

# The Stonesfield Slate

Issue No 487 December 2018/January 2019



## Dates for your diary

December			
1 & 2	Christmas Art Show	Grey Cat Studio	11am–5pm
3,10,17	Monday Coffee	St James' Centre	8.45–10am
3,10,17	SJC Cuppa	St James' Centre	10–11.30am
5,12,19	Country Dancing	Village Hall	8–10pm
6	Scouts Music Quiz	White Horse	8pm
6,13,20	Book Break	Stonesfield Library	12.30–2pm
7	Scout Christmas Bingo	Village Hall	from 6.30pm
8	Christmas Coffee Morning	St James' Centre	10–11.30am
10	Gardening Club Social	St James' Centre	7.30pm
13	Over 60s Lunch	Village Hall	2pm
13	Christmas Bingo	SSSC	Eyes down 7.30pm
21	Children's Christmas party	SSSC	6–8pm
21	Santa's Sleigh visit	around the village from 6.30pm	
22	Carol singing	village shop	10.15–11.15am
22	Band Night <i>Corsairs</i>	SSSC	9pm
23	Village carol service	St James's Church	6pm
January			
1	Stonesfield Stumble	meet at The Cross	11.15am
2,9,16,23,30	Country Dancing	Village Hall	8–10pm
7,14,21,28	Monday Coffee	St James' Centre	8.45–10am
7,14,21,28	SJC Cuppa	St James' Centre	10–11.30am
9	Parish Council meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm
10, 17, 24, 31	Book Break	Stonesfield Library	12.30–2pm
10	Over 60s Club, Start the New Year	Village Hall	2pm
18	Band Night, <i>Them Combe Boys</i>	SSSC	9pm
23	VH Committee meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm

## Publishers

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## Editor for this issue

Dale Morris (898210)

## Editor for February

Dale Morris

## Printer

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

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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❖ A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS ❖

# Seasonal things

## Christmas Art Show 1 & 2 December

Local artists at Grey Cat Studio, Woodlands Rise, Stonesfield from 11am to 5pm. Join Rachael and Becki Sherlaw-Johnson, Jenny Lines, Kerry Burniston and Ann Lowe for our annual Christmas Show, a glass of mulled wine and a good chat. We have lots of original present ideas – crafts, painting, prints, textiles, cards and books. We look forward to seeing you. For further info: rebeccasj@btinternet.com

## Christmas Coffee Morning

Everyone is very warmly invited to come along to a Christmas Coffee Morning on Saturday 8 December, 10–11.30am, at St James' Centre.

Organised by the Parish Church, all the money raised will be given to Cecily's Fund (our own local charity, which makes education possible for orphaned and vulnerable Zambian children).

Apart from coffee and mince pies and time to chat, there will be both cake and Christmas gift stalls. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Seasonal good wishes

Phil, Tina, Curt and Donna would like to wish all our friends and family a very Happy Christmas and a healthy peaceful New Year 2019. We will again be making a donation to Sobell House Hospice Charity instead of sending Christmas cards.

*The Slatter family*

I would like to wish all my friends a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2019. I will be sending a donation to Sobell House Hospice Charity again instead of sending Christmas cards.

*Judy Oliver*

## Stonesfield Stumble

Yes, it's happening again, a New Year's Day walk. A yarn to sort out world problems; meet people you haven't seen since last year's stumble. Start at the Cross 11.15 (plus or minus). Walk is about an hour but allow longer for the post-walk drink at the White Horse. It's the only known cure for a hangover, don't miss it.

*Graham Rutson (898230)*

# Notices

## Tribute

I would like to pay tribute to Wendy Gould, recent Chair of SPC, for her commitment and hard work in support of the Stonesfield village community. When Empire Homes began building their houses in Farley Lane, we had a lot of concerns. Wendy always listened, spoke wisely and offered follow-up support to our questions. Thank you, Wendy.

*from a Farley Lane resident*

## Survey results

Over 300 responses were received to the recent survey of residents' opinions on road safety / speed. The topic generated a wide range of opinions. Overall 69.1% wanted a reduction to the village speed limit and 59.8% were in favour of some additional signage. Full analysis of the results, including all the reports of incidents and comments that were received, can be found in the News section on the village website <https://stonesfield.online>

The full report was presented to the Parish Council at their meeting on 14 November. They will now consider what steps they can take in order to address the concerns raised by residents.

*Paul Bates (paul.bates11@gmail.com)*

## Septemberfest 2018 – Great News!

The Septemberfest team are thrilled to announce a total of £10,487 benefitted

the following charities/village causes: Alzheimer's Research UK, Dogs for Good, Back Up, Stonesfield Village Hall, Stonesfield School Music, Stonesfield PTA, Stonesfield Pre-School.

A huge thank you to everyone in the village (and beyond) who came along – despite the atrocious weather – to be part of one amazing day. Finally, thank you to our generous sponsors, crowd funders, helpers and bands who freely gave of their time. You all rock!

*Septemberfest Team*

## A big thank you from 'Coffee with a Cause'

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who assisted with this fundraising event for MacMillan Cancer Support on Saturday 20 October. Grateful thanks go to those who helped on the day, to all those bakers who provided such a marvellous array of 'cakes and bakes' and to everyone who supported the event and gave so generously. Our collective efforts raised a pleasing total of £497 and MacMillan have sent a 'certificate of thanks' to the community of Stonesfield.

