

The Four Parishes News Magazine

BECKLEY
FOREST HILL
HORTON-cum-STUDLEY
STANTON St JOHN



Harvesting at Stanton St John

September 2019

The editor writes:



Here we are again after an all too short summer break! As usual, the magazine is packed with news of community activities and celebrations in all our villages, so please put dates in your diary now to avoid missing out!

We welcome two new advertisers this month but we can always do with more. When I took over the magazine in 2018 there was an advertising manager as well as an editor but somehow I have ended up being both! If you value the contribution of this magazine to our community and have good IT skills, please consider offering a few hours of your time to help keep it going and perhaps to enable us to take more advantage of digital developments.

As always, I can be contacted by email at 4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com or by phone on 07766 103427.

Julia Stutfield

Our cover photo ...

was taken by Nick Dempsey in 2018
and is of Andy Ford combining wheat at Rectory Farm.

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

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Stanton St John

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The closing date for the October issue is 15 Sept 2019

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
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Joanna Allen (Ordinand)	jo.ordinand@gmail.com

Church Wardens

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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, September 2019

	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 Sep	11am Parish Communion	9.30am Parish Communion	9.30am Parish Communion	11am Morning Prayer
		6pm Taizé	4pm Family Church (Beckley Village Hall)	
8 Sep	9.30am Family Service at Beckley 			11am Parish Communion
	6pm Choral Evensong (St Nicolas Choir)			
15 Sep	11am Morning Prayer (Book of Common Prayer)	9.30am Parish Communion HARVEST	[no morning service]	11am Family Service
		4pm Family Church (Stanton Village Hall)	6pm Iona Service	
22 Sep	10am Joint Benefice Service at Stanton St John			
29 Sep	11am Morning Prayer	9.30am Parish Communion	9.30am Morning Prayer	11am Parish Communion
		6pm Church Without Walls (Stanton Village Hall)		

Harvest Festivals

15 Sep (Stanton), 6 Oct (Forest Hill), 13 Oct (Beckley and Horton-cum-Studley)

CHURCH NOTICE BOARD

News from each of our four village churches is to be found on the individual village pages. The two main annual community events to look out for in September and October are OHCT Ride and Stride (see back cover page for details) and a range of traditional Harvest celebrations.

GENERAL NOTICES

The Maple Tree

We attended the first ever Wheatley & Holton Play Day on Saturday 6 July and this was a huge success! We met lots of lovely new people who enjoyed our activities which included hungry caterpillar necklaces, butterflies and making healthy wraps. What a fabulous day and well done to all concerned.

We were also thrilled to have been awarded a score of 5 after our recent Food Hygiene Inspection.



We continued to run throughout the summer holidays except for Thursday Stay & Play sessions, as we are out and about! See our Facebook page www.facebook.com/groups/500731153419935/ or to volunteer, hire the MT, buy or sell raffle tickets or just for more information contact hayley@mapletree.org.uk

Hayley Hayle, Coordinator

The Maple Tree is a community charity (registration no. 1174117) based in Wheatley aiming to replace some universal 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 & Stowood.



Wheatley Library

Our "Opera in an hour" event in June was great fun for all who participated! Thank you, Roger Simmonds, for your time and energy.

We will be having another later in the year. Keep an eye out for details.



Dates to note:

Digital development, Tuesdays at 4pm.

Gain a better understanding of digital terminology, the internet and general computer usage. You will be logged onto a simple online course that you can work through at your own pace.

Book Trivia events

30 questions... How many can you answer?

Follow Friends of Wheatley Library on Facebook or see in library for details.

Saturday 28 September

Ex-library stock book sale 40p each or 3 for £1

Wheatley Reading Group

The Wheatley reading group has a few spaces available for anyone looking to join a group. The books they read cover a broad range of genres from thrillers to classics to non-fiction to light reads. There is always something to enjoy in each book and something to discuss at the meetings. If you are interested, please leave you details with a member of library staff and the group leader will get in contact with you.

Thanks all, 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

Oxford-Cambridge Expressway Update

The summer has been incredibly busy for the No Expressway Group (NEG), with 10 village fetes and 4 village meetings. Brill and Marsh Gibbon meetings attracted close to 300 people each. NEG is also working closely with other local groups, sharing information, resources and skills, for a stronger campaign.

