

The Stonesfield Slate

Issue No 478 March 2018



Dates for your diary – March

1,8,15,22	Book Break	Stonesfield Library	12.30–2pm
2	Women's World Day of Prayer	Methodist Church	2pm
5,12,19,26	Monday Coffee	St James' Centre	8.45–10am
5,12,19,26	SJC Cuppa	St James' Centre	10–11.30am
7	Lunch Club coffee	St James' Centre	11am
7,14,21,28	Folk Dance Club	Village Hall	8–10pm
8	Over 60s Darby & Joan	Village Hall	1pm
8	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm
12	Gardening Club	St James' Centre	7.30pm
14	FOSL Meeting	White Horse	7.15–9pm
15	Bingo	Sports & Social Club	eyes down 7.30pm
17	Ladies' Breakfast	St James' Centre	8.45/9am
17	Ladies' Night	Sports & Social Club	7.30pm
20	Tennis Club AGM	Village Hall	8pm
25	Ken Sheffield Day of Dance	Village Hall	2–9pm
30	Treasure Box	St James' Centre	10.30am



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**The deadline for copy
and advertisements
for the next issue is
15 March**

Please email copy to
slate@stonesfield.com
or hand it in at the village
shop (Suriya Express).
Advertisements to
sj@sjhaviland.co.uk

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*The Donkey House Band
playing for Stonesfield Folk
Dance Club on 7 February*

Notices

Poppy Appeal 2017

The Stonesfield Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2017 raised a total of £1909.65. This is a magnificent sum for our small village and I would like to thank all those who gave so generously, our door-to-door collectors and those businesses and organisations which displayed our static collection boxes.

Your continued support and generosity is greatly appreciated.

David Brown, Poppy Appeal Organiser for Stonesfield (8981930)

Fresh British Milk in Glass Bottles

Thanks to David Attenborough, many people are signing up with me again to have milk delivered in glass bottles, to reduce plastic waste. The average glass bottle does eight trips, delivery is free, and organic types of milk are also available. So if you are interested (I am more than happy to let you have a couple of free pints to try) please give me a call on 07792 651397 or the office on 0345 606 3606 or online at milk&more.co.uk.

Of course I also sell milk in plastic containers, as this suits some people from a storage, convenience point. As I am self-employed, I value every customer, and even an order of one or two pints a week is a great help in ensuring the great British tradition continues.

Tony Noble (milkman)

Help us to Stage Septemberfest 2018!

You may be aware that the Septemberfest organising committee are in the process of trying to raise enough funds to stage the event this year, on Saturday 22 September!



We have had some very generous offers of help but still need to raise enough to cover necessities such as the marquees, lighting and staging, so we have decided to crowdfund!

We would be very grateful for any donations, however small, which will hopefully get us to our target of £5000. If you would like to make a contribution then please visit <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/stonesfield-septemberfest>

Stonesfield Allotments

A new allotment year is just beginning! At present all plots are taken. Everyone on the waiting list has been contacted recently. Currently there are two people on the waiting list for Churchfields and none for Woodstock Road. If you would like to be added to the waiting list please contact Bryony (email below) stating a preference – Churchfields, Woodstock Road or either. If you are

considering giving up your plot this year please let us know.

A gentle reminder to all villagers that both allotment sites are private property and not dog walking routes. Dog mess has become a nuisance.

If you would like to know more about Stonesfield Allotments Association please get in touch.

Bryony Mallows
(bryony@jonesmallows.myzen.co.uk)

Women's World Day of Prayer

There is a Service at the Methodist Church on Friday 2 March, at 2pm.

Christian Women of Suriname have prepared this Service and it will be held across the world during the 24-hour period. It speaks this year of the enormous need to care for our planet.

Do come and join the Service here, all are very welcome. Light refreshments follow.

Kathleen Albert

Charlbury Surgery Patients

The Charlbury Patient Participation Group is now up and running and would like to hear from anyone wishing to be involved.

The Patient Group aims to:

- * Advise the Practice on the quality and responsiveness of the services and on patient satisfaction.
- * Carry out surveys on the experiences of those who use the Practice.
- * Facilitate communication between Practice staff and patients.

* Work with other Patient Groups in West Oxfordshire to improve healthcare in our area.

In addition, Patient Groups can promote health by:

- * Organising presentations and courses on important health needs.
- * Raising awareness of key public health messages.

The Charlbury Medical Centre values input from patients and their carers to ensure that services offered meet patient needs. The Practice welcomes this initiative, which enables us to work more closely together. This is an opportunity for you to become involved with your GP Surgery and keep up to date with any changes that may occur.

The Patient Group works mainly by email, so you would not have to attend meetings, and feedback can easily be relayed to you by phone or laptop. By providing your email details we will also be able to contact you about patient surveys and any other information regarding health and changes which might affect patient care.

To join or for further information email: patientgroup.charlbury@nhs.net. Or drop a note with your name, address and telephone number into the box in the Practice waiting room, or complete one of the forms available at the Practice.

