

The Stonesfield Slate

Issue No 481 June 2018



Dates for your diary – June

1	Treasure Box	St James' Centre	10.30–12noon
2	Cricket Club Quiz Night	Sports and Social Club	8pm
4,11,18,25	Monday Coffee	St James' Centre	8.45–10am
4,11,18,25	SJC Cuppa	St James' Centre	10–11.30am
6,13,20,27	Folk Dance Club	Village Hall	8–10pm
5	Darby & Joan Club	Kirtlington Welcome Club	
7,14,21,28	Book Break	Stonesfield Library	12.30–2pm
8–10	Folk Dance Weekend	Village Hall	
8&9	National Youth Folk Troupe	Village Hall	8–11pm
9	Band Night (Rockbudz)	Sports and Social Club	8.30 pm
11	Gardening Club	St James' Centre	7.30pm
14	Over-60s Darby & Joan	Village Hall	2pm
14	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm
14	Bingo	Sports & Social Club	eyes down 7.30pm
23	Ladies Night, 80s Music	Sports and Social Club	8pm
30	Parish Church Gift Day	St James's Church	10am–4pm

Publishers

Simon & Jenny Haviland
Peakes House, Peaks Lane,
Stonesfield, Witney,
Oxon OX29 8PY
(tel 891614, email
sj@sjhaviland.co.uk)

Editor for this issue

Vivienne Kendall (891803)

Editor for July

Vivienne Kendall

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

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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*Ladies Football in
Stonesfield proving
popular*



Photo: Geraint Lewis

Notices

Sustainable Stonesfield

The revised plan for PYE Phase 2 (adjoining Charity Farm/William Buckland Way) is for a mix of 13 houses; 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.

It also falls foul of the Planning Inspector's comments that windfall sites on the edge of rural villages in the AONB are not necessary to meet the District's housing needs. The Parish Council's letter objecting to this extension to the existing Pye development points out that 34 so-called affordable houses have been built in the village recently. This exceeds the number on the District Council's housing list of people with a connection to Stonesfield. The application is likely to be heard in early June, so objections should be sent to WODC as early as possible. Please go to the SUSTO section of the new village website (www.stonesfield.online) for sample text objecting to this application.

North Farm: the development comprises five luxury houses on Farley Lane, with the gift to the village of some land for a playing field. Thanks to all those who objected. At the time of going to press, this had not gone before the Uplands Planning committee.

SUSTO members will soon receive a

'mailchimp' asking them to opt in to their membership, in accordance with the new GDPR data protection rules. Please take a moment to respond: if you don't, we will not be able to keep you up to date with planning concerns and what we are doing about them. If you can't find our mailchimp, just email us at sustainablestonesfield@gmail.com.

Finally, please consider joining Sustainable Stonesfield to get emails and information. No fee, no hassle. 170 members have joined already 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)

St James' Centre bookings

A huge thank you goes to Muriel Barrett for looking after the bookings for the St James' Centre so well, combining efficiency with great care, flexibility and patience.

David and Mary Casey have now taken on the bookings – welcome and thank you! They can be contacted at sjcsbookings@gmail.com, or on 891347.

If you have not used the Centre before, further information is available at: <http://www.stonesfieldparishchurch.org/t-james-centre>; or alternatively, please ask David and Mary for more details.

Lindsey Sellar

Treasure Box at half term

The Treasure Box will open on Friday 1 June from 10.30am to 12noon in St James' Centre. The theme will be Daniel in the Lion's Den, with crafts, games, songs and other activities. All children are welcome.

Muriel Barrett (891479)

Charlbury Post Office has moved!

After a local public consultation, it was decided to close Charlbury Post Office, and reopen it on 14 May, inside the Co-op.

The new local style Post Office operates from a Post Office serving point located at the shop counter. The change means that local residents will benefit from significantly longer opening hours, including Saturday afternoon, Sunday opening and longer opening times throughout the week.

Chivalry in Stonesfield

Chivalry may be sparse in the rest of the world, but it certainly is not in Stonesfield.

Last week, as a little old woman who had not sat on a ride-on mower for 25 years, I was forced to mow the grass outside my house. I ended up stuck in the hedge with arms and legs flailing madly; everything that is except the part of the machine that would have released me from the hedge.

Along to the rescue came a lad in his car; the modern version of a knight on his white charger. He whistled up some more friends in their cars and together, with an

impressive throw-away comment of 'no problem', hauled me out of my prickly predicament. I couldn't think of anything appropriate to give them to show my appreciation, as home-made marmalade was not really their scene but, through your columns may I thank them publicly? I am so grateful.

Hilary Stacey

Dog mess again!

This is a plea which particularly affects the Stonesfield Scout Group as well as all the general public in all areas of the village, as the scout hut lane is used by their 70–80 young people on a weekly basis.

