

Village Voice

The Newsletter of Stanton Harcourt & Sutton

July 2025 / August 2025

July 2025

Wednesday 2nd, 10am to 12pm, Coffee at the Chapel

Saturday 5th, 8.00am, Men's Breakfast, The Harcourt Arms

Monday 7th, 7.30pm, Parish Council Meeting, The Old Guardroom.

Saturday 12th

10.30am to 12pm, Litter Picking, Village Hall

12pm to 2pm, Village Market, Village Hall

Saturday 26th, 12pm to 10pm, Stanton Harcourt Beer Festival, St Michael's Church

August 2025

Saturday 2nd, 8.00am, Men's Breakfast, The Harcourt Arms

Wednesday 6th, 10am to 12pm, Coffee at the Chapel

Saturday 9th, 12pm to 2pm, Village Market, Village Hall (NB no litter picking this month)

September 2025

Monday 1st, 7.30pm, Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall

Wednesday 3rd, 10am to 12pm, Coffee at the Chapel

Saturday 6th, 8.00am, Men's Breakfast, The Harcourt Arms

Saturday 13th

10.30am to 12pm, Litter Picking, Village Hall

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

Thank You for a Fantastic Festival Week

A huge congratulations to the Festival Committee and everyone involved in delivering such a brilliant week of activities, culminating in a spectacular parade and festival day. The creativity and effort that went into the scarecrow trail were especially impressive — from Homer Simpson to Worzel Gummidge, and all the wonderful characters in between. A special shoutout must go to *Speed Kill Bill* — a standout entry that definitely turned heads (and caused the traffic to slow through Sutton!)

Progress on Speed Awareness and Weight Restriction Campaigns

Over recent weeks, the Parish Council has been making steady progress on two long-standing issues affecting our community: HGV weight restrictions and road safety through speed awareness.

District Councillor Steve Cosier, Cllr Geoff Webster (Vice Chair of Stanton Harcourt Parish Council), and representatives from Sutton recently met with a senior official from Oxfordshire County Council to explore the introduction of HGV weight limits in Sutton. As a result, plans are now underway for a follow-up meeting involving all the relevant departments — including enforcement and transport — to identify the most practical way forward.

We are also working with our County Councillor, Dan Levy, to see how this initiative might align with other county-wide infrastructure and transport priorities. This may allow us to trial a scheme first, giving us a chance to assess its effectiveness before any permanent decision is made. In support of this, we've contacted Paul Fermer, Director of Environment, Highways and Transport, to ensure the matter receives the senior oversight it deserves.

In addition, we've responded to residents' concerns regarding the recent HGV planning application in Standlake. Although our objection was ultimately unsuccessful, we have asked Oxfordshire County Council to consider putting in place a routing restriction to minimise future disruption to our village. Meanwhile, progress is being made on our Speed Awareness Signs (VAS). On Friday 4th July, a unit will be installed in Stanton Harcourt, with groundwork in Sutton taking place shortly afterwards in preparation for a second unit. These signs are a key part of our efforts to improve road safety and reduce speeding through the villages.

We've also been in touch with Cottsway Housing regarding the broken fencing at the bottom of Blackditch/Quoits Close, and we're pleased to report that repairs have now been scheduled.

New Website and Email Addresses for Stanton Harcourt Parish Council

We're excited to announce the launch of our new official website:

🔗 www.stanton-harcourt-pc.gov.uk

This will serve as the central hub for all Parish Council information — including meeting agendas and minutes, local updates, planning news, and more.

As part of this upgrade, councillors' email addresses are also being updated to a more secure and consistent format:

firstname@stanton-harcourt-pc.gov.uk (e.g. **geoff@stanton-harcourt-pc.gov.uk** etc.)

Please do update your records. The new site and email system will help improve transparency, protect your data, and make it easier to contact your local representatives.

Accessibility – Large Text Versions of the Village Voice

A few residents have asked whether a large print version of *The Village Voice* is available. If you or someone you know would benefit from this, please contact the editor — we'd be happy to explore options to make it more accessible.

