

The Stonesfield Slate

Issue No 488 February 2019



Dates for your diary – February

| | | | |
|---------------|--|-----------------------|------------------|
| 2 | Band Night, Fallen Angels | SSSC | 9pm |
| 4,11,25 | Monday Coffee | St James' Centre | 8.45–10am |
| 4,11,18,25 | SJC Cuppa | St James' Centre | 10–11.30am |
| 6, 13, 20, 27 | Lunch Club | St James' Centre | 10.30am–3pm |
| 6 | W.O.Community Choir | St James' Centre | 7.30–9.30pm |
| 7,14,21,28 | Book Break | Stonesfield Library | 12.30–2pm |
| 7 | Bingo | SSSC | eyes down 7.30pm |
| 9 | Wine/Coffee & Nibbles | St James' Centre | 7–9pm |
| 11 | Gardening Club AGM & talk | St James' Centre | 7.30pm |
| 14 | Over 60s Club | Village Hall | 2pm |
| 19 | Treasure Box | St James' Centre | 10.30–12noon |
| 22 | Pop-up Café | SSSC | 9.30am |
| 23 | Race Night | SSSC | First race 8pm |
| 24 | Stonesfield Spring Clean | meet at SSSC | 9am–1pm |
| 24 | Treasure Box family walk | meet St James' Centre | 2.30pm |
| 24 | Sports & Social Club AGM | SSSC | 8pm |
| 25 | Players' Drama Group | Village Hall | 8–9.30pm |
| 27 | Village Hall car park in use by Ramblers | | 9am–1pm |

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

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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*Nick and Judith Hooper
performing at their
fundraising concert for
New Yatt Riding for the
Disabled on 15 December*



Photo: Becki Sherlaw-Johnson

Notices

Greetings

On behalf of Mary and myself we would like to wish all our family and friends a Very Happy and Healthy New Year and we hope you all had a Wonderful Christmas.

Ron and Mary Evins, Avalon, Peaks Lane

Carol competition winner

Anyone who attends the annual carol service in St James' Church will be familiar with Ruth Sellar, who has sung the solo verse of *Once in Royal David's City* for several years.

Ruth is also a composer, and this news was announced in December:

A Christmas carol composed by Ruth Sellar, a First Class Honours graduate from Kings College London, has won the second year of the Sir David Willcocks Carol Competition with her composition *The Snow Lies Thick*. It [was] performed by The Bach Choir conducted by David Hill, Music Director, at Carols at Cadogan on Wednesday 19th December. . . .David Hill, Musical Director of The Bach Choir, says of this new carol: 'Ruth's carol is very well written; it was the stand-out choice and a very worthy winner of the . . . Carol Competition. We look forward very much to performing it.' (*from The Bach Choir's website*)

Ruth herself reports that the Choir was fantastic and it was a wonderful concert –

a live performance – and a very special and memorable occasion.

Many congratulations, Ruth!

Dale Morris (898210)

Poppy Appeal 2018

The Stonesfield Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2018 has raised a total £2123.93. This is a magnificent sum for our small village and I would like to thank all those who gave so generously, our door-to-door collectors for their time and commitment, and those businesses and organisations which displayed our static collection boxes. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

The Royal British Legion was proud to present the following awards for services to the Poppy Appeal:

Frank Hall – 50 years RBL badge and bar to the Long Service Medal

Jane Bray – 20 years RBL brooch

Frank Huddleston – 15 years RBL brooch

Sarah Brown – 10 years RBL certificate

Jim Naylor – 5 year RBL certificate.

All of these also received a letter of appreciation and a certificate from the RBL. In the past many of our other collectors have received similar awards for their service and we thank them for their continued support.

David Brown, joint Poppy Appeal Organiser for Stonesfield (898193)

Frank Hall planting the Armistice Commemoration Tree



Photo: David Brown

War memorial

As a Royal British Legion member I would like to say a big thank you to Sarah and David for looking after the memorial all year, and especially on 11 November. I would also thank Sarah as our joint Poppy Appeal Organiser. Thank you.

