

The Four Parishes News Magazine

BECKLEY
FOREST HILL
HORTON-cum-STUDLEY
STANTON St JOHN



Cat Kenny with her horse, Folly, at Shotover House, July 2021

September 2021

The editor writes:



This month's magazine reflects the tentative beginnings of a return to some sort of 'normality' in our village communities. I hope everyone has managed at least some kind of summer break and that we are all feeling refreshed and ready for whatever life throws at us next. In spite of the apparent retreat of the Covid-19 pandemic, we are still hearing of positive cases in our community, so we must continue to be cautious and to look out for others who may need our support.

As we start a new academic year, we are excited to be welcoming Rhiannon Wilkie as Headteacher of Beckley School and we wish her every success in her new role. The school's 125th Anniversary is being celebrated by the Friends of Beckley School (a year late, due to Covid-19) on 4 September at Horton-cum-Studley Millenium Hall, and we hope as many people as possible will join them for a day of fun and outdoor activities: see page 22 for details. Previous pupils of the school will be particularly welcome and may find some opportunities to reminisce!

Julia Stutfield

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

Our cover photo ...

*was taken at Shotover House in July 2021
by Georgina Weston from Horton-cum-Studley
and shows Cat Kenny from Forest Hill with her horse, Folly.*

See page 20 for the story behind this photo.

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.

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The closing date for the Oct 2021 issue is 15 Sep 2021

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.fourparishes.org.uk/magazine

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**Assistant Editors: Jonathan Barker
Anthea Beresford**

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

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Church Services in the Four Parishes, September 2021

	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
5 Sept <i>Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity</i>	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Morning Prayer
	6pm Taizé at Stanton St John			
12 Sept <i>Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity</i>		9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Prayer	11am Morning Prayer
	11am Benefice Zoom Service			
	5pm Choral Evensong at Forest Hill (Book of Common Prayer)			
19 Sept <i>Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity</i>	11am Morning Prayer (Book of Common Prayer)	9.30am Harvest Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)	11am Harvest Holy Communion
	6pm Iona Service at Beckley			
26 Sept <i>Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity</i>	11am Benefice Service at Horton-cum-Studley Holy Communion Celebrating the 40 th anniversary of the Ordination of The Reverend Hugh Lee			
	4.30pm Family Church Horton-cum-Studley Millenium Village Hall			
	6pm Church Without Walls Stanton St John Village Hall			

We do not anticipate any changes to these patterns of services in September, but **please do continue to look out for announcements of any changes**, through emails from Anthea, via the Four Parishes Benefice website <https://www.fourparishes.org.uk/>, other social media forums, and on Church noticeboards, in case we have to make any last minute alterations.

A letter from Anthea

Hi everyone,



Gosh, where has the summer gone? It seems only yesterday I was writing to you, wishing you all a good summer and hopefully a refreshing break, at least for those restricted to school holidays for your breaks. Now we find ourselves moving swiftly towards September, and autumn. In no time at all it will be Christmas! Shh!

I hope you are feeling refreshed, or perhaps you have a holiday to look forward to shortly. The weather has been rather unsettled, but there have been some lovely days too.

September not only beckons in the new season of autumn. It also brings with it a new season in life for many. I hope those who have had exam results over the summer have got what you need for your next steps. You have persevered through the most extraordinary times and should be proud for having 'hung on in there'.



September this year, brings the excitement of welcoming Miss Rhiannon Wilkie as our Headteacher to Beckley School, in the heart of the Four Parishes which is also celebrating its 125th anniversary. We give thanks and hold the school community in our prayers.

September brings the start of school, college and university for many, or different stages in school life, or new jobs after the summer's exam results. There is likely to be some angst, but hopefully also excitement as these new phases begin. My thoughts and prayers are with all those involved as their new adventures begin.

September brings with it continuing shortening of daylight hours, which I do not like, but I love the beauty of the changing colours, as autumn sets in. Trees take on a new beauty as their leaves change colour. As they then fall, I love the rustling under our feet.

September, for some, brings their chance to go away for a break, as the busyness of the school summer holiday season ends.

Let us not forget, that sadly, for some in our community, September will bring no respite from the difficulties of everyday life, and there seems no light ahead.

Whatever September may bring for you personally, or for your loved ones, whether it is an exciting start to the next phase of life, the joy of the changing season, or continuing pains and difficulties of life, please remember you are never alone. Before Jesus returned to his Father, he promised us the Holy Spirit and said to his disciples:



'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.' John 14:27

Whatever we are facing, we are never alone. Jesus is there, waiting to listen to us, waiting to hear our troubles and to share in our joys, through prayer. Life can be tough, and God may seem distant and silent at times. There are no quick and easy answers to this - but God is there, waiting to hear from us. We are never alone, even though it might feel that way at times. Please do get in touch if you need to talk. I do not have quick and easy answers, but we can talk and pray together, and sharing burdens helps. When times were tough for Jesus and the disciples, and Jesus asked them, "Do you also wish to go away?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God." (John 6:67-69). May these words be true for each of us, whatever we may be facing.

Take great care, keep safe and God bless you and your loved ones.

Anthea

CHURCH MATTERS

Advent challenge and beyond: the final leg!

For those of you still with me on the challenge, this month sees us on the final leg, and completion of us reading through the New Testament over these nine months since the start of Advent last year. Well done for sticking at it! And well done for anyone who has taken part in any of the challenge.

I hope you have enjoyed the reading over the summer that I set for July and August. I confess I have a little catching up to do from that! I still have a good few days before the end of the month!

I hope you enjoy reading the Book of Revelation during September! And I hope you have enjoyed reading the New Testament in bite-sized chunks, completing it in nine-months!

I will have to think of a new challenge... 

Ongoing activities on Zoom

In addition to the Sunday Services listed on page 5, we continue for the time being, with the now regular weekly activities on Zoom as they continue to be popular. **Please note that these are not running until 7 September.** Look out for emails with any updates on activities. Please do get in touch with Anthea for invitations if you do not already get emails from her:

	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Morning Prayer at 9am		√		√
Evening Prayer at 6pm	√		√	
Midweek Elevenses at 11		√		
End of the Week Drinks at 7pm				√
Benefice Book Group at 7.30pm (not 30 September)			√	

Benefice Book Group

We are continuing our reading of Comfortable Words: a call to restoration: reflections on Isaiah 40-55, by the Bishop of Oxford, Steven Croft. The group meets at 7.30pm via Zoom on a Thursday evening, for an hour a week. Please do get in touch if you would like to join us and you have not already let me know - each week stands alone so it is not too late to join.

