

The Four Parishes News Magazine

BECKLEY
FOREST HILL
HORTON-cum-STUDLEY
STANTON St JOHN



Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service visits Beckley School

March 2020

The editor writes:



I need to begin with an apology to the staff at Wheatley Library, who were rather surprised to see their list of events for May 2019 published in last months magazine!

March is always a particularly busy month in Forest Hill and I make no apology for encouraging as many people as possible to take advantage of 'Daffodil Day' on 29 March, when you can visit the private gardens

of Shotover House and experience the gorgeous displays of spring bulbs, followed by tea and delicious home-made cake.

On other Sunday afternoons in March, St Nicolas Church in Forest Hill will once again be hosting a series of short concerts, a list of which appears on page 19. These concerts are introduced in a friendly and informative way and they are an ideal opportunity to experience high quality music in relatively small doses. Children and young people are particularly welcome, as is anyone who would appreciate 45 minutes of peaceful listening in an atmosphere of calm and beauty.

There are, of course, many other events listed in this magazine and I would urge you to check them all out and support as many as possible.

Julia Stutfield

All contributions to this magazine are the sole responsibility of the authors and do not imply or represent any official editorial view or endorsement.

Our cover photo ...

was taken by staff at Beckley School. See page 14 for more information.

**If you have taken a photo which you think might be suitable for the cover of the next magazine, please email it to
4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com**

We welcome contributions or notices for future issues.
Please send them to:

Beckley

John Baker Tel: 07401 550537 johnbaker245@btinternet.com

Forest Hill

Linda Goffey Tel: 01865 873078 linda@goffey.co.uk

Horton-cum-Studley

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Stanton St John

Sue Baker Tel: 01865 351449 susanjbaker24@gmail.com

The closing date for the Apr 2020 issue is 15 Mar 2020

The Four Parishes News Magazine is produced under the auspices of our four village churches for the benefit of the whole community. It is funded by advertising revenue, which is used to cover the printing costs.

We are dependent on volunteers to assemble the content, book and invoice the advertisers, compile and edit the magazine, collect it from the printers and distribute it throughout the four parishes. If you are interested in getting involved, please email Julia at 4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com

Recent issues of the magazine are available to view online at
www.stnicolasforesthill.org/four-parishes

The Four Parishes News Magazine has 10 issues per year and is distributed free of charge to approximately 850 addresses in Forest Hill, Horton-cum-Studley, Stanton St John and Beckley.

**To advertise in the magazine please email JULIA
adverts.4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com**

Benefice of Beckley, Forest Hill with Shotover, Horton-cum-Studley and Stanton St John

Ministry Team

We are extremely grateful to all of our volunteer clergy and Licensed Lay Ministers for their generous support during our vacancy. Please contact the Church Wardens in the first instance with any enquiries.

Rev'd Hugh Lee	hugh.lee@btinternet.com Tel: 01865 316245
Rev'd Canon Beau Stevenson	beaumont.stevenson@gmail.com
Rev'd Stephanie Bullock	stephaniebullock9@gmail.com
Rev'd Dr. Elizabeth Hoare	liz.hoare@wycliffe.ox.ac.uk
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Canon Prof. Nicholas Orme LLM	N.I.Orme@exeter.ac.uk Tel: 01865 512676
Joanna Allen (Ordinand)	jo.ordinand@gmail.com

Church Wardens

Beckley

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Betty Dye	Tel: 07910 356343	betty.dye10@gmail.com

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Jane Walker	Tel: 01865 872399	lyttleton@btinternet.com
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Horton-cum-Studley

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Stanton St John

Sheila Pullen	Tel: 01865 351210	dave.sheila53@gmail.com
Deirdre Young	Tel: 01865 351745	youngdee@live.co.uk

Church Services in the Four Parishes, March 2020

	St Nicolas, Forest Hill with Shotover	St John the Baptist, Stanton St John	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Beckley	St Barnabas, Horton-cum- Studley
1 Mar <i>Lent 1</i>	11am Parish Communion	9.30am Parish Communion	9.30am Parish Communion	11am Tearfund Service
	3pm Choral Evensong (Choir of Lincoln College, Oxford)	6pm Taizé		4pm Family Church (HcS Village Hall)
8 Mar <i>Lent 2</i>	9.30am Family Service at Beckley			11am Parish Communion
15 Mar <i>Lent 3</i>	11am Morning Prayer (Book of Common Prayer)	9.30am Parish Communion		11am Morning Prayer
			6pm Iona Service	4.30pm Family Church*
22 Mar <i>Lent 4</i> <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	11am Mothering Sunday Communion Service	9.30am Mothering Sunday Service	9.30am Mothering Sunday Service	11am Mothering Sunday Service
29 Mar <i>Lent 5</i>	10am Joint Benefice Service at Forest Hill			
		6pm Church Without Walls (Stanton Village Hall)		

*Family Church on the 3rd Sunday takes the form of an 'agape meal', 4:30-6pm. The location will vary so please confirm beforehand with Jo Allen (jo.ordinand@gmail.com) if you would like to attend.

