The Stonesfield Slate Issue No 480 May 2018



Dates for your diary - May

2,9,16,23,30 Folk Dance Club Village Hall							
5–1	5–13 Stonesfield Studios open for Art Week						
10	Over 60s Darby & Joan	Village Hall	2pm				
10	Bingo Sports	and Social Club Eyes do	wn 7.30 pm				
14,	21 Monday Coffee	St James' Centre	8.45-10am				
14,	21. SJC Cuppa	St James' Centre	10-11.30am				
15	Players Play Reading	St James' Centre	7.30pm				
17	Gardening Club	Spetchley Gardens	Day trip				
19	Band Night	Sports and Social Club	o 8pm				
21	Players AGM	Village Hall	8pm				



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The deadline for copy and advertisements for the next issue is 15 May

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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Children taking part in Treasure Box activities at

Notices

Phyllis Totterdale

We would like to thank everyone for their kind words and sympathy cards, also those of you who joined us and our families at the church on 12 March to mourn the loss of our dear mother and to celebrate her life and the 96 years she had enjoyed with her family and friends.

Our thanks to Rev Roy for a lovely service. And thank you to everyone who gave donations. A total of £354.80 will be shared between Dementia UK and The Homestead Care Home.

Josie, Pauline and Ros (Phyllis's daughters)

Judy Wild

Our mother, Juliet (Judy) Wild, died peacefully on 12 March at Marston Court Care Home, Oxford. She had lived in Pond Hill for over fifty years and loved the village. We would like to thank Reverend Turner very much for his kindness in organising and conducting the funeral service at St James the Great, John Rotherham for the music, the Cooperative Funeralcare and all those who attended and were involved in making it such a lovely occasion.

Helen Peto, Teresa and Gerald Wild

CPRE

Oxford-Cambridge growth corridor & expressway – How to get our voices heard?

The Chancellor has backed the National Infrastructure Commission's concept of

an Oxford to Cambridge 'Growth Corridor' of a million new houses, of which 300,000 would be in Oxfordshire. That would be equivalent to six new cities the size of Oxford; or to put it another way, would more than double our present housing stock and population by 2050.

Part of the growth scheme is a new Expressway – a Motorway in all but name – from Oxford to Cambridge to 'facilitate' the development.

At the moment this transformative change is being proposed without any public consultation.

CPRE Oxfordshire is demanding a full statutory public consultation followed by a Public Inquiry, at which the clear environmental and social costs of the Growth Corridor can be weighed against the potential economic benefits envisaged. This would also mean the need for and routing of any Oxfordshire Expressway would at least be decided in an open and transparent manner.

CPRE Oxfordshire is asking local residents to join its call for a Public Inquiry by contacting local councillors, MPs and the Secretary of State for Transport.

Find out more at www.cpreoxon.org.uk Facebook.com/CPREOxfordshire email: administrator@cpreoxon.org.uk Tel 01491 612079

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Sustainable Stonesfield

Two planning applications have come up.

The plan for North Farm on Farley Lane has been modified again, showing five luxury homes and offering a piece of land to the village which could be used as a football pitch. We take the view that this would not meet any local housing need, that it falls foul of the Inspector's decision that there is no need for an allocated housing site in Stonesfield, that this is not a rural exception site, and that it is contrary to the emerging Local Plan. There is therefore no justification for this development in the AONB. The deadline for objections is 26 April.

The plan for Pye Phase 2 (adjoining Charity Farm/William Buckland Wav) is for a mix of 13 houses, 6 of which are 'affordable' (which we know does not mean 'cheap'). The size of this major development in such a sensitive area on the edge of the village, and the number of people/cars that it would generate leads us to object to this development not only because it is in the AONB but also because of unsustainability. Our roads, water and sewerage cannot cope. Given that a number of houses on nextdoor Charity Farm remain unsold indicates there is no local need for these houses. And it also falls foul of the Inspector's decision that there is no need for an allocated housing site in Stonesfield. The deadline for objections is unclear at time of writing but ?end of April/early May.

Act now! Please go to the Susto section of the new village website www.stonesfield.online for sample text for objecting to both these applications.

Having taken a sounding from Susto members, all of those who replied being in favour, we have decided to join Friends of West Oxfordshire Cotswolds (FOWOC). We have been affiliated to them for some months (when they were called Friends of Evenlode Valley), and expect to draw strength from the combined forces of the various local pressure groups that are also joining. Our funds (i.e. your donations) will remain ring-fenced for specifically Stonesfield projects, and we will not have to support any other local projects if we don't want to.

We have asked the Parish Council to ask Blenheim to specify the type and frequency of traffic to their newly designated delivery entrance at the Park Farm gate in the woods approaching the A44 junction. We suspect it will generate significant additional traffic and many large vehicles. Traffic on the straight was voiced as a big concern at our last public meeting. We have also written to Ian Hudspeth to draw this to the attention of the Highway Authority.