It is sad that the level of dog mess is ruining the opportunity to discover everything our village has to offer. Toxocariasis is an infection caused by roundworm parasites, and we can all catch it from handling soil etc. contaminated with infected animal faeces (most commonly dog or fox). But it most commonly affects young children, as they are more likely to come into contact with contaminated soil. In the worse cases it can lead to loss of eye sight or seizures.

Please, no matter where your dog messes, on the footpath or in the middle of a field, pick it up and dispose of it responsibly.

1st Stonesfield Scout Group

Parish Church Gift Day 2018

The church is a special place for so many in the village. For some it is a place to meet with others to worship God, a place for prayer and quiet, or a place to ask for God's blessing on special life and family

events, such as baptisms, weddings and funerals. For others, it is the upkeep of the magnificent 13th-century building itself, which is of paramount importance.

A Gift Day provides everyone for whom the church is special, in whatever way, with an opportunity to show their support in a tangible way. Following the generous support shown last year, another Gift Day for the Parish Church is planned this year on Saturday 30 June.

A huge thank you to everyone who has supported the church financially, enabling it to meet its financial commitments last year, including worship, activities such as Monday coffee, running costs, repairs to the building and contribution to the Diocese for our Parish Share. It is no surprise that the financial needs have increased, and an additional £1660 is required this year for the Diocese alone.

You are warmly invited to bring your gift, large or small, to the church on 30 June, between 10am and 4pm, and do stay for a cup of coffee or tea. Gift Aid forms will be available to enable you to enhance your gift by 25% if you are a taxpayer. Donations can be made by cheque (made payable to 'Stonesfield PCC') or cash.

Your gifts will be dedicated at the 11am service on Sunday 1 July, and it would be very good if you were able to come along to that service.

If you are unable to come on 30 June or 1 July, but would like to contribute, please drop your gift in to the Rectory in Brook Lane or in the wall safe inside the church.

On behalf of the Parochial Church Council

Ultrafast fibre broadband

WODC and Gigaclear's ultrafast fibre broadband rollout is continuing on schedule, according to our MP, Robert Courts. Stonesfield is within the area designated as Fawler (South East), with work scheduled to start in June 2018 and to be completed in the last quarter of the year. Further information is available on <https://www.gigaclear.com/connecting-west-oxfordshire-rollout-schedule/>.

Woodstock Museum events

June is a particularly busy month with the following events at the Museum:

- 16 June–8 September: *Peter Rabbit – Mischief & Mayhem Exhibition* (free)
- 1 June, 2–3.30: Reminiscence session on gardens and gardening. £1 includes tea or coffee. (contact 01865 300639)
- 6 June, 7.30pm: Friends of The Oxfordshire Museum Monthly talk. Lesley Dunlop, Geo-Conservation, on *Times of contrast – a geological perspective of Oxfordshire in the Jurassic and Quaternary*. (This meeting also includes the AGM). Friends of the museum free, visitors £4.
- 23 June, 2–4pm: Dragon Boat Festival with Snowflake Books – Chinese-themed crafts.

The Wychwood Project's Go Wild summer camp

This summer the Wychwood Project is running its Go Wild summer day camp for 8- to 12-year-olds at the Ascott-under-Wychwood Conservation Centre. The emphasis for the five days of the camp

will be on fun, and the many outdoor activities will include a dragonfly and butterfly safari, building an otter holt, pond restoration and meeting farm animals. Further information is available from

<http://www.wychwoodproject.org/cms>

Wootton-by-Woodstock Open Gardens and Flower Festival

This annual Festival will be held on Saturday 9 June (2–6pm) and Sunday 10

June (2–5pm), and the theme is A Day in the Life of Our Rector. Admission to the Flower Festival is free; admission to the open gardens is £6 and children are free. Teas, a cake stall and a raffle will be part of the festivities, and the day will be completed by an evening concert on the Saturday: Faure's Requiem in St Mary's Church, Wootton at 7.30 pm. Tickets for the concert are £12 at the door. All proceeds will go to the churches of Wootton, Glympton and Kiddington.

Jenny Wagstaffe (01993 811027)



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)

Politics & local affairs

Parish Council

Cala Homes

The CALA Homes application on Woodstock Road has finally been turned down.

PYE Homes

The *Stonesfield Slate* for May reported that the Parish Council had sent a letter of objection to the amended application 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. A proviso states that if the objection is unsuccessful, appropriate building materials should be used, with no more red brick and tiling, which blight the landscape.

Annual Parish Meeting

Turnout at the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 10 May was disappointing; however, there were some interesting reports. Phil Martin filled us in on the Scout Group with his usual enthusiasm; Richard Morris updated us on Sustainable Stonesfield and the hard work they do on planning applications. He also called for thanks to Richard and Dale Morris, Alan Kendall and David Lines for their work on keeping the common in good condition. Fi McGregor gave us her final detailed report on Stonesfield Primary School. Fi is moving on to pastures new in Oxford and we thank her for the good work she has done and wish her well for the future. Her replacement is Ben

Travail, whom we look forward to meeting. Alan Byron updated us on the Playing Fields and he thanked the Parish Council for supporting them so well. A report from the Pre-school was read out, and Tony Scott reported on the library.