CHURCH NOTICE BOARD

A message from Rev'd Hugh Lee

Thank you so much for the very many prayers, cards, emails and other expressions of good wishes that I had for the operation on my spine on 4 February. They made an enormous difference to me and Anne.

The operation to cut away the protruding part for the slipped disc etc. was successful and I have no more pain from my spinal cord being 'pinched'. The operation wound is slowly healing and I have effective painkillers for this. I am hoping to resume all my normal activities in stages during March. Your support has made all the difference to us both.

The Revd Hugh Lee, Associate Priest in the Four Parishes

Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCMs)

The APCMs for all four parishes will be held at the same time in Horton Millennium Hall on Wednesday 29 April, starting at 7.30pm. Anybody living in one of our villages is most welcome to come.

Not only is this your opportunity to elect the Churchwardens and members of the Parochial Church Councils (PCCs), but also this year is your opportunity to influence the General Synod of the Church of England, its national 'parliament'. This is because this year we elect new Deanery Synod representatives and these are the people who will have a vote in the election of a new General Synod this summer. Many have said that the present General Synod is not representative of the Church of England as a whole: so please come to the APCMs and elect Deanery Synod representatives that you think will elect General Synod members who will be more representative of the Church of England. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions about each of our parishes.

Note, to vote at an APCM, you need to put your name on the Electoral Roll beforehand (ask Hugh Lee or a churchwarden how to do this) but you do not need to be on the Electoral Roll to ask a question or to vote for the churchwardens.

Update on our search for a new vicar

An advertisement for our new vicar appeared in the Church Times and appropriate websites for the four weeks before the closing date on 16 February. Interviews for the shortlisted candidates will be on Thursday 19 March. Please pray for everyone involved in this process including the candidates and the interviewers, who include the archdeacon, Judy French, and two representatives from each parish. Please also pray that we will soon have a new vicar playing a full role in all our four parishes.

‘Daffodil Day’ at Shotover House, Sun 29 Mar 2.30pm - 4pm

The gardens at Shotover House were laid out in the early eighteenth century and include, among other things, a large obelisk, two ornamental temples or ‘follies’, and a lake.

The house and grounds are currently owned and managed by the Shotover Trust. There are long-standing links between Shotover and St Nicolas Church in Forest Hill, and ‘Daffodil Day’ is an annual event (weather permitting!) in aid of St Nicolas. In return for a small entrance fee, the public is offered a rare opportunity to wander around the Shotover gardens and to enjoy the extensive displays of daffodils and other spring bulbs.



Tea, coffee and home made cake (including gluten free and vegan options) will be on sale throughout the afternoon in the arcade at the rear of Shotover House. There will also be a plant and home-made produce stall. Payments will be accepted by credit/debit card as well as in cash.

St Nicolas wishes to acknowledge the generosity of the Stanier family (who live at Shotover House) in allowing us to hold this event in these private grounds.

For further information, please use the contact form on the St Nicolas website <https://www.stnicolasforesthill.org/contact> or telephone Julia Stutfield on 07766 103427.

GENERAL NOTICES

Wild at Heart Dave Goulson Talk

It was standing room only on 13 February in Horton Millenium Hall. Dave Goulson gripped attention with his insights into the state of our planet and what we can do within our own gardens and green spaces to boost biodiversity. Wild at Heart will continue to make suggestions for us all to try.

This month: Use **Dimethicone** to treat fleas in cats and dogs. This is harmless



and effective combined with thorough hoovering and washing of bedding. We don't need to regularly put flea killing drops on our dogs. Many drops from vets contain chemicals banned for all other use. These chemicals are now present in all our rivers and ponds and are killing wildlife.

www.wildatheartcampaign.org

The Maple Tree at Forest Hill

Building on their commitment to reach out to children and families in our Four Parishes, The Maple Tree children's centre in Wheatley (see facing page) continues to support the **Wednesday afternoon Baby & Toddler Group which runs in Forest Hill Village Hall from 1pm to 2.30pm** during school term.



After an encouraging start in November and December, numbers have fallen off in the last few weeks and it would be good to see more local parents and carers taking advantage of these small friendly sessions on 'our' side of the A40! Pre-school children of any age are welcome and Kirsty Blackwell from The Maple Tree is generally on hand to provide help and advice to the adults as well as imaginative craft activities for the children. A constant supply of tea and coffee is available and the grown-ups can have a quiet chat while the children play. If you would like to come but want more information, please contact Julia Stutfield on 07766 103427.