We are continuing to research the advisability of producing a Neighbourhood Plan.

Finally, please consider joining Sustainable Stonesfield to get emails and information. No fee, no hassle. There are already 170 members who have joined because they want to hear the latest news and help if they can. Use the sign up form at: http://eepurl.com/cJI4bj

Caroline Friend (sustainablestonesfield@gmail.com www.stonesfield.online)

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New Stonesfield Village website The Parish Council has launched a new website www.stonesfield.online This offers you

- contact details for a range of local services, clubs and businesses
- links to useful local websites

Additionally, you can access:

- Minutes of Parish Council meetings
- Copies of the *Slate*
- Details of local events
- Sustainable Stonesfield Information

Also, by subscribing to the site (this can simply be done from the Home page) you automatically will receive emails when new information is added.

Subscribe now to make the most of this resource.

If you are a local club or business please use the site to check your details have been correctly included.

On behalf of Stonesfield Parish Council

Combe Road Sewage Pumping Station

For some time we have had various problems with the Combe Road Sewage Pumping Station. These have resulted in overflowing sewage and emergency callouts for the station to be pumped out and in very unpleasant and unacceptable conditions for neighbouring residents.

I have been asked by Stonesfield Parish Council to take these matters up with Thames Water and have submitted a Freedom of Information request but the information supplied does not tally with some of the emergency call-outs which we know have occurred.

However I need more information, i.e. dates and times of overflow problems, dates the emergency tanker has had to be called out, dates of attendance of engineers on emergency call outs etc. Supporting photographs would be a great help.

If anyone has such information I would be grateful if you could contact me and I will take the matter forward and present a formal complaint to Thames Water.

Councillor David Brown, Threeways, Woodstock Road, Stonesfield (898193; david.brown339@btinternet.com)

Charlbury Medical Centre Patients

There will be an Open Morning at the Charlbury Medical Centre for patients and carers on 9 June between 10am and noon. This event will explain the role of the Charlbury Patient Participation Group and its aims for the benefit of both patients and the Practice. It will provide an opportunity for patients to give feedback on Practice services as well as providing some interesting displays of current healthcare issues.

Tea and coffee will be provided, so please come along and find out what your Practice Patient Participation Group can do for you.

Annie Warburton

Bridewell Organic Gardens – Open Afternoon

The Walled Garden and Vineyard at Wilcote (OX7 3DT) will be open on

Sunday 13 May from 2 to 5 pm. Suggested donation £4, children free.

Refreshments, plants, Bridewell produce, products and our own organic wine will be for sale. For further information please call 01993 864530 or go to www.bridewell gardens.org (Reg. charity 1158456)

Toad Patrol 2018

So far this year, and I write on 10 April, we have given an assisted passage to 200 toads to cross the road in Fawler and have mourned over 40 dead. The season started later than usual so it may not have finished yet: on each of the previous three nights I found one toad plodding its solitary way but last night hit the jack-pot with 33!

We have two appeals: the first is for more

volunteers to help us patrol next year during the month of March. The more we are, the less often individuals need to patrol. There are also other aspects: patrolling in pairs gives added safety and some of this year's volunteers will be unable to help next year. Our two octogenarians meander valiantly up and down the road but each questions how much longer creaking joints will permit.

Secondly, last year I bought four wind-up battery lanterns and placed them at intervals on the road verge in Fawler to signal to drivers that patrollers were on the road. They were useful and a welcoming sight for us. After about a week, one disappeared. This year I replaced it and within days, two had vanished. If anyone has any idea as to where they might be, please let me know.

Hilary Stacey (891267)

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Politics & local affairs

Parish Council

CALA Homes

There is still no definite decision on the CALA Homes application on Woodstock Road. There is no need for further comments to be made to WODC on this application as the original ones still stand. Decisions may well have been made before this article is received.

PYE Homes

An amended Design Strategy has been submitted for Land South of William Buckland Way, Application No. 17/01966/FUL for the erection of 13 dwellings (50% affordable) with associated infrastructure and access, open space and landscaping and ancillary works (amended plans and description) with time for consideration.

North Farm

The revised Planning Application No. 18/00731/FUL for land West of North Farm, Woodstock Road, has been submitted to WODC for the erection of five dwellings with associated garaging and landscape works plus formation of new vehicular access. SPC has advised WODC that it considers there is no need for any more expensive houses in Stonesfield. However if there were to be offers of a pecuniary nature then this should be allocated for use in Stonesfield.

Sheep on the Common

The sheep have now departed from the Common. We look forward to their return later in the year.

Fly Tipping

There has been some Fly Tipping in Stonesfield recently. If you do notice any rubbish left in unusual places, please report it on the WODC website at www.westoxon.gov.uk. Click on 'Environment' then 'Report a Problem' and find Fly Tipping in the drop down list on the form that will appear. You may also telephone 01993 861000.

