

# The Stonesfield Slate

Issue No 482 July 2018



## Dates for your diary – July

2,9,16,23	Monday Coffee	St James' Centre	8.30–10am
2,9,16,23,30	SJC Cuppa	St James' Centre	10–11.30am
4,11,18,25	Folk Dance Club	Village Hall	8–10pm
5,12,19,26	Book Break	Stonesfield Library	12.30–2pm
7	The Inflatables Band Night for FoSS	Village Hall	7.30pm
7	Plant Sale & Coffee	Four Acres, Pond Hill	10–12noon
9	Gardening Club talk	St James' Centre	7.30pm
12	Over-60s Lunch	Village Hall	1pm
12	Parish Council meeting	Village Hall	7.30–9pm
14	Summer Reading Challenge	Library	10am–12noon
14	Band Night Biteback	Sports and Social Club	8.30pm
16	Gardening Club Trip to Hidden Gardens of Burford		
18	Playing Field AGM	Village Hall	7.30pm
21	Village Duck Race	River	
25	Village Hall AGM	Village Hall	6.30–8.30pm
26	Bingo	S & S Club	Eyes down 7.30pm
27	Players' Safari Supper	The Old Bakery, Boot Street	
28	Cream Teas	Methodist Church	2–4pm
28	Jamie's Tea Party	Manor Garden	3.30–5pm
28	Ladies Night	Sports and Social Club	8pm

## Publishers

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Vivienne Kendall (891803)

## Editor for August

Vivienne Kendall

## Printer

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

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

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*The Villager Bus – a vital  
link for Stonesfield  
residents*

By permission of Villager Community Bus



# Notices

## Septemberfest 2018!

On Saturday 22 September, Stonesfield will again host its very own festival. There are two stages with live music, from folk to jazz to rock. Confirmed acts include: The Original Rabbit Foot Spasm Band (jazz), Henderson Hooper (folk) and brilliant new indie rock band, North Parade, who recently played London's O2. The Village Idiots will also be performing and many more exciting acts are yet to be announced.

Alongside the music there will be delicious artisan food outlets, a decadent champagne & gin tent, a genteel tea and cake tent and a marquee full of the finest ales known to humanity.

The event will include activities for children, and with the festival site next to the playground, kids will have a ball.

Septemberfest only happens every two years, so please tell your friends and neighbours and put it in the diary now! Camping details to follow.

Finally, if your family would like to sponsor a beer barrel or your company would like to become a main event sponsor, please contact Sarah on Sarahbolivern@hotmail.co.uk.

No organiser takes a fee and all proceeds will go to Alzheimer's Research UK and Dogs for Good. Follow us on Facebook: Stonesfield Septemberfest.

*Chris Bartle (Music co-ordinator, Bartlefilm@gmail.com)*

## Village Hall News

Our next committee meeting and AGM is on Wednesday 25 July at 6.30pm. We are still hoping that someone would like to step forward to volunteer themselves as our chairman, so if you would be interested in joining our team, please call us on 01993 898919 or email stonesfieldvh@gmail.com.

*Jacqueline Carthew, Secretary & Booking Clerk for Stonesfield Village Hall*

## Playing Field Committee

The Playing Field Committee will be holding its AGM on Wednesday 18 July in the Village Hall Club Room, starting at 7.30pm. The meeting is open to everyone. We always welcome new members on the committee. If you are interested in joining, please contact Alan Bryon on 07535 281998.

## Stonesfield Players' Safari Supper 27 July

The Stonesfield Players are having another Safari Supper. Please come and join us for lots of fun, good food and a thoroughly enjoyable evening. The gathering begins at The Old Bakery, Boot Street, for a selection of starters and then we take off 'on Safari' in small groups for our main course and then again for pudding, finally gathering together for cheese and coffee at the end of the evening. All you need to bring is a bottle and a torch!

Tickets are £12.50 from Ros Mengech (ros\_mengech@yahoo.co.uk. 01993 898276). Please make sure you book your tickets by 20 July.

If anyone is happy to act as a host for either a main course or pudding for six people, please let Ros know.

## Charlbury Community Centre

The new Charlbury Community Centre has something for everyone.

A state of the art sports hall provides for many indoor sports, including badminton, pickleball, football, volleyball, cricket, netball, basketball, tennis.

There is a Community gym that offers expert personal training, exercise classes, Yoga and pilates, activities for the elderly and for young people and children.

The Centre also houses the public library and a café, and it's open seven days a week.

More information about the fantastic opportunities the Centre has to offer at [www.charlburycommunitycentre.org.uk](http://www.charlburycommunitycentre.org.uk) or call 01608 811878.

## Celebrating Oxfordshire volunteers

Oxfordshire County Council would like to thank our volunteers and all volunteers across Oxfordshire, for the difference they make every day.