Frank Hall

Armistice Commemoration Tree

A Silver Birch tree was planted in the cemetery to mark the Centenary of the Armistice and a small service of dedication to mark the event was led by

the Rev. Roy Turner accompanied by several Parish Councillors, Royal British Legion members and military veterans. A brass plaque was installed by Frank Hall which reads: 'Planted on 11th November 2018 to commemorate the Centenary of the Armistice in remembrance of all in this community whose lives were changed by World War One.'

David Brown, Chair, Stonesfield Parish Council

Treasure Box at half term

The Treasure Box will open on Tuesday 19 February from 10.30am to 12noon in

ST JAMES'S CHURCH, STONESFIELD

Everyone - new residents and not-so-new - is warmly invited to a wine/coffee and nibbles evening on Saturday 9 February between 7pm and 9pm at St James' Centre, High Street

We look forward to welcoming you!

FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE RECTOR, REV ROY TURNER (TEL: 898552)

the St James' Centre. There will be crafts, games, songs and other activities based on ideas from Christians in Slovenia. Some of the things we make will then be displayed at the Women's World Day of Prayer at the Methodist Chapel on 1 March. All children welcome.

There will also be a Treasure Box family walk on Sunday 24 February starting from the St James' Centre at 2.30pm. There will be refreshments in the St James' Centre afterwards. All welcome.

Muriel Barrett (891479)

Great Stonesfield Spring Clean! Sunday 24 March, 9am–1pm

Stonesfield's Spring Clean, part of the 'Keep Britain Tidy' annual nationwide campaign to encourage residents to tidy up their local community, will take place on Sunday 24 March, 9am–1pm. If you are able to volunteer, even if just for 30 minutes on this (hopefully sunny) Sunday morning, please do join us outside the Stonesfield Sports & Social Club from 9am. Please bring with you a high-vis jacket (if you have one), gardening gloves, a re-usable tea/coffee cup, and anything else you think may be useful for picking and moving rubbish. Litter pickers, rubbish bags, and tea/coffee will be provided (with thanks to the SSSC for the hot drinks and toilet facilities!).

We will be dividing the village and surrounding roads into zones, with teams (allocated upon arrival) working in these different areas to give the village a great spring clean. If you have an area of particular concern in the village, please do send me an email/give me a call, and

we will do our utmost to prioritise and tidy up these areas. Please note, children are very welcome to participate (we have the Primary School and the Scout Group involved) but they must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

We look forward to seeing you there!
Thank you in advance for your support.

Jess Huband, jesshuband@hotmail.co.uk / 898065

SAFER launch

Stonesfield Action For Enhancing Road Safety (SAFER) was formed in December to work for Stonesfield Parish Council in matters of road safety. This was in response to the report presented at the November Parish Council meeting which outlined the results of the October survey of residents' opinions on traffic, speed and signage.

SAFER steering group is chaired by a Parish Councillor assisted by a number of interested residents. SAFER's constitution and the members of the steering group can be found on the Parish Council website. SAFER is supported by Thames Valley Police (TVP) and PC Robert Webb has been representing TVP at the meetings.

The Parish Council has budgeted in 2019/20 to support actions to improve road safety and currently a range of options are being reviewed by SAFER. In the meantime, SAFER held a meeting in early January, attended by representatives from Bladon, North Leigh, Charlbury, Freeland and Fulbrook. The objective was to share expertise and knowledge. It was clear from the meeting that these communities had



very similar experiences and concerns. Many had been starting to address them over the last two or more years. This provided a useful basis for further cooperation between West Oxfordshire towns and villages in the area of road safety. More news and information on SAFER can be found at www.stonesfield.online/safer

Combe and Stonesfield Men's Breakfasts 2019

First breakfast, Saturday 23 March at The Cock Inn, The Green, Combe. Breakfast from 08.30; free by 09.30. Speaker to be announced in the March *Slate* and *Combe Courier* and. and from the twitter a/c @combe-mensbreakfast.

All are most welcome back, after the break, to the CSMB 2019 Breakfast Series.

Further details from Rev Roy at Stonesfield Rectory (01993 898552) or Richard Francis (01993 891237) or Andrew & Victoria at the Pub

Voluntary Transport Scheme Special appeal to the young retired The number of drivers for the Voluntary

Transport Scheme has dropped from a dozen to four stalwarts, simply because we are growing older. Being a volunteer is something you might like to consider. We take people without wheels in our cars to medical appointments in Charlbury, Woodstock, Long Hanborough and Witney (fairly rarely), but not to the Oxford hospitals. Most trips involve less than an hour of your time, and you won't get asked to do them more than once a month.