Our environment is a national asset. The proposed expressway and major development along the “Arc” are significant for all. **Our next critical step for the NEG campaign**, which has been gaining traction locally, is to try to influence decision makers in Westminster.

To take this big step, *NEG needs to raise funds* to pay for running the campaign, political consultants and planning experts. A very enjoyable and successful Mexican themed fundraising dinner was held in the gardens of Grove House, Beckley on 1st August. *Huge thanks* go to José Ramón and Mantina López-Portillo for holding such a wonderful event. You are also able to donate to the campaign on NEG’s website, noexpressway.org. *Or, could you host a fundraising event?*

NEG met with Highways England’s (HE) Matt Stafford, Project Director for Ox-Cam Expressway project & members of his team on 30th July. Key points from the meeting:

1. Highways England confirmed that anyone or group can register as a stakeholder, simply email

OxfordtoCambridgeExpressway@highwaysengland.co.uk. This means HE will send any new information it is sharing, directly to you; e.g. when HE announces timing and details of the consultation process later this year. It’s also a great way of demonstrating how interested our communities, groups and individuals are. We urge you all to register as stakeholders!

2. Highways England confirmed it has asked some stakeholders to sign NDAs so it could discuss if possible routes are “viable and buildable”.

This revelation is in stark contrast to HE’s refusal even to confirm their existence in response to NEG’s Freedom of Information request, despite this having been in the media. Oxon County Council, South Oxon DC,

Vale of White Horse DC and Milton Keynes Council have all signed NDAs. Bucks County Council and Aylesbury Vale DC refused.

HE said it asks Local Authorities to sign NDAs to be "responsible" about any impact on land values.

HE has not asked environmental experts, such as RSPB and BBOWT, to sign NDAs, nor has it spoken with them in confidence about potential routes. Matt Stafford said that submissions provided by BBOWT/RSPB early last year gave enough information to HE, so that no further follow up was required whilst developing route options. The RSPB told NEG that it has had no contact from HE since it made its initial submission regarding preference of corridor in April 2018.

NEG's questions are - what about anything new discovered since last year, or consideration of wildlife corridors and living landscapes? *Can HE assess that on its own? Why not contact the experts?*

3. HE confirmed its announcement of 6/7 route options, currently scheduled for Autumn 2019, will start a 10 week consultation period.

HE said the project is on track, but exact dates of this are not yet known, due to government reshuffle.

HE expects us all to provide feedback on routes based on our local knowledge, information on wildlife and heritage sites. *You will be able to say your preference is "no expressway"* by filling in "is there anything else we should know" box, there won't be a specific 'No expressway' tick box. Further information will be shared on our website.

Actions

- Email to register as a project stakeholder
OxfordtoCambridgeExpressway@highwaysengland.co.uk
- Sign up to receive our email Updates noexpressway.org/#newsletter
- Follow us on: Facebook facebook.com/pg/noexpresswaygroup/ and Twitter [@no_expressway](https://twitter.com/no_expressway)
- Please donate to our campaign
<https://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



John Howell MP writes...

August 2019

By the time this newsletter is published the summer break will have ended and we will be back to normal - whatever that is these days. When Parliament returns it is anybody's guess what will happen and in the vacuum of the silly season the media are promulgating all sorts of scenarios.

During the recess I spent quite a bit of time knocking on doors in a number of streets in a range of towns and villages across the constituency. I took a random selecting of streets so that I could get a spread of views and a feel for the national, international and local issues that were on people's minds. It is good to talk to people at times other than when campaigning for an election. It gives an opportunity for me to find out what really matters to people and to discuss issues.

I know that many people are disenchanted with politics and that the behaviour of some politicians over the months has led to a low view of all. Let me assure you that some politicians, including me, are as fed up with colleagues as the public are. I share many of the frustrations of recent times especially what seems to be constant jockeying for opportunities for self-promotion rather than a willingness to tackle the tasks in hand. I am also frustrated at efforts to interfere with democratic process to achieve what sometimes seems to be personal views. And, although the choice of our new Prime Minister and process of selection were not favoured by all, now that he is in post I believe we should give him a chance. We are in difficult times, but it is clear to me that people are fed up with the current uncertainty. I very much agree with this. Uncertainty can be very debilitating, and most situations are much easier to deal with once you know just what you are dealing with.