If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas you'd like to share, don't hesitate to reach out. We're here to help and always happy to hear from residents.

Stanton Harcourt Parish Council

Monthly Report from West Oxford District From Councillor Sandra Cosier (SASH)

Fire at Dix Pits:

I would like to begin this month's report by taking the opportunity to pay tribute to the local Fire Service for their actions in extinguishing a fire at Dix Pits this month. The fire causes significant damage to one of the buildings on the site and thankfully no one was injured. The fire is now being

investigated by the specialist Thames Valley Fire Service Investigation Unit.

S106 Funds

I would like to remind residents and groups in the Stanton Harcourt and Sutton about the **S106 sport and leisure funding**. The funding is specifically earmarked to support and improve community sports and recreational facilities to help residents.

If you have an idea then the council would like to hear from residents, local groups, and clubs within Stanton Harcourt and Sutton. Whether it is a much-needed upgrade, a new initiative to bring people together through sport, or a project you have been hoping to bring to life

To discuss a proposal or submit an idea, please email:

S106@westoxon.gov.uk

If you would like any help with your submission or want to chat about a project, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

Festival Week - 2025

As the bunting comes down Steve and I would just want to say a massive thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Stanton Harcourt and Sutton Festival such a joyful celebration of village life.

The festival was a real celebration of our villages and none of it would have been possible without the assistance, and creativity of so many volunteers and our wonderful committee members. And of course, every resident and guest who came along, reminding us of what community really means. Thank you.

If you would like to speak to me, please contact me:

sandra.cosier@westoxon.gov.uk

Kind Regards...Sandra

District Councillor's Report – Cllr Steve Cosier

My report this month focuses on public consultation. It is important that resident's view are listened to. It would be great to hear your views on the surveys below.

Have your say on a new future for local government in Oxfordshire

Oxfordshire County Council is inviting residents to give their views on a proposed shift to a single unitary council—Oxfordshire Council—which would take responsibility for all local services. This change would replace the current two-tier system made up of six councils. The government wants to simplify local government to improve service delivery and efficiency. A single council would handle everything from highways, libraries, and education to waste collection, housing, planning, and parks—providing joined-up services across the county.

The options:

One unitary council – Oxfordshire Council (the County Council's preferred option)

Two councils – Oxford and Shires Council (Cherwell, Oxford City, West Oxfordshire) & Ridgeway Council (South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse, West Berkshire)

Three councils – Greater Oxford, plus separate northern and southern unitaries including West Berkshire.

How this could benefit residents: A single council could:

- Improve service coordination
- Reduce bureaucracy
- Deliver savings that can be reinvested locally
- Provide simpler access to services

Your opinions are important. Fill out the online survey before 11:59pm on Sunday 27 July 2025. Your input will help shape the final proposal, which will be sent to the government by 28 November 2025.

Go to: <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation>

Have your Say: What Should West Oxfordshire Look Like in 2041? West Oxfordshire District Council wants to hear from you about the future of our local area. A new Local Plan is being developed, and the Council is asking for your views on what should be included.

The Local plan sets out what gets built and where—like homes, schools, roads and green spaces. It also shapes how we deal with things like climate change, the local economy, and nature recovery. This plan will guide decisions in West Oxfordshire up to the year 2041.

The Council has shared its early ideas on housing, transport, the environment, health, and more. It's not a final plan yet and they want your feedback before writing the next version later this year.

As your District Councillors Sandra and I want you to speak up about what matters to you in Stanton Harcourt and Sutton like making homes more affordable, improving transport, and protecting what makes our towns and villages special.

This part of the plan does not include maps or lists of where new homes or buildings might go—that will come in a later consultation. Right now, it's all about setting the direction and getting the policies right.