*Rachel Scott and Trisha Williams*

## Fundraising Concert for New Yatt Riding for the Disabled – Saturday 15 December

Fiddle/guitar duo Henderson:Hooper will be putting on a fundraising concert for

the New Yatt Riding for the Disabled. It is at Stonesfield Parish Church on Saturday 15 December; doors open 7.15pm for 7.45pm start. We will be playing tunes from our album Pete's Trees, as well as some new repertoire. In the second half we will be joined by the fabulous singer and bass player Susanna Starling, with whom we form The Boot Band.

Tickets £10 for adults; no specific charge for children, but a donation would be appreciated. Tickets are available on the door on the night, not in advance. Parking available in Stonesfield Primary School.

*Judith Hooper (898604)*

### Remembrance Sunday

The service at the war memorial on Remembrance Sunday, which this year coincided with Remembrance Day on 11 November, was probably the biggest turnout ever, with an estimate of more than 150 people. It is appropriate that the centenary of the ending of hostilities at the end of the first World War should have been marked in such a fitting way.

Readers are reminded that there is a map on the wall at the back of the church showing where the men named on the memorial were killed.

*Clive Sutton*

### New bikes for Christmas – but is your shed or garage full?

'ReCycle – Bikes to Africa'

Your used bikes can ensure access to school or employment in Africa via any branch of Halfords, where the charity 'ReCycle Bikes to Africa' accepts any bike

providing it isn't rusted through or missing any major parts. Halfords, Meadowside Retail Park, Botley Road, Oxford accepts bikes at any time – other local Halfords have set donation days. Volunteers ensure the repairs and the transportation of the bikes to Africa via charity-supporting companies. So simple to donate, but so valuable a commodity to those who receive one.

### 'Qhubeka' Bicycles Change Lives'

Qhubeka is a global non-profit organisation in South Africa which employs the unemployed in their factories to make new strong basic bicycles with panniers. These bikes are donated to children and adults (who have proved their commitment) to access education, employment, or sell produce. Donations can be made very simply online in £ sterling. (A small charge is deducted from your donation for the conversion of £ into South African Rand.)

Please check out all these details for yourself. Thank you.

*Barbara Hepburn, Farley Close*

### All it takes is one distraction

Did you know that 1 in 3 people rescued from house fires in Oxfordshire are rescued from cooking fires? Or that distraction is the main cause of cooking fires? It's easy to get distracted – the phone rings, someone's at the door or a TV show catches your attention. If you need to leave your cooking, even for a couple of minutes:

- turn down the heat
- set the timer
- or ask someone to watch it

Or you could find that Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service firefighters join you for dinner! Find out more at: [www.365alive.co.uk/cooking](http://www.365alive.co.uk/cooking)

### Wychwood Autumn Events

Dry stone walling course, Saturday 8 December, 10am–3pm, Foxburrow Wood, Witney: Work with experienced local wallers to begin the construction of a feature wall. No experience necessary. All tools and equipment provided. Bring stout boots, gloves if you have them and suitable clothing for the weather. Drinks will be on offer in the Wychwood gazebo but you will need to bring lunch. Portable loo on site. Booking essential at [www.wychwoodproject.org](http://www.wychwoodproject.org) under the Learning/Events tab. £35 per person. Maximum 8 places.

Wychwood Hedgelaying begins in

December: Join us on Saturday 1 December, 9.30am–3pm, for the first of the season's hedge-laying days on the Saltway. No experience necessary; others will be on hand to help you learn this traditional hedgerow management technique. All tools and equipment provided. Call the office for location details, 07584 262437 / 07393 001062.

### Save the date: March 2019

'Keep Britain Tidy' organises an annual nationwide campaign to encourage people to tidy up their local community. Stonesfield will officially be part of it in March/April next year. I'll be contacting individuals and groups with suggestions for their involvement. In the meantime, get in touch if YOU want to be involved. More details in the February *Slate*.

*Jess Huband (jesshuband@hotmail.co.uk)*

# Politics & local affairs

## Parish Council Report

The CALA Homes appeal will definitely come up for consultation in April 2019. SPC is working together with SUSTO to ensure the village has the best representation possible to fight this case.

**Mobile Phone Mast.** Good news! The mobile phone mast is up and running. Stonesfield has a signal with the outside world at last.

**Tree Planting Ceremony.** A tree planting ceremony took place on Sunday 11 November to commemorate Armistice Day. A Silver Birch was planted at the Church, accompanied by a plaque to note the occasion. The Revd Roy Turner led the ceremony.

**Traffic Survey.** A detailed traffic survey has been made by local residents. This has been presented to SPC and it will be taken for further consultation with the local police, Highways Division and the County Councillor representing Stonesfield, Ian Hudspeth. Leader of OCC.

**Great British Tidy-up.** Stonesfield Village will participate in the Great British Tidy-up due to take place at a weekend at the end of March 2019. This involves participation from local residents to pick up litter and generally make the village a neat and tidy looking place. More details later but if you are interested in joining the group please contact the Clerk.

**Grants Available for 2019–2020.** Another reminder that grants are

available for local organisations. Application forms available from the Clerk; please send your email to [stonesfieldpc@gmail.com](mailto:stonesfieldpc@gmail.com). WODC are also offering Community Grants.

**Parking in the Street.** Another reminder: Please do not to park your vehicle on the verges and pavements in the village. Footpaths and Pavements should be kept clear at all times.

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 9 January 2019 at the Village Hall. All members of the public are welcome.