When Parliament returns after the recess I will be much more limited in the time I have to knock on doors, however I will continue to do so when I can. I will also continue to make time to meet with constituents who want to discuss something with me. If you have an issue or concern relating to Parliament which you would like to discuss please email or phone my office. Depending on the issue or concern sometimes one of my team will be able to assist more quickly than me, especially if you have a problem that needs our help in contacting a government department to resolve the matter. You can email me at howelljm@parliament.uk, phone on 0207 219 6676 or 01491 613072 or write to me at the House of Commons (House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA) or my constituency office (PO Box 84, Watlington, OX49 5XD).

STANTON ST JOHN

Harvest Festival Service and Bells Restoration Celebration

The harvest festival service will take place on **Sunday 15 September**, and will include a blessing of the restored bells. Everyone is very welcome to join in the celebration and service of thanks for the harvest.

The service starts at 9.30am and will finish by 10.45am. Following the service, there will be a celebration to mark the completion of the bell restoration project. The project team has been delighted with the success of the restorative work undertaken, and for the support from the community. We are also indebted to the volunteers who were active in the restoration work itself.

The celebration will take place in the village hall, where teas, coffees and cakes will be served free of charge, whilst members of the Guild of Church Bells Ringers will be ringing various peels.

This is an opportunity to meet up with neighbours, enjoy a cuppa and a slice of cake whilst listening to some ringing, and to find out more about church bell ringing - we are very keen to find new ringers, so why not think about giving it a go!

*Paul Lansdowne
Tower Correspondent for the Stanton Bell Ringing Band*

Safari Supper in June

The village Safari Supper took place on Saturday 8 June and, although an extremely windy, rainy day, the weather eventually subsided so that we could enjoy a lovely evening, culminating at The Talkhouse who very kindly supplied coffee and mints.

Not specifically a profit making event, a total of £320 was raised through participation and donations. This amount has been donated to the Church for the current essential works and ongoing repairs fund.

Maddy, Caroline & Elaine

Ride and Stride

Sue Baker will be cycling in support of the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust on Saturday 14 September. Please support her in her efforts to raise money for Stanton Church. Sponsor forms are available with Rowan at the Village Shop and in Stanton Church.

Stanton St John WI

We are holding a highly recommended Open Meeting on Tuesday 17 September at 7.30pm in Stanton Village Hall. The request of a donation to defray expenses enables non-members to visit us and discover more about our group. Dr Chris Fletcher will be talking about 'Bizarre and Beautiful Books' at the Bodleian Library. We were enthralled by a previous talk some years ago and are delighted that he has agreed to return. We also have a collection this month for Oxfordshire Food Bank.

Save the Date! Pencil in 5 October Now

On **Saturday 5 October** we are planning to revive our Coffee, Cake and Chat Pre-Christmas Sale. Look forward to stalls with delicious produce and great ideas for gifts as well as an opportunity to catch up with friends and neighbours from surrounding villages.

Family Film Evening on 31 August

Following the success of our last two screenings, the Stanton Film Committee has teamed up with the Rectory Farm Shop to provide a bigger and better (outdoor) event with a cinema-sized screen, professional outdoor projection and superb sound quality.

By the time you read this, the event may already have happened! We will be showing the classic comedy Mrs. Doubtfire (1993, 125 min, 12+ rating), starring Robin Williams and Sally Field. Doors will be open early for picnicking or strawberry picking, the café will be available for light snacks and a bar will be open from 7pm. The film will begin at 8pm.

Ticket prices are £20 per family (2 adults, 3 children), £10 per adult and £5 per student/youngster.

Any profits raised from this screening will be donated to the Building Fund of the church at Stanton St John.

Stanton St John Parish Council

We are aware of the recent damage to raised pavement walls in the village and are investigating how the damage occurred. We have some witnesses but if you have any further knowledge please let us know. Repairs will start as soon as possible.

The Village Hall is being redecorated this summer thanks to a kind bequest. It will soon be ready for use by the village and others who wish to rent it for classes, children's parties or any other event.

The next Parish Council Meeting is on **Monday 9 September** (note the 2nd Monday) at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Updates to news and notices can be found on the council website at www.parish-council.com/stantonstjohn/.