Volunteering in Oxfordshire is thriving, with one voluntary organisation for every 289 people in the county and around 4,500 voluntary and community organisations across Oxfordshire –

significantly higher than the national average.

Oxfordshire County Council has approximately 3,000 volunteers, who do an amazing job in their communities – delivering books to people who can't get to libraries, teaching children how to code, organising activities for adults with disabilities, and much, much more. The Council also works with the voluntary sector to deliver local services and support communities across Oxfordshire. This includes funding Oxfordshire Volunteers – a dedicated volunteering website for Oxfordshire.

There are volunteering opportunities to suit everyone. Get involved – visit [OxonVolunteers.org](http://OxonVolunteers.org).

*Naomi Slade, Oxfordshire County Council (07584481222, [naomi.slade@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:naomi.slade@oxfordshire.gov.uk))*

## Defibrillator training

In recent months both Stonesfield Pre-School and Stonesfield School have been given an AED (Automated External Defibrillator). Pre-school's came from parent fundraising and Stonesfield School's from an anonymous donation, for which the school is very grateful. The pre-school fundraising has enabled them to purchase a heated cabinet for the AED, which will be fitted on the outside wall of the pre-school, and the equipment will be available for the whole community to use.

The pre-school also has funds available to provide training to use an AED, and the two organisations are working together to train their staff. We are holding a joint training session on the evening of Thursday 12 July. We are extending an

invitation to Stonesfield Strikers and the Cubs/Scout groups in the village to train some of their volunteers. It is likely that there will be some places left on the training that we may be able to offer to the community. If you are interested in a place please contact Lizzie at Pre-School on 01993 898370.

*Beth Binnian (891687)*

### **Cream teas at the Methodist Church**

On Saturday 28 July from 2 to 4pm, cream teas will be served in the Church, and other light refreshments will also be available. Jenny and Judy will have their amazing gift tables, filled with plenty of items to browse and buy. Come and treat yourself, or maybe do some forward buying! All the proceeds will help to support the Church.

Everyone is very welcome. Come and enjoy a summer afternoon tea.

*Kathleen Alb  rt*

### **Jamie's Tea Party – Saturday 28 July**

The Stonesfield Parish Church family invites everyone, of all ages, to come and join in a mega tea party on Saturday 28 July, 3.30–5pm in the Manor garden.

Do come along for tea and enjoy this beautiful garden, with plenty of time to relax, chat, and play – bouncy castle, games and activities provided!

Remember that children need to be accompanied by an adult. We look forward to welcoming you!

*Lindsey Sellar*

### **Relax Kids class**

Would you like to help your child relax and be calm, feel confident and sleep better? Then come along to a trial session of a 'Relax Kids class' on Thursday 2 August at 2pm in the St James' Centre. The session will include exciting games, dynamic warm-ups and exercises, relaxing stretches and calming breathing exercises, and costs only £5 per family. For more information and to book your place call Lucy Martin 01993 898159 or email [lucyandphil29@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lucyandphil29@hotmail.co.uk).

### **Three Peaks Challenge for Macmillan**

We are four 17-year-old boys, looking to complete The Three Peaks Challenge. It is a hiking challenge where you must reach the summit of each of Great Britain's highest mountains, in Scotland, England and Wales, within 24 hours.

This challenge is done as a fundraiser for Macmillan Cancer Support, because we have all had someone close to us who has been affected by cancer. We'd really appreciate any donations and are trying to raise as much as possible.

If you want information or would like to donate, please contact us at [paddy.hunn.uk@gmail.com](mailto:paddy.hunn.uk@gmail.com) or at 07908491890. We have a Just Giving page if you would like to donate, and all money goes directly to Macmillan <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/threepeaks-uk>.

We look forward to hearing from you, and thanks in advance for your generosity.

*Paddy Hunn*

### **Learn drystone walling**

Come along on Wednesday 18 July, from 10am–3pm, to historic Cogges Manor Farm in Witney and learn how to build a Cotswold drystone wall. Drystone walls are one of the most distinctive features of this beautiful part of the world and use local Cotswold limestone. Whether building a new wall, or repairing and maintaining an old one, there is an art to this ancient skill, which the Wychwood Project is eager to pass on to more people who live in West Oxfordshire.

The day will be led by an experienced local waller, and you will be able to get stuck in, continuing the walling efforts of previous courses at this traditional farm.

No experience is necessary. Please wear stout boots; all other tools and equipment are supplied. Cogges Farm has a cafe on-site, or you can bring your own picnic lunch. Maximum 10 places, £30 per person; booking is essential.

Book at the Events page of [www.wychwoodproject.org](http://www.wychwoodproject.org). Contact on the day is Toby Swift, 07981 134804.