The consultation runs from 26 June to 8 August. You can read the document and have your say here:

yourvoice.westoxon.gov.uk

If you would like to speak to me about the two surveys, and or any other West Oxford District Council matter please contact me:

steve.cosier@westoxon.gov.uk

Best wishes

Steve

Your Parish Councillors are

James Coleman // jim@stanton-harcourt-pc.gov.uk

Sandra Cosier // sandra@stanton-harcourt-pc.gov.uk

Keith Hickson (chair) // keith@stanton-harcourt-pc.gov.uk

Geoff Webster // geoff@stanton-harcourt-pc.gov.uk

Joe Deane // joe@stanton-harcourt-pc.gov.uk

Robin Morley // robin@stanton-harcourt-pc.gov.uk

Parish Council Information: All official communications

should be addressed to the Parish Clerk: Trudi Gasser, 5 Woodlands, Standlake, Oxon, OX29 7RA. clerk@stanton-harcourt-pc.gov.uk

Your West Oxfordshire District Councillors are:

Sandra Cosier

- Email: sandra.cosier@westoxon.gov.uk

Steve Cosier

- Email: steve.cosier@westoxon.gov.uk

Your Oxfordshire County Councillor is:

Dan Levy

- Mobile: 07852 748362
- Email: dan.levy@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Your Member of Parliament is:

Charlie Maynard

- Email: charlie.maynard.mp@parliament.uk

Are you looking for a way that you could support your local community?

Can you spare 2-3 hours per month plus 4 meetings a year?

We are looking for a new volunteer Treasurer (over 18 years of age) to help keep St Michael's Church open for all villagers. We would love to hear from you if you have reasonable financial competence, the ability to maintain basic accounts on a spreadsheet and prepare annual financial statements. The Treasurer does not have to be a member of the Parochial Church Council. The PCC have the duty of raising and spending money to meet their responsibilities and the Treasurer implements these decisions. Training and support will be given.

We look forward to hearing from you.

For further information please contact Mavis

Ives mayvisives6064@gmail.com or Rev Jo

Judson rector@lowerwindrushbenefice.org



Café at the Chapel

Every first
Wednesday of the month

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!





Church Times

St Michael's, Stanton Harcourt Lower Windrush Benefice

July 6th 8.30am Holy Communion followed by breakfast - all welcome

July 13th 10am Holy Communion

August 3rd 8.30am Holy Communion followed by breakfast - all welcome

August 10th 10am Holy Communion

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

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

Sutton Chapel

Sun 13 July, 3pm – Rev. Charles Harris, Holy Communion

St Peter's Roman Catholic Church Eynsham

For information about services at St Peter's please visit www.stpeterseysham.org.uk/

Freeland Orchestra, West Oxfordshire Clarinets & Stanton Harcourt School children. **Saturday 14th June 2025**

On the opening night of the Summer Festival we were given a whole century of TV in music! Forget the June tennis and the football; what we had was musical sunshine, warmth and smiles, and some laughter too in front of a packed audience.

A truly creative concert by Freeland Orchestra and West Oxfordshire Clarinets, covering lollipops from the TV, mixed with adverts and signature tunes. The programme itself was effectively illustrated by Mark Barnard from the village, who had cleverly inserted little tiles and icons to trigger our memories.

Music ranged from The Lone Ranger (Rossini's William Tell), Monty Python, Jonathan Creek, Eurovision Song Contest, Antiques Roadshow and Dad's Army to the Apprentice (Prokofiev's Romeo & Juliet) with lots of children's programmes like Blue Peter, Top Cat, Mr Benn, Thunderbirds and Wallace and Gromit thrown in for good measure. Not forgetting the sporty offerings of Horse of the Year Show (Mozart's Musical Joke) and Match of the Day. In total we were treated to 24 TV musical memories.

The children from Stanton Harcourt school sat with rapt attention through the first half of the concert and Wendy Marks, the conductor, kept them entertained with anecdotes associated with the TV themes and characters until it was their turn. They joined the orchestra and sang "Bring Me Sunshine" of Morecambe and Wise fame, with

evident enjoyment and enthusiasm. The whole feeling of positive participation was so infectious, it made us all sit up and sing up when the audience were asked to join in for the final verse. What a great opening for the village festival.