The Maple Tree

Littleworth Road, Wheatley



We have lots of new activities/sessions lined up for you as well as all of our regular sessions at The Maple Tree.

After our successful Story and Rhymetime at Wheatley Library in Jan, we will be back there again on Tues 3 Mar, 10-11am. Come down and meet us for an hour of stories and singing. Find out what other services the Library can offer you too.

Hayley has recently qualified as an Infant Massage Instructor with IAIM (International Association of Infant Massage). We will now be holding regular Baby Massage sessions. The first block of five weeks will begin on Thurs 5 Mar, 1-2.30pm. The cost is £50 for all 5 sessions (concessions available) - email us for more information. Baby Massage has many benefits for both baby and parents.

Fri 3 Apr is our Pamper Evening. For just £5 per ticket, you will receive entrance and a glass of wine. We have lots of different treatments for you and you will have the opportunity to purchase beauty products too. This should be a fun evening.

Do you regularly have contact with young children? You may be a parent/carer, grandparent or a babysitter. Thames Training will be here on Sat 4 Apr (10am-12pm) and Wed 22 Apr (6.30pm-8.30pm) to deliver a two hour First Aid course designed specifically for children. This is just £20 per person with a £5 non-refundable deposit required in order to secure your place.

Our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley> provides more information about our timetable. Alternatively, email hayley@mapletree.org.uk. Or info@mapletree.org.uk Look out for our new Website coming soon.....

Hayley Hayle, Coordinator

The Maple Tree is a community charity (registration no. 1174117) based in Wheatley. We serve families from Wheatley and surrounding villages, including Stanton St John, Forest Hill, Horton - cum-Studley and Beckley & Stowood.

Oxford-Cambridge Expressway Update



Taking our petition to No. 10! We've joined forces with Antony Melville of RainForest Saver, and originator of the change.org anti-expressway petition, to deliver both ours and his petitions to Downing Street on 26th February. We will walk from Old Palace Yard, opposite the Houses of Parliament, to Downing Street. If you've not already done so, please add your name to our petition at noexpressway.org/petition-signup.

Next stop Westminster! On 26 February NEG will also hold a drop-in event for MPs and Peers to come and find out more about the destruction that the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway and target of one million houses would cause to our environment, wildlife, health and communities. This event is co-sponsored by Layla Moran (Lib Dem, Oxford West & Abingdon), Greg Smith (Conservative, Buckingham) and Daniel Zeichner (Labour, Cambridge). ***We are delighted to have cross-party and cross-Arc support.***

Status of the Ox-Cam Expressway. During the pre-election purdah period, Grant Shapps, Transport Secretary, announced a 'priority review' of the Ox-Cam expressway. There has been no news about any review of the Expressway. Responding to parliamentary questions, George Freeman, (now) ex-Transport Minister said ***"We will provide an update on whether the project should continue in due course."*** Iain Stewart MP (MK South) unofficially announced the Expressway is cancelled at a small meeting in Woburn Sands on 7th February, but at PMQs on 12th February the PM refused confirm this, responding to Daniel Zeichner MP as follows "I must ask the Honourable Gentleman to wait to contain his impatience until the Budget and he will learn more about the National Infrastructure Plan." At time of writing, the budge content and date are not confirmed. Our campaign must keep up the pressure. ***Nothing is cancelled yet!***

One million houses. During the election campaign Grant Shapps stated that the Local Authorities across the Arc had told him that 'they can still build those (one million) houses and that they don't need a road blasting through the countryside to do that'. NEG submitted Freedom of Information requests on this subject to 28 Local Authorities and the Department for Transport (DfT). The DfT and 21 of the 28 Local Authorities

have responded to this request indicating that they have no record of any discussion or consultation having taken place regarding the housing target. NEG is disappointed that a Government Minister is quite so 'economical with the truth'. Does this mean housing targets will be driven by Central Government regardless of any consultation with Local Authorities or local communities?

NEG activities. We continue to raise awareness with events in Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire and more roadside signs put up in February. See all the information and our news feed noexpressway.org.

Actions

- Sign our STOP the Ox-Cam Expressway petition noexpressway.org/petition-signup
- Email Grant Shapps, ask him to meet with NEG - wording & email address noexpressway.org
- Sign up to receive our email Updates noexpressway.org/#newsletter
- Follow us on: Facebook facebook.com/noexpresswaygroup/ and Twitter @no_expressway
- Please donate to our campaign at donorbox.org/donate-to-no-expressway-group

For all the latest news, updates and details of upcoming events visit noexpressway.org. No Expressway signs for your garden? Campaign ideas? Questions? Contact Olivia Field noexpresswaygroup@gmail.com

The Thornhill Connector Bus Service - Update

The Cities-4-People Pilot Bus Scheme taking villagers from the four parishes to Thornhill and Asda has had significant uptake and has generated interest in establishing a long-term service.