Annie Warburton

Stonesfield Artist

Chris Davies, Stonesfield amateur painter of over ten years, has been selected from hundreds of candidates to take part in

The Big Painting Challenge, which will be broadcast in the early evening of Sunday 1 April on BBC1. Each episode features what Chris calls a boot camp for six competing painters, drawn from all over the country, who produce paintings and receive advice on how to improve their work and impress the judges. At the end of each episode a winner is chosen by two respected artists. Chris can't tell us what happens, but we will be hoping that he makes it to the final.

Peter Clifton

Ladies' Breakfast

There will be a Ladies' Breakfast on Saturday 17 March at 8.45am for 9am in the St James' Centre. The speaker will be Annette Wade, who is married with one daughter and lives in Oxfordshire. She has been on a placement in the village. She will be sharing her journey and how 'dreams can come true'.

Tickets cost £5 and are available from Bina Farrow (891293) Kathleen Albert (891733), Janet Melrose (891566) or Muriel Barrett (891479).

Friends of Stonesfield Library

Our Manager, Debbie Wilson, remains on the sick list but we are fortunate to have Judith Lloyd standing in for her and we publicly thank her for all her efforts on our behalf. In particular, she has smartened up the bookshelves and decorated our two rooms very effectively. Our Library remains open as advertised and we would love to see more visitors. Of course the poor weather has kept people in their homes but now with the first signs of spring, why not come and

visit? Our books are constantly refreshed with the latest publications and there is an effective ordering service at your disposal. Judith has also made a few changes to layout with the aim of improving service; we would like to know what you think of it.

Our next meeting will be in the White Horse at 7.15pm on Wednesday 14 March. As with all our meetings, this is an open meeting, so if you are interested in what we do, or are just curious as to what goes on, please come and join us. Who knows, you might want to take part in our assistance in the library; we are always happy for more members.

Tony Scott

Treasure Box

Easter Trail – Good Friday

All families are invited to the St James' Centre on Friday 30 March at 10.30am. From there, you will be able to follow a trail of pictures and clues that tell the story of Easter, around part of the village. Along the way there will be questions, challenges and a few Easter surprises! All children are welcome but they must be accompanied by an adult.

There will be refreshments for everyone at the St James' Centre afterwards and, of course, The Easter Egg Hunt!! (There will be a shorter trail for small children and should the weather not make an outdoor trail possible there will be a shorter indoor trail in the St James' Centre.)

Muriel Barrett (891479)

Food Bank

A reminder that food is taken every week,

usually on a Friday, to the North Oxfordshire Community Foodbank to feed people who are homeless, vulnerable and in need. Any food you can donate will be very warmly welcomed. Tins, cereal, pasta, soup, tea, coffee and other food items can be left in one of the two boxes under the table just inside the church, which is normally open during the day. The food is taken to the Baptist Church in Kidlington, where it is sorted and distributed.

Simon Haviland (891614)

Village Hall News

We would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Mr Howard Elkins, our esteemed chairman, for all his hard work and attention over the last five years. Sadly for us, Howard is saying goodbye to Stonesfield and moving away from the area, but we couldn't let him go without formally acknowledging the effort he has put in, and assuring him that we will continue to push on in the same diligent and determined manner.

We have a thriving committee who are involved in keeping things running, but we do need someone to step in and take on the role of chairman, so if you are

interested and would like to join us please do contact me.

Jacqueline Carthew, Secretary & Booking Clerk for Stonesfield Village Hall (Stonesfieldvh@gmail.com)

Bridewell Gardens

Saturday 10 March, 7.45pm

A concert to be given on that date by the Radcliffe Orchestra, Tingewick Hall, Academic Centre, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, in aid of Bridewell Gardens.

Tickets £10 (£8 concessions, children under 16 free)

Conductor: George Caird

Programme:

Verdi *Overture to the Force of Destiny*;
Strauss *Horn Concerto No.1* (soloist: John James);
Elgar *Symphony No.1*

All proceeds from the concert will go towards Bridewell Gardens, a charity that helps people recover their mental health through horticulture.

Tickets available from Mary Elford, Bridewell Gardens (07974 773854), Cairns Library, or on the door.
www.bridewellgardens.org

Tuition in English Language/Literature

Experienced support, tailored for each student's individual needs, for Key Stage Three, GCSE and AS/A Level students.

Please contact Anna on englishtuitionstonesfield@gmail.com

Local Art Classes

Enjoyable drawing courses and workshops in Combe, Finstock, Freeland and Stonesfield.

New Courses start in April.

For more information contact Gabriele.
Email gabrielekern31@gmail.com or ring 01993 880430.

Politics & local affairs

Parish Council

Mobile Phone Mast

Work on this is still delayed and no further information is available.

CALA Homes

Following the Inspector's report in response to the Hearings last Autumn we do not expect the proposed development of 68 homes to be approved if it goes before Council. The planners inform us there may be a revised application so we are not entirely out of the woods.

PYE Homes estate extension

The planners inform us there are still revisions to this scheme. We will let you know more as it becomes apparent.

North Farm

A very much smaller scheme is under preliminary consideration than that proposed at the end of 2017 but this is at an early stage.

