



## Village Defibrillators

Earlier on this year, the parish council arranged for the installation of a new defibrillator outside Wantage Gymnastics Centre on the Ware Road industrial estate. This addition brought most areas of the village within the recommended 400 metres distance to the nearest defibrillator.

The exception to this is the Bow Road, Whitfield, Fry's Meadow, Kiln Close & Brick Kiln Rise housing estate, which does not currently have a defibrillator within this range.

We have been exploring possible locations but have not yet been able to identify somewhere suitable. If you are resident or property owner in the area who might be able to offer a suitable site for a community public access defibrillator, the parish council would like to hear from you. Defibrillators usually need to be situated somewhere well lit, where an external wall faces onto a public path/area and there is an electricity supply to tap into. The owners of the building need to agree to its installation and to paying for the electricity supply (estimates put this at a few pounds per year).

If you would be able to offer a potential location, please contact the parish clerk at [clerk@stanfordinthevalepc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@stanfordinthevalepc.co.uk).

You can view the location of all the current village defibrillators at <https://www.defibfinder.uk>.

## Broadband installation

We're aware that some residents have been experiencing disruption as a result of the recent programme of work to install fibre optic broadband in the village, undertaken by Gigaclear. We have been working alongside the county council to identify problems and work with the contractor to resolve any issues. As part of the remedial work, we have secured some free

of charge repairs to some of the potholes on the access road across Church Green.

If you are still experiencing problems related to the recent installation work or with broadband service, you can contact the County Council Digital Infrastructure Team at

[broadband@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:broadband@oxfordshire.gov.uk), who will gather details and speak to the contractor on your behalf.

## Mowing

The parish council has agreed to set aside an area of verge on Chapel Road in the vicinity of the former United Reform Church that will also be cut less frequently and will be managed for biodiversity and wildlife, following guidelines developed by the wildlife conservation charity Plantlife.

Although the area will look a little wilder than the rest of the village green spaces, mowing some areas less intensively can really help to improve biodiversity and aid nature recovery. Verges rich in native wild flowers support more wildlife, are more resilient to environmental change, enhance ecological connectivity and provide better ecosystem services such as pollination. The area will still be managed, just in a less intensive and more nature-friendly way.

## Fires

Unfortunately, we have had two instances of what appear to be the deliberate starting of fires within the village, one in a bin in the skate park, which caused some damage to the bin, and several fires that had been set in the community woodland.

With the summer months approaching this carries the very real risk of starting a fire that could run out of control. The community woodland is particularly vulnerable in this respect, where a fire could have disastrous

consequences for the trees, plants and wildlife there. If you do see anything suspicious, please contact the police or, in case of emergency or a fire in progress, the fire service.

## New play fort

The parish council has now selected a supplier for a new play fort in the children's play area. The new equipment will replace the existing fort, which is nearing the end of its life, and we are moving forwards with procurement and planning for its installation.

This will inevitably involve some disruption and may restrict access to some parts of the play area during the installation period, although we will endeavour to keep this to a minimum. The new fort incorporates recent advances in children's play needs, such as the benefits of risk-based play, and improvements in safety standards and construction techniques. It should give a real lift to the play area and is the first step in our long term programme for phased replacement and refurbishment of our play equipment.

### Kevin Middleton

Chair – Stanford in the Vale Parish Council  
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## Launch of the Volunteer Recognition Awards 2024!

This year's Neighbourhood Watch Week theme is "local efforts, big impact", an opportunity to celebrate the positive impact that your local events, activities and efforts have in your communities. Share your plans for Neighbourhood Watch week with us, and photos from your community events - email [comms@ourwatch.org.uk](mailto:comms@ourwatch.org.uk) You can read more about previous NWW's on our website [Neighbourhood Watch Week | Neighbourhood Watch Network \(ourwatch.org.uk\)](http://Neighbourhood_Watch_Week_|_Neighbourhood_Watch_Network_(ourwatch.org.uk))

Nominations for this year's Volunteer Recognition Awards will open on Monday 3rd June! Every year, we love receiving hundreds of nominations from our supporters, all of which celebrate the hard work and commitment of our volunteers from across England and Wales. This year, the categories

for awards are... Innovation and Reach Crime Prevention Community Health and Wellbeing Young Volunteer of the Year Special Recognition Award

Neighbourhood Watch Network is a charity registered in England & Wales, charity no: 1173349



## IT'S SPRING – WE THINK!

As we all emerge tentatively from what seems like a very long winter it is great to see the Village coming back to life! We had the wonderful splashes of daffodils kindly spread around for us and now the sound of lawn mowers struggling around muddy lawns is to be heard.