Parking on pavement

If you do have to resort to parking partially on the pavement, please make sure there is enough room for prams and wheelchairs to pass through.

Overhanging hedges and shrubs

Now we are into the growing season, please keep an eye on any hedges or shrubs which overhang the path or road. They need to be kept cut back.

New Grit Bin

QA request has been submitted to WODC for a new grit bin at Farley Corner. Hopefully there will be no need for this for a while.

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be the AGM and Annual Meeting commencing at the earlier time of 7pm on Thursday 10 May at the Village Hall. All residents are invited to attend.

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

West Oxfordshire District Council Residents urged to recycle cooking oil With the problem of recurring major blockages in sewers caused by fatbergs, people are reminded that cooking oil can be collected as part of their household recycling service.

Fatbergs are putrid fatty masses that occur in the sewers when cooking oils, fats and unflushable items such as sanitary products mix together and solidify.

Residents simply need to pour cooled oil into a clear plastic bottle and put it out next to their recycling boxes or food waste caddy on collection days.

We also ask that people not flush wipes, cotton buds, nappies and sanitary products down toilets even if they are labelled as flushable. Our message is clear: bin it – don't block it.

Last summer Thames Water revealed that it clears at least three major blockages from Witney's sewers every fortnight.

Engine oil is also collected at the kerbside. However, it is not recycled with food waste, but as a separate process to be reused as motor oil and hydraulic oil.

Local elections

The nominations period for candidates looking to stand in the West Oxfordshire District Council elections on 3 May has closed.

There are 63 candidates: 17 Conservatives, nine Greens, three Independents, 17 Labour/Labour and Cooperative and 17 Liberal Democrats contesting the 17 seats up for election.

Full details can be seen here: http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/about-thecouncil/elections-voting/future-elections/

Andrew Smith, Communications
Officer, West Oxfordshire District Council,
Council Offices, Woodgreen, Witney OX28
1NB; t: 01993 861616/861000

From our County Councillor Pothole fund boosted

Central Government has announced that local roads badly affected by recent winter weather will benefit from a further £100 million to help repair potholes and other storm damage, Transport Secretary Chris Grayling announced on 26 March. Nationally, this money will help repair almost 2 million potholes as well as help protect the roads from any future severe weather. This is on top of the £75 million in government funding already given to councils from the Pothole Action Fund this year, as well as the additional £46 million boost for highways authorities announced just before Christmas. Around 7 million potholes across the UK will be filled due to this money, announced in the 2016 Budget. Oxfordshire's share of these funds comes to nearly £3m.

Councillor Priority Fund

All Oxfordshire County Councillors now have a £15k budget to allocate to highways or community projects within their parishes. I invite applications for funding proposals, I will be looking how I can maximise the funding by match funding or pump priming with local organisations.

Cllr Ian Hudspeth (07956270 318; Ian.hudspeth@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

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Education & culture

Stonesfield Players

Play Reading. Tuesday 15 May, 7.30pm, St James' Centre

The Stonesfield Players autumn production is a new radio play written by David Lines and directed by Becki Sherlaw-Johnson called *In the Shadow of the Desert*. Set in the mid 1930s the play follows what happened to Lawrence of Arabia as he sought to escape his iconic image and find obscurity again.

If you are interested in being involved in this November production, now is your chance to find out more about it before the auditions in June. The play is for an adult cast. Newcomers are welcome.

If you want more information, or can't make the play reading, and wish to express your interest in being involved then please contact jenny.david.lines@talk21.com

AGM

The Stonesfield Players will be holding their Annual General Meeting in the Club Room of the Village Hall on Monday 21 May at 8pm. Please come along to show your support for this village drama group, tell us your thoughts and hear about our exciting ideas for the future. Refreshments will be provided.

David & Lynn Stevenson (Chairpersons)

Stonesfield School

Since the last issue of the *Slate* I have had a couple of enquiries about the extra

£600 per pupil for Stonesfield School mentioned by Robert Courts, as stated this is per pupil taking an advanced level maths qualification which means it applies to Sixth Forms. The impact of funding changes on Stonesfield School has been a reduction in funding while the decimation of the local education authority has brought increased costs.

Harry Holland

Calling all Stonesfield School parents!

The school governors are very keen to be able to connect with parents and talk about their views and thoughts on the way our school works. Hearing about your own experiences of what works well for you as parents, and what we can improve on, is part of our commitment to continuous improvement to make our school even better for parents and children alike.

To this end, we'll be running a series of parent governor forums during 2018, to be able to meet with parents and hear directly from you. I'll be coordinating these, and as a parent governor with a child at Stonesfield school, and two older children who went through Stonesfield school too, I have lots of real life experience of when things work well and what could be done to improve things!