Allotments

Unfortunately, there are no allotments available at this time.

Land Acquisition

SPC has now completed on the land acquisition off The Ridings. This is to be a third burial ground for the future, but it will not be required for some years. As we wish this land, which is half an acre, to be maintained and cared for, it is proposed to lease it out. We welcome any interested parties to contact the Parish Clerk.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 8 March at the

Village Hall. All residents are invited to attend.

*Gill Hill, Parish Clerk
(stonesfieldpc@gmail.com)*

West Oxfordshire District Council District Update

Sadly the state of euphoria which became apparent after the publication of the Inspector's letter has not lasted for long. The Cala proposals which were thought to be dead in the water have not yet quite sunk. Cala has not withdrawn their plans but have retired to consider their options in the light of the brake upon developments in the AONB. Whilst it is clear that the original prospect of 68 houses on the land to the north of the Woodstock Road may not materialise, there may be a case put forward for a reduced number. However, as WODC now has its five-year land supply and taking into consideration what the Inspector wrote, the planning committee has regained its teeth. We, on the Uplands Planning Committee, can now have much more faith in any decision to refuse an application.

Additionally, as a result of the above, the landowner and the prospective developer of the North Farm application have rethought their request for 34 houses on the site. In consultation with planning officers in Witney, they have redesigned their proposal to be a small development of just five houses. Most generously the landowner has suggested a parcel of land

will be gifted to the playing field. This will, I suspect, nullify most objections to the development.

The prospect of a further number of houses on the 'phase 2' of Charity Farm is still clouded in uncertainty. You will recall that a partnership of Blenheim Estates and WODC has brought forth a plan to offer the units at a more affordable cost than if the Government rules were to apply. This being in the mix does make the possibility of some new houses on that particular site more likely.

Of general interest and concern to residents who live this side of Witney is the Gladman proposal. This is for a 'garden village' sited at Barnard Gate on the A40. This will entail building 3,000 new houses (including 50% affordable), vehicle access to the A40 with two new roundabouts, a neighbourhood centre, a market square, medical centre, pharmacy, community hall, two new primary schools, a business park, and an 80-bed hotel. It will probably increase the number of vehicles using the A40 by 6000 and clog the minor roads around the site. All affected town and parish councils have been advised that the official proposal has been lodged. Progress, or what?

*Richard Bishop (891414;
(richard.bishop@westoxon.gov.uk)*

Garden waste collections

The new subscription year is from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 and costs £30 per bin a year for fortnightly wheeled-bin collection. Householders who sign up before the 28 February can be sure of receiving their licence in good time for the start of the new subscription year and so be able to receive the maximum

number of collections. The annual charge runs from 1 April until 31 March each year. Anyone signing up part way through the year they will be charged the full amount (£30) until the end of March.

Signing up for garden waste collections is quick and easy. Simply make a credit or debit card payment online or over the telephone by visiting www.westoxon.gov.uk/garden or by calling 01993 861025.

After collection, the garden waste is delivered to a composting site near Chipping Norton. This large-scale site enables faster composting as it reaches higher temperatures. The garden waste is first shredded, then stacked in long piles, known as windrows, which are regularly turned to produce compost. The process is monitored and closely managed to quality standard. Compost is then spread on to agricultural land.

Further information: Communications (01993 861615 / 861616; communications@westoxon.gov.uk)

Council tax

WODC's share of council tax is set to increase by just £2.75 a year for the average householder. The Cabinet has recommended a 3% increase from April, which will see an average Band D household paying £94.38, instead of £91.63 in the current financial year. Councillors were originally recommended to back a £5 a year rise, but a combination of a sound investment strategy and cost savings has meant the lower level can be set.

Further info: 01993 861615, 07771 965360, communications@westoxon.gov.uk

From our County Councillor Councillor Priorities Fund

A key proposal for the upcoming Oxfordshire County Council Budget is to have a Councillor Priorities Fund – all County Councillors will have a £15k fund each to support parish council Highways needs and community group projects. In addition, the county council is choosing to prioritise children's social care with £1.9m extra being put in to this service. Overall this means £8.5m is being added to the budget for children's social care in 2018/19. This follows the central government announcement in late December that it would allow councils to raise council tax by an additional 1% primarily to address financial pressures in children's social care.

Carillion: Exit Deal

OCC has formally terminated its contract with Carillion LGS Limited effective from 1 February 2018, following the collapse of the parent company. This brings

forward the already agreed end of the contract set for the end of June 2018.

Cllr Ian Hudspeth

07956270 318

Ian.hudspeth@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Community Education at the Marlborough School, Woodstock

We were delighted to welcome over 400 adults to our weekly courses and Saturday workshops in the Autumn of 2017.

Weekly courses start again after Easter, and we have Saturday workshops on 10 March and 19 May. Classes coming up include: archery, curtain and blind making, drawing, drumming, help for iPad/iPhone users, painting using special effects, summer and Italian cookery, and Zumba Gold, plus more on our website.

For information or bookings please ring 01993 813592 or email comed.4560@marlborough.oxon.sch.uk, www.marlborough.oxon.sch.uk/commed

Celia Clark, Coordinator

FoSL: Friends of Stonesfield Library

Open to anyone who wants to help keep our village library open.