Stanton St John Email Distribution List

If you wish to be included in the village distribution list for updates on local news and events, please send your email address to elaine.warner@icloud.com.



Farm Shop & Pick Your Own

Strawberries **Raspberries**
Blackcurrants **Broad Beans**
New Potatoes **Flowers**
Blackberries **Redcurrants**

Available Now

Tuesday to Saturday 9.30am - 5.30pm
Sunday 9.30am - 4pm

Rectory Farm, Stanton St John, OX33 1HF | 01865 358 309 | www.rectoryfarmpyo.co.uk

FOREST HILL

News from St Nicolas Church

Please see **page 5** for details of all church services during September or visit our website at www.stnicolasforesthill.org.

Late Summer Concert, 1 September

The Osborne/Blyth Jazz Trio and the St Nicolas Consort return to St Nicolas Church on **Sunday 1 September at 6pm** with a programme of vocal music and gentle jazz suitable for a late summer's evening. Tickets £8 including wine/soft drinks and nibbles, available on the St Nicolas website or from Julia Stutfield 07766 103427 or pay on the door.

Ride and Stride, 14 September

Help preserve the history on your doorstep by taking part in a sponsored cycle, walk, horse ride around Oxfordshire churches on **Saturday 14 September**. All funds raised go to Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust and 50% can be passed on to a church of your choice. Entry forms can be collected from St Nicolas Church or from Jane Walker tel: 01865 872399 or email: lyttleton@btinternet.com

Cream Teas, 29 September

Sunday 29 September, 3 - 5pm. In the garden at St Nicolas Church (inside the church if wet). This will be the last cream tea of the season until we start again in June 2020. If you have never been to visit our lovely historic church, this is a perfect opportunity to see it in an informal setting and to meet old and new friends from the village and elsewhere.

Decorating the Church for Harvest Festival, 5 October



Harvest Festival will be celebrated at St Nicolas on **Sunday 6 October at 11am**. If you are interested in helping to decorate the church beforehand, just turn up on **Saturday 5 October at 10.30am** and we will make you most welcome. If you are able to bring some flowers, fruits, vegetables or greenery, that would also be helpful (but is not essential).

Forest Hill with Shotover Parish Council

The date of the next meeting is **Thursday 26 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. All residents are welcome!

Current 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.

The Parish Council would like residents with children who have bicycles to ask them please, when they are cycling on the footpaths, to be careful not to get too close to parked cars because of the damage they could do to the paintwork of cars if they knock into them. We know children have to be able to stay safe by riding on the paths but they also need to be thoughtful of other residents.

The Council is working to address the issue of parked cars on Stanton Road, too close to the exit of Mickle Way, causing a danger to drivers leaving Mickle Way who are unable to see oncoming cars in either direction. If you feel road safety is being breached you can report the matter to the Police by calling 101.

If you have any environmental or nuisance noise issues the Parish Council asks that you, as well as drawing it to the attention of the Council, make your own individual complaints as this has more impact. You can report a problem at:

<http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/environment-and-neighbourhood-issues/report-problem-noise-and-nuisance>.

The Parish Council website address is:

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

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

HORTON-cum-STUDLEY

Horton-cum-Studley, St Barnabas

PCC news

The PCC really appreciates the fund-raising activities across the village which contribute to the upkeep of the church. Recently over £1700 has been raised through individuals sponsored for the Otmoor Challenge and the inaugural Market on the Green as well as £170 from the Safari Lunch (details further on). In addition, over £700 was raised for an Oxford homeless charity by more than 70 people attending the 'Music for a while' concert at St Barnabas church. We are grateful for the continuing efforts of all those volunteers involved in the presentation of the church, be it flower arranging, cleaning or maintaining the grounds.

Ride and Stride for Churches, Saturday 14 September

Help preserve the history on your doorstep by taking part in a sponsored cycle, walk or horse ride around Oxfordshire's' churches. All funds raised go to Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust and 50% can be passed on to a church of your choice. Further information from Lynn Whitaker on 01865 358838.