*Matthew Lee, Wychwood Project*

### **Volunteer Link-Up wins award**

Volunteer Link-Up, which co-ordinates volunteers to help with a range of community services, has been awarded a £10,000 Community Revenue Grant by West Oxfordshire District Council. The organisation will use the money to support its Good Neighbour scheme, helping residents to continue to live independently.

More than 200 volunteers in the Good Neighbour Scheme help people with

tasks they can no longer manage, like cutting the grass. They also give lifts for shopping or medical appointments, operate a befriending scheme and provide volunteers to help other West Oxfordshire charities. Earlier this month, Volunteer Link-Up was voted Best Group in West Oxfordshire at the Oxfordshire Charity and Volunteer Awards.

### **Bridewell Organic Gardens Open Afternoon**

The Walled Garden and Vineyard at Wilcote (OX7 3DT) will be open on Sunday 15 July from 2 to 5pm. 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.bridewellgardens.org](http://www.bridewellgardens.org)

Reg. charity 1158456

### **OHCT Ride & Stride**

The 2018 Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust Ride & Stride is on Saturday 8 September, 10am to 6pm. Money raised goes towards grants for the county's churches. Cyclists and walkers select their own route and seek sponsorship for the number of churches they visit. Half the money raised goes to the church of their choice and half to the Trust.

Please contact me for further details. Sponsorship forms are available in the parish church or from me, at Peakes House, Peaks Lane. They can also be downloaded from the OHCT website ([www.ohct.org.uk](http://www.ohct.org.uk)).

*Simon Haviland (891614)*



# Politics & local affairs

## Parish Council

### Pye Homes Phase 2 and North Farm

There has been no further news to report on these developments.

### New Stonesfield Parish Councillor

Simon Powell has agreed to being co-opted as the new Councillor. We look forward to working with him.

### Grass Verges

We apologise for the state of the grass verges; the lack of cutting has been caused by a misunderstanding with WODC, the contractor, which is being put to rights. We would ask villagers not to park on the verges because in some areas the verge has been obliterated and in Churchfields, the wall to the church allotments is being pushed over. Residents are reminded that they should ensure their bushes are not overgrown so as to restrict pedestrians, prams and disabled vehicles on the paths and pavements. In areas where traffic is speeding it is better to park on the road to act as a deterrent, rather than on the verge.

### Grants available to local organisations

SPC encourages local organisations to apply for any grants they may require in the future. Application forms can be obtained by contacting the Clerk.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 12 July at the Village Hall. All residents are invited to attend. There is no meeting in August.

Gill Hill, Parish

Clerk(stonesfieldpc@gmail.com)

## From our County Councillor

### Adult social services care charges

All councils are allowed to charge for care and support to recover the costs incurred in line with the Care Act 2014. This means that people receiving social care across the nation may be expected to contribute towards the cost of their care, depending on their individual financial circumstances. A series of changes to the way people contribute to the cost of their care in Oxfordshire will now see some people charged more, so that resources can be targeted better at those who cannot afford to pay. It will also bring OCC more in line with other authorities in England. However, the Council stresses that about three-quarters of people will either be completely unaffected, or pay less.

The changes are estimated to save £1.8m per year, which will be used to provide social care for people with significant care needs and unable to pay for care themselves. Full details can be found at [//news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/changes-would-make-adult-social-care-charges-fair-more-consistent-and-more-transparent/](http://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/changes-would-make-adult-social-care-charges-fair-more-consistent-and-more-transparent/)

### Better broadband for Oxfordshire

Oxfordshire now has 96.5% superfast broadband coverage, increasingly enabling digital infrastructure in the most rural parts of the county. Adoption of the newly available fibre broadband services is running at over 54%, which is well above national average.

Cllr Ian Hudspeth (07956270 318,  
[Ian.hudspeth@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Ian.hudspeth@oxfordshire.gov.uk))

## West Oxfordshire District Council

Once again it has been a quiet month for Stonesfield and Combe – no new planning applications of note have come before the committee. The Pye Homes phase 2 is still pending. The application for the five houses on North Farm seems likely to be decided under delegated powers. CALA have appealed against the rejected application for development on Woodstock Road – my view is that the appeal will not succeed, but there's no guarantee.

The new and much disputed rail timetable is now in force, and is available on the internet.

Council has welcomed its newest councillors, who have been allocated to the main committee structure. All seem very intent upon making the most of their opportunities to influence activity within West Oxfordshire.

We are reliably informed by County that all possible is being done to rectify the huge pothole problem, but there seem to be almost as many as during the winter.

I am sure you will be pleased to know that the arrangements to join with three other District Councils is already bearing fruit. Large savings have been made without any reduction in the quality or number of services enjoyed by our residents. Staff in all the district offices are content with the new arrangements and can see the benefits.