We are now providing voluntary cover for half of the existing library hours (about 6 hours a week), since the library service is now cut back.

For further details, or to join us, please contact Tony Scott on 01993 891380, tonyandrachel.scott@virgin.net

Education & culture

Stonesfield Library

Telephone: 01993 898187

Opening Hours:

Monday	2.30–7pm
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	10am–12noon
Thursday	2.30–5pm
Friday	Closed
Saturday	10am–12noon

ChOC Film

Sunday 11 March, 7.30pm: *Hidden Figures*. Cert PG / 124 mins.

The incredible story of Katherine G. Johnson (Taraji P. Henson), Dorothy Vaughan (Octavia Spencer) and Mary Jackson (Janelle Monáe), three brilliant African-American women working at NASA, who served as the brains behind one of the greatest operations in history: the launch of astronaut John Glenn into orbit. Memorial Hall, Charlbury. Doors & licensed bar from 6.45pm). Admission: £5 / U15s £3.

Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock

The Oxfordshire Museum is in the heart of Woodstock and tells the story of Oxfordshire from the Jurassic period through to modern day, with 11 permanent galleries and a touring exhibition there is lots to see. Free Admission, Garden Cafe and Gift Shop.

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/oxfordshire-museum>

Exhibitions:

10 March – 29 April: *British Wildlife Photography*. This exhibition showcases the winning entries for the 2017 British Wildlife Photography Awards. <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/event/british-wildlife-photography>

21 March – 20 April: *Raising Horizons*. Striking portraits highlighting women in archaeology and geoscience and bringing to life their often-forgotten stories.

Talks & Lectures:

7 March, 7.30pm. *The Medieval parish church in Oxfordshire from Romanesque to Gothic*. Tickets £4 Booking visit FriendsofTOM@live.co.uk

24 March, 2pm: *May Morris: Art & Life* by Rowan Bain. Exploring the life and work of William Morris's younger daughter, a significant artist in the British Arts & Crafts movement. Tickets £8. Booking line T: 01993 814106

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/event/talk-may-morris-art-and-life-rowan-bain>

Saturday 17 March, 2.30–5pm. *An afternoon with their favourite finds*.

Celebrating the 20 Years of Treasure exhibition archaeologists, volunteers, detectorists and Museum Friends invite you to join them to share their knowledge and enthusiasm for archaeological objects found in Oxfordshire. Tickets £8 in advance (to include tea and cake) from the Museum reception 01993 814 106. All proceeds will support the preservation of Oxfordshire's heritage.

JEM
CHIMNEY
SWEEPING

• NO FUSS •
• NO MESS •
• NO PROBLEM •
Tel: 01865 772996

Clubs & societies

1st Stonesfield Scout Group

Although it feels like a long time ago, we haven't forgotten to say 'thank you' to everyone who turned out to support our Santa's sleigh visit alongside Witney Round Table and to everyone who supported the Scout Christmas Bingo. As always, we are hugely grateful to both individuals and local businesses for their very generous bingo and raffle prize donations. All funds raised will go towards the new scout hut and finishing the access ramp.

Beaver Scouts have been busy learning about the history of scouting, the values of the scout promise and thinking about how to make their activities more inclusive to all. Beavers are planning a night hike and campfire to say goodbye to the eldest ones who move up to Cubs in the spring and would also love to hear from anyone who serves the community in a role such as police officer, doctor, nurse, fire fighter, and can spare an hour on one Friday evening in order to help them complete one of their badges.

Scouts have been learning a variety of skills for forestry and tool use, as part of their community conservation project at Combe Mill, as well as skills that are more useful around the home. A team of 8 scouts took on the Winter Challenge, walking 18 miles in truly wintery conditions while also raising money for the group.

All sections are now busy planning for the rest of the year and dreaming of long

warm evenings outside! As always, if you think you'd like to get involved, either helping out at our meetings or behind the scenes with fundraising or admin, please don't hesitate to contact us.

info@stonesfield-scouts.org.uk

Stonesfield Gardening Club

At February's meeting, Rob Jacobs gave a well-illustrated, lively and informative talk that included various amusing experiences from his career at Waterperry Gardens from teenage intern to head gardener. He also passed on a number of helpful hints on pruning, staking and planting for seasonal interest. It was pleasing to note that there were 33 in the audience this time; even more than usual!

The next meeting will be on Monday 12 March at 7.30pm in the St James' Centre. Our speaker will be Timothy Walker on 'Colour in a small garden'.

Membership renewals are now due at £8 per person or £15 per couple; please contact our membership secretary, Jill Rowlinson (891346). Non-members are welcome at £3 per person, no gardening experience needed, it's just for fun!

Sybil Barton (01993 891590; sybil.a.barton@gmail.com)

The Stonesfield Folk Dance Club

We would welcome any readers who would like to join us at the Village Hall on Wednesday evenings from 8pm. No

partners our necessary, many of our members are singles, and those who are not always change partners for each dance. A whole new world awaits!