Christenings/baptisms

As the restrictions of Lockdown have eased, if you have been planning to have your child christened, but have been prevented from doing so because of the restrictions, please do get in touch. I would be delighted to talk to you about this.

Celebration of Harvest in the Four Parishes

Living in this rural setting there is something quite wonderful in watching the annual farming cycle in action. At this time of year there is something rather soothing in hearing the gentle drone of the harvester at work. It's also lovely to watch the fruit ripening, and hear of jam making as the soft fruits are picked. In September and October, our four Churches will be celebrating Harvest, giving thanks for the crops being safely gathered in, and for the farming communities. Please do come and join us in these celebrations.

Beckley: 10 October 9.30am Harvest Holy Communion (see the October magazine for more information)

Forest Hill: 3 October 11am Harvest Holy Communion (see page 24 and the October magazine for more information)

Horton-cum-Studley: 19 September 11am Harvest Holy Communion (see page 31 for more information)

Stanton St John: 19 September 11am Harvest Holy Communion (see page 36 for more information)



Celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Ordination of The Reverend Hugh Lee

As you will read on page 12, The Reverend Hugh Lee, who has been involved in ministry in the Four Parishes for some years, is celebrating the 40th anniversary of his Ordination this month. This is an exceedingly special landmark event for Hugh, and we in the Four Parishes are delighted to be helping him mark this occasion. Hugh will preside at the **Benefice Service of Holy Communion on 26 September at 11am at Horton-cum-Studley**, and a fellow Minister in Secular Employment, The Reverend Mike Rayner, Professor of Population Health and Self-Supporting Minister at St Matthew's, Grandpont in Oxford, has been invited to preach. Please do come and join us and help Hugh celebrate this special occasion.

Hugh, and his wife Anne, will be delighted if everybody would join them for lunch afterwards in the Millennium Hall. Please will you let them know if you are hoping to come so there is enough food! (hugh.lee@btinternet.com or 01865-316245).

Celebrating 125 years of Beckley School

As you will read on page 22, Friends of Beckley School (FOBS) is holding a Summer Fete, in celebration of 125 years of Beckley School on Saturday 4 September 10am-4pm, at Horton-cum-Studley Millennium Village Hall. Please do support this event. We will be holding a Service of Thanksgiving in Beckley Church, in celebration of 125 years of Beckley School. As we want to involve children from the School in the service, this will be arranged once they have returned to School in September. Please do look out for information on this.

Open the Book volunteers

As Beckley School returns to 'normal' under government guidelines, and visitors are once again allowed to visit, we will be re-commencing the very popular Open the Book work in the School. If anyone would like to be involved with this, please do contact Betty Dye betty.dye10@gmail.com or Julia Stutfield julia.stutfield@gmail.com to see about what this involves. It would be great to have more volunteers involved in this. The children love it, and so do all those involved in the Team!

Welcome to Miss Wilkie, the new Headteacher of Beckley School

It is with great excitement that we look forward to welcoming Miss Wilkie to Beckley School as their new Headteacher. We look forward to the relationship between the School and the Four Parishes to continue to flourish, and especially the relationship between the School and the Church in Beckley - although there is huge support for the School throughout the Four Parishes.

Please pray for Miss Wilkie as she takes up her post, and for the whole school community as they return in September, hoping that as they follow the government advice for the return to 'normal', they remain safe. We look forward to continuing our work with Beckley School.

Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust: Annual Ride and Stride



This annual sponsored event is the main source of funding for the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust, which gives grants for repairs and improvements to churches and chapels of all denominations in the county. All four churches in this Benefice have benefited from grants given by the Trust: Stanton St John for restoration of the bells, Forest Hill for urgent tower repairs, Horton-cum-Studley for roof repairs and rainwater goods, and Beckley, more recently, towards the work due to start in September this year.

You might like to help preserve history on your doorstep by taking part in a sponsored cycle, walk or horse ride around Oxfordshire churches. The idea is that people walk or ride to as many churches as possible, raising sponsorship for each one visited. Do think about taking part this year, perhaps as a family or friendship group. It can be fun, you gain some exercise, and you could compete against others for the most churches visited! 50% of the money you raise can be passed on to a church of your choice, and the remainder is kept by the Trust to enable it to continue to give grants where needed. For more information and online registration forms, go to www.ohct.org.uk/ride-stride.

40 years as a worker priest

Although not actually resident in the Four Parishes, the Reverend Hugh Lee and his wife Anne have been loyal supporters of all our churches and of all manner of social activities in our community for many years. As an Associate Priest licensed to our Benefice of Beckley, Forest Hill with Shotover, Horton-cum-Studley and Stanton St John, Hugh's role has been to assist a succession of vicars in overseeing the ministry of the parishes and to provide spiritual and practical support to the churchwardens during periods of 'vacancy' when there has been no 'incumbent' (such as the two years between the departure of Andrew Pritchard-Keens in July 2018 and the arrival of Anthea in July 2020).

Hugh will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of his ordination at the Benefice Service in St Barnabas, Horton-cum-Studley at 11am on Sunday 26 September.



I can hardly believe it is forty years since I was ordained. Anne and I were living in Amersham at the time with our two young children. I commuted daily to London to my work at the coal research office of the International Energy Agency. I trained on the Oxford diocese course for what are now called Self-Supporting Ministers (SSMs). We worshiped at St Michael's, Amersham and I found it very meaningful to be on the commuter train on a Monday with friends with whom I had been in church, preached to and shared Communion with on the Sunday.

Three years later, I became deputy director of the Strategic Planning Unit of the National Coal Board (NCB) just as the yearlong miners' strike started. I suggested that the Christians in the NCB head office came to work 15 minutes early to pray about the strike: fifteen to thirty of us met every day of the strike to pray for the miners, the NCB negotiators, Arthur Scargill, Margaret Thatcher and the police. I also met secretly once a month with the coalfield chaplains to compare notes on what they were doing to help the mining communities.

