
STANFORD IN THE VALE PARISH COUNCIL



NEWS UPDATE August 2019

Play area garden / hedgerow

Our thanks to the team of volunteers who organised to spend a Sunday removing nettles and cutting back the hedgerow bordering the garden within the play area behind the Village Hall. The mini-mountain of green waste that was generated filled two trailers which we took to the tip for composting the following week.

Vandalism, petty crime and illegal substances

We've continued to see a spate of vandalism over recent weeks, including someone padlocking swings together and two youths demolishing the post box in High Street. More worryingly, although possible not unrelated, we are aware of numerous reports of substance abuse in various locations around the village.

Whilst we are taking steps to increase the police presence to act as a deterrent, if you should see anything, please report it directly to the police – online www.thamesvalley.police.uk, via 101 or 999 in an emergency. We believe that the volume of reports affects the level of routine police presence that can be expected, so please ensure that matters are reported.

Annual accounts

Accounts for the year 2018-2019 have now passed internal audit and are available for inspection (both online or by contacting the clerk). They have also been submitted to the government appointed external auditors Moore Stephens for review, as we are required to do by law.

Upper Green Protection

One of the recently installed boulders was recently hit and pushed into the road, by a vehicle veering off the highway. Our sincere thanks to Earthline Ltd who kindly arranged to relocate the boulder back onto the central grassed "island" at the junction of Cottage Road, Upper Green and Chapel Road, where it will continue to save this section of the green from unnecessary damage.

Fly-tipping Garden Waste

Please note that our verges and hedgerows are NOT available to throw your grass clippings into. We've received a number of complaints, in particular

concerning the footpath at the "bottom" of Van Diemens. This is simply fly tipping and VWHDC will seek to prosecute anyone caught, but it would be much simpler if those concerned either composted, arranged a garden bin or took them to the tip, just like the majority of residents. Details of dates/times and any photos/description of what's been abandoned should be reported to admin.vale@biffa.co.uk or via telephone 03000 610 610.

Church Green/High Street Closure

Whilst you may not receive this before the work starts, please be aware that there are likely to be daytime road closures between Church Green and Horsecroft due to telecoms works between 29/07/19 – 09/08/19.

Planning

Revised plans for the Strategic Site developments have been received. The PC continues to work with VWHDC to ensure that the proposed plans are as appropriate to the village as possible and to minimise any harm that they would have on the character of the village, local amenities and wildlife.

Faringdon Leisure Centre

VWHDC are in the process of investing £177,500 of improvements to the facilities – including full replacement of the swimming pool changing facilities as well as the sauna and steam room.

Old County Hall, Courts and Holding Cells

Oxfordshire County Council, in association with Oxford Preservation Trust are opening a number of historic premises to the public over the weekend of 14/15 September. More details will be available via www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk during August 2019.

South Central Ambulance Service

Are seeking interested individuals to become members and/or stand as a governor to become involved in the running and development of the trust. For more information: <https://www.scas.nhs.uk/get-involved/foundation-trust/>

Polling Stations

Residents are being asked to comment on the location of polling stations that are used for elections in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse.

The councils are carrying out a review of the polling districts and polling places to help ensure that they meet the needs of voters.

All views are welcome, and the council is especially keen to hear from disabled residents and those who have experience of assisting disabled people with access requirements.

Margaret Reed, Returning Officer for South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils said: "It's important that all our polling stations are in suitable locations and that everyone can go and vote without having to worry about whether they will have problems getting in and out of the building.

"We'd like to hear from people about their experience of using polling stations during recent elections - whether there are any changes to the location or building that you'd like us to make or to give us details of any alternative places that may be used as a polling station."

Comments are open until Friday 27 September. People can have their say by visiting our website:

- South Oxfordshire residents
<http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/>
- Vale of White Horse residents -
<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/>
- You can also send a written response to Electoral Services, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils, 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, Milton, OX14 4SB

For more information about the review please call the elections team on 01235 422528 or email at elections@southandvale.gov.uk

Do you want to make a difference to your local emergency and non-emergency services?

We have vacancies for Governors to represent the interests of our public and staff members, general members of the public and stakeholders in our local communities.

This is to help provide the best patient care in Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Hampshire, Surrey and Sussex.

We provide 999, NHS 111 and patient transport services in Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Hampshire and patient transport services in Surrey and Sussex.