Feast of St Francis, Sunday 6 October

As part of our morning service we welcome Dr Margaret B Adam, visiting Tutor in Christian Ethics at St Stephen's House, Oxford, Project Editor for CreatureKind and Postdoctoral Researcher for the AHRC-funded project: Christian Ethics and Farmed Animal Welfare. Dr Adam will speak to us about how and why Christians might think about animals. This is an introduction to the topic, for people who may not have considered what connection there might be between Christianity and animal welfare.

Dates for your diary:

Sunday 13 October Harvest Festival Parish Communion service at 11am.

Saturday 19 October Michaelmas Fayre at Manor Farm.

More details next month but some words of guidance and encouragement this month from Cathy about the "Weigh and Measure In" for the Giant Pumpkin and Tallest Sunflower Competition 2019:

"I hope all your plants are growing like triffids in this warm and very wet weather! Please bring all your pumpkins and sunflowers to Manor Farm for judging. As usual there will be PRIZES!! And CUPS!! As it is the first year for sunflowers I have had numerous questions about how to get a really tall sunflower delivered for judging. Well - you can chop it down as near to the ground as possible and bring in one piece for measuring or fold it in half if required for ease of transportation. This shouldn't alter its length!

Look forward to seeing you all in October. In the meantime "Keep Watering"!

Market on the Green (MOG) - Inaugural event 7 July 2019

On a sunny day at the start of July, the Green was transformed into Horton-cum-Studley's very own village market. At 10 o'clock in the morning, the Chair of the Parish Council, Sarah Foxcroft, opened the event and got us off to a good start with a brief but rousing speech.

With 17 stalls to choose from, there was an amazing selection of locally sourced food and drink, beautiful art and crafts work, fabulous renovated furniture and lovely plants from our very own gardening group. The GT's did an excellent job of providing refreshments and created a lovely café area where people could meet and relax over a nice cuppa and cake! There were also useful information points about local village facilities/services, the current status of the proposed Expressway, the Mali elephant project and even a place where you could relax and have a face or hand massage.

The market worked so well due to the considerable contribution of a lot of unsung heroes. To all those who drew up plans, posters and invitations, contacted and brought in stall holders, put up tents, helped people unload their cars and move all the stock to the right pitch, slaved away to make cakes and other comestibles and to many others - we say: "THANK YOU" we could not have done it without you!

Taking things forward...

Feedback from stall holders and villagers has been positive, with the market raising awareness and funds for local groups, charities and small businesses alike. Based on this we have decided to continue running the Market on the Green, though the venue may move indoors during the winter months.

What next..

MOG's first CHRISTMAS MARKET **30 Nov 2019** - further details to follow! In the meantime if you are interested in being a stall holder or would like to contribute in any way, whether this be ideas or practical input, please get in in touch with me, Julia Slingo, Email: jhslingo@gmail.com, Tel: 07766 659524.

Safari Lunch

As always, the Safari Lunch on 11 August proved to be a very jolly occasion. Five homes kindly provided the main course and later everyone gathered for puddings and cheese, which was intended as an outside event. The rain showers certainly challenged the practicalities of this plan but before too long the sun came out and an enjoyable time was had by all. The sum of £340 was raised which was split between funds for the Village Church and Parkinsons UK, Oxfordshire area.

Parish Council

Oxfordshire Highways completed traffic volume and speed surveys between 19th and 26th June, and the results are now available. They will be presented and discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.

As villagers are aware, the Parish Council has experimented with not cutting grass verges this year, this is partly a cost reduction exercise as well as an attempt to stop the decline of pollinating insects, which is now a national issue. The PC would like feedback from villagers on their thoughts re this topic

Our next PC meeting will be on **Thurs 12 Sept** at 7:30 pm. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

Women's Institute

The meeting this month will take place on 10 September and is a combined meeting with Otmoor WI. The time and venue will be announced later. The Speaker is Pauline Martindale and she will be talking about the Life of a Prison Officer. We hope as many as possible will be able to attend this meeting. If any lady in the village would like to join our WI, please do get in contact with our President, Barbara Jewell, tel. 01865 351315.

Horton cum Studley Gardening Club

Torrential rain, strong wind and blistering heat have challenged plants and gardeners alike but at least I have not had to water anything in recent weeks. Perhaps autumn will be more predictable.

