

A Welcome Pack for new Stanford Dingley residents

Introduction:

Welcome to the beautiful and historic village of Stanford Dingley, set in an area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB), one of West Berkshire's most important Conservation Areas, and regarded by many as the 'Jewel in the Crown of West Berkshire'.

Although we have a relatively low population of circa 170 souls, our location, our two thriving public houses (The Bull and The Old Boot Inn), our 12th century Saxon church of St Denys', our village amenities (village hall and field) and an active events calendar, all of which mean Stanford Dingley is a great place to live, work and grow up.

We have a mostly monthly parish magazine, NewsLink, which is a good source of local news. It also carries advertising for trades and businesses serving Bradfield and SD. You should receive NewsLink automatically.

Beyond this, you will find a guide below to some of the key facilities and contacts in the village and further afield, to help you move in to the village and become part of the community.

Map of the village¹:



¹© Dida Kennedy (Contact Dida directly for prints, postcards with this image: <mailto:candidakennedy@me.com>)

Parish Council:

Councillor	Role	Phone	email	
Harry Fullerton	Chair		harryfullerton86@gmail.com	
Aisling Bucknell	Vice Chair	07967 138280	ab@aislingbucknell.co.uk	
Stuart Logan	Councillor	07788 311707	STANFORDPC.SL@gmail.com	
Charlotte Plank	Councillor	07786 527744	charlotte.plank@outlook.com	
Edward Hanrahan	Councillor			
Helen Pratt	Clerk	01635 863581	stanforddingleypc@gmail.com	

Privacy:

It is really helpful and environmentally efficient if we can communicate with you electronically, but, like all public bodies, we are subject to the EU's General Data Protection Regulations. Under these we need your explicit permission to communicate with you electronically. Our privacy policy can be found at [link needed]. Please email our Parish Clerk, Helen Pratt stanforddingleypc@gmail.com with your permission.

Other Contacts:

SD Events Team: [Hilary Dent](#)

Village Hall Bookings: Please use this link: [Booking Form](#)

Dredge Gang: [Darren Coleman](#)

Footpaths Officer: TBA

Flood Warden: TBA

District Councillor: [Graham Pask](#): 01635 864023

Local MP: [Laura Farris](#)

Useful Social Media Connections:

Facebook: Gentlemen's <https://www.facebook.com/StanfordDingley>

WhatsApp: Lady's Contact [Oli Brooke](#): 07887 845086

WhatsApp: Contact [Aisling Bucknell](#): 07967 138280

Village Hall (aka The Club Room):

We have a small but very adequate and well equipped village hall that sits on Bushnells Green Lane between The Spring and The Old Rectory just up from The Old Boot Inn. The hall has recently been upgraded with high speed fibre optic broadband and equipment to provide and be used as a Business Hub. More details [here](#).

Village Field:

The village owns a parcel of land of approximately one acre between the church and Briar Bank. This is for the village to use for recreational purposes. It has a "log tangle" climbing frame for little ones and two picnic tables. In the summer months it is mown regularly, making it suitable for picnics, family barbecues, camping nights and games etc.

We are currently working on improvements to the field regarding access, fencing, grass condition and evenness to provide an open and tranquil environment for all to enjoy and for larger outdoor events to be held such as Fayres, National Celebrations, and Shows etc.

The Dredge Gang:

Regrettably we live in an era of declining levels of service from local and national government. This means that more needs to be done within the community on a self-help basis. Our vehicle for doing this is The Dredge Gang.

This is an informal and flexible group of volunteers who meet occasionally to work on clearing the River Pang channels, unblock the storm drains, pick up litter and gather leaves in the churchyard of St Denys'. All activity is followed by a social drink or two in one of our pubs!

Dredge Gang tasks are growing and we need more volunteers. If you would like to be added to the roster, contact [Oli Brooke](#).