Stonesfield Parish Council Chairman

After five long years, the Chairman Wendy Gould stood down at the AGM. She has worked tirelessly in this position, which has had increased responsibilities due to the influx of housing developments. She has fought the cause for Stonesfield and we thank her for everything she has achieved. We look forward to working with the new Chairman, David Brown.

Speeding in Stonesfield

The Parish Council is looking at deterrents to speeding through the village, so do not be surprised if you see some different signs requesting a lower speed.

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 14 June, at the Village Hall. All residents are invited to attend.

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

www.stonesfield.online

A reminder of the new Parish Council website, which gives you access to

- Village news
- Events
- Clubs, charities and businesses plus much more.

Over 100 people have subscribed so far. . . it costs nothing. Subscribe now from the Home page to ensure you don't miss out. Also if you are a local club, charity or business, please use the site to check your details have been correctly included.

On behalf of Stonesfield Parish Council

West Oxfordshire District Council Woodstock Road development

refused/Thames Water under fire

At the last Planning Committee meeting on 30 April, the development application for land off the Woodstock Road application was unanimously refused in its entirety. This decision relates specifically to large planning applications within the AONB. It does not necessarily apply to small scale proposals of fewer than a half dozen units, which will be determined on their own merits in the usual way.

The West Oxfordshire Local Plan is due to be ratified in the next couple of weeks. Committees will then regain the power to determine applications without the threat of having a refusal overturned at the appeal stage.

The District Council's Environment Committee has considerable concerns about the workings and general efficiency of Thames Water. Our old and obsolescent pipework is not able to meet the increased demands of the new properties. The District Council has summoned the regional directors of Thames Water to explain how the company is going to solve the problem; so far without a response.

I will continue to do my best to give you all the level of response you look for on

your queries and observations.

*Richard Bishop (01993 891414;
richard.bishop@westoxon.gov.uk)*

Inspector rejects appeal to build new homes in Long Hanborough

An appeal against a decision to refuse planning permission for a development of 94 homes in Long Hanborough has been turned down.

Cantay Estates originally applied to build the proposed development on land to the west of Church Road in November 2016, but the application was rejected by West Oxfordshire District Council planners.

An appeal was lodged but not supported by Government Planning Inspector Paul Jackson, who said the homes would have a 'conspicuous harmful impact on the character and appearance of the area and the countryside. . . The adverse impacts of granting planning permission in this case would significantly outweigh the benefits.'

*Andrew Smith, Communications Officer,
West Oxfordshire District Council (01993
861616 / 01993 861000)*

From our County Councillor New pothole fixing machine

OCC and contractors Skanska have taken delivery of another Dragon patcher, which uses a combination of compressed air, heat, bitumen and chippings to repair potholes. The county now has two machines working full-time in the county and another shared with Peterborough and Cambridgeshire.

On a good day, a Dragon can repair 200 potholes at under £14, compared to the

£60 cost of conventional methods. The Dragon also contributes to reducing future potholes by sealing cracks in the road surface. In the past year, OCC's own and the shared Dragons have fixed over 21,000 potholes. The new one could fill up to 14,000 more over the next twelve months.

County Council's first thoughts on Oxbridge expressway

As the highways authority, OCC has been asked for its views on the proposed Oxford to Cambridge Expressway. The submission says that until Highways England publishes a preferred route, OCC cannot make a formal response on the proposal. It has, however, stated that it is important to ensure that the Expressway corridor does not increase pressure on the existing, already overstretched strategic highway network and specifically must not use the A34 through central Oxfordshire.

Further information is available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/oxford-to-cambridge-expressway-strategic-study-stakeholder-reference-group>.

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

Pothole fund boosted – I should coco!!

An open letter to Cllr Ian Hudspeth from David Lines:

Cllr Ian Hudspeth wrote in May's edition of the *Slate* to advise us that additional funding was on its way to repair and maintain our local roads. This will be welcome news for those who travel in our county (everybody I suppose) and no doubt Cllr Hudspeth is basking in a little

glow of self-satisfaction as he reports this news. Work is needed indeed: some of the potholes on the Woodstock Road were becoming a tourist attraction!

Cllr Hudspeth includes plenty of chunky figures in his report: £100m for local roads on top of £75m. Of this Oxfordshire's share is £3m. The inference is that we should be grateful for this generous contribution from (a Conservative) Central Government – who must be well worth voting for. As usual it was what Cllr Hudspeth didn't say that really matters.

The latest County Council estimate for the value of outstanding repairs to the roads it maintains is £120m. Thus the latest bung from Central Government just scratches the tarmac, enabling only 3.6% of the necessary repairs to be completed. We should not be surprised when a lack of regular maintenance and repair slowly causes our road surfaces to wear out.