To set up these meetings, we'll be randomly selecting 20 parents to invite to each forum. Unfortunately, the last one we held had only three people attend! It's difficult to know the best

times to meet parents (this time we tried 6pm, but can be flexible such as after drop-off or at the end of school) and it is an invaluable way for us to be able to understand your views and hear your ideas about what the school is doing really well, and what we can do even better. We tend to choose three topics to explore; the last forum looked at opportunities to come into school, maths and the school values.

So what can you do?

If you're invited to a forum meeting, it would be wonderful if you can find the time to attend. They are less than an hour, and give us so much valuable information about the experience you have as a parent.

If you have any thoughts about particular topics you'd like to see discussed, please drop any ideas into the school office, and we'll make sure they're included in future forum meetings.

Finally, if you want to discuss any aspect of parent engagement with the school and the governors, please drop a note or email into the school office which will be passed onto me.

Together, we can make Stonesfield School even better, and I and other governors look forward to meeting with lots of parents in the coming months!

Rachel Briggs, Parent Governor (891835)

Farewell to Ms McGregor

On Thursday 24 May Stonesfield Primary School will be saying a very sad farewell to Ms McGregor as she leaves us to take up her new post at Larkrise School in Oxford. Ms McGregor has been involved with the school for over 12 years – as a

parent, teacher, deputy head and finally head teacher. From the very beginning she was involved with every aspect of school life as a part of the PTA (now known as FoSS) and governor before joining the teaching staff.

One of the many things that she has done for the school (and the village) is to bring back a traditional May Day celebration, so it seems fitting that this year we celebrate May on the last school day of May, rather than the first, and combine it with our farewell to her. Everyone in the village is warmly welcomed to join us at school on the morning of Thursday 24 May. The traditional parade around the village will set off from school at 10am and once back at school all the children will join in with May dancing. We look forward to seeing some old friends and familiar faces at what we hope will be a very special occasion.

Stonesfield School Staff

News from Friends of Stonesfield School (FoSS)

This past year Friends of Stonesfield School (FoSS) have been raising money to repair and add to the children's playground equipment in the school playing fields. This is a big job as the equipment is specialised and needs to fit around the school's existing set up, as well as being functional and safe.

We are excited to confirm that in the past month we have signed off the work on the playground. FoSS will be funding this work to a total of £6,000, making it one of the biggest projects that FoSS have ever funded, so a HUGE thank you to the Stonesfield community for your support

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of FoSS fundraising over the past 12–18 months. Without your support and generosity at events such as the Village Fete, the Band Nights, and the Christmas Fair, work on the playground would not be possible. The playground is a real investment for the children, who will get many years of enjoyment from it and therefore it is a very worthwhile project. Work should hopefully start early in the summer term – watch out for more information on the grand opening celebration!

Being an extremely small volunteer team of working parents/carers we are, unfortunately, unable to sustain the event organisation and fundraising efforts of recent years. As we write this update, we are sadly considering the possible cancellation of the 2018 Village Fete on Saturday 7 July. At present we simply do not have enough volunteers to help run this wonderful village event. We are therefore appealing to the wider community for help. If you feel you could help out in advance, or for an hour or two on the day, please do contact me.

We are delighted to confirm, though, that even if the 2018 Village Fete is cancelled, FoSS will still be hosting another Band Night on the evening of Saturday 7 July. The hugely popular 'The Inflatables' have kindly agreed to perform in aid of FoSS at the Village Hall! Our thanks to Scott for setting up this event.

We hope to make 7 July Stonesfield's super summer Saturday, with the Fete followed by the Band Night, so please do let us know if you are able to help with the organisation of either event.

Super Summer Saturday! 7 July 2018 Village Fete, 12noon to 3pm, School playing field. Live music, entertainment, a bar, the tea tent, BBQ, children's amusements, stalls and much more. And the Inflatables Band Night, the Village Hall. Tickets £10.

Caroline Sutton, FoSS Secretary (caroline.sutton2@btinternet.com)

Stonesfield Studios Open for Oxfordshire Art Weeks

Come and visit Stonesfield artists and craftsmen between 5 and 13 May. This year at Grey Cat Studio, Woodlands Rise, we have Rachael Sherlaw-Johnson, Rebecca Sherlaw-Johnson, Kerry Burniston and Jenny Lines with a variety of paintings, prints, crafts, cards and books.

Hannelore Meinhold-Morgan will be showing ceramics at Boot Barn Pottery in Boot Street.

Claire Fyfe-Jackson will be showing jewellery at Sarts Cottage, The Ridings, on 5, 6, 7, 12 and 13 of May 11am–6pm and on Thursday the 10th 4–8pm.