*Gill Hill, Parish Clerk*  
([stonesfieldpc@gmail.com](mailto:stonesfieldpc@gmail.com))

## A threat to volunteer bus services?

In a previous edition of the *Slate* our local MP, Robert Courts, spoke warmly about volunteer-run bus services such as that from Stonesfield to Witney provided by Villager.

Mr Courts should be aware that a government review has lumped volunteer services like ours with the activities of some operators with volunteer staff who are competing, arguably unfairly, for commercial contracts against operators with paid staff. This review will report soon, and unless a distinction is made between volunteer services like the Villager service to Witney and those of a more commercial nature, it could result in service permit problems. It may also

mean that prohibitively expensive training requirements are put in place – even for true volunteer services – similar to those required for a full-time driver of a double decker.

Mr Courts should also be aware that anyone who got a full driving licence after 1997 will be unable to volunteer as a driver in future because the weight limit covered by ordinary licences was then reduced to less than that of a minibus. This will become a problem over time.

No doubt if these problems threaten to materialise, Mr Courts will be prepared to substitute action for warm words.

*Mark Winstanley*

## People's March, 20 October

Were YOU there? Among the estimated 700,000 other people wanting a 'People's Vote' on the outcome of the Brexit negotiations? It was a beautiful day, and a massive good-natured crowd. We know of at least 14 other Stonesfield residents who travelled to London to express their horror at the chaos of the current negotiations. Placards and banners waved; a small brass band tootled single file up the middle of the street; children, teenagers, parents, grandparents all stood in the crowd for hours, then walked towards Parliament Square for the speeches. We weren't demanding a rerun of the original referendum, but a chance to vote on the deal; that must include being able to reject the deal put in front of us. Abandoning Brexit altogether should be an option. A second vote would be a symbol that democracy is alive and well in the UK.

There were some very clever/poignant/rude/angry-but-polite placards amid the blue and starry EU flags, beanies and t-shirts. Here's what some of them said:

*If a democracy cannot change its mind, it ceases to be a democracy.* (David Davies, 2012)

*When every road ahead is a dead end, turn around!*

*All pain, no gain, insane!!*

*Even Baldrick would have a Cunning Plan.*

*62.5% of the electorate did NOT vote for Brexit.*

*No deal, no vote, no way!*

*Eton mess* (with photos of Cameron & Johnson).

*I made this placard instead of SCREAMING.*

*Measure twice, cut once.*

*Break Brexit before Brexit breaks Britain.*

*So much wrong, so little cardboard.*

*Richard & Dale Morris (898210)*

## Village Hall News

A big thank you to all who have used our facilities, and those who have supported us in 2018! We are lucky to have such a busy and lively community with so much going on, but we always have space for new clubs, parties and functions so please do get in touch for details. Here's looking forward with excitement to an amazing 2019.

*Jacqueline Carthew, Secretary & Booking Clerk (01993 898919; [stonesfieldvh@gmail.com](mailto:stonesfieldvh@gmail.com))*

## District Jottings

We had a very lively Council meeting in October. Topics included Modern Slavery, the People's Vote Campaign, water/sewage discharge, 4G coverage, and



single-use plastic. The meeting was very well attended and the discussion and exchange of views was interesting and emphatic. Several members of the public spoke eloquently and the whole meeting seemed to epitomise the democratic ethos of our District Council.

The West Oxfordshire Water Day, held recently, was praised by all and it was agreed that it had been useful and would engender action by and on behalf of the Environment Agency and Thames Water.

On the planning front the only major change was the decision by Gladman developers to withdraw their application for 3000+ houses etc. at Barnard Gate on the A40. Although no specific reasons were given, it is suspected that they had reviewed the situation in the light of the widespread approval for the Eynsham Garden Village project, which has enjoyed approval by the Government.

Stonesfield still awaits the decision of the Inspectorate on the Cala application, now not expected much before April.

WODC has decided to approve the acquisition of Emergency Homeless accommodation within the District. This will curtail the necessity for emergency homeless people being temporarily housed in B&B and other emergency accommodation. It was noted that there have been and will continue to be occasions when it is inadvisable to accommodate people in the immediate area as a result of possible intimidation and/or violence.

Council also approved the establishment of a fund to facilitate the delivery of an increased number of affordable homes through the auspices of Cottsway

Housing. Although the need for affordable homes is not quite as great as has been reported in some press articles, the need is certainly apparent and this move will help to assuage that need.

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

## County Council report

### Woodstock Library

The library has had to close temporarily due to a structural problem making it unsafe for staff and users.

### Repairing the roads

An extra £10m effectively doubled the amount of money invested in repairs, and crews are out and about every day in all types of weather doing the job.

### Salting, gritting and snow clearance

OCC is committed to keeping the network of major roads free from ice to minimise the risk of accidents and ensure the smooth flow of traffic. Precautionary salting ('gritting') helps achieve this aim. OCC usually salts between 2 November and 5 April. Details about how community groups can request salt bins can be found here:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/street-maintenance-z/salt-and-grit-bins>

### Victims First: Care / Empower / Recover

Do you need support following a crime? Victims First provides free support for victims of crime across Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. To speak to a Victims First Officer about any of the services and to receive support please call 0300 1234 148, [www.victims-first.org.uk](http://www.victims-first.org.uk)

# 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

Manager: Debbie Wilson

## Stonesfield Primary School

November 12–16 was Anti-bullying week with a national theme this year of 'Choose Respect'. In September, as a staff, we discussed our Golden Rules and realised that all the behaviours we wanted to promote in our children boiled down to these three:

- Be safe
- Be respectful
- Be ready to learn

As a school we pre-empt bullying by promoting tolerance, empathy and respect in our pupils on a daily basis: through assemblies; staff modelling these qualities; stories; and discussions. In our English lessons we encourage children to put themselves in characters' shoes, understand their motives and behaviours, and write from their viewpoint. When dealing with conflicts between pupils we ask children to consider the feelings of each other. Strong emotional literacy results in strong caring relationships, co-

operation and collaboration, and the feeling of community. This is the essence of what makes Stonesfield School such a fantastic place to work and learn in. And I do believe that all adults in our village have a responsibility to show respect to each other and model these behaviours for our future generations.