It's another version of spending the family silver, and Cllr Hudspeth should be ashamed that it happens on his watch as Leader of the County Council. If he had written to apologise for the fact that there was no prospect of any reasonable improvement on 96% our roads, he would have gone up in my estimation. Instead he maintains an approach that treats us as fools and behaves in a way that puts politicians into disrepute generally.

David Lines (01993 898454)

... and Cllr Hudspeth's reply:

Dear Mr Lines,

I'm sorry that you read the article in the

way you have; it's not my intention to give that impression. I don't disagree that our roads are in a worse condition than we would all like them to be, both in general and particularly recently following the weather we have had over the winter period this year.

Unfortunately, Oxfordshire is not alone in maintaining a highway network that is deteriorating, with recent surveys showing that over 17% of all local authority roads are considered to be in poor condition. That said, in Oxfordshire is slightly better than the national average with only 13% of roads considered to be in poor condition, this however still represents 362 miles of road that are in need of significant repair.

Since this is an issue everywhere it is something I and my council colleagues around the country do actively raise with the Government and the party. That is why I mentioned the additional funding, to show that there are more funds for highways and we will be investing in new technology such as the Dragon patcher.

I, like all County councillors, would like to invest more funds in highway;

however as a council we manage a challenging budget and within that we have to prioritise.

So we have to decide, of our limited funds, how much goes to each of our legal responsibilities. To agree a larger increase in the roads budget we would have to decide what else to cut – child protection, care for older people, libraries, the fire service, and so on. The state of the roads is important and something we are keen to find ways to improve, but we can't neglect everything else either.

Cllr Ian Hudspeth (07956 270 318 / 01865 815283)

From our Member of Parliament

Information on the local and national activities on our behalf being undertaken by Robert Courts is available on his new website at <https://www.robertcourts.co.uk/>. High on his list of priorities are better transport (especially improvement of the A40), the right homes in the right place (affordable homes with the supporting infrastructure they need), healthcare, education, the armed forces and supporting local shops and businesses.



PET SITTING



Do you go on holiday and worry about your pets? I am a pet lover and I am offering to look after your animals (feeding, playing, etc.) after school/weekends/school holidays. I also ride ponies, water plants and can supply a reference from my cat sitting job. Rates negotiable. Please call 01993 898620 and ask for Tara Taylor.

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

FoSS News

Fete update

As you probably know, the FOSS committee normally organises the village fete. The committee is currently a very small group of parents, and despite recent appeals for new members and village support, we find that we are not in a position to organise the fete this year. Therefore we plan to take a year off and look at running it again in 2019, with an expanded committee and more participation from the wider village. In place of the fete, we have decided to focus on the fundraising band night on 7 July; see below.

FoSS holds its AGM in September/October each year, at which the Chair, Treasurer and Secretary are appointed. Please do consider joining the FoSS Committee, and/or if you do not feel able to commit to doing that, register your willingness to help run the fete for 2019. Details of the AGM will be confirmed in the new academic year, but in the meantime if you have any questions please do speak to a current member of the Committee or email caroline.sutton2@btinternet.com.

The Inflatables Band Night

Save the date! The hugely popular 'The Inflatables' are performing in Stonesfield Village Hall on Saturday 7 July in aid of FoSS. The last time The Inflatables played in the village it was a sell-out, raising an amazing amount of money for the Ormerod Resource Base at The Marlborough School, so please do

purchase your tickets asap. Tickets, £10 each, are available via the FoSS Committee, by contacting Jess Huband (jesshuband@hotmail.co.uk), or Scott Hunt (07976 073764). Doors and bar (run by the SSSC) open from 7.30pm, and there will also be a raffle.

Fundraising

Having completed the school's play-ground refurb, updated some educational resources for the next academic year, and paid for Forest School equipment, Foss's next fundraising target is £5,600–£6,000 to replace the four old(er) interactive whiteboards in school, so all of the classrooms will have the same technology in as the Rowan (Yr. 6) classroom.

The FoSS Team

Stonesfield Library

We are pleased to say that our library manager Debbie Wilson has now recovered from her illness and will be back on the job by the end of May. We would like to thank Judith Lloyd, the North Leigh manager, who has stepped in to take Debbie's place and who has brightened the library with her attractive decorations and with a slightly different layout for the adult section.

The number of visitors and the number of books drawn out in Debbie's absence has been lower than usual. The 'Beast from the East' may also have dampened enthusiasm for a walk to the library in the snow, although it was a good time for reading by the fire!

Whatever the reason, our statistics are disappointing and we hope that we see many more of you now that spring is here. The announcement by the Northamptonshire Council that they are closing all their libraries for financial reasons is a warning to us all. Stonesfield Library has a good reputation with OLS, but we must show that our library is wanted by customers. So please come and see us and try some of the new books on offer; in general it is all free. Also, if there is something glaringly wrong that we have not seen, please let us know. We are here to please you, not just to put books on shelves.

Tony Scott (891380)

Village Schools

The announcement of schools receiving £600 for every additional pupil taking an advanced maths qualification (From Robert Courts MP, *Stonesfield Slate*, April 2018) is very welcome.