You can put something back, and if you are new to Stonesfield you will get to meet some wonderful older people you would otherwise never know.

Give me a call to find out more. We only meet for a cup of coffee once a year, and you are invited to one such annual meeting on Monday 4 February at 10am, at Sothams Farmhouse, Pond Hill.

Peter Clifton, Organiser (891956)

Slate deliverers

Marilyn Mitchell has been delivering the *Slate* for many years in Church Street and Brook Lane and now wishes to retire. We are most grateful to her for having been part of the volunteer team that ensures that a copy of the *Slate* is delivered to every house in the village. Mike Cleaver, who has been delivering copies of the *Slate* to addresses in Churchfields, also wishes to give up, as he has left the village, and we are grateful to him, too. We are delighted that Peppy Rebello and Jenny Woolley will be taking over from them and we thank them for doing so.

The Publishers

Politics & local affairs

CALA's appeal and the Secretary of State's Inquiry

In May 2017 CALA Homes applied to WODC to build 68 houses in the field off the Woodstock Road. The site had provisionally been allocated for 50 houses in the District Council's Local Plan to 2031. The Parish Council and Sustainable Stonesfield made representations at the Local Plan Inquiry against this allocation, primarily on the grounds that it was a major development in the Cotswolds AONB. Over 200 residents also wrote against this unwanted development.

In January 2018 the Government's Inspector provisionally approved the new Local Plan. He had heeded the many representations against major development in the AONB and instructed the District Council to remove five sites from the Local Plan, including Woodstock Road. The District Council formally adopted the revised Local Plan in September 2018.

Instead of accepting that there was no longer a need to build 68 houses in Stonesfield, CALA persisted with their planning application. WODC heard the application in May 2018 and formally refused it.

Once again CALA chose to persist with their application and have appealed the Council's decision. The Parish Council and Sustainable Stonesfield are working together to become a 'Rule 6 party' at the Planning Inspectorate's Inquiry which

will take place in the first week of April. We are jointly developing a strong statement of case against CALA's application. The recent adoption of the Local Plan that said the site wasn't required by WODC to meet its housing need, and that there are no 'exceptional circumstances' to warrant building in the AONB, are strongly in our favour. SPC and SUSTO will be calling upon expert witnesses to support our case: a housing numbers expert – especially local and affordable housing needs – and a landscape consultant. The Parish Council has agreed to fund the latter.

This is a very important battle to win as it will set a precedent for other sites in Stonesfield and the whole Cotswolds AONB. A very similar appeal has been made for a site in Burford which will be heard in early summer, and there will be others in future.

David Brown, chair of SPC, and Richard Morris, chair of SUSTO

Stonesfield Common

We have set up a Scything Group to manage the growth of tough grasses and encroaching scrub on Stonesfield Common, to keep the Common a great place for a rich variety of insects, birds, mammals, and plants, including the beautiful and very rare Meadow Clary. The weather has been mostly good, new skills have been learnt, and areas of grass have been shorn, all while having a chat and making new friends. If you are

interested in getting involved, tools and tuition will be provided (no prior experience required), and it is a great way to meet people and do something physical to help the ecology of the Common. Please contact gennyearly@gmail.com if you are interested.

Sheep returned to the Common in early January and will be there until April. Walkers please ensure the gates are always closed properly, dogs are well controlled (preferably on a lead) and you pick up dog mess. Thank you. Grazing with sheep is the best way to maintain the full diversity of life on the Common. As well as scything the tough grass, working parties have also been cutting back blackthorn, a very invasive species. Without control, blackthorn would take over large parts of the grassland.

Richard Morris (898210)

The Wychwood Project Bird Aid

Farmland bird populations have declined by almost half since 1970, due to a variety of factors, including changes in farming practices. The Wychwood Bird Aid project aims to support feeding farmland birds through the winter, including tree sparrows, corn buntings, linnets and yellowhammers. There are more than 10 feeding sites on local farms, including in Stonesfield, with volunteers distributing seed and doing bird counts. Birds are fed oilseed rape, millet and crushed wheat on a daily basis, both spread on the ground and in hanging feeders. The birds have different requirements – yellowhammers need starch-based foods such as millet; linnets need oil-based foods such as rapeseed. A

big thank-you to Dave Holloway for support with storage of bird seed and feeding, and to all the local landowners who are involved in feeding on their land. If you would like to be involved with supporting this project, counting birds, or have a site that could be suitable for feeding farmland birds, please contact Judy at judy.anders66@gmail.com.