Thank you to everyone who came and supported our Christmas Fair earlier in the month. There was a lovely atmosphere with high quality products on sale and FoSS (Friends of Stonesfield School) raised a good amount of money.

Finally, a huge thank you to our anonymous benefactor for their donation which has resulted in our dry-stone wall being repaired – it looks fabulous!

*Ben Trevail, Headteacher*

## Shadow of the Desert – two reviews

(1) Just a message of appreciation to David Lines, Becki Sherlaw-Johnson and all of the actors and backstage technicians of the Stonesfield Players for their production of *Shadow of the Desert*. As usual, Stonesfield punching way above its weight to produce such a polished and unique entertainment in a village the size of ours.

The Players have really made the Radio Play format their own, making best use of an unusually-shaped venue. Concentrating on Lawrence's life post-'... of Arabia' days made it all the more



*A Brough Superior, with Mark Burniston as Lawrence of Arabia*

fascinating in a tragicomedy written with a deft touch and delivered with such attention to detail from actors and sound crew.

Beyond the play, the amount of work that went into the supporting exhibition was outstanding; the cherry on the cake for me was getting up close to a Brough Superior. I am hoping that a recording will be made available to relive it, so it can be experienced by people who couldn't make it on the night. Such talent and effort Stonesfield Players, Bravo!

*James Dolan*

(2) On Friday 9 November a full-house audience entered a time-capsule at St James' Centre, to hear the Stonesfield Players' production of a radio play that was both thriller and docu-drama. To their delight they found a simple set adorned with authentic ON and OFF AIR electric signs, and microphones at which the actors read their lines. They were watching a 90-minute radio play being performed. Stonesfield author David Lines tackled the problem of the murky detail about T. E. Lawrence's death by making it the climax of his play. The facts supported the pace of the plot, the motivations were unfolded



*Steve Searle as Flight Sergeant Evans, Alison Richards as Clare Smith, and Mark Burniston*

to explain them, and their force and power were conveyed by Steve Searle's Baldwin and Mark Saville's sinister MI5 chief, Colonel Bowman. The power and clunkiness of the military machine was admirably conveyed by Graham Rutson as the Air Force supremo Hoare, tasked with keeping a potential firebrand out of sight; and by Andrew Lines, as Lawrence's Wing Commander. The audience had an unneeded but welcome bonus in seeing the actors. Andrew's face as the cuckolded Air Force Wing Commander added a poignancy that soldier-speak could barely hint at. David Lines has packed a great deal of

research into his drama. Lawrence's fame, his network of influential friends, his easy insubordination and personal magnetism served to explain why he was difficult to control, as he continually 'backed into the limelight'. His deep wounds from the betrayal of the Arabs contributed to his search for a new purpose, perhaps driving him towards the fascists. Mark Burniston, who played Lawrence (aka Aircraftman Shaw), conveyed his charm and enthusiasm with a voice just perfect for a radio hero.

But it was the women who made this play such a success. The unstoppable

Clare Smith, played by Alison Richards with a perfect high-class accent, shares Lawrence's frustration at lacking a role that matches their capabilities and ambitions to make a difference. They roar along the Solent together on an Air Force speedboat, ignoring others' disapproval. Wonderful casting, but so too was that of Griselda Sherlaw-Johnson, playing Clare's sister-in-law Patty. Though enraged by Lawrence's deception of her brother, she provides a final twist by realising the threat to Lawrence in that era of populism and assassinations. The author and players have taken a complicated history and made it into a crunchy, rolling, crisp and exciting play. The sound effects were powerful, but the invitation to simply close your eyes and listen – never!

Peter Clifton

### ChOC Film

Sunday 16 December at 3pm: *Paddington 2* – The Family Matinee at Christmas Cert PG / 103mins. A film for the whole family to enjoy together. Free popcorn for children and mince pies for adults.

Memorial Hall, Charlbury. Doors and licensed bar from 2.15pm. Admission: Family Ticket (2 adults and one or two children), £12 / Adults, £5 / U15s, £3.

### An afternoon with Brian Boothby

Saturday 6 January: Singer/songwriter Brian Boothby will perform original works from his latest album *Firegazing*. Describing the collection as 'lyrical, story-weaving songs of land, loss, vision and

valediction', Brian hopes to inspire contemplation fitting for the season of reflection on the past year and looking forward to the next. Discover more at [www.brianboothby.co.uk](http://www.brianboothby.co.uk)

In the Memorial Hall, Charlbury at 3pm, followed by free tea and cake. Tickets £12 from Cotswold Frames or Larcum's nearer the date, or simply reserve by emailing [charlburyrefugee@gmail.com](mailto:charlburyrefugee@gmail.com). All proceeds to Charlbury Refugee Action Group.