Do think about coming to the gardening club meetings. We are a friendly bunch and you definitely do not need any gardening expertise– we are all learners. Over coffee and biscuits you might find out how to prepare the ground for a new flower bed, the name of that troublesome weed or when to prune that apple tree (you might even find someone to show you how to do it). We want to promote wildlife-friendly (and child-friendly) gardening, so come and share your ideas and how to do this better.



Our autumn programme starts at 8pm on Tuesday 15 October with what is sure to be a fascinating talk by Dr Chris Thorogood (Deputy Director and Head of Science at Oxford Botanic Garden) on “Weird Plants”. Chris knows all about the extraordinary world of plants and I am looking forward to hearing about the sinister specimens he has encountered during his travels – including vampires and carnivores. I know he is a most entertaining speaker, so do come and join us.

Visitors are always very welcome. For more information about our programme see the website: www.horton-cum-studley.org.uk/community/clubs/

If you would like to know more about the Gardening Club, please contact the chairman, Susan Burge Tel: 01865 351310.

Coffee Morning

The Coffee Morning for 14 September will be held at Yew Tree Cottage at the usual time of 10-30am.

Any queries please contact Rachel Hawes Tel: 01865 351540

Millennium Village Hall

Since the last update two major things have happened. The new shutters have been fitted but, sadly, the shutters on the front door are now giving trouble. Hopefully this will be rectified very soon. The other, even better news, is that we have been able to reduce hire charges for village activities by 25%. We very much hope that this will encourage greater use of the hall. Booking events can be done easily by contacting: hcshallbookings@gmail.com.

Many of you will have seen that the goal posts have now been put back in place and are about to be painted. Sam Mitchell will be coaching a ladies football team on the field. He is a registered FA coach and is keen to offer training to any children in the village. Please let me know if any of your family members are interested, together with their age, as there will probably be two groups. I can be found on 01865 351315 or by email: derek.jewell@ndm.ox.ac.uk.

PLAY WOMEN'S OR GIRLS' FOOTBALL IN HcS!

With almost three million active female players, football is the biggest women's team sport in England – but there is plenty of room for more girls and women to get involved and you can do it now in Horton-cum-Studley!



Coach Sam Mitchell is starting a ladies football team at the Millenium Hall ground. He is looking for at least 15 players, together with enthusiastic people to help with the running of the team. The aim is to build a team this year and enter the league next year but players are welcome to come and try out their skills, have fun and get fit the footy way!

Sam will be coaching free of charge on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Please email him at samfivewood@btinternet.com for more information or contact Derek Jewell as suggested above.

Beckley

Beckley Church

Church Flowers

Several people have said that they would like to do flowers for the church, which would be lovely, and is much needed. So I have put a rota on a yellow clipboard on the pew next to the book shelves at the west end - please put your name down for the date you choose (perhaps for a special occasion or a memorial?). It does not have to be a regular commitment. I have added some information at the bottom of the rota about vases and water, but please do contact me if you have any questions!

Ride and Stride, Saturday 14 September

The annual sponsored Ride and Stride is the main source of funding for the OXFORDSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST, and helps to enable it to give grants for repairs and enhancements to churches of all denominations in Oxfordshire. Half of the money you raise can be donated to the church of your choice. Beckley Church received a generous grant for stonework repairs in 2009. It's not too late to find sponsors and cycle or walk (or go on horseback, skateboard etc!) and visit as many churches as possible. There are some sponsorship forms and information sheets in the church, or visit the website ohct.org.uk or contact me. Do give it a try!

Gina Robson tel: 01865 351637, email: gina.robson@virgin.net

Some dates for your diary

Sun 13 Oct, 9.30am HARVEST FESTIVAL (Joint Family Service with Stanton St John)

Sat 26 Oct, am CHURCHYARD TIDY-UP DAY

Sun 3 Nov LIGHT AND LIFE Service, possibly an Evensong

Sun 10 Nov, am REMEMBRANCE Service

Robert Tagg

Christine and Geoff Tagg's beloved son Robert, who died so tragically 20 years ago, would have been 40 on 24th July. The church was floodlit that evening, as you may have noticed, to mark the occasion and to remember Robert.

Beckley and Stowood Parish Council

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 9 September at 8pm in Beckley Village Hall. Minutes and agendas and dates of future meetings are available at www.beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk and the Clerk's email address is clerk@beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk.