Details about opening hours for these sites can be found in the directory (available free at local shops and libraries) or on line at www.artweeks.org

Pop-up Folk/Evenlode Folk Saturday 5 May Finstock Village Hall

Saturday 5 May, Finstock Village Hall OX7 3BU, doors open 7.15 for 7.45pm.

Renowned singer and fiddler Jackie Oates will be performing with fabulous guitarist Tristan Seume. Jackie was finalist in the BBC Radio 2 Young Folk awards in 2003,

and won the Horizon Award in 2009. Tristan Seume is one of the UK's finest young solo acoustic guitarists. Support by The Boot Band: Susanna Starling, Nick Hooper and Judith Henderson (Hooper). Advance purchase of tickets is strongly recommended, and tickets from www.wegottickets.com/event/431227

Saturday 23 June, The return of guitarists Gordon Giltrap and Nick Hooper. Tickets for Gordon and Nick's November 2017 evening sold out, so we strongly recommend advance purchase at www.wegottickets.com/event/431228

5 out of 5 stars for Wind in the Willows!

Congratulations to the cast and crew of Stonesfield Primary School's recent production of *Wind in the Willows*. The performances by the year 3, 4 and 5 children of Chestnut and Beech class were fantastic; narrating, acting, dancing, and singing, with so much enthusiasm, professionalism and humour. (Especially funny were the cheeky stoats and weasels!) The costumes and make-up were great, the stage scenery set beautiful, and the props inventive (sometimes even flying!) Thank you and well done to all involved. Poop poop!

ChOC

Film on Sunday 13 May at 7.30pm: *Two Days, One Night,* Cert. 15 / 95 mins.

The critically acclaimed and award winning Belgian film from the Dardenne brothers. Sandra (Marian Cotillard) is a factory worker who discovers that her workmates have opted for a EUR1,000

bonus in exchange for her dismissal. (Shown with subtitles.) Memorial Hall, Charlbury. Doors & bar from 6.45pm. £5.

The Woodstock Bookshop

An evening of Fact and Fiction: Carys Davies & Julie Summers, 11 May, Wootton Village Hall, £5

We'd love you to come and celebrate our 10th anniversary at Wootton Village Hall, where we have sold books for so many of the Wootton Village Hall talks. The evening will comprise two short talks – the first about a very special first novel, published on 3 May (the date the bookshop opened its doors in 2008), and the second a welcome return to Wootton by Julie Summers, this time to tell us about Blenheim during the war.

This is a celebration of the shop's 10th birthday and an opportunity for some of the shop's many customers to meet. During the past ten years we have held many talks and six poetry festivals. The bookshop has been shortlisted three times for independent bookseller of the year and made it to the Independent's Top 50 bookshops in the country. None of this would have been possible without our customers and the support of the local community and we would like to say a very big thank you to you all.

Entry includes a complimentary glass of wine, and wine and sandwiches will be served following the talks. Please book in advance by ringing or emailing The Woodstock Bookshop.

Rachel Phipps, The Woodstock Bookshop, 23 Oxford Street, Woodstock OX20 1TH (01993 812760;

www.woodstockbookshop.co.uk

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Clubs & societies

Stonesfield Gardening Club (SGC)

A select few of us ventured out to Evenley Wood Garden in intermittent drizzle in April. Despite the weather, it was an enjoyable outing with blue drifts of Scylla, yellow daffodils, red camellias in full flower and white/pink wild cherry blossom to cheer us up along the way. The Red Lion pub in Evenley warmed us up afterwards and provided a filling lunch.

On Thursday 17 May the club has another day-trip organised to Spetchley gardens, Worcestershire; although this was fully signed up (in November), there may be a few last minute spaces, so please contact Helen Taylor (891482) if you are interested; £6 entry fee, lunch is extra.

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

Over 60s Darby & Joan Club.

We began our April meeting showing the members Easter Bonnets/Trilbys. All beautifully decorated and very colourful. Judging a winner would have been very difficult so the milliners were each awarded a small prize.

I read a poem I had been given when I retired, warning how you would know you were getting old and the aches and pains that went with it. Diana followed this with three readings connected with Hospitals and Dentists. As always we had a fun afternoon!

There were a few announcements.

1. On 10 May Malvina Fawcett is coming to talk about Oxfordshire Food Banks and how they operate. We will have a collecting point for any food donations for this. Malvina has asked me to say they are always grateful for people's generosity but please note, no fresh fruit or veg and no alcohols.

We're also to have a visit from the Royal Voluntary Service.

- 2. We have received an invitation from Kirtlington Welcome Club to join them for their Garden Party with Tea on 5 June. Numbers for this will be taken at our May meeting and transport arranged. If you are unable to come in May make sure you let me know you wish to go and we will let you know the final details.
- 3. Subs are now due and will be collected in May remaining at £5 each.

Tea/Coffee and Hot Cross Buns were served before the Raffle was drawn and we headed home.

