ended up with very healthy, pest-free lettuce!

### THE THURSDAY CLUB

We meet every Thursday at Northmoor Village Hall between 12:00 and 2 pm. **COOKS NEEDED.** We have several local volunteer cooks who work on a rota basis providing traditional food, but need more people to help ease the pressure on our existing cooks. If you feel you could help out generally or by cooking dinners or puddings, please contact Anna on 01865 881363 / Michael on 01865 3004480 or pop in and see us one week between 12.00pm and 2.00pm

### Zumba Classes

Thursday evenings 6.30pm- Stanton Harcourt Village Hall ( term time ) if you love to dance, learn new routines, make new friends while having fun & getting fit, you'll love zumba- all abilities welcome. Classes are £6 per session. For more information please contact Debbie 07733081620/ [debbiepargeter@gmail.com](mailto:debbiepargeter@gmail.com)

### Pilates with Nicky Holmes

Tuesdays – 5.15pm / Village Hall

Wednesdays – 10.10am and 11.20am, Guards Room

Classes start from £10 for a 6 week course – personal tuition is also available

[www.physiquepilates.co.uk](http://www.physiquepilates.co.uk)

[info@physiquepilates.co.uk](mailto:info@physiquepilates.co.uk)

Tel : 07949 764 966

### Village Yoga 🌸🧘‍♀️

- Mondays 6.15-7.15pm The Old Guardroom, Stanton Harcourt (please contact before coming)
- Thursdays 10-11am Stanton Harcourt Village Hall Drop In, no booking needed
- Wednesday Seated/Standing Class / Change of Venue now at The Old Guardroom, Wednesdays 2.30-3.30pm

Please contact me before coming along as there is a break in March, and feel free to contact me, Alison, with any questions or for more information, 0789 002 6446 or via [alison@peacefulexistence.co.uk](mailto:alison@peacefulexistence.co.uk)

Peaceful Existence Yoga and Massage, based in Sutton xx

### Sutton Singers.

Sutton Singers meet on Tuesdays during term time at 7pm.

Would you like to sing? Come and join in the joy and fun of singing together? No auditions needed. We welcome new members, have parties sometimes and our Musical Director –

Lizzie Soden – is a joy to work with, fun, encouraging and says everyone can sing! If you just love singing but are not so keen on performance we are the choir for you! As a Community Choir we welcome everyone, and you never know – you may end up being inspired to perform?

Get in touch with Jan Tomlinson on phone: 01865 881709 or email: [janandpaultomlinson@gmail.com](mailto:janandpaultomlinson@gmail.com)

**We are currently working towards our performance at Chipping Norton Music Festival in March. Come along and join in the fun whether or not you want to perform at Chippy.**