Stonesfield Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 13 February at the Village Hall. All members of the public are welcome.

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

Village Hall News

At the end of January it was Village Halls Week, which was created by Action for Communities in Rural England (ACRE) to celebrate local village halls and to increase their profiles in general by spreading the news about what goes on in them. This year the focus was on loneliness and the activities taking place in halls and community centres that help to alleviate this problem within your community.

We currently have a number of activities running weekly including Pickle Ball, Tae Kwon-do, Zumba, Folk Dancing, Baby and Toddlers Group, Over 60s Club, Beavers, Drama Group and lots of one-off events.

At the end of the building we also have our Village Library, with lovely helpful staff, a wide range of fiction, non-fiction and reference books on site, with the facility to order other titles in if you want

something from another library, and computer access.

Next door to the hall is the long established Sports & Social Club, a place to escape to, meet up with friends for a drink, play Bingo, listen to live music or have a chat and a cuppa.

We are a lovely village with a thriving community so please let's support each other, and share this information with all your neighbours and friends.

Vacancy: Village Hall Chairperson wanted. Previous experience desirable but not essential. The main role of the chair is to chair meetings of the trustees' board. Responsibilities to include:

- Becoming a Trustee and acting as a figurehead for the charity
- Leading on the development of the board and ensuring its decisions are implemented
- Attending 4 quarterly meetings per year, in January, April, July and October
- Leading meeting discussions, keeping to time and agenda
- Overseeing Property Management by helping support the main managed roles
- Liaising with Core group to take urgent action between board meetings, when it isn't possible or practical to hold a meeting.
- Ensuring that the Management Committee functions properly, and runs smoothly.

In anticipation of the right person, there is plenty of support in place. We have a comprehensive manual for all these roles,

compiled by our previous Chair, which sets out the details of how to meet each area of responsibility, plus a team of core Trustees that have been running things for the last 12 months.

For more information please contact Jacqueline Carthew on 01993 898919 or email stonesfieldvh@gmail.com

Stonesfield Community Trust

As many of you are aware, Stonesfield Community Trust has a number of properties within the village for rent, to low income individuals and families who have a long-established connection with Stonesfield. If you know of anyone who may be eligible to join our waiting list, please do contact our Property Manager, Jacqueline Carthew, by email: jacquelinecarthew@gmail.com.

The whole ethos of the SCT is to raise money to be reinvested into the community, financially supporting groups and individuals where possible.

With this in mind (and we know it's a long way off at the moment), we would really like to host a Christmas Community Lunch this year, aimed at people who would otherwise be alone over the festive period. If you would like to be involved, or know of someone who would benefit and would like to come, please do let us know.

Blenheim Estate acquires Pye Homes

Blenheim Estate has acquired its long-standing development partner Pye Homes along with its management team. The company is currently working with

the Blenheim Estate on building 169 homes at Hanborough Gate and has just started work on 300 homes at Park View, east of Woodstock. This includes Blenheim's first Affordable Housing, with the affordable rental properties available at a 40% discount to the market rent. This new development will be the first to incorporate the principle of Landowner Legacy which recognises local landowners have a social, economic and moral responsibility to deliver developments that the local community can be proud of.

Roger File, Chief Operating Officer and Property Director for Blenheim Estate

West Oxfordshire District Council District Report

The draft Budget for 2019/2020 shows a base budget of some £11,800,000, with the scale of fees and charges subject to a 2% rise. Council tax support continues to be available for households whose total weekly income is less than £385.

Those of our residents who regularly visit Burford Garden Centre will be interested to learn that the land west of Shilton Road (opposite the garden centre main entrance) has received planning approval for up to 91 new homes with a care/retirement complex. The design and layout of the proposed site is very attractive with green spaces and vernacular designed units.

Weaveley Arboretum has also been given approval for a new crematorium.