The Old Boot Inn

“The Old Boot Inn offers traditional British pub classics with a contemporary touch served alongside locally brewed British ales and a selection of fine wines. We use the freshest local ingredients to produce a varied menu catering for a wide range of tastes.” <http://www.oldbootinnstanforddingley.co.uk/>

The Bull Inn

“The Bull Inn is all about easy-going contentment – a tasteful, relaxed venue that hasn't forgotten it is a pub at heart. Local lunches and evening celebrations are all part of the mix that makes The Bull Inn something special.” <https://thebullinnpub.com/>

Other local hosteleries:²

[The Bladebone](#): (Chapel Row – great food)

[The Taproom](#): (Yattendon – attached to W Berks Brewery, lively atmosphere, lots of beers)

[The Bell](#): (Aldworth – quintessential country pub, great rolls, a must-go)

[The Royal Oak](#): (Yattendon – newly extended and refurbished, nice atmosphere, good food)

[The Pot Kiln](#): (Frilsham – Magical walk-to location for summer lunchtimes, a must-go)

[The Queens Head](#): (Bradfield Southend)

[The Cottage Inn](#): (Upper Bucklebury)

High End (i.e. Michelin Stars):

[The Vineyard](#): (Stockcross)

[The Woodspeen](#): (Woodspeen)

[L'Ortolan](#) (Shinfield, Reading)

1. Personal opinions based on recent experiences.

Local cafes and coffee shops

The Blackbird: (Chapel Row)
The Pantry: (Yattendon)
Cobb's: (Theale)
Rosebourne: (Aldermaston),
The Community Shop: (Hampstead Norreys)
Farm Café: (Bucklebury Farm Park),
The Pineapple Café: (Newbury),
Mug and Brew: (Thatcham)

Delivered/Locally Collected Food

Ali Baba's Curry: (Thatcham)
Domino's Pizza: (Thatcham)
Herbies Pizza/Burgers: (Tilehurst)
Fish and Chip Vans operating locally:
<https://www.gofishandchips.co.uk/> (Yattendon Wed, Upper Basildon Thur, Bradfield Southend Friday.
<https://www.offthescalecatering.co.uk/events>
Cook: Available at both Bucklebury Farm Park and Rosebourne (Aldermaston).
Others setting up services all the time.

St Denys Church

Stanford Dingley parishioners are lucky to be the current custodians of St Denys', a priceless piece of English Heritage. With relics of its Saxon origin within the interior walls, this grade 1 listed building is one of the oldest churches in Berkshire. It is of real historical importance and has been the focal point of village life in Stanford Dingley for over 1,000 years.

Today's church is of 12th Century origin, but it still holds a Norman font. The Victorians decorated over painted medieval murals, which after recent restoration, fragments can now be seen.

Church Wardens: Julia Hunt: <mailto:cwstan1@2bsd.org.uk>
Ray Ellis: <mailto:cwstan2@2bsd.org.uk>

The Diocese of Oxford groups Stanford Dingley as a member of a family of parishes (Bucklebury and Marlston, Bradfield, and Stanford Dingley), known as [2BSD](#), under the leadership and care of Priest-in-Charge, Revd. Julian Gadsby and his team.

Friends of St Denys (FoSD):

FoSD is a charity that raises funds for major maintenance and development works on our church. In 2019 a circa £200k project was completed that replaced electrics and heating in the church, reinstated the West Door, reordered some of the pews, installed a small kitchen in what was the vestry, upgraded lighting and audio system and constructed a new separate toilets and storage building in the churchyard. The next work being planned is the repainting of the timber-clad bell tower.

Key FoSD contacts are: [Anne McCurdy](#)

Stanford Dingley Events Team

We have a very active events team, chaired by Barry Potier, who organise such things as educational talks in the Village Hall, plant sales, parties and picnics, art shows and involvement in national celebrations (Jubilees, major anniversaries etc). The team meets on a regular basis and works with other establishments within the village to not only provide fun and entertainment but also to raise funds in support of local charities and to help maintain both the Village Hall and Field.

West Berks Council Customer Service:

Any issues with West Berks services (such as potholes, blocked storm drains, recycling collections etc) should be raised directly with their customer services team via the following contact channels:

[Web](#); Phone: 01635 551111; [email: customerservices@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@westberks.gov.uk); [Recycling](#)

Education / Childcare Nurseries:

Acres of Fun - Hermitage,
Harriet House, Frilsham,
Montessori – Bradfield Southend,
State Primary Schools: Bradfield Primary,
Yattendon Primary,
Woolhampton Primary,
Englefield Primary,
Upper Bucklebury Primary,
St Finians (RC) in Cold Ash.