(A. Street)



The Lower Windrush History Club will start their season of talks in October, but in advance of that there is a bonus visit to hear about the history of St Giles Church in Standlake. Meet at the church at 7pm on 2nd September. Donations accepted for the church. For more information email lwshscommittee@gmail.com



Stanton Harcourt and Sutton Summer Festival 2025

"A Century of Television"



Our full week of celebrating "A Century of Television" has drawn to a close and what a fabulous week of entertainment it has been! We hope you enjoyed all of the events and, of course, Festival Day itself! We couldn't miss that Festival had started once the gigantic "Homer Simpson" appeared, parked on his sofa, on the Village Green, surrounded by a plethora of television screens showing some wonderful, and nostalgic, images of previous Festivals. Thank you to Dan Barton and all the Standing With Giants crew who helped the committee with this striking installation. We were absolutely thrilled with your response to the Scarecrow competition. Dozens of houses created some much loved TV character Scarecrows that, safe to say, were a real talking point in the village, so thank you all so much. Our local farmer Phil Barber was the judge this year and we appreciate that it was a hard task for him to choose a winner from so many fantastic figures! After much deliberation, the winner chosen was Postman Pat at Letter Box Cottage with Bill and Ben at Couplings Cottage picked as runners up. Congrats to Steph and Amy for a well-deserved win and Dave and Lucy for a close second. Special commendations were also given to Monty Don at Smithy Cottage, The Rovers Return at Flexneys, The Gingerbread Man on Whitley Way and Worzel Gummidge in the field on New Road. Well done all and thank you to everyone who took part, you really brought the village to life in celebrating our theme.

We were blessed with fabulous (and rather hot) weather all week and had an amazing variety of events taking place. Over the course of the week, we enjoyed:

An orchestra and clarinet concert, a dog show, the church flower festival, tours round the Manor gardens, drinks and teas and coffees in many gardens including: hand bell ringing and "lino cuts" on display, a festival walk, A TV themed pub quiz, a lego display, yoga in the garden, a classic car show, the Sutton Singers concert, bell ringing and supper, cream teas, A FOSHS fiesta, a huge number of pizzas, a toddlers "Duggie" playtime, a guided tour of the church, pictures, plonk and music, yoga at the Quoits and music and, to finish off, a lively night of festivities at the Harcourt Arms! What a week!

We extend a huge thank you to all those who organised and attended events throughout the week.

We will update you on how much money has been raised in due course. Charities and groups that have benefitted from the various fundraising efforts include: The Village Hall, FOSHS, St. Michael's Church, The Methodist Chapel, Sutton Singers, Toddler Group, Thames Valley Air Ambulance, Crohn's/Colitis Charity,

The MS Society, Sunshine Cat Rescue, Cancer Research, Unicef Gaza Children's Emergency Appeal, Stanton Harcourt RBL and Oxpijs,

The weather was set to be scorching for Festival Day so it was a relief to have some cloud cover and a few spots of rain at the start of the afternoon! It was great to see so many people enjoying the Fete on the school field. Well done to everyone who hosted stalls, particularly the VH committee for working tirelessly on the bar and bbq and to everyone who donated plants for the Festival stall, especially Jenny and Leslie for their help organising and running the stall.

Many villagers and children took part in the walking parade and were dressed to the nines in some wonderful costumes. Thanks again to Phil Taylor for storing and providing the Royal Carriage and to Tim Fenna/David Wallom for the "tow"!

The Royal party looked absolutely splendid in their costumes. Congratulations to Emma (Queen), Elodie (Attendant), Harry (Prince) and Alice (Princess).