In order to maintain continuity while negotiations are continuing to see if a long-term service can be developed, the **Pilot has been extended to 25 March**. For more details and timetable see the February magazine, available online at <https://www.stnicolasforesthill.org/four-parishes>

Wheatley Library

(We apologise for the fact that, due to a mistake by the editor, this section in last month's magazine contained information from April and May 2019!)



Dates to note:

1 March - 11 April

Oxford reads: Bloomin' Good reads

This is an opportunity to share recommendations to other library users and to have your reading inspired by the new season.

Tuesday 3 March 10.00-11.00

Maple Tree Children's centre hosts Rhymetime in the library

All children welcome and must be accompanied by an adult

Saturday 28 March 9.30-12.30

Book sale of withdrawn library stock

Regular Friends of Wheatley Library events:

On-going **sale** of donated books

Monday **craft** sessions weekly from 10-12, 2-4pm, and

New: Wednesday evening **craft** session 7-9pm

Clarinet Players once a month

Best wishes from staff and volunteers of Wheatley Library

Wheatley Library, The Merry Bells, High Street, Wheatley, OX33 1XP

Telephone: 01865 875267

For opening hours and other events see the relevant page at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

Music at St Nicolas

St Nicolas Church in Forest Hill is once again hosting a series of concerts at 3pm on Sunday afternoons during March.

Each concert lasts 40 - 45 minutes, after which tea and cake will be served.

See page 19 or www.stnicolasforesthill.org for details of this year's programme.

BECKLEY

Beckley & Stowood Parish Council

The March PC meeting will be held on Monday 9 March at 8pm at Beckley Village Hall.

Minutes and agendas and dates of future meetings are available on the website www.beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk and the Clerk's email address is clerk@beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk

Adverse Weather: message from the Emergency Planning Officer at Oxfordshire County Council - if members of the Public wish to report fallen trees this can be done through the Police on the 101 number and any Power Distribution issues can be reported to the 105 number.

The Otmoor Flyer - Information on the four villages' mini-bus service can be found on the website www.beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk/parishcouncil. The mini-bus comes to Beckley on Tuesdays and Fridays and picks up at 10.40 am from the bus stop opposite the Abingdon Arms Pub. Bus tickets available from The Abingdon Arms (during opening hours) and Dee Hazell in Beckley. The bus goes into Headington and Oxford.

For information on **Beckley Village Hall** please see www.beckleyvillagehall.org and to make a booking please contact Stuart Marshall at booking@beckleyvillagehall.org

Fix My Street: find and report road or street problems at www.fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk Examples of faults you can report - Abandoned vehicles; dog fouling; fly posting or graffiti; fly tipping or litter; street cleaning, such as broken glass in a cycle lane; unlit lamp posts; potholes.

Reminder from the Parish Council: Please clean up after your dog and dispose of bagged waste in the dual-waste litter bin on the playing field. There have been complaints of an increase in dog waste on Sand Path and along the Permitted Pathway at the far side of the playing field.
#keepbritaintidy



Beckley Church of England Primary School

Church Street, Beckley, Oxford, OX3 9UT " Tel: 01865 351416 " Email: office@beckleyschool.org
Website: www.beckleyschool.org " Headteacher: Mr Mark Szortowski

SIAMS Report

The Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) follows a schedule which is independent of Ofsted. The principal objective of the inspection is to address the question: 'How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?' Following a recent visit to our school, we are thrilled with the Inspector's judgment of GOOD. Here are some highlights from our report:

"Wellbeing is a strength of the school and fundamental to its ethos."

"Kindness, consistent with the school's vision, is readily and clearly demonstrated across the community."

"Staff are committed to providing opportunities for pupils to achieve their best academically."

"Pupils express compassion for others and have been given opportunities to act on this."

"Behaviour at Beckley School is calm and respectful and makes a significant contribution to the atmosphere of learning."

"The school is creating a community that aptly expresses dignity and respect to all and where all can flourish."

The full report can be found on our website:

<https://beckleyschool.com/information/school-information/>

Fire Service Visit

Children in Years 1 to 3 enjoyed an exciting visit from Oxfordshire's Fire and Rescue Service. The visit promoted core messages in fire prevention, such as the importance of checking smoke alarms and knowing your address. Pupils also had the opportunity to explore the fire engine!



Carol Concert

A large congregation turned out for the service and were welcomed into church to the sound of children playing their instruments. Year 6 pupils confidently led the concert in the nine traditional lessons, punctuated by celebratory carols. The collection for FOBS, who provided the mulled wine and mince pies, totalled over £100.



The Little Blue Star



Our Nativity musical this year was called The Little Blue Star. In the beautiful surroundings of the church, the children's performance captured the wonder of the Nativity story in a truly enchanting and unique way.