For the many community organisations and groups that are providing activity or support to the folks living in Stanford in the Vale, now is also the time to think about what you might need to help you help your members. The Public Purposes Charity is a unique entity within Stanford in the Vale that provides grants to local organisations for capital expenditure or specific projects. If you are involved with an organisation and need some help with equipment or activity then perhaps PPC can help you get what you need.

Check out some the projects we have supported and see the grant guidelines at: <https://ppcstanford.org/projects>

The Trustees are always happy to discuss what we can do to make our Village just that bit more special for those of us living here! See the website at [www.ppcstanford.org](http://www.ppcstanford.org) and do make contact if you have a project that benefits the community and needs some support.

Caryl Oliver  
Clerk/Correspondent  
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## WhatsApp group chats are targeted by fraudsters

**WhatsApp group chat members are being warned they could be targeted by criminals, as Action Fraud reveals it has received 636 reports from victims of the messaging app this year.**

The fraud often begins when a member of the group receives a WhatsApp audio call from the fraudster, pretending or claiming to be another member of the group. This is done to gain the individual's trust, and often the scammer will use a false profile picture and/or display name, so at first glance it would appear to be a genuine member of the group.

The fraudster will tell the victim they are sending them a one-time passcode which will allow them to join an upcoming video call for group members. The criminal then asks the victim to share this passcode with them so they can be "registered" for the video call.

In reality, the criminal is asking for a registration code to register the victim's WhatsApp account to a new device so they can take over their account.

Once the fraudster has access to the victim's WhatsApp account, they will enable two-step verification which makes it impossible for the victim to regain access their account. Other members of the group, or friends and family in the victim's contacts, will then be messaged asking them to transfer money urgently as they are in desperate need of help.

### **How to secure your WhatsApp account:**

- **Set up two-step verification (2SV)** to give an extra layer of protection to your account. Tap Settings > Account > Two-step verification > Enable.
- **CALL.** If a family member or friend makes an unusual request on WhatsApp, always call the person outside of WhatsApp to confirm their identity.

- **Report spam messages or block a sender within WhatsApp.** Press and hold on the message bubble, select 'Report' and then follow the instructions.

If you live in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and have been a victim of fraud or cybercrime, report it at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or by calling 0300 123 2040. In Scotland, victims of fraud and cybercrime should report to Police Scotland on 101.

Find out how to protect yourself from fraud: <https://stopthinkfraud.campaign.gov.uk>

## Oxfordshire County Council impersonation scam

We have learned of a new scam which is affecting older people in Oxfordshire. The basis of the scam is that someone calls saying they are from the County Council and are completing a means test as part of a care assessment. The 'assessment' is completed on the phone and at the end of it the caller asks for a fee of £150. We know of one person who has experienced this but scammers make their living from doing these kinds of things over and over.

Please be vigilant to such things. Means tests are a standard part of a council assessment which make this approach particularly credible. If you have any concerns please call the Oxfordshire County Council Adult Social and Health Care Team on 0345 050 7666 Option 2

Cllr. Gerry Austin <a href="mailto:machinemanausto@gmail.com">machinemanausto@gmail.com</a>	-	07795 387606
Cllr. Louise Bowers	-	07879647763
Cllr. James Brooks <a href="mailto:jamesahbrooks@gmail.com">jamesahbrooks@gmail.com</a>	-	07464 056839
Casual Vacancy	-	
Claire Lewis (Clerk)	-	07710 760894
Cllr. Mike Dixon	-	01367 710713
Cllr. Simon Howes	-	07875 249265
Cllr. Mark Isaacs	-	01367 718719
Cllr. Bob Kent <a href="mailto:bob_kent@btinternet.com">bob_kent@btinternet.com</a>	-	07501 250407
Cllr. Peter Lewis (Vice Chair)	-	01367 710166
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