### The Woodstock Bookshop

6 December, 7pm: A talk by Oxford author Nancy Campbell. Join us to celebrate the publication of her book, *The Library of Ice*, combining memoir, scientific and cultural history with a bewitching account of landscape and place. It is a fascinating evocation of the interplay of people and their environment on a fragile planet, and of a writer's quest to define the value of her work in a disappearing landscape.

As a contribution to your Christmas shopping, there will be 10% off all books bought that evening, and £5 off *The Library of Ice*.

17 January, 7pm: Woodstock author Melanie King launches her new book *The Lady is a Spy* at St Hugh's Centre, Hensington Road, Woodstock OX20 1JH.

19 January, 7.30pm: – Diane Setterfield, author of international bestseller *The Thirteenth Tale* and Bellman & Black, comes to Woodstock Town Hall to launch her mesmerising new novel *Once Upon A River*, set on the Thames at Radcot.

Each talk is £6, to include a glass of wine. Please book in advance through the bookshop: 01993 812760 or [info@woodstockbookshop.co.uk](mailto:info@woodstockbookshop.co.uk).

### Woodstock Music Society Winter Concert

Haydn: *The Seasons (Autumn and Winter)*  
Tchaikovsky: *The Seasons* (selection)

Katherine Walker, soprano; Tristan Stocks, tenor; Brian McAlea, bass

Friday 7 and Saturday 8 December, 7.30pm, St Mary Magdalene Church, Woodstock.

Tickets: £13 in advance or £14 at the door, full time students £5, accompanied children under 16 free, from The Woodstock Bookshop (01993 812760) or email: [concerts@woodstockmusic.info](mailto:concerts@woodstockmusic.info).

### Oxfordshire Museum

**Exhibition:** Until 30 December: The Oxfordshire Craft Guild Christmas Selling Exhibition. This annual exhibition features many of the county's leading contemporary craft designers and makers.

#### Talks:

1 December: *Votes for Women in Oxford & Oxfordshire* by Dr Katherine Bradley. Marking 99 years to the day that Nancy Astor became the first woman to take her seat in Parliament, we delve more deeply into the suffragist movement. 2.30pm, tickets £8, phone 01993 814106 or from reception.

5 December: *Oxford Archaeology* with Wendy Morrison. Beacons of the past, examining hillforts – The Chiltern Hill

Fort Project. 7.30pm, tickets £4, Friends free.

9 January: *Twenty centuries of decorative glass* by John Banbury, Honorary Townsman of Woodstock. 7.30pm, tickets £4, Friends free. [FriendsofTOM@live.co.uk](mailto:FriendsofTOM@live.co.uk)

Family Fun: Seasonal quizzes and trails available throughout the holidays

Thursdays 27 December and 4 January: Creative make and take activities. 2-4pm, £2 per child/£5 per family.

Christmas opening times:

The museum will be open as normal but closed on these dates: 24–26 & 31 December and 1 January.

Wishing all our visitors a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

### Community Education at the Marlborough School, Woodstock

Booking is open for our weekly courses starting in the New Year. We have spaces for Yoga on Monday and Thursday mornings, and a few on Monday evenings and Tuesday afternoons. Zumba Gold (Thursday 5.15pm) has some places, as well as badminton on a Monday evening at 7pm.

Our next Saturday workshops are on 26 January, when we are running wet felting, acrylic painting, and drawing for all. Our cookery class will help you prepare a 4-course winter menu, or come to our sewing course and let Sue Hazell advise you on completing those UFOs (unfinished objects!).

We are also offering a chance to try



Vinyasa yoga, and supportive sessions for people getting to grips with using an iPad or iPhone, or wanting to manage the menopause positively.

Our courses make original and long lasting Christmas presents.

Cleo and I would like to wish all of our students a Happy Christmas. We are closed in the school holidays from 20 December and reopen on 8 January.

Please check availability on our website or call the office for more information, or to book a place.

*Celia Clark, Coordinator (01993 813592; comed.4560@marlborough.oxon.sch.uk  
www.marlborough.oxon.sch.uk/comm*

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**Louise Everett-Brown**

[lou.smiley1@btinternet.com](mailto:lou.smiley1@btinternet.com)  
01993 813873



### 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.

### New book by local author

My first book to be published is now available. It's the culmination of a lot of research into the social side of the pubs in Witney. Its title is *The Life and Times of the Inns, Taverns and Beerhouses of Witney, Oxfordshire*. It would make a lovely Christmas present and can be purchased online at [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com), search for 23852548. The book costs £9.99 plus p&p. Alternatively you can purchase the book from me at £10. Remember also that I have put a lot of information about village pubs on the village website; look on the Stonesfield Life link.

*Douglas Rudlin (07929 842893)*



Tracey Keeling

### Personal Trainer

*Specialist in the older adult*

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- Build strength and stamina
- Improve balance and coordination
- Combat slowing metabolism
- Increase flexibility
- Improve your mood

Call to find out how specialist personal training can help you. Arrange a visit to my local, private gym for a **FREE**, no obligation consultation. I offer an experienced, professional and supportive service – always with a smile!

[traceykeeling@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:traceykeeling@hotmail.co.uk)  
**07977 228756 01993 898911**

## Clubs & societies

### Stonesfield Scouts

All 'eyes down' for Christmas Bingo on 7 December at the village hall. Come and join us for an evening of fun, fabulous bingo and raffle prizes, bar and refreshments. Doors open at 6.30pm, 'eyes down' at 7pm.

Look out for post boxes for senior citizens' Christmas cards from 1 December at the shop, Over 60s and Lunch clubs. Please ensure that addresses include house numbers/names and roads, for delivery within the village only, from 14 December by our young people.