Please join us on Sunday 25 March at 2pm for the *Ken Sheffield Tribute Day of Dance*. Local band *The Donkey House Band* play for us in the first session between 2pm and 3.15pm under the direction of Val & Ian McFarlane and this will comprise many of the dances made famous worldwide by Ken during his lifetime. The second session between 3.45pm and 5pm will feature *Keeping Thyme* together with Elvyn Blomfield (they are famous Folk Musicians) who will play under the direction of Val & Ian many of the original recordings they made with Ken. These sessions will be followed by a dance from 6pm to 9pm with *Keeping Thyme* & Val & Ian. The cost of the sessions is £5 each and the dance £10 each. Total for full event £20 and this includes a commemorative CD featuring an interview with Ken and tributes from friends plus a number of recordings.

Please come and join in the fun!

Stewart Nicholls
(www.stonesfieldfolkdance.danceorg.uk)

Stonesfield Sports and Social Club

As from 15 March we are re-introducing monthly Bingo sessions. Come along and enjoy the evening while supporting local causes.

There will be a disco on 17 March. We hope to see you there. Small bottles of wine will cost only £2 on the night.

During the week of 12 till 17 March GUINNESS will be at £2 per pint to celebrate St Patrick's Day.

Brian Clarke (891770)

The Stonesfield Players present April review

Saturday 21 April. 7pm – Village Hall, with a sit down meal too.

Saints, Dragons, Whispering Knights and Treacle Wells

To celebrate St George's Day and with a nod to Shakespeare's birthday, the Stonesfield Players are looking to our wonderfully talented villagers to perform small, 5 to 10 minute, pieces on the theme of myths and legends. This can be sung medieval songs; perhaps you could perform some poetry. Maybe a small group could put together a drama piece about St George and the dragon. For the musicians out there perhaps a classical piece of music or even a modern take on something Shakespearian.

So we are looking for musicians, story tellers, actors, singers, poets and dancers to perform something of their own choosing to fill an evening of entertainment. The evening will be set to candlelight with a hot meal provided to all that attend. We are aiming to create a warm and inviting atmosphere that all of our performers will get the best experience from.

Open to everyone! Please contact Dave Rudge on davidrudge2002@yahoo.co.uk or 07814 142658 for more details and to register your interest / performance. There will be a very informal audition and then a rehearsal nearer the time to

compile the show. I look forward to hearing from you.

Dave Rudge, Players secretary

Over 60s Darby & Joan Club

It was good to see so many there for our February meeting. We had an enjoyable afternoon. First of all we welcomed Doreen Moss from Combe, who once again cleverly arranged some beautiful spring flowers. Doreen skilfully produced four lovely arrangements which were admired by all. These were to be used as prizes in the raffle later on. We are very grateful to her for spending time with us and sharing tips along the way. Thank you, Doreen.

Names were taken for our 8 March meeting, when our good friend Mark, the local Fish & Chip man, will be here to cook and serve our Lunch. This has become an Annual event which we all enjoy – it appears we are all booked in. Don't forget we will be served at 1 o'clock.

Time for our cuppa and a treat provided by Judy & Jenny, homemade scones with Jam & Cream, they were really yummy. Thank you, Ladies.

Time now for the raffle, and four of the lucky winners were able to take home the flowers or choose from the trolley, which as always was well loaded with a variety of prizes. Who knows, there may well be some Easter Eggs there next month.

Thank you again to all the helpers and I look forward to seeing you for lunch next month.

Best wishes, Avis

Witney Music Society

The final concert in Witney Music Society's 2017–18 season will be given by the acclaimed Leonore Piano Trio, who will be playing works by Haydn, Ravel and Taneyev. The concert is at 7.30pm on Friday 9 March at High Street Methodist Church, Witney.

Tickets (full price £12, senior concessions £11, under 18 £1) will be available at the door from 7pm.

For more information, please telephone 01993 702296 or visit the website www.witneymusicsociety.org.uk

Jean Richards, Programme Secretary, Witney Music Society

Woodstock Natural History Society

This month's meeting is on Tuesday 13 March at 7.30pm in the Community Centre, New Road, Woodstock, OX20 1PB. After a short AGM, we look forward to an illustrated talk on '70 Years of Study of the Great Tits in Wytham Woods' by Ben Sheldon. Visitors £2. All welcome.

North Leigh History Society

6 March: *The history of Culham Laboratory*, by Dr Peter Kirkby.

7.30pm, Turner Hall, Church Road, North Leigh OX29 6TX. All welcome. Visitors £4, Members free. Further details from Diana Power 01993 882301.

Ladies Probus

For information contact 01993 812025.

Sandy Rasch

Sport

Stonesfield Football Club

Before I launch into my usual drivel a quick apology for the lack of a report in last month's *Slate*. Some of you may know that I had an operation early in December in the JR and ended up back in for a second procedure in mid-January and missed the deadline. Delighted to report that my rehabilitation is underway, and all seems to be well. Many thanks to everyone in this wonderful village of ours for all your best wishes and offers of help (for both me and Linda) over the past few months, very much appreciated!