Richard Bishop (01993 891414;  
[richard.bishop@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:richard.bishop@westoxon.gov.uk))

## From our Member of Parliament

### Community bus service

Robert Courts reports on his recent action to support community transport in his constituency. Since March this year he has made the case for the vital importance of community transport with the Transport Minister, Jesse Norman and founded the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Community Transport.

He has stressed that the four current community transport operators, one of which is the Villager Bus Service linking Stonesfield with Witney, are relied on by a significant number of constituents from rural villages. Many are elderly and without the service would be isolated from other forms of transport. His comments, emphasising the special case of people living in village communities, were made in response to a consultation on ensuring fair competition between the various transport providers.

Details of the Village Bus Service (between Stonesfield and Witney on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays) are on <http://villagerbus.com/index.php/our-service>.

### A40 repairs

From 23 July, a 500m stretch of the A40 will be resurfaced between Barnard Gate and the Witney Bypass. This stretch of road will therefore be closed from 8pm – 5am, from 23 to 27 July, so plan ahead to account for diversions.

## The dreaded Stonesfield / Blandford Fly

I have sent the following to our District and County Councillors and the District

Councillors for Woodstock and Charlbury, about the growing blackfly problem in Stonesfield and the Evenlode valley.

When I moved to Stonesfield 14 years ago I discovered that the local biting blackfly liked me and that I had quite a severe reaction to their bites. I need to use a mixture of over-the-counter and prescription medicines as soon as possible after being bitten. Without treatment the effects of bites can last weeks, and can become septic. At least one doctor's surgery has produced a leaflet describing the problem and recommending treatments for bites.

The number of blackflies in Stonesfield and other parts of the Evenlode valley has been growing, dramatically so in the last two years. In May to mid-June, I can't go into my garden or onto my allotment without a shirt buttoned to the cuffs, long trousers and a hat – and I still get bitten. On a sunny day recently my stepson went into the garden without a shirt on and in three minutes had six bites on his chest.

The culprit is one particular species of blackfly, *Simulium posticatum* Meigen, which needs a blood meal to reproduce. It is commonly called the 'Blandford Fly' after Blandford Forum, where the problem became so severe about thirty years ago that North Dorset Council commissioned surveys of the river Stour and treated the river margins with a biological agent, *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *israelensis*. This is targeted very precisely to destroy only the larvae of this particular blackfly, without affecting

other blackfly or insects which are a vital part of the river ecology.

Since the river has been treated, the incidence of blackfly bites has been reduced by 99%.

I am writing to ask if you will ask the relevant department of your Council to investigate, as a matter of urgency, the possibility of doing the work necessary to treat the Evenlode and any other watercourses that may be contributing to the problem. This is clearly a public health matter.

The growth in the blackfly population has far exceeded the ability of any natural predators or other limiting factors to restrain it. The problem is only going to get worse, and quickly, unless we intervene. If the pattern of North Dorset is repeated, the larvae of the insects that bite in May/June need to be treated at the end of March/beginning of April. Could we get there for 2019?

*Jon Gordon (898803, jmg@couffin.co.uk)*

Jon has since received the following reply from the County Health Directorate via the District Council:

While biting flies are a nuisance, there is no evidence to support that they constitute a significant public health risk. Insect bites can be painful for the individual, however I have not had any indication from any GP in the county of the matter being a serious health concern or placing pressures on the health system.

While they have had a system of environmental intervention through

use of biocides in Dorset, there is no evidence of effectiveness of the intervention employed. The instigation of this solution was a long time ago and has become embedded in the public mind. There has been strong resistance to the use of biocides in the environment to manage insects being stopped despite lack of evidence of efficacy and thus their programme continues [sic]. The Biocide used is not licensed for the intervention they employ in Dorset. The treatment approval/use has involved the HSE and Environment Agency.

Any potential new treatment would need to be appraised by the relevant authorities and a freshwater biologist would be needed to assist in determining the efficacy of such a proposal and help with the cost benefit analysis.

I would suggest that this is a disproportionate and unrealistic use of resources in a time of financial constraint for Local Authorities.

**Note from the Editor:** North Dorset Council has confirmed that temporary approval for the use of the biocide on the River Stour to control the Blandford fly was obtained on the basis of well-established experience in use; and full approval, allowing use in other areas, is anticipated by spring 2019. Targeted treatment in North Dorset has been continued for 28 years. It has been described by Dr Mike Ladle, Fellow of the Freshwater Biological Association as 'probably the best example of the use of a biological agent to control a pest, in an ecologically friendly fashion, anywhere

in the world' (Dorset Life, May 2015). Would it not be of value for our Council to investigate the experience, and cost implications, from North Dorset?

## The Wychwood Project

The Witney-based Wychwood Project, set up in 1997 to protect the ancient forest of Wychwood, has received a £21,759 Grant from West Oxfordshire District Council. The grant will go towards providing educational visits, and conserving and developing natural habitats. A learning officer has been recruited to run a summer camp for youngsters this year, as well as walks, talks and rural craft days.