On the enforcement front, WODC has revealed a caseload of some 206 live cases. This is a large reduction on its recent figures and indicates that the increase in

staffing levels has produced a significant effect.

The application for a vintage/veteran motor museum and lodges on the Enstone Airfield site is on-going with a new architect in Sir Norman Foster being appointed. The entire Development Control committee is scheduled to conduct a full site inspection later in March. The application has engendered a widely differing response from a variety of interested parties.

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

Making the most of food waste

WODC is providing additional food waste containers – anyone wanting an extra one can collect it directly from the Council's Town Centre Shop in Witney, Guildhall, Chipping Norton or Town Hall, Carterton. Food bin liners or recycling boxes can also be picked up for free. Official figures from WRAP (www.wrap.org.uk/food-drink) estimate that £810 worth of food is thrown away by the average UK family each year. Recycled food is put to good use generating electricity and liquid fertiliser for farmland, so recycle your unwanted food rather than putting it in the household rubbish wheelie bins.

Bigger wheelie bins for keen recyclers

West Oxfordshire residents wanting to recycle more can now swap to a larger recycling wheelie bin for free. The current blue-lidded bin for recycling materials is a standard 240 litre size; the new bin at 360 litres offers 50% more capacity. To order a bigger recycling bin, or any additional recycling containers, call 01993 861025 or email enquiries@westoxon.gov.uk.

Garden waste subscriptions

You can now sign up for garden waste collections, or renew your annual subscription to the service. The new collection year starts from 1 April 2019; residents signing up before the end of February can be sure of having their licence in time for the beginning of the new subscription year. The cost remains the same: £30 per bin a year for fortnightly wheeled-bin collections. To sign up call 01993 861025, or go online at www.westoxon.gov.uk/garden.

Oxon County Council

Woodstock Library: We are working to find a long-term solution for the Woodstock library; this will probably involve some difficult choices. The building has been deemed unsafe and needs to be totally rebuilt at a time when we do not have the funds for such an exercise. The library has temporarily moved to the Oxfordshire Museum [see Museum's separate entry. Editor] so the valuable library facility will continue in Woodstock whilst all options for its permanent location can be considered.

Highways: As part of the budget process we are working on the Highways capital work programme for the coming year, I am putting forward several roads across the division that are in need of structural repairs. These must be assessed alongside the network of almost 3,000 miles of road. A range of different methods of

road repair and sealing are used (resurfacing, patching, Dragon patching, surface dressing) to extend the life of our roads and reduce the likelihood of potholes forming. The larger scale work is all done – a total of more than 322,000 square metres of road has been improved – and smaller patching and resurfacing projects are still being done all around the county.

Waste: OCC has welcomed the government's new Waste and Resources Strategy for England. It is based on the 'polluter pays' principal so producers rather than councils will meet the costs of collection, recycling and disposal of specific materials. This will hopefully incentivise producers and manufacturers to design their products and packaging to be more easily recycled.

Oxfordshire is the best recycling county in England, so we're well placed to help deliver the goals of this strategy. The current rate of 57% is good; we can do more by working with our District colleagues to increase the amount we recycle.

North Cotswold Line Taskforce: This is a group of councils along with Network Rail and First Great Western. Our ambition is to have two trains an hour to Oxford and London along with improved connections to the station.

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

NEW! The Stonesfield Players Drama Group

Have you ever seen one of our productions and been inspired to be on the stage? Have you been tempted to come to an audition for one of the shows over the years but never had the confidence to? Would you like to start a new hobby and enjoy taking part in amateur dramatics?

Starting on 25 February, the Stonesfield Players are running regular drama group meetings for everyone interested in the village (aged 16 and over). The group will meet every other Monday at the Village Hall from 8 to 9.30pm. In every session we will have fun with improvisation, play readings and learning warm-up techniques, blocking, projection and generally having fun with acting. Each current member of the Players has a wealth of knowledge within amateur dramatics that they would like to pass on, and equally we would love to learn from each other too.

These meetings are completely free. This new drama group is being financed by the Jay Miller fund. The fund was established after Jay Miller, one of the Players' much-loved members, left money to support new drama initiatives in the village when she passed away.

Come along on 25 February at 8pm to meet the Stonesfield Players and have some fun at the Village Hall.