So, how are our lads doing? Despite having mixed fortunes, The Firsts currently sit in joint second place in Division 1, having briefly led the pack before Christmas. Around that time, they had a fabulous result away at Goring, winning 2–1, in the Oxon Junior Shield. However, the quarter-final draw was not kind to them and they were out-classed away at high-flying Hanborough, losing 5–0. They also lost in The Fred Ford Cup quarter-final (3–0) at Hollybush despite putting in an encouraging performance. All is not doom and gloom, however, as they still have a chance of Cup glory following a First-Round win away at Kingham (2–1) in The Watt Junior Cup. Although their league position is very good they haven't had many games since mid-December due to the inclement weather and I'm confident that their form will improve when springtime eventually arrives. It's not inconceivable

that they could end the season with silverware as well as promotion to the Premier League!

The Reserves have also been plagued with a lack of action due to weather-induced postponements, but they've had mixed results in the matches that have been played. Wins away at Kingham (2–0), Eynsham (6–1) and Ascott (6–1) have been frustratingly countered by defeat away at Wootton (3–0) and a draw (1–1) at home to Bampton. They also lost out at home to Bletchingdon in a ten-goal thriller (6–4) which could have, obviously, gone either way. It seems unlikely that they'll win the league, but I wouldn't rule them out of finishing in a promotion slot come the end of the season.

So, to The Fredo award. At the time of writing The Winter Olympics were underway in South Korea with ferociously high winds and freezing temperatures decimating the youthful hopes of a whole generation of stylish (and brave!) snowboarders. The conditions were atrocious and would have deterred many a hardy soul but not our intrepid hero, Brian Clarke. He relished the conditions and armed with his trusty snowboard, scarf and mittens, headed off to Pyeongchang to show the youngsters how it should be done. Looking cool (1945 style) he was seen hitting the heights, looping the loop and doing quadruple turns to the amazement of all! For showing 'True Grit' and not shaming the village on the slopes

(despite his lack of sartorial elegance) he scoops this month's Fredo Award by some considerable distance!

Tom Flanigan (891979)

Stonesfield Cricket Club

The club has started indoor net practice on Sundays at 4pm at Charlbury Community Centre in preparation for Spring. The first few sessions have been really well supported and it's lovely to see some of our talented 13-year-old cricketers really blossoming into fine players! When matches start in April, it's always clear to see which players have been practising their batting and bowling for several weeks previous. If you're thinking of giving cricket a go, do get in touch and join us.

Great news for the club – we have a brand new shirt sponsor: Lycetts Insurance Brokers, who have a branch office in Charlbury. Lycetts are long-established rural insurance experts – worth a call for your farm and estate, commercial, equine and high-quality household insurance needs. Anthony Liddell is our contact, on 01608 811310.

Look out for our brand new, modern, white & navy blue T20-style match shirts (complete with Lycetts logo and printed player names!) on the playing field this Summer.

Stewart Moss (07866 278685)

Stonesfield Tennis Club

No doubt many of you will be aware of the major refurbishment of the courts that took place last Summer and we now have two dedicated courts with a superb

all weather artificial grass surface.

The courts are open all year round and can be used in all conditions except when there is a heavy frost. Court bookings are made through our new online booking system.

Club nights are Friday, when players of all abilities are welcome to join in to play a social game of tennis or two.

Our membership year runs from 1 April to 31 March and memberships are now due for the 2018/19 season.

In order to encourage membership we have kept the fees at the same level as previous years. Your subscription also gives you automatic membership of the Stonesfield Sports and Social Club.

Membership fees: Juniors (under 16) £9, Adults £30, Families £65.

If you would like to join please e-mail Richard Morris (zen100314@zen.co.uk) with your name(s), address and telephone number together with confirmation of the type of membership you are applying for and how you will pay.

Payment options

Direct bank transfer preferred

Account name: Stonesfield Tennis Club

Sort code: 09-01-55

Account no: 6722 8703

Include ref.: STC2018

OR Cheques made payable to Stonesfield Tennis Club OR cash. If paying by cheque or cash please send to Richard Morris, STC Treasurer, Prospect Cottage, Church Street, Stonesfield (898210).

Stonesfield Tennis Club AGM

Stonesfield Tennis Club will be holding its AGM in the village hall clubroom at 8pm on Tuesday 20 March. All members past, present and prospective are welcome to attend and refreshments will be provided. The formal business of the meeting will be very brief and for the

remainder of the meeting we will be looking for ideas to increase participation in the club and usage of the courts.

We look forward to seeing you on 20 March.

Andrew Tacon (andrew.tacon@outlook.com)

STONESFIELD VOLUNTARY TRANSPORT SCHEME

arranges car transport to doctors' and dentists' surgeries in Woodstock, Charlbury, Long Hanborough and Witney, and to Water Eaton Park & Ride (for buses to JR, Nuffield and Churchill Hospitals)

If you need a lift for a medical visit in MARCH please ring Peter Clifton (891956) or Jenny Haviland (891614).

Every effort will be made to find a volunteer driver for you, but please give as much notice as you can. This is a free service, but donations to costs are welcomed.