Private Prep Schools: St Andrews,
Brockhurst and Marlston House,
Elstree, St Gabriels, Horris Hill, Moulsoford, Cranford

Children local Activities: Living Rainforest: (Hampstead Norreys),
Bucklebury Farm Park: (Bucklebury),
Red Kangaroo - Trampoline Park, Reading.

Nearest playgrounds:

Frilsham Village Hall has a playground behind it. Bradfield has a playground next to the village hall. Further afield Dinton Pastures nr Wokingham has an excellent adventure playground - Just remember to pay for parking!

Nearest Brownie/Scouts

Bradfield or Cold Ash

Ugly Duckling pottery cafe: Newbury High Street

Soft play:

Madhouse at Green Park.
Millets and Sprouts Barn near Abingdon.

GP Surgery:

[Chapel Row Surgery](#)

Vets:

[Valley Veterinary Group](#) at Tutts Clump, Pangbourne and Spencer's Wood

[Donnington Grove Vets](#) at Thatcham and Newbury

Defibrillator:

There is a portable defibrillator located in the telephone box next to The Bull Inn. A call to Emergency Services will get you the code to release it for use. Built-in pre-recorded instructions guide its safe usage by all regardless of medical training.

Local shops:

Bradfield Village Store and Post Office (Bradfield Southend)

Peaches (Upper Bucklebury)

Village Store (Yattendon)

Co-op (Thatcham – at the bottom of Harts Hill below Upper Bucklebury)

Farm shops:

[Vicars](#): (Ashampstead),

[Rosebourne](#): (Aldermaston)

[Cobbs](#): (Pangbourne Road)

Supermarkets:

Waitrose (Thatcham and Newbury), Sainsbury (Thatcham and Newbury), Tesco (Newbury)

Savacentre (Calcot at M4 J12 - includes Sainburys, sushi, Argos, Boots, FatFace, Starbucks, McDonalds, Sports Direct. Timpsons

Butchers:

Cook and Butcher (Thatcham)

Cobb's (Pangbourne Road)

Casey Field Farm Shop (aka Vicars – Ashampstead)

Bakery:

Birch Bakery in Pangbourne - Excellent - closed on Sundays and Monday.

Chemists:

Closest are Theale and Thatcham

Utilities:

[Gigaclear](#) (local fibre broadband provider), Thames Water, SSE.

Oil Supplies:

SD (and many other Pang Valley villages) are not connected to the national gas network. The alternatives are your own on site propane tank or your own fuel oil (kerosene) tank. At the time of writing the latter is more prevalent.

Community Connect in Berkshire (CCB) operate an Oil Club, which on a monthly basis gathers up all its subscriber oil requirements and offers out the requirement to all oil providers serving this area. In theory this gets the best volume spot prices at any particular time.

More details at [CCB Oil Club](#).

Garden Centres: .

[Hilliers](#): (Hermitage)

[Rosebourne](#): (Aldermaston)

Hair:

Ladies and Gents: [Mark Kemp](#) (Hampstead Norreys) and [Adam and Eve](#) (Yattendon).

Gents: Frank's Barbers in Pangbourne. No bookings – just turn up.

Escaped sheep and other farming issues:

Jeremy Plank: 07770 363997

Village Parking: Do's and Don'ts:

The village lanes are narrow, but at certain times of the year are also very busy with seriously big agricultural traffic. If car parking leaves less than 3m passing width, this will cause an obstruction. As an example it is not practical to park more than two cars outside the village hall. An alternative is, with Andre's permission, to use The Boot's car park.

At the request of local residents, we also try to encourage pub patrons to use pub car parks rather than to park on the lanes outside the pubs.

Footpath map:

[Public Rights of Way](#)

Planning considerations in Stanford Dingley:

[Planning Considerations](#)

Stanford Dingley Parish Council

23th Jan 2023