Our family moved to a house in Walton Street in Oxford in 1985. After a bit we settled at St Aldate's and I was a part-time member of David

MacInnes' team there. In 1993, Bishop Richard Harries asked me to join Michael Farthing (the vicar of Wheatley, Forest Hill and Stanton St John). And so I began my self-supporting ministry in part of the four parishes. In the meantime, I left British Coal (the new name for the NCB) and joined an American consultancy in London to lead their work forecasting international coal trade and prices. I met with three other Christians every Wednesday morning on the commuter train to discuss how we were living out our faith in our daily work.

In 1995 I became part-time diocesan development officer of Mission in Work and Economic Life. This included leading the workplace chaplains and promoting faith and work issues in parishes and deaneries across the diocese. This meant preaching anywhere in the diocese about living out our faith in our daily work, so I ended my involvement in our four parishes just as they were brought together with William Brierley as vicar. I also left my full-time job and became a part-time consultant in the world coal industry and climate change. I am still doing this consultancy work through which I meet a wide range of clients and I gain an ever increasing understanding of the climate crisis.

I was a member of General Synod of the Church of England from 2000 to 2015, elected by the clergy of our diocese. I spoke up for workplace chaplaincy and self-supporting ministers. I also challenged the Church Commissioners on their involvement in fossil fuels and their ethical investment policy.

Bishop Richard Harries appointed me part-time priest-in-charge of St Michael at the North Gate in the Cornmarket in the middle of Oxford in 2002. This included a ministry to the many thousands of people who come into the centre of Oxford every day to work or to shop or as tourists. I was also City Rector, with a variety of civic duties including attending all the meetings of the City Council. I left St Michael's when I turned 65 and, after a pause, Stevie Cross (who succeeded William Brierley as vicar) welcomed me as an Associate Priest in our four friendly villages.

In all of these forty years my vocation has been to help us all to live out our faith in our daily work and life, by getting my hands dirty as Jesus did as a carpenter.

Hugh Lee

GENERAL

Stop the Arc offers an alternative Consultation on Ox-Cam Arc plans



The **No Expressway Group (NEG)** has now officially morphed into the **Stop the Arc (STARC) Group** following democratic consultation with all our supporters and a final vote that overwhelmingly favoured our new title.

We continue to campaign against the excesses of official Government plans for the Ox-Cam Arc that include high-growth deals already signed with both Oxfordshire and Cambridgeshire Councils and current negotiations with various Local Authorities in between. These Growth Deals also involve a commitment that Local Plans beyond the current Local Plan period (that ends in the 2030s) should fit in with the Government's high-growth plans for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc that involve doubling the rate of housing delivery compared with present rates.

Following the February announcement of the Arc Spatial Framework referred to in an earlier Newsletter the Government launched **the first of three consultations on the Arc in July, to run for 12 weeks until 12 October**. This was accompanied by three documents in which the details of the Government's ambitions for the Arc are even less obvious than they were in the February document.

Thus, the public is being asked to comment on Arc development but is not being told the scale of the Governments ambitions for jobs, populations and houses across the five Arc's counties (Beds, Bucks, Cambs, Northants and Oxon).

How can we possibly comment on a plan with no details? We are being asked anodyne questions to which the obvious answers are 'Yes' or 'Strongly Approve'. Who, for example, does not want our natural environment 'to be protected, restored and improved'; or that 'new developments should be built in sustainable locations'? The official consultation avoids all suggestion that development involves compromises and difficult choices. Government might take an overall positive response

to such questions as indicating public support for its plans when it will be nothing of the sort.

So alarmed was the Stop the Arc Group by the quality of the official consultation that we have launched **our own 5-minute survey of Ox-Cam Arc plans** that you can find on our website at <https://stopthearc.org/> or via the direct link below:

<https://us3.list-manage.com/survey?u=d5211c882faf4e1d15fdf9932&id=23be9ea342&attribution=false>

Our survey confronts some of those difficult choices and asks for opinions about them. **Please do take the time to complete and submit it** if you haven't already done so. It really will take only a few minutes.

Importantly, **please also spread the word to all your social media contacts.** This is a regional development project that affects the whole country because investment in the Arc is investment denied to any other part of the nation.



Have your say on Oxfordshire's future



The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 is a long-term plan that will set a framework for future planning decisions.

We want your views on the policies we've suggested to help Oxfordshire:

- Address climate change
- Improve environmental quality
- Create strong and healthy communities
- Plan for sustainable travel and connectivity
- Create jobs and provide homes

The consultation is open until
Friday 8 October

www.oxfordshireopenthought.org

Printed copies are available from your local library or one of the following:

- Banbury Town Council,
- Bicester Town Council,
- Cherwell District Council – Bodicote House,
- Oxfordshire County Council – County Hall,
- South Oxfordshire District Council,
- Vale of White Horse District Council – Milton Park,
- West Oxfordshire District Council – Woodgreen and Elmfield offices,
- Witney Town Council,
- Carterton Town Council,
- Chipping Norton Town Council.

Please confirm with the location before visiting.



Wheatley Library

We are delighted to be able to expand our opening hours a little with further increases planned. This also means we will be able to restart some of our usual events before long. To keep up to date with news about Wheatley Library follow Friends of Wheatley Library on Facebook (see link below).

If you are interested in volunteering within the library please come in and chat to us. A variety of roles are available.

Wendy Stanton

Wheatley Library Manager



**Amended Wheatley
Library Hours**
Interim Open Hours

Tuesday 2pm-5pm
**Wednesday 9.30am-1pm and
2-5pm**
Thursday 2pm-5pm
**Friday 9.30am-1pm and
2-5pm**

Welcome back!
The library is in the upper level of
the Merry Bells Village Hall.

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries
@oxonlibraries Oxfordshire Libraries

OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL

Wheatley Library, The Merry Bells, High Street, Wheatley, OX33 1XP
Telephone: 01865 875267

<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofWheatleyLibraryOxfordshire/>



Come and join
Islip Community Choir!

Islip Village Hall
7.30-9.00pm



Alternate Wednesdays
(6 and 20 Oct,
3 and 17 Nov, 1 Dec)

Bring your friends and neighbours!
For more information contact Johanna Stephenson (01865 848331 /
johanna.stephenson@btopenworld.com)
or Camilla Stephenson (millastephenson@gmail.com)

'Signs of Autumn' by Lyn Ebbs

Seasons affect the mood in different ways; spring is characterised by impatience for lengthening days and rising temperatures as green shoots emerge. Autumn brings with it a 'don't go!' feeling as we try to hold on to summer warmth for a little longer.