Steve Tuck was (once again) a brilliant MC in the arena for the afternoon's activities as we were all entertained by traditional Morris Dancing, a song from the school choir and a Martial Arts display. To those of you who volunteered to take part in the Bush Tucker Trials – well done! You were all extremely brave and fabulous sports.

Other prize winners announced on the day were: Lucky Programme Number – 161 (contact Jo – email below to claim the prize). Fancy Dress: Adult – Neil Armstrong (Lunar Winter). Children - SpongeBob Square Pants (Molly Bungay). Well done to all who entered!

There are already some great pictures of the day on both the village and the summer festival FB pages – thank you all for posting pictures and please do keep them coming.

The committee would especially like to thank all those who helped us to get ready for festival day including selling programmes, bunting operations and Marquee duties as well as the big clear up on Sunday. We couldn't do it without all your help and it is much appreciated!

The committee are off for a little rest now but we will be starting to plan Festival 2026 very soon!

We always welcome new committee members to help spread the load for next year. We are particularly looking for someone who might like to take over editor duties for the production of the Festival Programme booklet. Do consider joining us and get in touch if you would like to get involved or have ideas for a theme or events for next year. (Festival contact email jowilby@hotmail.co.uk).

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

SHOP ONLY IS OPEN EVERY DAY

FROM 0800 TO 1000

THE POST OFFICE IS OPEN TUES & SAT

FROM 0800 TO 1000

200 Club

July Draw

1st Prize. £25 292 J Tunney
2nd Prize £12 124 C Bartle
3rd Prize £8 163 Karen Evan's
4th Prize £5 212 D Hibberd

August Draw

1st Prize £25 245 E Hare
2nd Prize £12 251 Sensecal
3rd Prize £8 253 C. Hart
4th Prize £5 259 P Lamb

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...

July 12th
August 9th
September 13th

October 11th
November 8th
December 13th

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 07733 081620/ debbiepargeter@gmail.com

Velvet Soles Foot Health - Foot Care For All

Mobile Foot Health Professional Covering West Oxfordshire. Stanton Harcourt based. Caring, professional foot health service brought to you. Nail trimming & filing - Thickened nail reduction - Corn & callus removal - Verrucae - Diabetic foot care - Conservative ingrown toenail care. Call me to book an appointment on **07998 829457**.

Or email me at jennifer@velvetsoles.co.uk

For more information please visit my website www.velvetsoles.co.uk

Pilates, Personal Training and Breathwork 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. Nicky specialises in rehabilitation from injury, improving posture, strength and flexibility work including breath work and relaxation techniques. Every class is varied, sometimes using equipment, stability balls, weights and foam rollers. Numbers are limited as classes are small and personalised to each individual. info@physiquepilates.co.uk www.physiquepilates.co.uk Tel : 07949 764 966

Anahata Yoga 🌸🌻🌺

Village Yoga

Running over the school holidays with-

Monday 6.15-7.15pm The Old Guardroom, Stanton Harcourt (please contact before coming)

Wednesday 10-11am at The Ferryman Inn, Bablock Hythe- No booking needed, just come along!

Please note this class is by the river, and therefore weather dependent. Other classes to return in September 🍷

I hope everyone has a pleasant and enjoyable summer 🌞

Please contact me for more information 07890 026446 or via

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

Sutton Singers thank everyone who attended our Summer Festival Concert on Tuesday 17th June. We really enjoyed singing and hope you enjoyed listening. The TV Themes quiz was fun and no one got all the answers! But several got 13/12/11 out of 15 Well done all! Hope prize winners enjoyed their chocolate!

We can't wait for The Beer Festival on Saturday 26th July. We are singing at 12.30pm and there will be many other performers as well as lots of beer, don't miss this fabulous event. If you missed us at Festival this is for you!!

Deadline for next issue is 20th of the month
village-voice@hotmail.co.uk

While we try to ensure the accuracy of information in Village Voice, readers use the information at their own risk. Opinions expressed are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the Editor. Inclusion of an advertisement does not indicate endorsement of the product, service or event being advertised.