And finally, don't forget to look out for Santa's sleigh, touring our village on 21 December. We are always hugely grateful to Witney Round Table for helping us raise money both for local charities and our own scout group. Catch up with us and join in with some carols!

Thank you to everyone in the village who has supported our group in so many ways throughout the year. If you, or someone you know, would like to get involved, contact us at [info@stonesfield-scouts.org.uk](mailto:info@stonesfield-scouts.org.uk)

We wish you a very happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous new year.

*1st Stonesfield Scout Group*

### Stonesfield Gardening Club

For our November meeting, we invited local resident and keen lepidopterist Martin Gascoigne-Pees to talk to us about the butterflies in our gardens, the

hedgerows and on the Common and what we should be planting to encourage them. What they need are nectar-rich plants, starting from early in the year with spring bulbs such as crocus, tulip and allium, right through the summer with buddleia, catmint, candytuft and perennial wallflowers, on to the sedums in the autumn. We learnt that many species overwinter in ivy and are very attracted to the hedgerow plants such as spindle, dogwood, brambles and of course nettles – so we need to make sure that our gardens are not too tidy.

Martin's photographs were wonderfully clear and showed us the Brimstone, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Painted Lady, Red Admiral, Orange Tip and Holly Blue. Also the Common Blue, Marbled White and Meadow Brown more likely to be seen on the Common. The butterfly we don't want to see in our gardens, the Cabbage White, was also shown in glorious technicolour! Martin has kindly allowed us to put some of his photographs on our website – see address below.

Our next meeting on 10 December will be our Christmas Social, with mulled wine, mince pies and a quiz at 7.30 in the St James' Centre. This is also the time to join up for 2019 - £8 per person, £15 per couple.

*Diane Bates [diane@bateshome.co.uk](mailto:diane@bateshome.co.uk)  
<http://stonesfieldgardening.info>*

### Stonesfield Over 60s Club

We were almost a full house for our



November meeting. The Bingo prizes were once again Christmassy and we were grateful to those who shopped for them and to Julie who took on the calling. The prizes were nicely spread around and after the last house we were all ready for our cuppa accompanied by a very nice puff pastry mince pie. Hope you all had a wish.

Names were taken for our Christmas Lunch which is once again being organised by our good friend David Woodfine on 13 December. The door will be open at 12.30pm to allow us time to set everything out ready for service at 1pm. We hope to make this a happy afternoon. There will be fun and games, a raffle and Santa's Sack.

Our first gathering for 2019 will be on 10 January. at 2pm and anyone over 60 will be welcome to join us on that day.

Alan and I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Avis

### Stonesfield Folk Dance Club

The Dance we organised for the end of October with Purcell's Polyphonic Party playing to local callers was well attended with dancers travelling from London, Dorset and Staffordshire all intent on dancing to the wonderful music of PPP.

With all the Oxfordshire Clubs organising special dances in the run-up to Christmas we are going to be busy. The Stonesfield Club's Christmas Dance is on 19 December, when the Donkey House Band will be playing for us.

Our regular club nights are on

Wednesdays from 8pm to 10pm and we welcome all ages with or without partner. All the dances are easy to pick up. If you have been to a Barn Dance and enjoyed yourself you would love English Country Dancing. It is an excellent way to work off those extra pounds after Christmas.

For more information about us see [www.stonesfieldfolkdance.danceorg.uk](http://www.stonesfieldfolkdance.danceorg.uk) or telephone Stewart Nicholls 01295-730271 or email [stewart.nicholls@virgin.net](mailto:stewart.nicholls@virgin.net)

### Woodstock & District U3A

Our monthly meetings are at Woodstock Community Centre, New Road, Woodstock, OX20 1PB, generally every first Tuesday at 2pm. Visitors are welcome (£2). For more information: [www.u3asites.org.uk/woodstock](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/woodstock)

Our next meeting is on 4 December, when Tim Walker will be talking about *In the Bleak Midwinter*. On 8 Jan 2019, Mark Walsh will be speaking about *Entertainment and Radio*.

### Ladies Probus

Jenny Atkinson spoke to us in November about Papua New Guinea. We saw wonderful photographs of enormous butterflies, moths and beetles, also several different types of Birds of Paradise.

Ladies Probus has some good things planned, holidays, intelligent talks, days out and trips to points of interest. We would warmly welcome enquiries from potential members; for further information please contact 01993 812025.

### North Leigh History Society

4 December: *17th Century Christmases*, A talk by Tim Healey. The 17th century was a period of great changes, with the English Civil War in the middle, so there is plenty of interest. We are offering all our visitors and members festive refreshments at this gathering.

Meetings take place in the Turner Hall, Church Road, North Leigh OX29 6TX at 7.30 pm. Everyone is welcome. Visitors £4, Members free. Further details from Diana Power 01993 882301.

### Witney Music Society

The next concert in our 2018–19 season will be on Friday 7 December by the award-winning trumpeter Matilda Lloyd and pianist Leo Nicholson, performing works by Scarlatti, Deborah Pritchard, Vivaldi, Gershwin and more.

On Friday 11 January, Ensemble Mirage – violin, viola, cello, piano, clarinet and

French horn – will play works for sextet by Eberl, Mussorgsky/Rimsky Korsakov, Penderecki and Dohnanyi.