Signs of autumn appear earlier than we might realise: those summer migrants, the cuckoos are already back south of the Sahara, although their well-grown chicks are still here being fed by their unwitting foster parents. Our small colony of swifts in Stanton St John left us at the beginning of August, their numbers falling from 20 to two to zero in the space of four days. The passage of autumn migrants is evident on Otmoor with the appearance of some of the wader species, such as sandpipers and godwits, that breed further north stopping off on their southwards journeys.



Autumn of course brings its bounty as well as its losses. Most of us can quote a few words of poet, John Keats on the subject:

*Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core*



Certainly fruits are ripening, meaning that if you live near blackberry bushes or elder trees, bird droppings on the car windscreen take on a more lurid colour. It's not just birds that are attracted to fruit, muntjac deer are happy to eat fallen apples that are still far too acid for human palates, while butterflies and other insects enjoy blackberries and over-ripe plums.

There are still wildflowers around, one of the latest being ivy. Mature ivy plants produce yellowish green clusters of flowers called umbels from September through to November. The flowers attract a number of different insects but a particularly interesting one is the ivy plasterer bee, ivy mining bee or simply ivy bee.

They are called mining bees because they make nests which are small holes in loose soil or sand and plaster as they use their saliva to smooth over and firm up the nest walls. They can often be seen nesting in gardens; they are solitary, living on their own rather than in colonies, but they are known to form little communities living close to each other with the females laying eggs in a single cell.

At a time when other bees are looking for places to hibernate, ivy bees are still out foraging. They are specially adapted to survive in the colder weather so they can access their favourite food source. One place to look out for them is on the ivy overhanging the churchyard wall in Middle Road, Stanton St John. Ivy bees can be easily mistaken for honeybees but have striking yellow and black bands and rather shiny mouths. As befits its adaptation to cooler weather, the ivy bee looks as though it's wearing a furry jacket and cap.



And it's a recent arrival around this area. The ivy bee was recorded for the first time in Dorset in 2001 and gradually moved further north. If you have the right soil and a south facing bank you might find them nesting in your garden.

Lyn Ebbs has lived in Stanton St John for just over 33 years and has been volunteering at the RSPB Otmoor Reserve at Otmoor Lane, Beckley, since 2009.



Cover Story

As the Covid-19 pandemic seems to finally be receding, or at least to be losing some of its power to harm our physical health in the face of the amazing success of the vaccination rollout, there is increasing concern for both adults and children who struggle with mental health issues, whether due to the pandemic or for a host of other reasons.

If you do an internet search for Equine or Equine-Assisted Therapy, you will find a large number of results testifying to the power that horses have to support their human companions. While it has long been understood that spending time with animals and pets can have a positive effect on our mood, some new research suggests that horses may have a sixth sense that can identify anxiety, stress, and fear in humans, thus helping individuals to identify (and perhaps alleviate) these emotions in themselves.

Our cover photo came about through a meeting of two people who have both experienced a very special relationship with a particular horse over a number of years, so we asked Georgina Weston to tell us a bit more about the story behind the photo.

I live in Horton-cum-Studley and I am an award winning international equine photographer. In normal (non-Covid) times I travel all over the world for private commissions capturing the special bond between horses and their humans.

The photograph that set me on course for this amazing career was taken by the legendary Emily Hancock and it is of me with my once in a lifetime horse, Taiyo, which is Japanese for Rising Sun. Taiyo was with me from childhood for twenty years. She lived a beautiful life, gave me two wonderful foals and then, just a few months after the photo was taken, she was gone.

My passion is creating beautiful artwork from precious moments. I know what it means to have a bond preserved forever and this is what I aim to capture. I am interested in the healing power of horses and the myriad ways they benefit our lives and I wanted to offer the opportunity of an Equine Photoshoot to someone who had a truly special relationship with

a horse. I therefore set up a competition on Facebook in May 2021 and one of the people who entered was Cat Kenny from Forest Hill.

Part of Cat's competition entry caught my attention. She wrote that:-

An equine photoshoot is "something I have wanted all my life but never been able to afford, my horse has been part of my life for 18 years and has gotten me through some terrible times, she is my rock and now she is getting older I'd love to have some beautiful photos."

It was clear that she had an interesting story, so I gave her a call and we spoke a little about her life and how her horses had kept her going at the toughest of times, and how they continued to help her with her anxiety and mental well-being.

She genuinely had the most moving story of anyone who entered the competition and it was a pretty easy decision to offer her a photoshoot. I know how grateful I am for the images I have of my beloved Taiyo and I wanted to enable Cat to preserve those memories too.

We arranged to meet at Shotover House on what turned out to be a searingly hot day in July, but then Cat explained that Abbie, the old horse she had written about, who had originally been her mother's and had been with her for 18 years, would not easily be able to get to the photoshoot. We therefore decided to photograph Folly instead, who had been in and out of her life for 16 years and now was going to be hers forever.



I knew as soon as I met Cat that I had made the right choice: it was a real pleasure seeing the genuine bond she had with Folly and they were both gorgeous models and did their best to make my life easy - even though it was one of the hottest days of the year! Please do get in touch if you have a special bond with an animal you would like captured.

Georgina Weston

<https://www.georginawestonphotography.co.uk/>

FOCUS ON FAMILIES

Friends of Beckley School (FOBS)

FRIENDS OF BECKLEY SCHOOL (FOBS)
WARMLY WELCOME THE COMMUNITY TO

CHILDREN'S COMPETITIONS **TOMBOLA RAFFLE** **ACTIVITIES**

**125 YEARS OF
BECKLEY SCHOOL
SUMMER FETE**

SATURDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2021
10AM - 4PM
HORTON CUM STUDLEY VILLAGE HALL

SECOND-HAND STALLS **AND LOTS, LOTS MORE** **FOOD + DRINK STALLS**

If you would like to book a stall on the day or have any donations please email beckleyfobs@gmail.com

The Maple Tree children's centre charity

At the Maple Tree there are lots of things to do! We have play-based learning activities for under fives and for older sisters and brothers in school holidays. For parents and carers the Maple Tree is a place to meet other families, get involved with hands on learning with their child and sometimes to get help with the tough task of parenting. We have events for the whole family to enjoy together, and courses – like first aid – that are just for adults. Check out our website: www.mapletree.org.uk and Facebook pages: www.facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley for special events and helpful information.