The Players are keen to work with the younger people in the village too so watch this space for more information.

Dave Rudge, Players Secretary

West Oxfordshire Community Choir is back!

After taking a short break over the winter, the WOC Choir is back on Wednesday 6 February in the St James' Centre, 7.30–9.30pm. Open to everyone who enjoys singing and would love to experience singing in a group! The structure has changed slightly as to how the choir will operate over the coming year. This term will be more relaxed with Laura leading the group in the usual warm-ups, vocal exercises and group singalongs, but there won't be a concert until December. We are aiming to make the joy of singing together more fun by concentrating on simple harmonies and fun warm-ups. Singing in a group has an amazing result within the brain, releasing those much-needed endorphins that we all need this time of year. The WOC Choir sings songs from rock and roll, the

musicals, soul and pop plus much more. No previous singing experience is needed. Even if you think you can't sing but would like to give it a try, come and meet us. Laura, the director, teaches everyone how to find their voice, even if it is well hidden! We meet in term time only and the first trial night is free. There is no obligation to come every week and discounts for term fees are given to those who do. All information on how the choir works will be given out on 6 February AND there is also tea and cake every week!

Please join us for the relaunch, we look forward to seeing you,

Dave and Laura Rudge (01993 898084 – wocchoir@yahoo.co.uk)

Community Education at the Marlborough School, Woodstock

Last term, we ran a very popular course about using autumn herbs, teaching people to use foraged plants to maintain good health. We have a similar 4-week course on Monday evenings in March using herbs that are at their best in the spring time. This is a delightful and fulfilling activity that really helps you connect with the natural world around you. Book quickly to secure your place.

Wellbeing features on our next Saturday workshop on 16 March too, with an opportunity to learn how to give a back massage or Indian head massage (great to attend with a partner), and two relaxing yoga workshops: restorative yoga and aroma yoga. Other sessions include archery, patchwork for beginners, picture-making skills, and classic cookery with an experienced chef

and tutor helping you create a fabulous 4-course meal.

We also have space on the following weekly courses which you can still join part-way through the term: yoga, badminton, Zumba Gold, and our Wednesday evening singing group, Anyone Can Sing.

Please check availability on our website or call the office to book a place on any of our courses. Tel: 01993 813592, comed.4560@marlborough.oxon.sch.uk; www.marlborough.oxon.sch.uk/commed

The Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock

Until 24 March: *Taking Tea*. A journey through the story of the Great British cuppa, from colonialism to modern novelty teapots. Includes a selection of teapots from Aberystwyth University Ceramics Collection, objects from the Oxfordshire County Collection and research from the Ashmolean's 'A Nice Cup of Tea' project. Free admission.

2 February, 2–4pm: *Chinese New Year with Snowflake Books*. Come and join us and our Eastern friends for a fun day celebrating Chinese New Year, all welcome. Learn about The New Year Beast through Interactive storytelling by one of our expert readers, plus there will be dragon dancing to take part in, a giant board game of the legendary animal race and lots of arts and crafts. £2 per child or £5 per family to be paid on the day.

Half Term children's activities

Tuesday 19 February: TOM Tots: 10.30–11am. Stories, song and rhyme for under fives. £1per child / £2.50 family.

Family Fun Drop-in 2–4pm. Fantastic Teapots! How many teapots can you draw? Experiment with tea-painting. £2 per child / £5 family

Thursday 21 February: Family fun drop-in 2–4pm. Time for Tea. Use paper and card to make and decorate a teatime tray to take home. £2 per child / £5 family

Woodstock Library

The temporary library is now located in what was the museum's Innovations Gallery. A full library service in The Oxfordshire Museum will include books, public access internet, activities, printing and photocopying. Core library opening hours will be:

- Tuesday 10am–1.30pm
- Wednesday 10am–5pm
- Thursday 11am–5pm
- Friday 11am–5pm
- Saturday 10am–1.30pm

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

In addition to these core opening hours, the library will be accessible and self-service facilities available during the Museum opening hours: Tuesday to Saturday 10am–5pm, Sundays 2pm–5pm.

Talk: 6 February: Wyvern Railway Ancestry Research Advice by Judy Rose, *Ticket to ride: the perils and pleasures of early Victorian rail travel*. Talk starts at 7.30pm. Friends of The Oxfordshire Museum free, visitors £4 on the door.