However, increased funding for village primary schools would be even better news. What would Stonesfield be like without its school? I urge you to think about this, following the report by BBC local news on 30 March 2018, about a rural school in West Sussex where parents have to pay for basic items, e.g. exercise books, pencils and toilet paper – essential, not desirable items! That school is in danger of closing due to inadequate funding. School closure is linked to the lack of truly affordable housing, forcing families with children to live in cheaper urban areas: causing falling pupil rolls, leading to reduced funding.

According to Mervyn Benford of NASS

(the National Association of Small Schools), small village schools 'represent one of the most overall effective educational models yet developed. Of all the services that bind a community together the school is perhaps the more significant and the more vital to defend. Quite simply, small rural schools are at the heart of sustainable village life.' (*Daily Telegraph* 31 August 2009).

A headline in the *Guardian* in May 2016 read: 'If they close small schools, villages will be museums.'

Do not be complacent: email your MP, robert@robertcourts.co.uk, to lobby for increased funding for small primary schools. This affects the whole village, not just those with children at the school.

Claire Pote

Village poets. . .

Two short poems about Stonesfield have recently come our way. The first, Kings of Stonesfield, comes from Nick Green:

The kings of Stonesfield must have
smiled on us
Quietly tucked away here
Struck not by bullying but by snow
and sunshine
Atop this hill, amid the flint-edged
fields
Gone are the inns and the quarrymen
who filled them
Gone too the prehistoric beasts
But not gone the gods of Stonesfield
or the deer
The owls which fly high over the
common
The bats that swoop low over the
Woodstock Road
For them then, this ode

And from Dr Romola Parish, for those who may not have seen it already on the Stonesfield website:

Stonesfield

After so much searching, I believe
I could settle here, moth-light on an
old land,
a stone's throw from Akeman Street
Amongst the bones of villas, tumuli
and fish-ponds,
equidistant (as the crow flies)
from Blenheim Park and Wychwood
Forest.
An unassuming place whose roots lie
not in dreaming spires or Cotswolds
prettiness,
but in the slates that roof the colleges
and cottages of Oxfordshire,
whose quarries rest, healed scars
beneath a mantle blotted with crop-
marks,
as if great tears had fallen
and dried there in the wind.

This poem is part of a collection written while Dr Parish was poet in residence at Oxfordshire County Council's Historic Landscape project. The collection, *In Polygonia* (£5), is available from Romola (<https://romolablog.wordpress.com>) or from Stonesfield Library.

Thanks to all the Art Weeks contributors . . .

The *Slate* would like to acknowledge with much admiration all the artists of many varied creative persuasions (artists, printmakers, jewellers, potters and more), whose work has attracted happy visitors to the village during May's Oxfordshire Art Weeks.

. . .and one artist in particular

Many congratulations to Chris Davies for his magnificent achievement in reaching the final of BBC One's *Big Painting Challenge*. Out of the thousands applying to join in and the ten artists chosen for the six-week challenge, Chris's determination and skill saw him through to the last four.

Scope too for photographers

Depending on what's been happening, and the somewhat variable weather, we don't always have an obvious choice for a front-page photo for the *Slate*. So if you would like to see your work published (albeit on a small scale!) with your name accredited, why not send in one of your photos? We would welcome images of Stonesfield activities, places, people or just our lovely countryside.

Bear in mind that we can't promise to use your photo, as we usually only have room for one each month, and we can't enter into discussion on our choices. Also we can only print in black and white, which may affect which photos are selected for publication. Please send your contributions to slate@stonesfield.com.

Viv Kendall, Editor for June (891803)

Pop-up Folk/Evenlode Folk

Saturday 23 June, Finstock Village Hall
OX7 3BU, doors open at 7.15 for 7.45pm:

The renowned guitarist Gordon Giltrap appears in duo with Nick Hooper, with guest appearance from violinist Judith Henderson. Tickets for Gordon and Nick's November 2017 evening sold out, so we strongly recommend advance purchase at www.wegottickets.com/event/431228.

ChOC

Showing at the Memorial Hall, Charlbury on Sunday 10 June at 7.30pm is *Darkest Hour* (Cert. PG / 125mins).

Darkest Hour is an immersive film cataloguing a tumultuous four-week period of British history in the middle months of 1940, between the fall of

Norway and the evacuation of Dunkirk. Winston Churchill (Gary Oldman) succeeds the ineffectual Neville Chamberlain (Ronald Pickup) as Prime Minister, and faces a desperate race against time to unite rival factions in the government in order to repel the Nazi menace massing across the Channel. Admission: £5 / £3 for under-15s.

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 JUNE
please ring Nigel Collier (891372) or Peter Clifton (891956).**

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.



Salon Copenhagen

3 Pendle Court, Pond Hill, Stonesfield, Oxon. Telephone (01993) 891101

*Unisex hairdressing salon for ladies, gentlemen and children
offering styling treatments and hairdressing advice.*

*All aspects of hairdressing undertaken by our professionally trained stylists,
Sally, Cheryl and Donna, and we welcome Chloe, our new junior.*

We are a Wella appointed salon and the salon is modern with the latest techniques.