The Maple Tree at Forest Hill

The Maple Tree runs 'Play and Learn' sessions in **Forest Hill Village Hall on Thursdays from 11am to 12pm (note new time)**. Booking for these sessions is no longer essential but it is helpful if you can let us know that you are coming, to enable us to plan suitable activities.

We are here to help you, if you need advice or support, phone: 01865 236700 or 07849 466249 or email: info@mapletree.org.uk.

Laura Spencer, The Maple Tree Centre Manager



Play and Learn

The Maple Tree is a community charity (registration no. 1174117) based in Wheatley, aiming to replace some services that were lost when local Children's Centres closed in 2017. We serve families from Wheatley and surrounding villages, including Stanton St John, Forest Hill, Horton-cum-Studley and Beckley.

FOREST HILL

News from St Nicolas Church

Details of all church services can be found on page 5. Any changes to the published schedule will be on our website www.fourparishes.org.uk.

Ride and Stride, Saturday 11 September

A rota of volunteers will once again be at St Nicolas to welcome visiting 'Riders and Striders' (see page 11) and to sign their sponsorship forms, as they aim to visit as many Oxfordshire churches as possible between 10am and 6pm. Anyone can participate and it is not too late to find sponsors and sign up. For more information go to www.ohct.org.uk/ride-stride or get an entry form from the Church or Jane Walker, tel: 01865 872399, email: lyttleton@btinternet.com.

Plant and Produce Stall

This continues every Saturday (until the end of October) outside Lyttleton in Main Street, 9am - 5pm. Please leave donations for goods in the money box provided. All proceeds go towards the work of St Nicolas Church.

Cream Teas, Sunday 26 September, 3 - 5pm

This will be the last time until June next year. There will be music entertainment during the afternoon, followed by a concert in the Church and then drinks in the Churchyard. If you have never visited our lovely historic Church, this is a perfect opportunity to do so in an informal setting, and to meet old and new friends from the village and elsewhere.

Harvest Festival Celebrations at St Nicolas

Decorating the Church for Harvest, Saturday 2 October

All are welcome whether you have helped before or not. Please simply **turn up at the Church at 10.30am** and we will make you most welcome. If you can bring some flowers, greenery, fruits or vegetables that would be wonderful.

Harvest Festival Service, Sunday 3 October, 11am

Harvest Supper, Sunday 3 October, time tbc

Hold this date, and the venue and time will be confirmed in the October magazine.

Music at St Nicolas

After more than a year of solitary online music-making, we have finally been able to enjoy live music at St Nicolas again. From a choir of four soloists singing Choral Evensong for a silent mask-wearing congregation in June, we progressed to our first live concert at the end of July, with two more concerts and another Evensong planned before the end of September.



With so many talented musicians in our village, it has been wonderful to be able to hear some of them again. If you sing or play an instrument and would like to know more about opportunities for making music at St Nicolas, we would love to hear from you. Please get in touch with Julia Stutfield julia.stutfield@gmail.com or 07766 103427.



Forest Hill with Shotover Parish Council Re-Imagining the Village Hall

The Parish Council is keen to understand from residents what and how they feel the Village Hall could be used to support the community as we move to a "new normal". Could you use it for "working from home" or team meetings, etc? What facilities would you like to see it have? Please send your ideas to theclerk@foresthillwithshotover-pc.org.uk.

Parish Handyperson

The Parish Council is looking for someone (local) to take on the odd jobs we have around the parish. Typically these are small jobs that just require a good level of common sense. The jobs are very ad-hoc, so ideally suited to a local resident who can be available when and where required. Please contact theclerk@foresthillwithshotover-pc.org.uk.

(continued)

Dog fouling

The Parish Council has been asked to remind residents of the following by SODC:

Please be aware that it is an offence to not clean up after your dog or leave used dog waste bags anywhere other than an appropriate bin. Under the Dog Fouling of Land Act 1996, allowing your dog to foul can result in an on-the-spot fixed penalty notice of £50 and incorrect disposal of dog waste bags e.g. not putting them in the bin can result in an £80 fixed penalty notice. If fines are not paid, cases can be escalated to court resulting in fines of up to £1,000.

There are some council owned litter bins within your parish. These can be used for both litter and dog waste bags - you do not need to find a specialist dog waste bin. You can also put dog waste bags in your black general waste wheelie bin so if you cannot find a bin or bins are full, please take it home.

The date of the next meeting is Thursday 23 September, at 7pm in the Village Hall. Meetings are open to the public and have an open session where residents can bring attention to any village issues.

Current Agendas and Minutes are posted on the two notice boards; outside the Village Hall and at the end of Mickle Way. Archive Agendas and Minutes can be found at www.parish-council.com/foresthillwithshotover/index.asp.

You can contact Helen Cross, the Parish Council Clerk, tel: 0844 884 3328, during the hours 09:00 to 17:00, or email address: theclerk@foresthillwithshotover-pc.org.uk

Forest Hill Village Hall

The Hall is now fully open for hire and we are pleased to have welcomed back regular users as well as taking individual bookings for parties and family events.

If you would like to hire the Hall please contact Dawn Dunbar at dunbardawn1@gmail.com or telephone 07527 732050.

The Maple Tree at Forest Hill

Play and Learn, Thursdays 11am-12pm (note new time)

The Forest Hill Baby and Toddler Group, now known as The Maple Tree at Forest Hill, has proved very popular with at least 10 families from the Four Parishes and as many again from further afield. After a 2 week break at the end of August, weekly sessions start again on Thursday 2 September at the **new time of 11am-12pm**, which appears to work well for everyone.

Maple Tree Centre Manager, Laura Spencer, runs the sessions with help from one or two volunteers from Forest Hill. It has proved to be a wonderful opportunity for parents and carers of babies and young children to meet each other and socialise after 18 months of isolation due to the pandemic.



Booking is helpful but is no longer mandatory. Anyone who wants to come should email laura@mapletree.org.uk or contact Julia Stutfield (details below).

More volunteers to help with setting up and taking down the equipment in the Village Hall would still be much appreciated. To find out more about what is involved, please contact Julia Stutfield, telephone 07766 103427 or email julia.stutfield@gmail.com.

Cream Teas and Music at St Nicolas Church

Sunday 26 September

3pm - 5pm

Cream Teas with live music in the garden

5.15pm

Informal Summer Concert in the Church
followed by drinks in the garden

Contact Julia Stutfield julia.stutfield@gmail.com for more information

BECKLEY

Beckley Church

Details of all church services can be found on page 5. Any changes to the published schedule will be on our website www.fourparishes.org.uk.