The Otmoor Flyer - Information on the village mini-bus service can be found on the Parish Council website. The mini-bus comes to Beckley on Tuesdays and Fridays and picks up at 10.40am from the bus stop opposite The Abingdon Arms Pub. Bus tickets available from The Abingdon Arms and Dee Hazell in Beckley. The bus goes into Headington and Oxford.

Fix My Street – find and report road or street problems at www.fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk

Beckley Village Hall

See www.beckleyvillagehall.org for details of regular weekly and monthly activities. To make a booking please contact Stuart Marshall, email booking@beckleyvillagehall.org.

Ceilidh, Saturday 5 October

We shall be having another **Ceilidh** in the Village Hall with the wonderful Kismet band on **Saturday 5 October** at 7.30 for 8pm. This band were hugely popular last time. All are welcome. Please bring finger food & drink to share.

Bonfire and Firework Night, Saturday 2 November

Save the date - Beckley Bonfire and Firework Night at the Village Hall and playing field on **Saturday 2 November**. Gates open at 6pm. Refreshments available. Fireworks at 7pm.

A poster for the Beckley Church Autumn Concert. The top half features a photograph of Beckley Church, a stone building with a prominent tower. The bottom half features a photograph of the performing group, The Pavlova Wind Quintet, Chris Britton & Maddie King, and the Women of Note. The text is overlaid on the images.

Beckley Church
Autumn Concert
Sunday 8th September 5pm
The Pavlova Wind Quintet,
Chris Britton & Maddie King
(piano duets),
and close harmony singers
Women of Note
Entrance £10, under 10's free
Profits to Beckley Church Fabric Fund
Tickets from Susy Jepson
(susy.jepson@gmail.com) or on the door)

Beckley & Area Community Benefit Society

Good Neighbour Transport Scheme

The new Beckley and Area Community Benefit Society (BACBS) Good Neighbour Scheme (GNS) is now up and running, with 10 safeguarding-checked drivers ready to participate. The service is starting small, and initially offers lifts to and from Islip Surgery, BACBS-organised community events at The Abingdon Arms, and community social events at Beckley Village Hall. Passengers will be asked to pay a mileage charge (45p per mile, rounded to nearest 50p) to cover fuel expenses

This scheme is available for all residents of Beckley, Elsfield, Forest Hill and Stanton St John, and is intended to complement the schemes already provided for residents of Horton-cum-Studley, Noke, Woodeaton and Islip.

There are two ways to contact the service: phone the dedicated line 07514 791910 (if there is no reply, please leave a message with your number and one of the drivers will call you back), or email BACBSgoodneighbour@gmail.com.

Anyone interested in driving for the scheme, as and when it expands, should contact the same email address.

Please pass this message on to anyone you know who might not have received this message.

Cathy Davies and John Stradling
BACBS Good Neighbourhood Scheme Coordinators

Caretaker wanted for Beckley Village Hall

Are you local, responsible, have some spare time available and are energetic and practical?

If so and would like to spend some time keeping our lovely Village Hall in tip-top conditions please contact The Chair, Geoff Mills on mills_geoffrey@ymail.com to discuss the job description and terms.