Hope to see you at the May meeting – new faces always welcome.

Best Wishes, Avis

The Stonesfield Folk Dance Club

The Ken Sheffield Tribute day last month was a great success with over 80 dancers making it a memorable occasion!

Our attention is now focused on the 46th Stonesfield Folk Dance Weekend, when

we have The National Youth Folklore Troupe of England joining us for the weekend of Friday 8 June to Sunday 10 June. In addition to traditional folk dancing we also have Morris, Clog, Rapper & Longsword dancing together with music and singing. NYFTE members are all under 18 years and many of them go on to become the folk stars of tomorrow. The Stonesfield Folk Dance Weekend is a popular event attracting dancers from all parts of the UK and we even have some dancers from Australia booked to come! Any of the Stonesfield youth are welcome to come and look in during the weekend and should they like what they see, we would love to see them at our Wednedsday night meetings in the Village Hall between 8 and 10pm.

Full details can be found on our website www.stonesfieldfolkdance.danceorg.uk or telephone Stewart Nicholls on 07855022813 or stewart.nicholls@virgin.net

Sports and Social Club

On May Bank Holiday Mondays (7th and 28th) the club will be open from 12noon. Why not join us at the club on the 19th and dance the night away to The CORSAIRS?

Advance notice: on 2 June the Cricket club will be running a quiz night.

Brian Clarke

North Leigh History Society

1 May: *Dylan Thomas and the Welsh Poets*. Talk by Mark Davies.

All meetings take place in the Turner Hall, Church Road, North Leigh OX29

6TX at 7.30 pm on the first Tuesday of the month. All are welcome. Visitors £4, Members free. Further details from Diana Power 01993 882301.

Charlbury Garden Society

Events are open to non-members subject to availability.

Saturday 12 May. Plant Sale. Annual plant sale in the Memorial Hall, Brown's Lane, Charlbury, starts at 9.30am.

Tuesday 22 May. Guided Tour of Eastleach House near Cirencester.

Michelle Heather, Pink Elephant Marketing & PR (01993 869109; mobile: 07885 580448)

Woodstock Natural History Society

This month's meeting is on Tuesday 8 May, 7.30pm in the Community Centre, New Road, Woodstock, OX20 1PB.

The talk: *Romania – The Carpathians and the Danube Delta*, by Barry Oxley. £2.

Brian Jones

Chipping Norton Choral Society Concert at St Mary', Witney OX28 4AW Saturday 12 May, 7.30. Tickets £15 from tickets@cncs.org.uk, Woollen Hall and Pie Shop, Witney High Street, and Jaffe & Neale Bookshop, Chipping Norton, or on the door. Under 16s free.

Includes Vivaldi, Handel, Verdi, Stanford, with Oxybaroxy, Baroque Youth Strings.

Nicky Smith (Twelve PR 01295 720228/07771 7875228; nicky@twelvepr.co.uk)

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Sport

Stonesfield Football Club

With beautiful Spring sunshine bathing The Shire in much-needed warmth and the winter snows fading into our collective memories, it's a delight to report that Darren Grant and his boys in The Firsts have been keeping the pressure on league leaders Aston. Hard-fought wins away at Eynsham (3-0) and Chadlington (1-0) keep our lads in second place, poised to take advantage of any slip-ups by The Champions-elect in the run-in to the end of the season. Can WE still finish as champions? In all honesty, it does seem unlikely as Aston are in fine form and have two games in hand over our lads. Nevertheless, if they keep their heads and maintain their fine run of form they could easily secure second spot, which might just be enough to gain promotion to the top flight.

Sadly, the best The Reserves can achieve is a creditable fourth in Division 4. They currently occupy that spot courtesy of two 'walk-over' wins thanks to the inability of both Ascott and Seige Res to raise sides. Never a nice way to gain points as our lads would rather win them by playing games, but they are grateful for the points. They also gained a point in the home draw with Brize Norton (1–1), with the mercurial Paul Penney scoring for our boys in a hard fought match. As predicted last month, Seige FC, who are homing in on the Division 3 title, proved to be too strong in The Supplementary Cup, where they triumphed (5–2) in a seven-goal thriller.

A tough season for The Reserves but if they can finish fourth in the league they can be proud of their efforts.

It is a tough call for this month's Fredo Award, with both Carry Rice and Paul Penney in the frame following their goal scoring exploits against Eynsham and Brize Norton respectively. However, after much soul-searching I'm delighted to present the award to First Team Manager Darren Grant for his efforts in keeping our boys focussed on their football while their minds could be drifting towards the up-coming cricket season or their patch of sand on some far-flung Mediterranean beach. Well done Darren, The Fredo belongs to you!