The Chancel Roof

A site meeting with the church architect and the roofers is due to take place on 25 August, and if all goes well, and the ecologist is happy with the timing with regard to bats, the work on the roof will have started by the time you are reading this. If it goes according to plan, it should take 3-4 weeks, and be finished by the end of September.

Ride and Stride, 11 September - another reminder!

I hope you may have seen the posters about this on the village notice boards.

As you may remember, Ride and Stride is the main source of funding for Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust, which gives grants for repairs and improvements to churches and chapels of all denominations in the county. Beckley church received a generous grant in 2010 for the extensive stonework repairs that were needed, and we have been awarded a further grant towards the cost of the re-roofing of the chancel.

Do consider taking part! If you are reading this before 11 September, it's not too late to find sponsors, and walk, ride or cycle to visit as many churches as you can. I will leave some sponsorship forms on the table in the church. For more information, go to www.ohct.org.uk/ride-stride, or contact me, Gina Robson on 01865 351637 or gina.robson@virgin.net.

Save the Date: Saturday 6 November 2021

Beckley Firework and Bonfire Night – gates open 5.30pm, bonfire at 6pm and fireworks at 6.30pm – Beckley Village Hall and Playing Field (tbc - subject to Covid-19 restrictions on the day).

H5 Bus

Good news for Beckleyites - the **H5 bus** running from the JR and Headington to Bicester, via Islip, will now **stop on request, at the junction of New Inn Road and the B4027**, from 1 September 2021.

Beckley & Stowood Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 2nd September at 8pm in Beckley Village Hall (tbc). Parish Council information, including agendas and minutes, is available on the website www.beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk. The Clerk's email address is clerk@beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk if you wish to contact the Parish Council to raise a question for the next meeting.

Out-of-hours highways service up and running

A new telephone number (01223 849731) has been launched for Oxfordshire residents to call for urgent out of hours highways-related issues. You can now **report a highways matter to Oxfordshire County Council outside normal office hours** – including evenings, weekends and bank holidays – if there are concerns about it causing an accident or damaging property. The call adviser will discuss the urgency of the issue and take appropriate action as required. **During normal working hours, people should continue to call the council's customer service centre on 0345 310 1111.** If the situation is potentially life threatening, people should call emergency services on 999.

Fix My Street: for highways issues that do not require immediate action, residents are encouraged to use the Fix My Street app or complete an online form. Anyone can report a road or street problem on the County Council website at www.fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk.

The Otmoor Flyer: to book a minibus journey from Beckley to Headington/Oxford on a Tuesday or Friday, please telephone Jill Meyjes on 01865 351496. Please book before 10am on the day before travel.

For information on **Beckley Village Hall** see www.beckleyvillagehall.org and to enquire about a booking please contact the Booking Secretary, Tim Pullen at booking@beckleyvillagehall.org.

SODC: get your **waste collection** dates on your smartphone by downloading the BINZONE app on Android or iPhone/iPad – just search “binzone” in your appstore.

Reminder from the Parish Council: please clean up after your dog and dispose of bagged waste and litter in your Grey bin at home or in the dual-waste litter bin on the playing field.

Beckley and Area Community Benefit Society

More than a Pub program. <https://bacbs.org/events>

The Abingdon Arms Pub Quiz

The 'real' pub quizzes in June and July were immensely successful. There was no quiz in August but there is one planned for 1 September at 7.30pm and the first Wednesday of the month thereafter.

The first Monthly Community Walk was on Sunday 15 August. Further walks are planned, see the website.

Sunday Evening upcoming talks

We hope that the Sunday evening talks will start again in the pub in September, and also be available via Zoom. Once allowed, we strongly encourage those that can, to support the events in person for the sake of the speakers, our social well-being, and of course because we want to support the pub in every way we can. For Zoom access details to talks please go to <https://bacbs.org/events>. If you would like to watch past talks, please email Adrian Hampshire at info@bacbs.org with your request.

Sunday 12 September, 6.30pm. The Art of Faith, a talk by **Nick Mynheer**, of Horton-cum-Studley, on his life and work as a painter, sculptor and glass designer. Nick has worked on over 40 commissions for churches, cathedrals, and public spaces. He will share some of the experiences and sense of joy he has had in producing them.

Sunday 17 October, 6.30pm. A talk by **Tim Dixon** on **Carbon Capture and Storage**, as a climate change technology, and how it relates to other climate solutions, in the context of the COP26 conference in Glasgow in November. Tim lives in Horton-cum-Studley.

Sunday 28 November, 6.30pm. Plants, Magic and Medicine, a talk by **Dr Sue Burge**, retired consultant dermatologist and former Director of Clinical Studies at The University of Oxford.

Sunday 12 December, 6.30 pm. Otmoor, the Changing Year, a talk by **Peter Barker**. A passionate advocate for Otmoor and its wildlife, and for open wild spaces, Peter is author of "The Birds of Otmoor" which will be published this autumn by the Oxford Ornithological Society and convenor of the Otmoor Birding website <http://otmoorbirding.blogspot.com>.

HORTON-cum-STUDLEY

News from St Barnabas

Details of all church services can be found on page 5. Any changes to the published schedule will be on our website www.fourparishes.org.uk.

Services at St Barnabas now include hymn singing, although social distancing and voluntary mask wearing continue to be encouraged.

At the recent APCM in July, we said farewell to Colin Jenkins (right) after twenty years as Treasurer. Thank you so much to Colin for his services to St Barnabas over such a long period of time.

Julia Slingo has now kindly agreed to take over the role of Treasurer. Lis Pugh was co-opted onto the PCC.



Donations for Tiggywinkles Wildlife Hospital

Following a very generous response from the village to a Facebook plea from Tiggywinkles for food, a few people asked if the donations are something we could continue. I checked with the Churchwardens and they are happy for the box to remain in the Church porch. The following are suitable donations: wet dog and cat food, dry kitten biscuits (not fish flavour), post-it notes, pens, antibacterial wipes, old towels (not sheets or blankets). Thank you so much to anyone who would like to contribute occasionally.