Christmas Jumper Day

Our annual Christmas Jumper Day raised £85 for Save the Children and lots of fun was had in the process.



Church Workshop

Following the success of their Harvest workshop, the Church organised a Christmas session that took place after school last Friday. The children avidly participated in a range of festive crafts including making Christmas cards. Thank you to all of our dedicated volunteers from the local community.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Beckley Open Day

Sunday 14 June

Beckley & Area Community Benefit Society

The Abingdon Arms

‘More than a Pub’ programme - March 2020

March 2020		
Sunday 1st	TALK	6.45 for 7.00-8.30pm - <i>'In search of the Garden of Eden: a journey in Iran'</i> - John Battye (Stanton St John)
Tuesday 3rd	WOMEN OF BECKLEY LUNCH	12.30pm – first Tuesday of each month Contact Sarah Smith for more information: beckleysarah@gmail.com
Wednesday 4th	MEN OF BECKLEY LUNCH	12.30pm – first Wednesday of each month Contact Steve Smith for more information: barkbeetles@gmail.com
Wednesday 4th	PUB QUIZ	7.15 for 7.30pm – Pit your wits against QuizMaster, Peter Burt
Friday 6 th	COMMUNITY WALK	2.00pm from The Abingdon Arms - Chris White, Parish Path Warden, will lead a 2 hour walk checking on paths in the Woodeaton, Noke, Beckley and Horton cum Studley parishes - come along and join him. For some walks we may meet at the pub, but then drive, sharing cars, to starting point – confirmation closer to the time: see www.bacbs.org or email Chris at cpcwhite@hotmail.com
Saturday 7th	LITTER PICK	Litter picks arranged for Beckley (10.30am from The Abingdon Arms) and Stanton St John. Further information to follow.
Thursday 12th	COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING	10.00–11.30am - Second Thursday of each month: please note change of day. Coffee, cake. Come along, meet old and make new friends.
Sunday 15th	JAZZ @theAA	6.00-8.30pm* - third Sunday of each month Stuart Henderson (trumpet), Frank Harrison (keyboard), Mark Hodgson (bass). Free entry, but please give generously to our wine raffle. We encourage you to reserve seats – email mike.jd.hobbs@gmail.com
Friday 20 th	COMMUNITY WALK	2.00pm from The Abingdon Arms - Chris White, Parish Path Warden, will lead a walk checking on paths in the Noke, Beckley and Horton cum Studley parishes - come along and join him. See entry for 6 th March
Wednesday 25th	COMMUNITY AFTERNOON TEA	4.00-5.30pm - last Wednesday of each month. Afternoon tea with family, friends, neighbours.... Tea, coffee, cake. Table games available.
Sunday 29th	TALK	6.45 for 7.00-8.30pm - <i>'The Otmoor Riots in Social Context'</i> – Dr Maeve Bayton (Beckley; formerly Tutor at Ruskin College, Oxford)

Key -

Food & Drink	Music	Talks, films	Activities
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* = bar snacks available

More information at www.bacbs.org

The Abingdon Arms info, table reservations etc, at: <http://theabingdonarms.co.uk/>

FOREST HILL

News from St. Nicolas Church

Special thanks to The Area Dean, Reverend Simon Cronk, who came to lead our Candlemas celebration on 2 February, supported by the St Nicolas Choir. We were delighted to have several new singers join us for this beautiful and uplifting service which also featured the debut of our organ scholar, who accompanied some of the hymns and songs under the supervision of organist Peter Stutfield.

Choral Evensong in February coincided with a power cut in the village, courtesy of Storm Ciara! Undaunted, we gathered as many lights as we could find and sung the whole service without the organ under the capable leadership of Matthew Wood as Cantor.

Future events

Sunday 1 March, 3pm Choral Evensong with the Choir of Lincoln College, Oxford (see page 19 for more details).

Sunday 22 March, 11am Mothering Sunday Parish Communion, with the distribution of posies.

Sunday 29 March, 10am Joint Benefice Parish Communion at St Nicolas. Followed by **Daffodil Day at Shotover House, 2pm - 4.30pm**, by kind invitation of Alexander and Camilla Stanier. Please note there will be no Antiques Roadshow this year. Gifts of cakes and produce to sell on the day are most welcome, please contact Jane Walker 01865 872399, thank you! Don't forget the clocks go forward on 29 March.

Forest Hill Garden Club

The quiz is back!

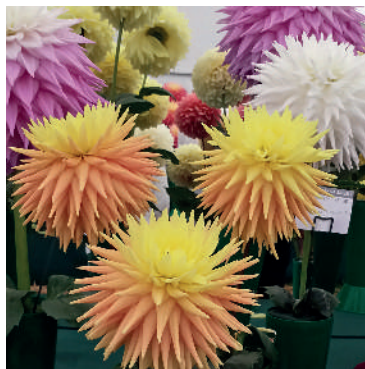
Friday March 13 (lucky for some)

7.30pm in Forest Hill Village Hall

Delicious refreshments!