Both concerts take place at 7.30pm at High Street Methodist Church, Witney. Tickets (£12, under 19 £1) will be available at the door from 7pm. For more information, please telephone 01993 702296 or visit the Witney Music Society website [www.witneymusicsociety.org.uk](http://www.witneymusicsociety.org.uk)

### Sports & Social Club

Christmas opening:

24 December	4pm till Midnight
25 December	11am till 2pm
26 December	Noon till 8pm
31 December	4pm till 1am, Disco in evening
1 January 2019	Noon till 4pm

The Sports and Social Club would like to wish ALL a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

### 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 DECEMBER or JANUARY please ring Peter Clifton (891956) or Jenny Haviland (891614).**

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

# Sport

## Stonesfield Football Club

The more eagle-eyed reader will be aware that The Fredo Award is usually announced at the end of the report but this month's winner, in my humble opinion, deserves pride of place! The Firsts have taken the much sought-after scalp of the mighty Charlbury, away in The Fred Ford Cup. Riding high in the Premiership and unbeaten so far this season, the cup tie had 'home win' written all over it, especially after 20 mins with the home side 3-1 up. However, by half time our boys had clawed it back to 3-3 and with a minute to go were 4-3 up when Charlbury struck to take it into extra time. Our boys then took the lead but Charlbury scored at the death to make it 5-5 and set up the dreaded penalty shoot-out. It was here that The Fredo was won by Michael Phipps! Playing in goal, Michael saved two penalties and scored one himself to put our boys into the next round. A stunning result and a stunning team display but the heroics from Michael at the end were truly deserving of The Fredo!

Some say the result shouldn't be a huge surprise as our boys have been playing really well this season. Recent home wins against Moreton (5-0) and Bletchingdon (1-0) and a draw with Chadlington (2-2) sees them top of Div 1 on goal difference.

Let's hope they can maintain that excellent form in the lead up to The Festive Period and beyond.

The Reserves are currently 2nd in the league on goal difference and that may well prove to be their Achilles' Heel. The month started at Milton where they won a pulsating encounter (5-4) with the aging (well, he is 50!) veteran Dave Holloway scoring two and the sprightly Jamie Gardener notching his obligatory hat-trick. They then drew (1-1) with Ascott before their defensive frailties were ruthlessly exposed in a home loss (2-7) to Brize Norton. As Brian Clarke says, 'Potent in attack, porous in defence'; sums up our reserves perfectly!

History makers last month and so it proved again this time as The Ladies won their first game with a win away at Carterton (3-2). Goals from Kayleigh Higgs, Elle Clark and Polly Hipkiss helped write a page in Stonesfield folklore!

Hard to believe that the festive period is fast-approaching ... I must be getting old ... well, older than Dave Holloway but younger than Brian Clarke, so old enough! On behalf of The Football Club I'd just like to wish each and every one of you a very Happy Christmas and all the very best for a healthy and successful year in 2019.

*Tom Flanigan (891979)*

# 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](mailto: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

*For pastoral help please contact the Rector*

## From your Parish Priest

Can I say, before I look forward to our December celebrations with you, what a heartwarming service and indeed turn-out for our Remembrance Service on 11 November.

At last we had an opportunity to celebrate the centenary of the Armistice thankfully signed in 1918. Thank you all for coming, not least of all our young uniformed youth organisations. It is always good to see you all and of course thanks to the respective leaders too for giving up your time to be at church with them.

So here we are again standing ready for our Advent preparations, our time of waiting for the fulfilment of the promised Messiah you and I will joyfully celebrate on the 25th. There is hope of course written all over our children's faces, not to mention lists prepared for the coming festivities that for them are very often crowned with a long-awaited new bike,

perhaps a new dolly or teddy. Perhaps some sort of incomprehensible electronic gadget that will require two dozen AA batteries . . . oh don't forget the batteries.

We are, as we all know, surrounded by masses of adverts and promises of wonderful toys at amazing prices, prices that are eye-watering for the purchaser, and it's hard to see through the glitter on offer sometimes. For me, I must say, I wish for all mums and dads, grandparents and extended family aunts and uncles that you will find some peace in it all. Some respite and a good old flop in the chair at some point this December.

I am so thankful that my words used earlier about peace, joy, hope, promise and of course Messiah or Saviour are all there for us, for no cost at all to us. It tells us in the scriptures that Christ has paid the price for us to receive all those gifts for our lives. That the babe born at our Christmas time, whom we will shortly be

celebrating again, was also born for our Easter day and has bought all those qualities of peace, joy, hope and all the rest – they have already been paid for and they can be ours.

So I really recommend, as you try to find a chair to flop in this Christmas time, when you have found it and have flopped, to close your eyes, say a little prayer of thanks for all that you have, and relax into God's warm and loving glow.

So, dear ones, as you sink further into you

favourite chair, may the humility of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the joy of the angels, and the peace of the Christ-child be God's gift to you and to people everywhere at this Christmastime.

Bye for now and hope to see you at least at some of our many celebrations around the two parishes of Stonesfield and Combe, and as always D.F.T.W.