For further information see <http://www.wychwoodproject.org/cms/>.

West Oxfordshire District Council  
Communications (01993 861615 / 861616 or [communications@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:communications@westoxon.gov.uk))

## Controlling your dog in public

Thames Valley Police have had a number of incidents recently involving dogs out of control. You can get an unlimited fine or be sent to prison for up to 6 months (or both) if your dog is dangerously out of control.

You may not be allowed to own a dog in the future and your dog may be destroyed. We have been asked by our local Police Community Support Officer to bring this to your notice, and to ask that you check the Government website for further information:

<https://www.gov.uk/control-dog-public>.

# Education & culture

## Stonesfield Library

Telephone: 01993 898187

### Opening Hours:

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

## National Summer Reading Challenge

Challenge alert! The annual National Summer Reading Challenge for children aged 4–11 years is about to start; on Saturday 14 July at Stonesfield Library; 10am–12 noon.

This year's theme is *Mischief-Makers* and it celebrates the 80th birthday of that much-loved comic, *The Beano*.

Come and sign up to read six library books on any subject, and collect a Map of Beanoland. As you read, you will collect a succession of stickers which will enable you to find the TREASURE on the map. Everyone who completes the quest will receive a medal and certificate at an Award Ceremony in September.

Another Date for your Diary: Wednesday 12 September – FoSL (Friends of Stonesfield Library) will host the Award Ceremony, present medals and certificates, and as usual provide hot and cold drinks, cakes, biscuits, plenty of creative activities, and a group photograph. Last year more than 40

children completed the challenge: this year can we make it 50?

Adults – there's a challenge for you too. It starts on 7 July and follows two themes: Having a Laugh, and History Makers. Read a library book to enter a Prize Draw which offers free tickets to Blenheim, Cotswold Wildlife Park, Wychwood Brewery, and meals at several local eateries. Ask for more details at the Library.

*Val Phillips (891455)*

## Farewell Ms McGregor

At the end of last term, we said a very sad farewell to Ms McGregor. Ms McGregor was a parent, teacher, governor, deputy head and finally Head teacher at our school for thirteen years. During her seven years as Head teacher she changed our school forever, adding a corridor through school, improving the KS2 toilets, creating a Forest School and planting the Enchanted Garden. She also brought back a long-lost tradition to Stonesfield – May Day dancing. Ms McGregor did lots of fantastic things but the best thing about her was that she was always so smiley and made you feel better.

We made her last day memorable with a special May Day celebration where we all did a flash-mob dance, then we had an assembly for her where we gave her lots of gifts that we had made (including a film that we had made of the whole school climbing into Mabel, her duck-egg



*Fi McGregor cutting the cake presented to her on her departure*

blue Morris Minor) and sang some special songs and poems.

On her last day we said goodbye, then she disappeared to Larkrise, a school in Oxford. We are all very sad but we know that she will make other children very happy.

*Written by Year 6, Stonesfield Primary School*

## FoSS News

### The Inflatables Band Night, Saturday 7 July

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. Available at £10 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. Thank you – we hope you can make it!

Having completed the school's playground 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 as all of the classrooms have the same technology in as the Rowan (Yr. 6) classroom.

FoSS holds an Annual General Meeting (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 joining the Committee, 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 FoSS Team*

## ChOC

Showing on Sunday 1 July at 7.30pm at the Memorial Hall, Charlbury is: *Exhibition on Screen: Canaletto And The Art of Venice* (Cert.U / 87mins) – a fascinating journey into the life and art of Venice's famous painter. No artist better captures



the essence and allure of Venice than Giovanni Antonio Canal, widely known as Canaletto. Cinema-goers will embark on their very own 21st-century Grand Tour, visiting the sites enjoyed by their 18th-century counterparts and immortalised in Canaletto's views – from the Rialto Bridge to the Piazza San Marco, and the Palazzo Ducale to the Church of Santi Giovanni e Paolo. Guided by Royal Collection Trust curators and the world's leading experts in Venetian history, the film is not only a wonderful way to see the exhibition, but an opportunity to get closer to Canaletto and the city that inspired him.

To comply with the film licence agreement, admission will be £7 but will include a small glass of wine or a soft drink. Doors & bar are open from 6.45pm.

### The Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock

There is plenty to see and do at the museum in July:

#### Exhibitions:

- Peter Rabbit™: Mischievous & Mayhem. Free; open until 9 September.
- 20 Years of Treasure: local finds from clay pipes and pots to gold coin hoards and Elizabethan rings.
- Oxfordshire Women & Democracy; 23 June–23 September. 2018 marks 100 years of women's suffrage. In this display we highlight some courageous Oxfordshire women.