Carol Welch

Harvest Festival Celebrations at St Barnabas

As you will have seen on the rota on page 5, we will be **celebrating harvest in Horton-cum-Studley at 11am on 19 September** with a Harvest Holy Communion service. We will be **decorating the Church on 18 September**, and it would be wonderful if anyone is able to help with this. We will be in Church from 10am and will give you a warm welcome if you are able to help! If you have any produce or flowers to decorate the Church, please do bring it along from 10am. Please get in touch with Annie Payne with any questions. After the Service the produce will be given to the Thame Food Bank.



Saturday 11 September, 12 - 2pm

St Barnabas, Horton-cum-Studley

MICHAELMAS FAYRE at Manor Farm

By kind invitation of the Badger family

We look forward to seeing you there

This is always a delightful and truly traditional country village event and for all ages. We hope that as many of you as possible can support it and use the opportunity to **meet your neighbours and friends whilst at the same time helping to raise funds** to keep our beautiful village church open and in good order.

Anyone who would like to offer help with running a stall, making soup or donating a raffle prize, cake or produce etc, please do get in touch with Lynn Whitaker (01865 358838; lyndawhitaker@btinternet.com) or Lisa Mynheer (01865 351340 lisamynheer@gmail.com).

Stalls include: Produce - Gifts & Nearly New - Books, DVDs, Pictures - Raffle - Toys - Cakes - Soup and Hotdog lunches

Horton-cum-Studley Parish Council

The Parish Council will be meeting face to face on **Thursday 9 September at 7.30pm in the Millennium Village Hall**. Face to face meetings will continue on a quarterly basis, with the next one on **9 December**. Other monthly meetings remain virtual. The Parish Council will be pleased for villagers to attend either face to face or virtual meetings, as we value your input on all of the topics we discuss.

The Parish Council continues to receive complaints regarding dog fouling and this has become a particular issue on the Village Playing Field. If this level of fouling continues the Parish Council and Millennium Hall Committee will be forced to ban dogs from the field. Please be considerate of your neighbours and pick up after your dog. The Parish Council has also asked the Dog Warden to patrol the village and they will fine anyone who does not pick up after their dog. There is a fixed penalty of £50 for not picking up after your dog and not properly disposing of dog poo is a littering offence which itself has a fixed penalty fine of £75.

Millennium Hall Committee

It has been good to see the hall back in use again with a very large wedding followed by another function as well as some smaller events. The major problem has been one of cleanliness but that has been dealt with. Our new cleaner (Roxy Watson) is very adaptable and is scheduled to come on alternate Tuesdays. She does an excellent job.

The biggest complaint this month regards a villager using the large rubbish bin to dispose of their domestic waste. I found the large bin half full of such this week which has meant that not all the black sacks from the Sudanese party this week can be fitted into the bin. There was even a child's bicycle and a child's car seat left. Cherwell will very kindly clear it all for us but we have to pay an additional fee. At a time when the hall finances are very low due to lack of hiring thanks to Covid-19, we just cannot accept villagers using it as an easy way of getting rid of rubbish – a trip to Redbridge is the appropriate route for disposal. So PLEASE take note!

While on the subject of rubbish, I found many empty disposable cups, cartons of orange juice, wipes and tissues around the tennis court gate this afternoon (Sunday) that was not there on Saturday at 3.00pm. The courts, play area and hall are great assets to the village which we should all be extremely proud of and therefore it is everyone's responsibility to keep it clean. This includes dog walkers as not everyone is picking up after their dog. This is of vital importance especially as the field is being used increasingly.

We are very grateful, as always, to Pete Whitaker who keeps a close eye on maintenance issues and he and Sam Mitchell plus some additional muscle, have re-erected the football posts. It is good to see the netted post being used and we hope, when funds allow, to obtain a net for the other post even though a team has not been realised as yet.

I am conscious that these reports have degenerated into moans but they are justified so that everyone can enjoy the facility without first clearing other's mess.

Derek Jewell

Horton-cum-Studley Gardening Club

Gardens have benefited from all the rain but I wish it had not been quite so torrential. Fruit is ripening and veg growers are harvesting their produce. Our James Grieve apples are almost ready - a bit later than last year. Watch out for wasps on ripening fruit. They can be troublesome now, but remember all the good work they have done earlier in the year. Wasps eat many pests and are valuable pollinators.

Agapanthus have opened, Japanese anemones and Michaelmas daisies will soon be in flower and my "hot" border is a blaze of oranges, yellows and reds. I am particularly pleased that I finally succeeded in growing tithonias (Mexican sunflowers) from seed. *Tithonia rotundifolia* "Torch" is a tall erect branching annual with wonderful bright orange daisy-like flower-heads that appear in the late summer and carry on into the autumn.



We have enjoyed some lovely outings. Please see our website www.horton-cum-studley.org.uk/community/clubs/ for information about our autumn programme. We have speakers in October and November but I am not sure if talks will be remote or if we will be back in the village hall.

If you would like to know more about the Gardening Club, please contact the chairman, Susan Burge 01865 351310. New members are very welcome.

2021 Pumpkin Weigh-In and Sunflower Measure

Sunday 17 October

3-4 pm at St Barnabas Church, Horton-cum-Studley

Tea and scones will also be provided

Bring all your pumpkins and sunflowers along so we can admire them.

All shapes and sizes welcome.

This year we hear there are some unusual pumpkins around so it may well be a weigh-in with a difference!

The Otmoor Challenge Walk

Saturday 25 September 2021

Come and celebrate the 41st Otmoor Challenge!

Help to keep the Otmoor Challenge alive. This year we cannot have the full, traditional day, but you can do your bit to keep the name going until we can resurrect the whole event.

Walk the 5 or 13 mile course. Start/finish at the Millennium Hall, Horton-cum-Studley OX33 1AD

Register and start from 8.30am until 11am. Badges for all finishers until 3pm

Entry fee: Adults £6.00, children 16 and under - free, but must be accompanied by an adult

(Payment by cash, cheque or bank transfer via your phone on the day)

Both courses marked and signed. Bring your own water!

Refreshments by the WI in Millennium Hall 10.30am - 3pm

Even if you aren't walking, come down and meet your friends for tea/coffee and cakes! Check the website: www.otmoorchallenge.co.uk

The Women's Institute Otmoor Challenge Refreshments

The WI will be supporting the Otmoor Challenge Walk by organising refreshments for walkers and villagers from any of the Four Parishes.

Annie Anderson will be leading the team, and would be very grateful for contributions of home-made cakes of all types. Tea/coffee, squash and bottled water and cake will be on sale between 10.30am and 3pm. Donated cakes can be delivered to the Millennium Hall, Horton-cum-Studley, on the day, or through arrangement with Annie Anderson: 01865 351551

Thank you.