Entrance £2 per person or £5 per team

To book a place or for more information
contact: Prue Leeding tel 01865 872034 or
leedings@hotmail.com



Forest Hill Baby & Toddler Group



Forest Hill Baby & Toddler Group

in partnership with The Maple Tree Wheatley

At Forest Hill Village Hall

On Wednesdays 1-2.30pm

Everybody welcome



Term time
only

For more information contact Julia Stutfield on 07766 103427

Forest Hill with Shotover Parish Council

The date of the next Parish Council meeting is **Thursday 5 March, at 7pm** in Forest Hill Village Hall, **a change from the previous date arranged.**

Meetings are open to the public and have an open session where residents can bring attention to any village issues. All residents are welcome!

The Parish Council will be organising the annual village Litter Pick as part of the SODC Great British Spring Clean. A date is to be arranged and will be advertised.

You can report any Potholes, Fly-tipping, Loose paving, Vandalism, Broken street lights, Dog fouling you see to FixMyStreet.com

Current Meeting Agendas and Minutes are posted on the two notice boards; outside the Village Hall and at the end of Mickle Way. Archived Agendas and Minutes can be found on the website:

<http://www.parish-council.com/foresthillwithshotover/index.asp>

You can contact the Parish Council Clerk, tel: 0844 884 3328 or email theclerk@foresthillwithshotover-pc.org.uk

Music at St Nicolas

St Nicolas Church is once again hosting a **series of musical events at 3pm on Sunday afternoons during March**. Each one lasts 40 - 45 minutes, after which tea and cake will be served. Entry is free but there will be an opportunity to make a voluntary donation towards the upkeep of the church.



The series begins on **1 March with a visit from the Choir of Lincoln College**, Oxford who will sing a **Choral Evensong** featuring William Byrd's sonorously beautiful motet 'Ne irascaris, Domine' and settings of the 'Magnificat' and 'Nunc Dimittis' by Daniel Purcell.

The concert on **8 March by St Nicolas organist Peter Stutfield**, supported by members of the St Nicolas Choir, will focus on music by 17th and 18th century French and German composers.

On **15 March local cellist Will Blyth will play the most famous of JS Bach's Cello Suites, no. 1 in G major**. Those of you who heard Will play Suite no.3 last year will remember how special it was to hear the haunting sound of the solo cello being played in our beautiful church.

On **22 March the St Nicolas Consort will perform the 'Lamentations'** for 5 voices by Tudor composer Robert White, a contemporary of Thomas Tallis and William Byrd. The wealth of gorgeous choral music associated with Lent and Passiontide was the initial inspiration for this regular concert series at St Nicolas and we are delighted to present yet another masterpiece from the Tudor era.



After a break for **'Daffodil Day' at Shotover House on 29 March**, the final concert will be **Pergolesi's much loved 'Stabat Mater' on 5 April**.

More details at www.stnicolasforesthill.org

HORTON-cum-STUDLEY

St Barnabas Church Organ

Many of you will be aware that asbestos was found in the box containing the blower which is responsible for generating the air that passes into the organ pipework. We are not allowed to use the organ at present and the cost of removing the asbestos and cleaning all the pipes will be in the order of £20,000. The PCC is currently considering how best to move this forward. We will keep you informed of those decisions. The asbestos and the blower are being removed week beginning 24th February and will entail a decontamination unit placed on the road outside the gate. Unfortunately, the unit is too tall to enter the Churchyard.

Tear Fund, Sunday 1 March



Service at 11am followed by Soup Lunch at 12.15pm, kindly hosted by David and Julia Slingo at 4 The Green (£6 Adults, £3 Children).

Please email lisamynheer@gmail.com or phone 01865 351340.

All proceeds from the service and lunch will be donated to Tearfund's Ethiopian Kale Heywet Church project, helping to organise people from poor families into self-help groups to save money or take small loans to start businesses.

Mothering Sunday 22 March

All ladies attending the Mothering Sunday service will receive flowers.

The Thornhill Connector Bus Service

The Cities-4-People Pilot Bus Scheme taking villagers from the four parishes to Thornhill and Asda has had significant uptake and has generated interest in establishing a long-term service.

In order to maintain continuity while negotiations are continuing to see if a long-term service can be developed, the **Pilot has been extended to 25 March.**

Jill Meyjes

Horton-cum-Studley Parish Council

The annual village litter pick is on Sat 21st/ Sun 22nd March. Litter pickers, high visibility jackets and black bags will be available from outside Kimber House (at the bottom of Horton Hill) and filled bags are to be returned to Kimber House for collection by the District Council. The Parish Council encourages all Villagers to participate in this event to try and keep our village as tidy as possible.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday 12 March in the village hall at 7.30pm. Public participation is always welcome.