Just a final point: The Football Club would like to wish Ali & Paul every success as they try to get a Ladies football team established in the village. As I understand it, training sessions will take place on Thursday evenings (6.45-8pm) starting on 26 April, and although you'll have missed the first one I'm sure they'll be delighted to hear from you (891676). Players must be over 16, but there's no age-limit! I sincerely hope that we'll be reading of their exploits here, in our beloved *Slate*, in the not too distant future.

Tom Flanigan (891979)

Stonesfield Cricket Club

As I write this we've just finished nine weeks of indoor practice and the turn-out from players old and young has been Exceptional. Our bowlers and batsmen are looking sharp and hungry so we hope this translates into results!

By the time the May *Slate* appears we should have played the first few games, weather permitting. The very wet start to spring hampered early preparations on our square and batting wickets, but fortunately the sun broke through in late April to assist.

The 1st XI is at home on Saturdays 5 and 12 May, the 2nd XI has a series of away matches until Saturday 26 May. If you have an hour or so to spare and the sun is shining please stroll up to the field and support the teams!

Stewart Moss (07866 278685)

Ladies Football in Stonesfield

Stonesfield currently has a thriving football set up with successful men's and youth teams throughout the various age groups. However, what has never been established in the village is a team for the Ladies and we'd like to give that a go. To get things started we will be running some training sessions at Stonesfield playing field, Field Close, Stonesfield, starting on Thursday 26 April, 6.45–8pm. All ladies are welcome (aged 16+... no upper limit!). Whether you are an experienced player or have never kicked a ball in your life, you will be very welcome. Please come along, spread the word and bring your friends. You could be the start of another successful football team in Stonesfield. If you have any

questions please call Paul or Ali on 01993 891676.

Annual Football Tournament 13 May

Stonesfield Strikers will be holding their Annual Football Tournament for the U7s–U10s age group at the Playing Field, Field Close, on Sunday 13 May between 9am and 6pm. Stonesfield players have been asked to arrive on foot and visiting teams to bring as few cars as possible. Parking attendants will be in place to ensure that there is minimal disruption throughout the day.

Many thanks for your understanding and support,

Stonesfield Strikers

Stonesfield Tennis Club

Now that Winter is starting to become a distant memory the Tennis Club are eagerly anticipating a Summer of tennis on their newly refurbished courts. If you've been thinking of picking up a racket again but haven't quite got round to it why not join us at our Friday Club night for a friendly game of tennis or two? Club nights start around 5pm every Friday and until the end of May will be open to members and non-members alike so why not give it a try?

Look forward to seeing some of you on a Friday evening sometime soon.

Andrew Tacon (andrew.tacon@outlook.com)

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Church news



Anglican Worship in the Parishes of Stonesfield with Combe Longa

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The Rectory, Stonesfield, Witney, Oxon, OX29 8PR
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www.stonesfieldparishchurch.org

Stonesfield Churchwardens: Neil Melrose (891566) and Kate Harris (898781) Combe Longa Churchwarden: Andrew Hobson (891273)

BCP=Book of Common Prayer: CW=Common Worship

From your Parish Priest

I have just power-washed the patio and set the garden furniture out ready to catch any rays of sunshine that may come my way. As I write this letter the sun is shining and it's been a delightful day. I wish I could see into the future and know what the weather was going to do from one week to the next though. I know for the weddings I conduct the bride and groom are always asking me if I could pray for a good day on their special day. I usually say with tongue in cheek, 'That's above my pay band, you need a Bishop for that!' Of course I would love to guarantee good weather, like some sort of supernatural father and bless their day with brilliant weather.

Of course, on the other hand, there are those in the farming industry who say, 'Roy, we need some rain to swell the grain so that we can have a good harvest this year. Will you pray for rain for us?'

Some folks would want me to pray that

the council would do something about the potholes in the road. Now that would be a useful prayer! I sometimes want to write to the DVLA and ask for a discount on my road fund tax. Also of course for the roads like in London that you and I are charged more for driving on. Could it be that we are owed a further discount from the DVLA, for not using them? Since the road fund tax was supposed to allow you and me to drive on any carriage way in the UK I think it would be only fair. Of course there are those who say, 'Roy, you are charged because you drive a polluting car and we want to do something about the air pollution.'

Have you ever noticed that for every good argument there is a corresponding counter argument?

I have a sneaking feeling that we could run our cars on water made into hydrogen and oxygen by some sort of 'super dooper' Hofmann's voltmeter. Do you remember the experiment in school with a cathode and an anode and some sulphuric acid as a catalyst?

Well I guess the powers that be haven't worked out how to tax water so I guess we cannot use a very old technology to save the planet.

Some folks have asked me to pray about the Syria situation. I guess not only are they worried about the poor people who have been gassed but what Russia might do to the West. One can understand the anxiety.

So many insecurities, so many worries about the weather for the special day, the rain to help the harvest, the potholes, pollution and the car tax, the Syrian conflict – how ever are we going to sleep at night?