We now have a fully extended childcare provision running from Pre-School.

Here is what is currently available:

Breakfast Club

Now Monday–Thursday, 8–8.50am (£5 per day).

Cereal, toast and fruit juice included

Pre-School Sessions

9am–3pm daily for children aged 2–4 years

After School Club

Monday–Thursday, 3.15–6pm (£15 per day)

If you would like registration forms for any of the above, please contact our administrator, Mrs Zena Rozee (tel. 01993 898012 or email: stonesfieldpsad@outlook.com)

Church news



Anglican Worship in the Parishes of Stonesfield with Combe Longa



Rector: The Revd Roy Turner
The Rectory, Stonesfield, Witney, Oxon, OX29 8PR
Telephone: 01993 898552 – Email: revroystonesfield@hotmail.co.uk

www.stonesfieldparishchurch.org

Stonesfield Churchwardens: Neil Melrose (891566) and Martine Smith-Huvers (898425)
Combe Longa Churchwardens: Julian Freeland (891223) and Andrew Hobson (891273)

BCP=Book of Common Prayer: CW=Common Worship

From your Parish Priest

Again my friend the Revd Canon J. John has written to me about the Lent period and I would like to pass it on to you. What do you think? He writes:

'Ash Wednesday, this year on 14 February, marks the start of the forty-day period of Lent that runs up to Easter Day. Some Christians follow a longstanding tradition of fasting during Lent; denying themselves something – chocolate, alcohol or even social media – that is good sometimes but not essential. Today, this whole idea strikes some people as bizarre but in fact the idea of Lent and fasting has perhaps never been more relevant.

'Our modern culture is fixated not simply on having things, but on having them now. Advertisements encourage us not to save but to buy on credit and have what we want immediately: instant food, instant messaging, real-time meetings and instant downloads of music, films or books. We don't 'do' waiting anymore.

Whether it is food, pleasure or possessions, we expect to have them all now.

'Yet there is something that can be very dangerous about this demand for "instant gratification" and it's not just Christians who say so. The reality is that all good things (whether food, pleasure or possessions) are truly at their best when they are taken at the right time. Intentionally delaying a pleasure (and that's what fasting in Lent is all about) is a wise thing. The ability to postpone our gratification may actually be critical to making us fulfilled human beings. After all, if we want our pleasures now, we are going to struggle with things like learning to play the piano or acquiring a foreign language where it may be months before we can tap out a tune or engage in a meaningful conversation on holiday.

'Postponing a pleasure may even have been fundamental in making the human race what it is. A great breakthrough in history was when people realised that instead of eating grains of wheat or rice

they could plant them and wait a few months until the crops sprang up. The discovery of cultivation allowed settlements, farms and ultimately civilisation to flourish.

'It's not just history that teaches us about the disadvantages of instant gratification; there is also some hard psychological evidence on the subject. In the Stanford Marshmallow Experiment in the 1970s a group of four-year-old children took part in a psychological study. Each child was given one marshmallow and promised that, if they could wait twenty minutes before eating it, they would be given a second one. Some children could wait the twenty minutes and others couldn't.

Records were kept and sixteen years later children were revisited; those who had been able to delay eating were found to score significantly higher in academic tests. The ability to say "no, not now" seems to be vital to both civilisation and education.

'Lent helps us to learn to say "no, not now"; it teaches us self-control and an expectation and an anticipation of what God may reveal to us. Lent isn't just a human exercise but a sacred discipline.'

I'm going to try it again this year. What about you?

See you soon and as always D.F.T.W.

Rev Roy

SERVICES FOR MARCH

Sunday 4 March [Third Sunday of Lent]

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [BCP/said]
9.30am	Combe Longa	Parish Communion [CW/sung]
11am	Stonesfield	Parish Communion [CW/sung]

Sunday 11 March [Fourth Sunday of Lent – Mothering Sunday]

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [BCP/said]
9.30am	Combe Longa	All Age Worship
11am	Stonesfield	All Age Worship

Sunday 18 March [Fifth Sunday of Lent]

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [BCP/said]
9.30am	Combe Longa	Parish Communion [CW/sung]
10am	Stonesfield	Communion Service for all ages followed by APCM at 11am

Sunday 25 March [Palm Sunday]

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [CW/sung]
9.30am	Combe Longa	Parish Communion [CW/sung]
11am	Stonesfield	Parish Communion [CW/sung]

Maundy Thursday [29 March]

7.30pm	Stonesfield	Benefice Holy Communion
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Good Friday [30 March]

2pm	Combe	Good Friday meditation
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Easter Eve [31 March]

7.30pm Stonesfield Easter Ceremonies by candlelight

Sunday 1 April [Easter Day]

6am	Combe Longa	Dawn service
8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [BCP/said]
9.30am	Combe Longa	Parish Communion [CW/sung]
11am	Stonesfield	Parish Communion [CW/sung]

Mid-week Communion Service [said]

Wednesdays 9.30am at Stonesfield. Everyone is most welcome

Stonesfield Methodist Church

Did you know that the plant we call 'snowdrop' has the official title 'Galanthus', from the Greek meaning milk flower? And I discover that the National Trust has a website page dedicated to the top spots to see snowdrops throughout the land. However, I have already spotted these delightful little plants valiantly blooming amid the cold, grey winter countryside.