Governors have lots of important responsibilities such as appointing and holding to account the chair and other non-executive directors, contributing to the development of the Trust's strategy, and engaging with the members who elect them.

Governors need to be confident communicators and able to speak to our members and the public about complex healthcare matters.

We have vacancies for Public Governors across Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Hampshire.

To be eligible to be a Governor you must be a member of the constituency you wish to stand for and be 16 or over.

Members have until the autumn to complete an application to become a Governor

If you've got what it takes to join our team, go to our website www.scas.nhs.uk/get-involved/foundation-trust/ to sign up as a member and find out how to become a Governor.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Kind Regards,

Margaret Eaglestone

Foundation Trust Membership and Engagement Manager



Neighbourhood Policing Newsletter

Prevent Your Home From Becoming Hot Property This Summer

The summer is a time when Thames Valley Police, and other forces around the country, experience an increase in residential burglary. This is due to opportunist thieves taking advantage of doors and windows being left open in hot weather, and properties not being left secure while residents are away on holiday.

It only takes seconds to steal valuables that are within easy reach. Window opening restrictors can be fitted to ground floor windows to allow ventilation while preventing burglars from being able to climb through. If going out, even just in the garden, you should always close and lock your windows and doors.

The consequences of being burgled reach far beyond the cost and inconvenience of replacing stolen items. It is also the emotional impact of having your summer holiday ruined, and the feeling of being violated, after an uninvited stranger has been in your home.

If leaving your car at home when you go on holiday, remember to remove any valuables and check the windows are closed and doors are locked. If your vehicle is stolen you could lose your motor insurance excess and no claims bonus. You will still be responsible for any vehicle finance owed and likely to pay higher insurance premiums in the future.

Avoid checking-in on social networks at the airport and wait to post your holiday photos until you get home. Some home insurance policies become invalidated if you post that you are away from home.

Holiday Checklist:

- Lock all windows and doors.
- Check side gates, sheds and garages are locked and tools and ladders are not accessible for burglars to break into your home.
- Store all keys out of sight and away from your letterbox.
- Use a RFID pouch to store fobs for keyless entry vehicles.
- Make your home look occupied by using a timer switch to turn on lights at night.
- Ask a trusted friend to look after your home while you are away.
- Invite a neighbour to park their vehicle on your drive while you are away.
- Don't post details of your holiday on social media until you return home.

For more burglary prevention advice, download your free Home Security Guide from the Thames Valley Police website here.

<https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/thames-valley/advice/home-security-guide.pdf>

By working together we can build community resilience to deter burglars from targeting

Vehicle Crime At Beauty Spots

This time of year often sees more people making the most of the South and Vale's beauty spots. Unfortunately, we also see an increase in thefts from vehicles.

We will be increasing patrols in these areas and putting out signage to remind people not to leave anything in their vehicles when they are out walking. Please think about what you need to take with you when leaving your house. Leave it at home if you don't need it. When you get to the beauty spot location take everything with you on your walk if possible. Even a jacket left in the back of a car can tempt thieves to see if there is anything in the pocket. Wipe away any suction marks from sat-navs and double check that your vehicle is locked.

Enjoy the nice weather and remember to take a few simple steps to reduce the risk of becoming a victim of this crime.



Drivers Targeted With Fake Fines

Action Fraud have received an increase in reports and intelligence where elderly victims are being targeted by individuals purporting to be police officers or traffic wardens. The victims are being approached whilst parked in a car park and are told by the suspect that they have parked illegally or broken a speed limit and a photo has been taken of their car for 'evidence'. Victims are advised that they will face a substantial penalty fine unless they pay a smaller upfront fee immediately. Victims, who opt for paying the smaller penalty, will be directed to a parking meter and asked to enter their card and PIN. These parking meters have been tampered with by the suspect in order to retain the card.

Once the victim inserts their card and are asked for their PIN, the victims are shoulder surfed for their PIN by the suspect. Once victims input their PIN, the card is retained by the machine and victims are told by the suspect to seek help from the company who operates the parking meter or their bank.

What you need to do

- If you are suspicious about the **authenticity** of the fine, do not pay it until you have **verified** it with your local council.
- Always **shield your PIN** from view when using an ATM machine, and **never** share your PIN with anyone.
- If your bank card is retained by an ATM machine, contact your bank **immediately** to inform them.

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