**Friends Talks:** *The stench of Victorian indecision*; 4 July 7.30pm. Tony Boughton, historian & retired engineer; Friends free, visitors £4

For further information, contact [FriendsofTOM@live.co.uk](mailto:FriendsofTOM@live.co.uk).

#### Children's Summer Holiday Activities:

- TOM Tots on Tuesdays 10.30–11am; £1 per child, £2.50 per family
- Family Fun drop-in craft sessions Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2–4pm in school holidays. £2 per child, £5 per family.

For full programme of these and other activities please visit <https://www2.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/oxfordshire-museum>.

### Woodstock Music Society Summer Concert

Woodstock Music Society's summer concert – *Classic Vienna* – will be held at St Mary Magdalene Church, Woodstock, on Friday 6 and Saturday 7 July at 7.30pm.

Mozart took the first two movements of his *Mass in C minor*, and recycled them by changing the words, adding some arias and calling it *Davidde penitente*. This is the main work in the concert, conducted by Paul Ingram, with soloists from the Royal Academy of Music. Then follows *Schubert's Offertorium: Intende voci orationis*.

The first part of the concert begins with Bruckner's stunning motet *Ecce sacerdos magnus* for double chorus, and ends with incidental music which Beethoven wrote for a play, *The Ruins of Athens*.

Tickets are £13 (concessions £12), from The Woodstock Bookshop (01993 812760) or email: [concerts@woodstockmusic.info](mailto:concerts@woodstockmusic.info); or £14 at the door (concessions £13). Full time students are £5, and accompanied children under 16 are free.

## Clubs & societies

### Over-60s Darby & Joan Club

It was a lovely summer afternoon for our June meeting. As usual lots of happy chatter as we greeted each other. There were a few members missing due to holidays and illness.

Names and payment were taken for the July Summer Lunch – if you haven't booked in and would like to come, please let me have your name before 7 July.

We settled down to do a quiz before tea was served. Four teams took part and unusually, no team scored 100%. On this occasion the highest was 80%. Well done everybody.

The 'A' Team served scones, cream, jam and cakes to each table with tea and coffee, with second cups available.

A few announcements followed: twelve members had visited Kirtlington Welcome Club for their Summer meeting and had a lovely afternoon. The speaker was Russell Cherry, well known to most of us. He took us on a tour of the Cotswolds with excellent slides, including some of Stonesfield. This was followed by a very nice buffet tea and the raffle; quite a few prizes came back with us. We thanked them for their hospitality.

Our afternoon ended as usual with the raffle. If you have been away we hope you enjoyed the break and those going away have a happy time. We hope those who are unwell will soon feel better and those who have had a fall will mend

quickly. We look forward to meeting next month for our lunch at 1pm on 12 July; till then do Take Care.

*Avis Ushaw*

### Stonesfield Folk Dance Club

We certainly enjoyed some lovely weather for the club's 46th Annual Folk Dance Weekend. This year we hosted The National Youth Folklore Troupe of England, some 25 youngsters aged up to 18 years who sing, play, and dance the whole range of the English Folk Traditions. They are mentored by many well known figures in the Folk World such as Dave Leverton, Dave Byett, Vicki Cooper, Rhodri Davies and Jess Arrowsmith, who all attended.

What an event this proved to be, with clog and step dancing teams as well as Morris, sword & rapper dance teams all performing. Most of the dancers and NYFTE brought their tents and caravans and camped on the beautifully maintained Playing Field. NYFTE were thrilled to be presented a new set of Rapper Swords made by Stonesfield resident club Pete Bareham, a long time member of the Club, and the Rapper Sword Workshop proving to be one of the most popular events of the weekend. All of us older members were revitalised by the energy and enthusiasm of NYFTE and we hope they will join us regularly in the years to come.

We continue dancing through the summer on Wednesday evenings from 8

to 10pm. Why not come along and work off those extra inches and make some new friends into the bargain?

*Stewart Nicholls (01295 730271;  
www.stonesfieldfolkdance.danceorg.uk)*

### **Sports and Social Club**

Just a polite reminder that the 2018–2019 membership fee of £5 is now due. Ladies night is on 28 July: large bottles of Prosecco will be reduced to £10.

*Brian Clarke(891770)*

### **Stonesfield Gardening Club**

Our June meeting was a talk by Sue Bedwell on the subject of clematis and related plants. We learnt that the clematis family is a diverse one, including celandine, aconite, anemone, hepatica, aquilegia and buttercup. Sue emphasized that clematis need to be free draining in winter but with lots of water and feed in summer, so a drooping plant probably means lack of water, not clematis wilt! Sue goes by the rule of pruning after flowering, but reassured us all that they are very forgiving plants and will usually just shoot again no matter what we do to them.