Beckley & Area Community Benefit Society

The Abingdon Arms, Beckley

‘More than a Pub’ programme – September 2019

Version 2 – 16 Aug

SEPTEMBER 2019			
Wednesday 4th Sept	MEN OF BECKLEY LUNCH	12.30pm	Contact Steve Smith for more information: barkbeetles@gmail.com
Thursday 5 th Sept NOTE CHANGE OF DAY	WOMEN OF BECKLEY LUNCH	12.30pm	Contact Sarah Smith for more information: beckleysarah@gmail.com
Sunday 8 th Sept	COMMUNITY WALK	2.00-4.00pm	Meet at front of pub for 2pm departure, returning for drink afterwards. Walk leader Helen Stradling - 4-5 miles, route tbc.
Friday 13 th Sept	COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING	10.00-11.30am	- second Friday of each month Coffee & biscuits £2, specialty coffee & cake £3.50. Come along, meet old and make new friends.
Sunday 15 th Sept	JAZZ SESSION	6.30-8.30pm*	Percy Pursglove (trumpet), Frank Harrison (keyboard), Mark Hodgson (bass). Free entry, raffle. Cool sounds and a warm welcome.....
Thursday tbc Sept	CHILDREN'S AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITY CAFE	3.30-4.30pm	- Date to be confirmed Primarily for pupils of Beckley Primary School. Activity: air drying clay / cost for materials £2. Please sign up with Aimee Butterfield – aimeebutts1@yahoo.co.uk or text 07834 533177
Sunday 22 nd Sept	PUBLIC INTEREST TALK	6.45 for 7.00-8.30pm*	'Can you teach old dogs new tricks to treat dementia?' – Dr Danielle Newby, Department of Psychiatry, Oxford University
Wednesday 25 th Sept	COMMUNITY AFTERNOON TEA	4.00-5.30pm	- last Wednesday of each month Afternoon tea with family, friends, neighbours.... Tea / coffee, home-made cake, biscuits £3.50. Table games available too.
Sunday 29 th Sept	LITERARY TALK	6.45 for 7.00-8.30pm*	Lost Voices 2: 'Delarivier Manley (c1670-1724): a (local) favourite before <i>The Favourite</i> ' – Prof Ros Ballaster, Oxford University
OTHER EVENTS AT THE ABINGDON ARMS			
Wednesday 4 th Sept	Pub Quiz: 7.30pm		
KEY-			
Food & Drink	Music	Literature	Activities

* = bar snacks available.

More information about activities at: www.bacbs.org

The Abingdon Arms - information, including table reservations, at: <http://theabingdonarms.co.uk/>

POSTSCRIPT: Curiouser and Curiouser!

Do you know?

Do you know why Stanton St John has a 'Middle Road'? Chatting the other day to a friend about street names we discovered what seems to be an anomaly. Way back street names reflected the local topography like Mill Lane, Church Hill, and Pound Lane, where they lead to such as Horton Hill, Wheatley Road, Woodperry Road or the land occupier like Cox's Lane.



Middle Road, Stanton St John, April 1897, photograph by Mabel Thompson. The lady in white is standing in what is now the shop doorway.

With recent development names have been chosen by the highway authority with the help of the local councils. These usually have some local significance. So we have the poets of Forest Hill: Milton Crescent and Mickle Way, and Powell Close named after Milton's father in-law who lived in the manor house: the field names of Stanton St John: Courtfield Road and Hillcraft Road, and Chequers Close called after the pub which once occupied the site.

In towns this is often not the case. There may be no local connection. For example, in Oxford there is an area of architects, Wren, Jackson and Scott in Sunnymead, of towns, Northampton, Lincoln and Monmouth in New Hinksey and of plants, Juniper, Comfrey and Sorrell in Blackbird Leys. But there are quite a few long-forgotten city councillors too.

But to come back to Middle Road, from the name you would expect there to be an Upper Road and a Lower Road or at least something which the road can be the middle of. Most settlements which have a Middle Road also have an Upper and a Lower Road or Lane, often service roads. So where are they in Stanton?

There is a long established footpath which runs from what is now the village hall car park to Hillcraft Road which might be considered to be a lower road, and old maps suggest that there may have been a footway behind the houses on the west side of Middle Road, an upper road? Or is the Wheatley Road, the B4027, the upper road?

However, things are actually even more complicated. In a catalogue of my photographs of the village from about 1970 Middle Road is called Main Road and Mill Street is Menmarsh Road suggesting that the current names are more recent than that. So, were the street names 'rationalised' at some time, may-be when post codes were introduced [1], and our anomaly is due to some bureaucratic confusion?

Any suggestions?

Anthony Wood, the younger

[1] Were there problems when house numbers were introduced to aid mail delivery and the collection of taxes in the mid seventeen hundreds? Stanton was different, of course, it had [and still has in some cases] NC numbers allocated by New College.



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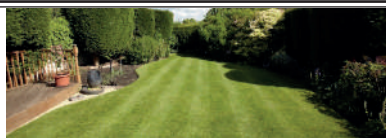
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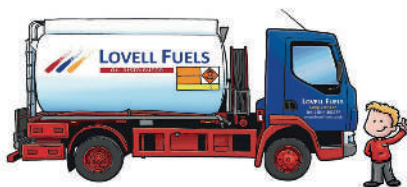
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