Rev Roy

## SERVICES FOR DECEMBER and JANUARY

### Sunday 2 December [Advent Sunday]

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [BCP/said]
9.30am	Combe Longa	All Age Worship - Christingle
11am	Stonesfield	All Age Worship
5pm	Stonesfield	Advent Sunday reflection and meditation

### Sunday 9 December [Second Sunday of Advent]

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

### Sunday 16 December [Third Sunday of Advent]

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [BCP/said]
9.30am	Combe Longa	Parish Communion [CW/said]
11am	Stonesfield	Communion Service for all ages
3pm	Combe Longa	Village Carol Service

### Sunday 23 December [Fourth Sunday of Advent]

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

### Christmas Eve: Monday 24 December

3.30pm	Stonesfield	Crib Service – for all the family
10pm	Combe Longa	Midnight Holy Communion
10pm	Stonesfield	Midnight Holy Communion

### Christmas Day: Tuesday 25 December

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [BCP/said]
9.30am	Combe Longa	Family Service with Holy Communion
11am	Stonesfield	Family Service with Holy Communion

### Sunday 30 December [First Sunday of Christmas]

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

### Sunday 6 January [Epiphany]

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

### Sunday 13 January [Epiphany 2]

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

### Sunday 20 January [Epiphany 3]

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

### Sunday 27 January [Epiphany 4]

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [BCP/said]
9.30am	Combe	Parish Communion [BCP/said]
11am	Stonesfield	Parish Communion [CW/sung]
4.30pm	Combe Longa	Evensong

### Sunday 3 February [Fifth Sunday before Lent]

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.

### Money Collections at Christmas Services

There will be an opportunity at the Carol Service on Sunday 23 December to donate to The Porch, a charity helping the homeless in Oxford.

At the Crib Service, children often like to place a gift under the Christmas tree – we would be grateful if this could be a gift of money for the Children's Society, instead of a toy. Thank you.



## Carol Singing

Everyone is most welcome to join in carol singing on Saturday 22 December, 10.15-11.15am, outside the village shop. Not only will this help to remind us all of the meaning of Christmas, but it will also be a good way to raise money for the latest Disasters Emergency Committee Appeal.

## Stonesfield Methodist Church

### SERVICES FOR DECEMBER

Sun 2	11am	The Revd Rose Westwood Holy Communion
Sun 9	11am	Robin Gurney
Sun 16	11am	Revd Charles Harris
Sun 23	3pm	The Revd Rose Westwood Holy Communion
Sun 25		Circuit Services – no service at Stonesfield
Sun 30		Circuit Services – no service at Stonesfield

### SERVICES FOR JANUARY

Sun 6	11am	Revd Rose Westwood , Covenant Service
Sun 13	11am	David Sarbutts
Sun 20	11am	Jude Levermore
Sun 27	11am	Ian Prince

Hooray! It's almost time for the loved, or maybe dreaded, season of Christmas.

What worries you just now?

Is it the amount of food you will need, or could it be the unusual presents you're wishing desperately to find, or perhaps it's the big one, the struggle to get everything perfect on the day.

Pause a moment, and be still. Simply picture the tiny baby in the stable, watch the dazzling star as it sets the sky aglow, look down on the Light of the World as He sleeps, and rest assured – the best gift is here!

May your Christmas time be full of His blessings. Come and share the celebrations here on 23 December at 3pm. All are very welcome.

*Kathleen Albért (01993 891733;  
k.m.albert@gmail.com))*

## Roman Catholic Worship

### Rejoice

*He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice at his birth.* Luke 1, 1:14

The arrival of a new baby is always such cause for joy and celebration. A new birth seems to signal new hope, a belief in renewal and regeneration. Even if we are not related to the child, we can share and participate in those feelings. Think then of that child born in very humble circumstances at a time of trouble in whose infant hands the fate of all humanity rested.

*She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room . . . Look, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people.* Luke 2, 1:20

With Christmas nearly upon us with all the shopping, cooking and general haste and hurry, let's take a moment or two to reflect that we are continuing to celebrate, with joy, the birth of that child who changed the course of the world's history for ever. A reason to rejoice indeed.

## 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.

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

16 Dec	Advent Carol Service at St Teresa's, 3pm
17 Dec	Reconciliation service at St Teresa's, 7.30pm
24 Dec	Mass of Christmas Night, 8.30 pm
25 Dec	Christmas Day Mass, 9.15 am

## 2019 Forthcoming Events

United Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Sunday 20 January at 4pm at St Teresa's followed by tea at the Methodist Church Upper Room. The service has been prepared by the Christians of Indonesia this year.

**Father Tony Joyce** can be contacted on

holytrinityrcchippy@gmail.com or telephone (01608 642703).

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

The Roman Catholic Community in Stonesfield wishes everyone a joyous and peaceful Christmas and New Year

## New Church thought

This year, one of my favourite carols, written by my grandfather in 1922:

City of David, Bethlehem  
city of hope to the sons of men  
Out of thy darkness shines a star  
light of all peoples near and far.  
Within thy walls on Christmas day  
in lowly manger Jesus lay.  
*Glory in the highest!*

Shepherds of old, whose humble praise  
echoes the song that the angels raise  
Draw near again this Christmas morn.  
Joy to the world, the Lord is born!  
For unto us a Son is giv'n:  
the Prince of Peace, the God of heav'n!  
*Glory in the highest!*

Glory to God, the angels sing.  
Glory to God, our Lord and King/  
Anthems of praise the heavens fill:  
'Peace on the earth, to men good will!'

With joy proclaim to all the earth  
our Lord and Saviour's wondrous birth!  
*Glory in the highest!*

*Dale Morris (898210)*

### Advertisements

Line ads: £1.50 per 30 words.

Boxed ads: 1/16 page £2; 1/8 page £4;  
1/4 page £8; 1/2 page £12; whole page £24.

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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)



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BYO

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and make a booking or call 01993 898614



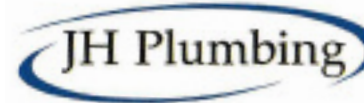
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