*We also offer earpiercing and our nail bar is open for manicures, pedicures and
Gelish Polish.*

A very friendly and warm welcome awaits you.

Clubs & societies

Over-60s Darby & Joan Club

Malvina from the North Oxford Food Bank spoke to our May meeting about the ways people qualify for a food parcel. She said the generosity of the people in our area helped so many less fortunate people. Our members contributed a table full of items to go off for distribution, and I would like to thank everyone for bringing them.

The same afternoon we were visited by Wendy, the RVS representative, and two of us checked through various details with her, resulting in a mark of 10 out of 10 for our club.

Our AGM, also held in May, was very short, and the annual financial statement agreed by our Adviser was read out and accepted by the members. The 'A' team (elected bi-annually) all agreed to carry on. Annual subs were collected and also names for our visit to the Kirtlington Welcome Club's garden party on Tuesday 5 June. We congratulated Kathleen and Paul on their Golden Wedding, and Graham for his 80th Birthday. We finished off with our raffle.

I would like to say a big THANK YOU to the 'A' team and to you all for your continued support. Anyone interested in knowing more about the club is very welcome to come along to a meeting, to meet the members and enjoy a cuppa with us.

Avis Ushaw

Stonesfield Folk Dance Club

The Folk Dance Club would like to invite the residents of Stonesfield to come along during the weekend of 8–10 June to experience what we get up to.

This is our 46th Folk Dance Weekend and we are fortunate to have with us the National Youth Folk Troupe of England – a group of 25 youngsters aged under 18 who will be the folk stars of tomorrow. They come together with their tutors who are all well known in the folk tradition. Together they will put on a programme of rapper and longsword dancing, Morris dancing, clog, English folk dancing as well as music & song. We guarantee you will be amazed!

As usual we will have dancers coming from far and wide. During the weekend food and drink will be available from Hacketts of Witney, so why not aim to come and enjoy the weekend?

Our regular club nights continue on Wednesdays from 8 to 10pm throughout the year, and we welcome all ages with or without a partner. We always have a live band to play for us. All the dances are called and walked through before the music strikes up, with the call continuing through the dance to help us along!

Stewart Nicholls
(www.stonesfieldfolkdance.danceorg.uk)

Sports and Social Club

The World Cup is in June. Come and watch the games in the club, and during

the England games, sausage/chicken burgers and chips will be available free!

Stonesfield Gardening Club

The club held a very successful plant sale on Saturday 21 April. The lovely weather meant that we had a lot of keen customers who bought our wide selection of flowers and vegetables, as well as the compost we had available. Over £750 was raised, and we will be making donations to local charities in due course. We will be holding another plant sale and coffee morning on Saturday 7 July – further details in the July *Slate*.

The June meeting will be in the St James' Centre on Monday 11 June at 7.30pm, when Sue Bedwell will be giving us a talk about clematis.

Note that we now have our own website: stonesfieldgardening.info, where details of all talks and outings can be found.

Diane Bates, Secretary
(diane@bateshome.co.uk)

Stonesfield Scout Group

Before Easter, Beavers joined in with the County Easter Eggstravaganza, where they tried lots of new activities with other colonies from around Oxfordshire. Beavers are now back outdoors, making use of our wonderful natural surroundings and have been night-hiking, fire-lighting and orienteering. We've welcomed several new Beavers to the colony as older ones have moved up

to Cubs, and for the rest of this term we look forward to visiting RAF Brize Norton, to river crossings and a fantastic weekend camp.

This term Cubs have been honing their bushcraft skills with learning how to light fires (even in the rain), shelter building and some unusual backwoods cooking – including wild garlic and pigeon – after all, the motto is 'be prepared'!

Scouts are working on axe and woodcraft skills, and outdoor cooking as they prepare for the summer camping competition, while also making the most of the light evenings to improve their map reading and navigation skills. We continue to be involved with Combe Mill, helping carry out site maintenance projects while learning about forestry and our natural environment.

Children can start Beavers from their 6th birthday, so if you'd like your child to go on the waiting list (from 4 years old), please visit our website to access the waiting list: <https://www.facebook.com/stonesfieldscouts/>. As always, if you, or anyone you know would like to support our Scout Group, in any way, small or large, we're always open to volunteers, so please email: info@stonesfield-scouts.org.uk.

And finally, dreaming of warm summer evenings, our annual Duck Race is on Saturday 21 July, so save the date!

1st Stonesfield Scout Group

Sport

Stonesfield Football Club

As glorious Spring sunshine bathes The Shire, it is time to mop up the dregs of a football season that promised so much for our two teams but ultimately ended in heartache with the final set of league fixtures offering up The Sublime, The Ridiculous and finally Utter humiliation.