The recent storms have led to some trees being blown over in the village. As a reminder here is a useful list of the numbers that you can report weather related issues on-

- 999 -To report fallen trees/other debris which pose a risk to your safety or the safety of others.
- 101 -To report a fallen tree/debris which doesn't pose a high risk but needs to be dealt with.
- 105 - If you lose power or can see that a power line has come down.
- 999 - If you have a flooding emergency which is a threat to someone's life, contact Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service.
- 0345 310 1111 -To report flooding relating to a highway such as blocked ditches, blocked drains or flooding on a road call Oxfordshire County Council Floodline.

There has been a spate of thefts in the Village. Please ensure doors, windows, any outbuilding and oil tanks are locked. Also ensure that you report any criminal activity to the Police either 999 (if an emergency), or 111.

It has been suggested that the Village could start up a neighbourhood watch scheme. If anyone is interested in this, please contact the Parish Council. This ensures that the Police are aware of rural crime.

Thames Valley Police has been performing speed checks and the Parish Council continues to work with them on this issue

To contact the PC please email hortoncumstudleyparishcouncil@gmail.com.

Coffee Morning

This month's coffee morning will be held on Saturday 14 March at 10.30am in the Millennium Hall. Please come along and join us as it may be the final year. Details from Rachel Hawes Tel: 01865 351540.

Horton cum Studley Gardening Club

- Is your garden full of deliciously scented plants?
- Would you like to bring order to your plot and nurture wildlife?
- Do your children get a thrill from growing their own veg?
- Do join us. No experience needed just a love of gardening and gardens.

Membership £10.00/year. Visitors are welcome (£3.00 per meeting).

We are a friendly group with wide-ranging interests. Some love snowdrops, others roses, some cultivate fine vegetables and others make fantastic compost. We all enjoy sharing the challenges of gardening on Oxfordshire clay over a cup of coffee and meet in Horton-cum-Studley Village Hall at 8pm, generally on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, to learn from great speakers.

Mary Stuck is talking to us about RD Blackmore's gardening skills on Tuesday 17 March and Marina Christopher will be inspiring us on Monday (not Tuesday) 20 April with her talk on growing bee-friendly flowers.

We also visit inspirational local gardens and this year includes a trip to Bothy vineyard for a taste of some local wine.

Our full programme, including outings, is on the village website.

www.horton-cum-studley.org.uk/community/clubs/

Visitors are welcome to our meetings, particularly anyone new to gardening. If you would like to know more about the Gardening Club, please contact the chairman, Susan Burge on 01865 351310.

Otmoor Challenge 2020

Just a reminder of the date: Saturday 6 June 2020. Any queries please contact OCA chairman, Andrew Pennington, on 01865 358800. Your Otmoor Challenge needs you!

Millennium Village Hall

The hall has been used extensively in the last few weeks both by village activities and by outside hirers. Following the success of the fish night before Christmas we are investigating the possibility of having a monthly evening get-together – currently the thought is to alternate a fish night with a pizza evening. We will try it out for a while to see how much support it gets from villagers. There will be a bar!

Cleaning of the hall is still a concern and Barbara is currently getting quotes from other cleaning companies. We apologise to the toddler's group who have found the floor wet on a couple of occasions when the current cleaners came in early on a Friday morning rather than Wednesday afternoon. The firm we introduced to the hall yesterday (13 Feb) seem very professional and intend to do a 'deep clean' initially but we have yet to see whether they are affordable.

DOG WALKERS – please pick-up after your dog. There have been several instances where this has not happened and with football and many young people playing on the field it is vital that it is kept clean.

Just a reminder that the Millennium Village Hall can be booked by email at hcshallbookings@gmail.com

Victory in Europe Celebrations, Friday 8 May - Save the Date



The Early May Bank Holiday this year is on Friday 8 May to celebrate VE75 (Victory in Europe 75th anniversary) and various events are being planned over the bank holiday week-end period.

We hope to include a village lunch in the Millennium Hall on the Saturday hosted by the Parish Council, a special church service at St Barnabas on the Sunday morning and family activities on the Sunday afternoon.

If you would like to help in planning or delivering events, please contact David Slingo, email:

hcspcslingo@gmail.com

Horton-cum-Studley Women's Institute

We would like to thank all residents of the Village who joined us in celebrating our Centenary Celebrations and we were delighted that so many of you came.

The photo shows Marjorie Perry, our oldest member, cutting a celebration cake.

Our meeting on 10 March at 7.45pm in the Millennium Hall will be the AGM and we encourage all members to attend. After the business part of the meeting we shall organise a social session with refreshments.



Friends of Beckley School would like to say a huge



Thank You!