We have a busy July, with our second plant sale and coffee morning on Saturday 7 July. All are welcome to come for coffee and grab a bargain. Then our next talk is on Monday 9 July, when Rosy Hardy from Hardy's Nursery will be telling us about late summer flowering perennials and grasses. The following Monday we have a trip to the Hidden Gardens of Burford, when we are admitted into some of the secret gardens in the town (followed by cream tea). There are still a very few spaces left on this trip –

please contact me if you would like to be included.

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

### **Stonesfield Scout Group**

Beavers and Scouts both had a fabulous weekend camp at Youlbury in June.

For several of our youngest Beavers, it was their first time away under canvas. They amazed us with their resilience, their willingness to try new things, from food to adventurous activities, and their determination – to stay awake all night!

Scouts used their weekend to practise skills for the October County Camping Competition, working in patrols, catering for themselves all weekend on open fires, taking part in various team and adventurous and entertaining the Beavers around the camp fire with their songs, skits and fancy dress. They are a credit to the worldwide Scout family.

Thank you to everyone who supported camp. A huge thank you to Tony the milkman for donating all the milk and Hazel for donating all the fruit, which helped us keep the costs down for our young people.

Congratulations to two of our leaders, Craig and Gary, for gaining their nights away permit this weekend, no mean feat of organisation, so now we can go away on even more camps!

### **The ducks are coming!**

Don't forget the Stonesfield Scout Group Duck Race on Saturday 21 July. Look out for the ducks, coming to the village soon. This is one of our biggest fundraisers, with its BBQ, raffle, amazing prizes and

endless family fun. This event helps us provide equipment for all our camps and other activities.

Do you know any companies who are keen to support community groups and would like to donate prizes for the raffle or support the event in any other way? Our Scout Group is a charity run by volunteers, so companies can claim back tax on money or goods donated. If you have any contacts with companies who you think might like to support this event, please let us know at [treasurer@stonesfield-scouts.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@stonesfield-scouts.org.uk)

### **North Leigh Scout Group Duck Race**

**(see also Stonesfield Scout Group, above)**

On Sunday 8 July from 12 noon, North Leigh Scout group will be holding their annual Duck Race at the River Evenlode, Combe. There will be stalls and entertainment throughout the day, including a barbecue and bar.

Further information is available from Alison ([alisonkennett549@gmail.com](mailto:alisonkennett549@gmail.com)) or [www.northleighscouts.org.uk](http://www.northleighscouts.org.uk).

### **FoSL: Friends of Stonesfield Library**

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

We have been providing voluntary cover for half of the existing library hours (about 6 hours a week) since the library service was cut back.

For further details, or to join us, please contact Tony Scott on 01993 891380, [tonyandrachel.scott@virgin.net](mailto:tonyandrachel.scott@virgin.net)



# Sport

## Stonesfield Cricket Club

Since the last report, the 1st XI has endured a tough period, slipping to the bottom of Div 1; the main problem being a lack of consistent availability of many of our better players. The lads did win their Airey Cup 1st round match at Marsh Gibbon with a solid half century from skipper Jamie Burns, but have since lost in the league to both Wolvercote and Witney Swifts. The Club is confident that Jamie and the boys can turn this around and climb the table during July.

In contrast, the 2nd XI have been doing quite nicely, and we field lots of youth

development players too. Although we lost to Oxenford 3rd XI, we've produced terrific wins against Bicester 4th, Kidlington 3rd (when we bowled the opposition out for 43!) and local rivals Charlbury 3rd. Adam Lambert, Jordan Newman, Dave Skidmore & Rowan Moss have been taking wickets galore, and against Charlbury, our batsman Anthony Liddell scored a fine century to impress a crowd boosted by the Folk Festival visitors! Next is an Osberton Radiators Cup quarter-final vs Chipping Norton 2nds.

*Stewart Moss (07866 278685)*

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*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.*

# Church news



## Anglican Worship in the Parishes of Stonesfield with Combe Longa



Rector: The Revd Roy Turner

The Rectory, Stonesfield, Witney, Oxon, OX29 8PR

Telephone: 01993 898552 – Email: revroystonesfield@hotmail.co.uk

[www.stonesfieldparishchurch.org](http://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

Do you get emails that tell you that you need to get your body ready for the summer? 'Beach ready', I think, is the term. They advise me that all I need to do is spend the next 10 days eating my way through 'weight watchers' 'free' food and crunch those abs. To be honest I have never found a shop that gives me free food and I'm not sure that I have any abs to crunch!

I have often said of abs that I hope they are there, but sadly I think the stitching's gone and my mid-section has turned into a barrel. Now I'm not trying to engender sympathy here. I have to tell you that I am very happy in the skin that I have and even the bits underneath that seem to show through in the mid-section. Oh, I know I can have my head turned from time to time by promises that these gurus of the body write to me in unsolicited email. For me, though, it's more about keeping healthy and mobile so that I can

make it between Combe and Stonesfield to meet people and take the services on Sunday.