With The Firsts chasing the realistic prospect of promotion, they experienced The Sublime with a wonderful 7-1 (my favourite ever scoreline!) demolition of Milton in a match that saw the baby-faced assassin, Raffy Rice, score 4 goals in a wonderful all-round performance. Sublime soon turned to ridiculous as Tower Hill inflicted a 1-0 home defeat, in an odd encounter, with the referee inexplicably walking off with 5 minutes still to play. The FA decreed that the result should stand, thus depriving our lads of the chance of promotion and ensured that they'll be playing Division 1 football again next season. They ended this campaign with a fine 4-2 win over Eynsham, which only left them asking the question 'what if?'. They finished in third place, a point behind Tower Hill and seven behind Aston. Our congratulations have to go to Aston, who were worthy champions, going through the entire league season without losing a single match and earning the title of 'Invincibles'!

The Reserves didn't have much to play for at the end of the season, except pride. They showed some fabulous spirit in a

4-3 home win against Seige Res then received a 4-0 home drubbing at the hands of Eynsham Res. However, in a truly shocking display of utter ineptitude they were sensationally humiliated by Champions Carterton Town 'B' in the worst defeat of any Stonesfield side in living memory: whisper it (14-1, yes fourteen!). They finally finished fifth, and it'll be back to the drawing board to plan next season's assault on Division 4.

If you've been paying attention, it'll come as no real surprise to learn that Raffy Rice has strolled away with The Fredo Award this month. His 4 goals against Milton capped an excellent season, where his pace and cunning have lit up many a drab Saturday afternoon. His wee brother Carry has certainly helped him along the way, but this month it was a 'no brainer'. Well done Raffy, 4 goals in a single match is no mean feat and your Fredo is well deserved.

Looking ahead to the 2018-2019 season, we would love to have some fresh faces helping to run the club and would welcome any new committee members. If you are interested, please contact Brian on 891770.

Have a great summer folks, and hopefully we'll all be back after the cricket season finishes in September. Good luck to our cricket teams: the Football Club wishes you all well this year!

Tom Flanigan (891979)

Stonesfield Cricket Club

Firstly, our under-13 junior team desperately needs players – we don't presently have enough to field a full team! Recently they could only field 7 players, vs 11 from Charlbury. The galling thing is that several of our boys were outstanding, and even with the 4-lad deficit they only narrowly lost by 30 runs. Is your son spending too much time on the Playstation? Please get him outside running about playing cricket! Contact Dan Taylor immediately on 07920 005686 or taytrain@gmail.com.

The adult teams have made a solid start to the season. The 1st XI pulled off a terrific last over win at East & West Hendred in their first league game, when James Grist-Perkins hit a 6 to win with

just one delivery to spare. Defeat at home to Wootton & Boars Hill followed, but Stoney keeper batsman Sean Holley produced an outstanding innings of 95. On Saturday, rain saved the lads as they were struggling against the talented Asian team, Yarnton & Cowley.

The 2nd XI has had a frustrating start, mainly due to weather cancellations, and has only played one of the opening 4 fixtures. Fortunately this resulted in an outstanding win at Deddington – where our largely young side played very maturely, batting well on a 'sticky' wicket. Then our evergreen long-serving pace bowler Adam Lambert mopped up the opposition top order, with 5 wickets for 25 runs and we squeezed a victory by 14 runs.

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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

Increasingly, I'm coming across a distorted view of history and society. Writers and speakers look at the modern Western world with its technology, culture and its advocacy of human rights and democracy, and imply that it all mysteriously 'just happened'. It is taken for granted that those values we prize, and which most of the world seems to want, are simply accidents of history and have nothing to do with the beliefs of the Christians who shaped them. So there is no reference to the Christian beliefs of important historical figures who were motivated by their faith.

The truth is that Christianity played a significant role in shaping what we call 'the West'. I think to ignore that fact is dishonest. Let me, here, just highlight a few things worth remembering.

Consider human rights; the idea that every individual has rights and freedoms. It is most famously expressed

in the American Declaration of Independence, which reads: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.' If we hold to the biblical belief that everybody is made in God's image, and as such has value, it's no coincidence that Amnesty International, the leading human rights group, was founded in 1961 by Peter Benenson – a Christian.

Consider children. In the ancient world – as in parts of the modern – children were treated as being inferior to adults and of little value. In many cultures, infanticide was common. However, following the example of Jesus (Matthew 19:14), Christianity values children. That high evaluation was worked out in the creation of orphanages by Christians such as Thomas Barnardo, Charles

Haddon Spurgeon and George Müller, and in the labours of the tireless Lord Shaftesbury in creating laws to restrict the use of children in factories and mines.

Consider education. Today we believe in universal education but it was not always so. History tells of the important role of Christians in promoting education not just for an elite, but for all. So while some have mocked the idea of Sunday schools, by 1830 they were bringing literacy to over a million children in Britain. At a very different level, the importance of Christianity in education is seen in the way that so many Oxford and Cambridge colleges bear the names of saints and men and women from the Bible.