Well, do you remember that old hymn we used to sing many years ago? It went like this:

'I don't know what the future might hold, but I do know who holds the future, It's a secret known only to Him.' Of course the 'Him' is our Father in Heaven. Well, I trust Him, that's how I get to sleep at night.

You know the world would be a much more peaceful world if we could learn to trust Him with the future. Why not visit us at St James in Stonesfield and St Laurence in Combe and learn how you could trust Him too?

See you soon at either church and in the meantime as always, D.F.T.W

Rev Rov

SERVICES FOR MAY

Sunday 6 May [Sixth Sunday of Easter]

8am Stonesfield Holy Communion [BCP/said]

9.30am Combe Longa All Age Worship 11am Stonesfield All Age Worship

Sunday 13 May [Seventh Sunday of Easter]

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

Sunday 20 May [Pentecost]

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

Sunday 27 May [Trinity Sunday]

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

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Sunday 3 June [First Sunday after Trinity]

8am Stonesfield Holy Communion [BCP/said]

9.30am Combe Longa All Age Worship11am Stonesfield All Age Worship

Mid-week Communion Service [said]

Wednesdays 9.30am at Stonesfield. Everyone is most welcome.

Stonesfield Methodist Church SERVICES FOR MAY

Sun 6 11am Revd Rose Westwood

Sun 13 David Sarbutts

Sun 20 11am Ian Prince

Sun 27 11am Richard Bowler

Roman Catholic Worship

St Teresa's Charlbury

The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified (John 12:20–33)

Easter is over, we have recovered from our surfeit of chocolate eggs and the Easter services are behind us, so what now? For Christians, the real work begins: the horror of the Crucifixion is over, the empty tomb revealed and the risen Christ is walking again among his followers, then and now. We don't have to talk about Christ in the past tense; He is living among us, guiding our actions, supporting us in our confusion, showing us His endless mercy, renewing us when we are in doubt, comforting us when we are in pain, and leading us away from error and towards the light of our future with Him. It's is Christ's death rather than the Nativity, wonderful and exciting though that might be, that offers us the

final rationale for the power of Christianity as the gateway to an infinity of joy.

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 are 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.stteresaschurch charlbury@gmail.com

St Teresa's Parish Pilgrimage: Saturday 30 June – Stonor Park

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

Roman Catholic Community in Stonesfield

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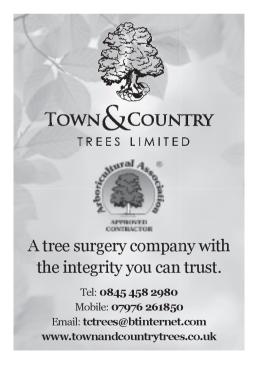
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As the third generation of a funeral-directing family, Nicholas and Benjamin Tonks believe that at the time of bereavement, compassion and the families' wishes are paramount. In partnership with the Church and community we endeavour to give the bereaved as much care and support as possible.

Dog-walking service

Do you work long hours and feel that your dog is not getting the attention and exercise that it needs? I'm setting up a dog-walking service for Stonesfield and surrounding areas. I have public liability insurance for peace of mind. Please feel free to call for a quote. Katrina 01993 891131 / 07824357690 katrinamoss1979@icloud.com

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The White Horse, Stonesfield

SPRING IS FINALLY HERE!

We're getting our garden ready for the lovely weekend and evenings we're surely going to enjoy from now on. Don't forget we're open from 11am on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, so you can come and enjoy a breakfast or brunch outside in the sunshine. Not to mention what we have coming up . . .

Saturday & Sunday 5 & 6 May - Micro Beer Fest

Following on from last year's successful event we will be doing the same this year. Lots of ales and flavoured Gins to sample, the BBQ will be fired up and The Village Idiots will be playing for us on Saturday night

Saturday 19 May - The Royal Wedding

We will be showing the Royal Wedding during the day and partying all night. Anyone who comes in wearing a wedding dress will get a complimentary glass of Prosecco (or a Pint for the boys) then we'll round the day off with a discotill late.

If you have a special event or party coming up why not hold it here? As well as the pub we have our beautiful walled garden and marquee to offer.

Bar opening hours		Food served	
Tuesday-Thursday	5pm-Close	Tuesday-Thursday	6pm–9pm
Friday	11am–2pm	Friday	11am–2pm
	5pm–Close		6pm–9pm
Saturday	11am–2pm	Saturday	11am–2pm
	6pm–Close		6pm–9pm
Sunday	11am–3pm	Sunday	11am–3pm

Children are always welcome and WE NOW OFFER A CHILDREN'S MENU.

Dogs are very welcome in the bar area or garden!

Phone 01993 891063

Web: www.whitehorsestonesfield.com Email: info@whitehorsestonesfield.com

Also, search for The White Horse Stonesfield and follow us on Facebook!