W.H. Davies wrote the famous lines:

*What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.*

However, on this occasion I was unable to 'stand and stare' at the snowdrops, but had to content myself with carrying away a memory in my mind's eye. You see, the snowdrops were blooming on the traffic island just beyond Bladon. I have no doubt that thousands of travellers, commuters and tourists pass this spot every day, and I guess some will be oblivious to the delights of these small reminders of the changing seasons. But the snowdrop always manages to bring great joy to me, and particularly when I spot them in unexpected places.

How do they survive in such a busy and probably quite polluted place? And how

did they get there in the first place? At the start of the year, many churches are using the Methodist covenant prayer, which addresses God with these words: *I am no longer my own but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you or laid aside for you, exalted for you or brought low for you.*

These are not always easy words to say. But this year, I thought about the small, lowly and unassuming snowdrops, doing just what snowdrops do, arriving as heralds of spring, with lengthening of days and better weather on the way. Shouldn't we, as God's people, do just what we are called to do?

Our witness is to be as heralds to a new way of living in which God's grace and love can be revealed as transformative, making the world a better place for all. Even if no one else notices!

Every blessing, Rose

SERVICES FOR MARCH

Sun 4	11am	Revd Rose Westwood Holy Communion
Sun 11	11am	Andrew Maisey
Sun 18	11am	Ian Gray
Sun 25	11am	Revd Melanie Reed
Fri 30	10am	Revd Melanie Reed

N.B. Good Friday service is at Witney Methodist Church.

Roman Catholic Worship

St Teresa's Charlbury

Some Reflections for Lent from Pope Francis

Pope Francis has written an extensive Lenten Message to all in the Church and for all Christians for Lent 2018. This is a brief summary of his message:

Pope Francis opens with a reflection on the words of Jesus in the Gospel of St Matthew: *Because of the increase of iniquity, the love of many will grow cold* (Mt. 24:12). Much of what is happening in our world is leading many into loneliness, frustration and isolation. Humanity is divided in so many ways, and genuine charity and love is absent. Pope Francis invites all Christians to undergo a whole-hearted observance of the Lenten season that is rooted in a renewed living of the traditional activities that characterise Lent:

Prayer: through which we are able to open ourselves honestly before God.

Almsgiving: which sets us free from greed and helps us to regard our neighbour as a brother or sister . . . 'What I possess is never mine alone . . . For no-one is more generous than God'.

Fasting: 'wakes us up. It makes us more attentive to God and our neighbour'.

Pope Francis hopes that this coming Lent will make a difference in our interior spiritual life and therefore in the lives of those we encounter.

[The full text is available to download on the Internet.]

MASS TIMES

SUNDAYS

St Teresa's, Charlbury: 9.15am

St Kenelm's, Enstone: 9am, second Sunday of every month

WEEKDAYS

St Teresa's, Charlbury: 9.30am, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, preceded by Morning Prayers at 9.15am

Confession: Confessions will be at 10am after morning Mass on Saturdays, and on request.

Father Tony Joyce can be contacted on: holytrinityrcchippy@gmail.com or telephone (01608 642703).

For parish updates and any further information please see: <https://stteresaschurch-charlbury.com/> or contact Clare Carswell, Chair, Parish Committee: chair.stteresaschurchcharlbury@gmail.com

Aid To The Church in Need (ACN)

From February 2018 Suze Mathews will be stepping down as Parish Representative for ACN due to other commitments and Mike Flanagan will be taking over as Parish Representative.

ACN Events

English Women Saints – date tbc

Visit to Stonor House – date tbc

For further information about the above please contact Suze Mathews, suzemathews899@btinternet.com; 01993 891720

The Roman Catholic community in Stonesfield

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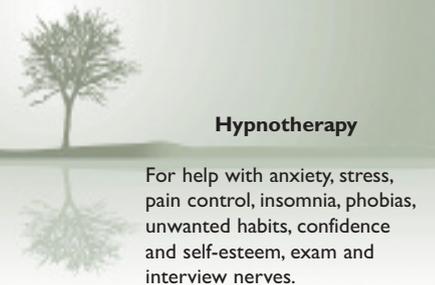


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NEW YEAR, NEW START

Finally the days are starting to draw out a bit and it's starting to feel like Spring is just around the corner. We're looking forward to a great year ahead!

It's exciting times here at The White Horse. We've made some changes to our menu for 2018, so as well as serving your old favourites, we have added some new dishes, including crusty farmhouse style sandwiches, jacket potatoes, homemade pies, lasagne and chilli, all at really good prices. So if you don't feel like cooking, pop in and have a look.

Mother's Day is coming up, so why not treat your mum to a meal here and we'll treat her to a little bottle of Prosecco?

Don't forget our Tuesday night Quiz Nights, Two-for-One Friday Fish and Chips, Brunch/Lunch served Friday through Sunday.

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