Consider the economic systems that underlie modern Western society and that have allowed health and prosperity to so many. The Christian attitude to labour and wealth, widely but simplistically termed 'the Protestant work ethic', was fundamental. Its attitude to wealth was summed up in John Wesley's words: 'gain all you can, save all you can, give all you can'. Possibly even more significant was the condemnation of those scourges of every economic system: dishonesty, corruption and laziness.

In fact the Christian role in creating what we are today is everywhere. Take politics: look at the extraordinary correlation between stable, functional democracies and those cultures based on 'biblical values'. Christianity elevated the

value of the individual while simultaneously demanding that, because human nature is fallen, there must be checks and balances to the abuse of power.

Compassion for people: who stopped the abominable slaughter of the amphitheatres and the trade in gladiators? Christians.

The largest aid organisation working with the homeless, the Salvation Army started by William and Catherine Booth, proclaims its Christian ethos in its very name. The Red Cross was started by Henry Dunant – a Christian. The list goes on.

Alcoholics Anonymous was started by Christians and has been influenced by Christian thinking. The modern hospice movement was founded by Cicely Saunders – a Christian. The Samaritans, with their invaluable ministry to the suicidal and desperate, was founded by the Reverend Chad Varah. Given that the YMCA was originally the Young Men's Christian Association, I hardly need to elaborate there, do I?

Care for animals? The RSPCA was founded by the Reverend Arthur Broome with that champion against slavery, William Wilberforce. We based our Lent Course on Wilberforce's work.

So folks, please let's recognise our Christian roots in this country, and let's celebrate our heritage.

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

Rev Roy

SERVICES FOR JUNE

Sunday 3 June [First Sunday after Trinity]

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

Sunday 10 June [Second Sunday after Trinity]

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [BCP/said]
9.30am	Combe Longa	Matins [BCP/said]
11am	Stonesfield	Parish Communion [CW/sung]
6pm	Combe Longa	Songs of Praise

Sunday 17 June [Third Sunday after Trinity]

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

Sunday 24 June [Fourth Sunday after Trinity]

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

Sunday 1 July [Fifth Sunday after Trinity]

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

Mid-week Communion Service [said]

Wednesdays 9.30am at Stonesfield. Everyone is most welcome.

Stonesfield Methodist Church

SERVICES FOR JUNE

Sun 3	11am	Revd Rose Westwood Holy Communion
Sun 10	11am	Margaret Broadberry
Sun 17	11am	Revd Melanie Reed
Sun 24	11am	David Sarbutts and Karl Williams

Services here at the Methodist Church are warm and welcoming. Rose, our own Minister, is with us on the first Sunday of each month; Margaret will be sharing her gentle faithful thoughts on 10 June, and Melanie comes on 17 June. Paul Reed will play his guitar to accompany the hymns and songs: a joyful occasion indeed! At the month ends, Karl is supported by David as he trains to be a local preacher, and we look forward to hearing from them both. Join the Christian fellowship

we share, on any Sunday. Everyone is welcome.

Kathleen Albért

Roman Catholic Worship

St Teresa's Charlbury

To be a Christian is to be a missionary

The Oxford English Dictionary tells us that a missionary is 'a person sent on a religious mission, especially one sent to promote Christianity in a foreign country'. However, that appears to be only a partial truth, as a missionary is someone who demonstrates his or her Christian beliefs through their behaviour as witness to his/her belief. So it's less of 'do what I say' and more of 'do what I do'. Our word 'missionary' comes from the Latin *misso/missere*, meaning 'to be sent' and as Christians we are sent to follow Jesus' injunction to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19–20).

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

This is further explained by Mark in telling us to proclaim that good news of eternal redemption (Mark 16:15–18):

And he said to them, 'Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned.'

We do not have to be in a foreign country to be a missionary; we can try to lead a demonstrably Christian life here in our own country and own village, and by

our behaviour give enduring witness to the Christian message.

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.stteresaschurchcharlbury@gmail.com

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

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Roman Catholic Community in Stonesfield

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Informed guidance on University entrance, courses and A level choices from experienced teacher and A level/GCSE examiner. Advice on exam techniques and coaching for English at A level/GCSE also available. Contact Ginnie Redston, MA, PGCE, via 01993 868697.

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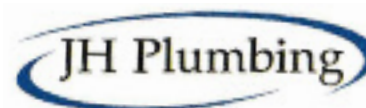
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We had a lovely weekend of sunshine for our Micro Beer Fest. Thank you to everyone who came and supported the event and, despite the wait for drinks, we hope everyone enjoyed it as much as we did.

Watch this space for news of forthcoming events during the summer but in the meantime we are pleased to say that we will be holding a Folk evening on the first Wednesday of each month starting 6 June, which Nick and Judith Hooper have kindly agreed to host. It will be a very informal affair and we hope anyone interested in joining in or just listening will come along. It should be a great night!

We will also be showing the Football World Cup matches in the pub from 14 June.

And remember, 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.

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