Bev, however, believes the way for me to go is to get a bike. I may have mentioned that before. I don't mean that she has told me to 'get on my bike' – I think that would mean something completely different. She thinks I could get some more exercise by arranging to meet you all by travelling to you on a push bike! I will know who the unsolicited email comes from if I start getting adverts from Halfords and how they have just the right two-wheeled conveyance I need!

Nevertheless, there is one thing about my health that I am always trying to improve, and that's my inner spiritual health; and really that's not going to help me on the beach. The only things that help me on the beach are one of those canvas fold-up chairs and my Panama.

I suppose you could call it, am I 'God

ready'? So many of us think that the outside matters more than the in. Now that's not to excuse me from any physical discipline, but I would rather spend time on the eternal things than what can only be classed as temporal, especially for me. Saint Paul once wrote:

'For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.'

That's my cover and I'm sticking to it.

SERVICES FOR JULY

**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

**Sunday 8 July [Sixth Sunday after Trinity]**

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

**Sunday 15 July [Seventh 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 22 July [Eighth Sunday after Trinity]**

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

**Sunday 29 July [Ninth Sunday after Trinity]**

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [CW/sung]
10am	Stonesfield	United Benefice Communion [CW/sung]

So this summer if you need any licence to be kind to yourself, tell people that the Rector has said to me I should be 'God ready' rather than 'beach ready', and enjoy that treat and for goodness sake don't feel guilty. It's official!

Well I suppose I ought to be on my bike now!

God bless, keep safe this summertime, and as always, D.F.T.W.

Rev Roy

**Sunday 5 August [Tenth 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 JULY

Sun 1	11am	Revd Rose Westwood Holy Communion
Sun 8	11am	Dawn Haley
Sun 15	11am	Andrew Maisey
Sun 22	11am	Jude Levermore
Sun 29	11am	Peter Allen

**Music!**

John and Charles Wesley greatly encouraged singing as a means of Worship. They wrote the most wonderful hymns, which millions of people sing everyday. Those hymns and many others are an important part of the Services held here. That's why we would love someone to come and play the organ for us. We have kind friends who play when they can, but sadly we often sing without the organ. If you can help by playing at any time, please do get in touch.

Kathleen Alb  rt

**Roman Catholic Worship**

**St Teresa's Charlbury**

**Nourishment**

*Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood*

*remains in me and I in him, says the Lord – John 6:27*

We recently celebrated Corpus Christi, one of the most important feasts in the liturgical calendar. The feast was established in the 13th century in recognition of the primacy Christians attach, one way or another, to the significance of the legacy of the Last Supper, when Christ blessed bread and wine for our spiritual nourishment. In choosing a meal as the context for this supreme act of spiritual generosity in giving himself to us, Christ makes it clear that while it is important to nourish our bodies, it is the feeding of the soul that has true and enduring meaning. Reflections on the importance of this real 'soul food' is evident in much of the Old and New Testaments: *Go, eat your food with gladness, and drink your wine with a joyful heart, for God has already approved what you do – Ecclesiastes 9:7.*

In the New Testament, we are told: *Then Jesus declared, I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty – John 6:35.* Let's enjoy good food and drink, but never forget that real, sustaining nourishment is found only in Christ.

## 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:  
holyltrinityrcchippy@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

*Roman Catholic Community in Stonesfield*

## New Church thought

In the June *Slate*, Rev Roy wrote about  
principled Christians who have played a  
part in much of Western society. I think  
something else, too, is very relevant: the  
origins of those 'biblical values' he refers  
to are the Ten Commandments. They  
are the foundation stone of the  
Christianity that the things Roy

mentions are based on. The 'stable,  
functional democracies' he talks about  
are all, on the whole, founded on similar  
principles. Faiths other than Christianity  
also have comparable elements (see  
quotes below).

As a child, I learned the Ten  
Commandments by heart. As an adult,  
I've looked more deeply into their  
meaning and relevance. They continue to  
be a good reference point (ten good  
reference points, actually) for different  
parts of my life.

'Every major religion of the world has  
similar ideals of love, the same goal of  
benefiting humanity through spiritual  
practice, and the same effect of making  
their followers into better human beings.'  
The Dalai Lama

'Every religion has teachings similar to  
the Ten Commandments, and everyone  
who lives according to the  
commandments is saved.' Emanuel  
Swedenborg

'The Ten Commandments are not an  
arbitrary imposition of a tyrannical Lord.  
They are the universal moral law, valid in  
every time and place. They are the only  
true basis for the lives of individuals,  
societies and nations. Today, as always,  
they are the only future of the human  
family.' Pope John Paul II

*Dale Morris (898210)*

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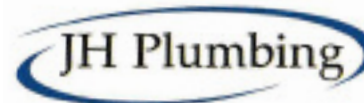
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