...to everyone who bought a Christmas tree from us last year. The campaign made over £1000 for Beckley School, which will help to pay for fun events, new sports and outdoors equipment, and everyday classroom supplies.

STANTON ST JOHN

Stanton Church Open Day Sunday 15 March

Our beautiful church belongs to the whole village and the Stanton Parochial Church Council (PCC) warmly invite you to an open day on Sunday 15 March between 10.30am and 5.00pm - refreshments will be available. PCC members will be on hand to answer any questions you may have and to show you round. Anybody who knows how to play an organ is welcome to try it. Children can bring their musical instruments and play a piece in the church too, if they'd like to.

Voluntary Annual Stanton St John Litter Pick

Saturday 7 March 10.15 - 12.15

We have arranged the loan of litter pickers and high viz jackets from SODC together with a supply of special bags for rubbish and recycling. If you would like to join us please assemble at the Village Hall car park at 10:15 for a safety briefing and route allocation. You should be appropriately clad with stout footwear and heavy duty gloves.

Nicholas and Sally Braithwaite

Stanton Supper Group

It was lovely to see over 20 people at our first women's Stanton Supper Night on 6 February held at our village pub - the Talkhouse - enjoying a drink, chat and supper.

The first Monday of the month seemed to suit most people, so make a note in your diary for:

Mondays: 2 March

6 April

4 May

Come and join us for a drink and chat 6.45pm to 7.45pm and supper from 7.45pm. We will need to let the Talkhouse know the numbers in advance so please let Sue know susanjbaker24@gmail.com if you're able to come.

Sue and Di

Film Night Saturday 21 March 7.30pm

Stanton St John Village Hall

Stanton St John Film Club proudly presents the 2019 Cornish sing-along comedy/drama:

Fisherman's Friends



Inspired by the real-life story of a group of Cornish fishermen who went from belting out harbourside sea shanties to signing a £1 million record deal.

"Thoroughly amiable and upbeat British comedy with a flavour of Ealing Studios and The Full Monty about it." - The Independent

Doors will be open at 7pm, with a film start at 7.30pm. Before and after the film, delicious cakes and drinks are available whilst the bar will serve wines and shots of Fisherman's Friend.

Since only 60 seats are available in the Village Hall, please reserve your seats asap for screening via Judy Nisbet (judy@robertnisbet.com) or in the Village Shop.

Tickets are £7 (cash only) will be sold at the door. Any profits raised will be used to enhance the Village Hall for future screenings.

The film is 112 min long and rated 12A.

Stanton St John WI

Stanton St John WI will hold their AGM on 17 March at 7.30pm in the Village Hall . All our members are encouraged to attend and to vote for their committee for next year. We also plan to lighten the evening with some entertainment.

Community Café

We plan to hold another café on Friday 13 March from 10.30-12.00 in Stanton St John Village Hall. All are welcome to drop in for a coffee, cake and chat in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

Stanton St John Parish Council

The parish council would like to remind and encourage all parishioners to report any issues around the parish, with factual details and photographic evidence to the clerk. Photographs with accurate information regarding the problem allows the clerk to review it and pass it on to the appropriate team or deal with it herself if possible. Please email the clerk at stantonstjohnpc@gmail.com.

Visitors to Stanton House

Stanton House hosted some very unusual and distinguished guests during February. Raoni Metuktire (below centre) is an indigenous Brazilian leader of the Kayapo people and a renowned environmentalist. He and his associates were in Oxford to attend a series of talks and conferences in Rhodes House on the development of sustainable agriculture in the Amazon region in the light of current policies which appear to be destroying more forest than is being preserved.

Catering for the requirements of these guests was a challenge which the Stanton House team handled with great courtesy and sensitivity, all credit to them!



Allotments

Have you always dreamed of growing your own fresh fruit and vegetables, but never had the opportunity to do so?

Well now is your chance, as the Stanton St John allotments currently have a number of plots available.

The site, situated at the junction of Pound Lane and Snows Lane, is a beautiful location, with the available plots generously sized, of fertile soil and many already containing fruit-bearing trees and bushes.



Keeping an allotment is an excellent form of exercise, a perfect solution for someone looking for a project and a great way to make new friends - not to mention a source of fresh produce that is better for the environment (and your wallet) than the supermarket alternatives.

The allotments are owned by New College, University of Oxford and can be obtained by contacting the College Land Agent's office. The rent is very reasonable at £25 per plot per year.

Current plot holder Richard (email - richard.s.priestley@gmail.com) is happy to act as an unofficial point of contact for anyone interested in an allotment who wants more information or a guide around the site.

So, don't delay, now is the time to get your hands dirty (literally). The Stanton St. John allotments are intimately tied to our shared history - having provided generations of residents in the surrounding area with a source of food, community and well-being. Failure to utilise this precious resource may mean future generations miss out on the same opportunity.

Richard Priestley



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