YOUR OTMOOR CHALLENGE NEEDS YOU!!!



Social Evenings Studley Wood Golf Club

Studley Wood Golf Club is restarting its Social Supper Evening once a month from September. This will take place on the last Friday of each month. Timing is normally 6.30pm for a 7pm sitting. If you email to register an interest someone will forward you the menu a week beforehand and choices will need to be made in advance.

Seating is on large tables so that everyone can mix and socialise together. It would be great after such an extended period to reconnect with villagers and their friends once again.

If you would like more information please ring Ruth David (01865 351444) or email craig@studleywoodgolfclub.co.uk or tom@studleywoodgolfclub.co.uk.

* * * * *

STANTON ST JOHN

Stanton Church

Details of all church services can be found on page 5. Any changes to the published schedule will be on our website www.fourparishes.org.uk.

Harvest Festival Celebrations at Stanton St John

As you will have seen on the rota on page 5, we will be **celebrating harvest in Stanton St John at 9.30 am on 19 September** with a Harvest Holy Communion service.

We will be **decorating the Church on 18 September**, and it would be wonderful if anyone is able to help with this. We will be in Church from 9.30am and will give you a warm welcome if you are able to help! If you have any produce or flowers to decorate the Church, please do bring it along from 9.30am. After the Service the produce will be shared between The Porch and Cowley Food Bank.

Opening the Church

We will be opening the Church daily again from September, providing we have enough volunteers. If anyone can help with unlocking and locking the Church that would be wonderful. Please could you get in touch with Anthea if you can help with this anthea@fourparishes.org.uk or 01865 351839.

Stanton St John Parish Council

The next meeting of Stanton St John Parish Council will be on **Monday 13 September at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

Have your say! Oxfordshire Plan 2050 - public consultation

Oxfordshire's county, district and city councils are in the process of developing strategic plans that will affect the future of our area, and are encouraging feedback and input from residents and others by 8 October 2021. Their focus areas are:

- Addressing climate change
- Improving environmental quality
- Creating strong and healthy communities
- Planning for sustainable travel and connectivity
- Creating jobs and providing homes

To add comments, however brief, on any or all aspects of the plans, visit www.oxfordshireopenthought.org - or if you don't use the internet, we'll bring a few printed copies of the response form to the September Parish Council meeting, which can be completed by hand and sent in by post.

Long grass along roadside verges

We have had a few enquiries about grass cutting on roadside verges in the parish, as the growth has been so vigorous that footpaths have been obstructed in some places. Roadside cutting is done once a year by Oxfordshire County Council, prioritising safety issues and A roads, then B roads, and normally cutting only 1 metre back from the road, so as to give wildflowers, insects and other small creatures a chance. This has now been done in our parish, including the verge along the B4027 between Stanton St John and Forest Hill, which was a particular issue.

Dog bins

From July onwards we have a new contractor emptying the dog waste bins, since South Oxfordshire District Council have significantly increased their price for this service. If you notice any particular problems, please let us know. SODC also points out that bagged dog waste can be placed in any council litter bin or your black general waste wheelie bin at home.

(continued)

Hedge trimmings and other garden waste

You may well have seen the apologetic announcement from SODC that staffing shortages have forced them to temporarily suspend their garden waste collection service. Please resist the temptation to let hedge clippings etc fall onto footpaths in either field or street areas, where they may cause an obstruction. The collection service will resume as soon as possible, or of course clippings can be taken to council recycling centres.

Bonfires

SODC has urged extra caution about garden bonfires during the pandemic, because of the risk of possible health effects and nuisance to neighbours from smoke.

They offer the following guidance if an occasional bonfire can't be avoided:

- Out of courtesy, please let your neighbours know before you light a fire
- Only burn dry/clean wood and garden waste

PLEASE DO NOT:

- Burn damp material
- Burn rubbish, such as plastic, foam, paint or rubber
- Light the fire using engine oil, methylated spirits or petrol
- Light the fire in windy weather
- Leave it unattended, even if the fire is just smouldering

Power tools and noisy work

The Parish Council is still receiving comments from residents from power tools and construction work. Please consider the potential impact on neighbours. For construction projects, SODC recommends that **noisy activities should only be carried out within: 7.30am to 6pm Monday to Friday, and 8am to 1pm on Saturdays, with no noisy work on Sundays and bank holidays.**

Stanton St John W.I.

We were relieved and delighted to hold a successful face to face indoor meeting last month. The speaker was entertaining and enlightening. She told us about changes in women's role in society which prompted a lively question and answer session. We all felt that the hall was spacious and airy enough to allay any anxieties.

At 7.30pm on Tuesday 21 September we plan to hold an Open Meeting.

Our speaker will be Melanie King, an author of several books and an accomplished speaker at prestigious Literary Festivals. Her subject is "Tea, Coffee and Chocolate - How we fell in love with Caffeine".

Apart from the talk, we will be offering refreshments, including wine and a small chocolate treat. All this, including a warm WI welcome for only £4 for non members!

We often collect items to support Oxfordshire Food Bank and unfortunately more people need a little help due to the effects of the Pandemic. This month we request that you might like to bring along a (new) contribution of "Bare Necessities" which could be non-perishable foods or toiletries - in fact anything that you regard as necessary.



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COMMUNITY EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER



Saturday 4 September

Friends of Beckley School (FOBS)

**Celebrate 125 years of Beckley School
at Horton-cum-Studley Millenium Hall**

(subject to Covid-19 restrictions) See page 22 for more details.



Saturday 11 September, 12 - 2pm

St Barnabas, Horton-cum-Studley

MICHAELMAS FAYRE at Manor Farm

By kind invitation of the Badger family

(subject to Covid-19 restrictions)

This is always a delightful and truly traditional country village event and for all ages. *See page 32 for more details.*



Saturday 25 September

Horton-cum-Studley

The Otmoor Challenge Walk



Help to keep the Otmoor Challenge alive. This year we cannot have the full, traditional day, but you can do your bit to keep the name going until we can resurrect the whole event. *See page 35 for more details.*



Sunday 26 September

Forest Hill

**Cream Teas and Music at St
Nicolas**



3pm -5pm Cream Teas with live music in the garden

5.15pm Informal Concert in the Church followed by drinks in the garden

See pages 25 and 27 for more details.