Harry Potter Event: Thursday 7 February, 5–6.30pm

Calling young Wizards, Witches and Muggles! You will be treated to an evening of magical games, readings from our favourite Harry Potter books and the Hidden Hogwarts Quiz! Please come dressed up in your favourite Harry Potter character if you would like to. Tickets for this event are available from the library in the Woodstock Museum T: 01993 814124 or email Woodstock.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk



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.

Clubs & societies

Stonesfield Over 60s Club

Only a short message this month as I wasn't at club in Jan. Thank you to all those who helped to make sure it was a good day. The cuppa was accompanied with cakes provided by Pat Scarrott, who was celebrating her 80th birthday. Thank you Pat. She was presented with a lovely orchid and a card from us all. Hope you enjoy looking after it, Pat. Julie gave out a few notices including the question of Fish & Chips in March. We do need enough takers to make it worthwhile Mark coming along so please make sure you let us know if you are coming.

The February meeting is on Valentine's Day. Everyone welcome.

Best wishes, Avis

Stonesfield Gardening Club

No meeting was held in January, as we gave ourselves a month off – for good behaviour and to get over the bugs the village had generously spread around! I hope everyone has now shaken these off.

Our next meeting will be on 11 February in the St James' Centre at 7.30pm, when we will hold a short AGM, followed by a talk on composting, with plenty of tips to ensure that yours looks more like Monty Don's lovely friable stuff. Hoping to see you all there, and don't forget that visitors are very welcome – and that includes all you allotment holders.

Diane Bates (diane@bateshome.co.uk; <http://stonesfieldgardening.info>)

Stonesfield Lunch Club (over 65s)

Running every Wednesday at the St James' Centre from 10.30 to 3pm, the Lunch Club provides good company, activities, outings and a fabulous home-cooked two course meal, all run by our fabulous team of volunteers (new volunteers are always welcome).

If you would like to join us as a Regular Day Member we charge just £5 a day. Transport can be arranged if needed. You are welcome to come on a more informal basis but you will need to book by the previous Friday for catering.

Contact Kate Harris (898781; kateharris58@yahoo.co.uk)

March & April dates: March 6, 13, 20, 27; April 3, 10, 17, 24

Sports and Social Club

Pop in to the Pop-up Cafe for a coffee and a chat on the 22nd, 9.30am till 12 noon.

The Football Club (men's) will be holding a Race Night on Saturday the 23rd, first race starting at 8pm.

Finally, the SSSC will be Holding its AGM on Sunday 24th starting at 8pm.

Playing field: Just a polite reminder that dogs are NOT allowed on the playing field.

Woodstock and District U3A Speakers for 2019

Our monthly meetings are at Woodstock Community Centre, New Road, Woodstock OX20 1PB. Visitors are welcome to our Speaker Meeting, which starts at 2pm (£2). For more information: www.u3asites.org.uk/woodstock or phone 01865 580688.

5 Feb: *Admiral Lord Nelson*, Capt. W. Wells

5 March: *The Mosaics of Chedworth Roman Villa*, Nick Humphris

North Leigh History Society

Feb 5: *The lost villages of Oxfordshire*. Dr Deborah Hayter.

Mar 5: *Researching family history*. Jessica Feinstein.

We are starting our 2019 programme with something of a magical mystery

tour, seeking out the lost villages of Oxfordshire under the guidance of Dr Deborah Hayter. Do come and join us in the Turner Hall, Church Road OX29 6TX at 7.30 pm. Everyone is welcome. Visitors £4, Members free. Further details from Diana Power (01993 882301).

Witney Music Society

Witney Music Society's next concert will be given by Leon McCawley, one of Britain's foremost pianists, who'll be playing Beethoven's magnificent final three piano sonatas (Op.109, Op.110 & Op.111). The concert is at 7.30pm on Friday 8 February at High Street Methodist Church, Witney. Tickets will be available at the door from 7pm (£12, under 19 £1). For more information please telephone 01993 702296 or visit the Witney Music Society website www.witneymusicsociety.org.uk

Sport

Stonesfield Football Club

The festive season is now well and truly behind us and all eyes are firmly focused on our teams as they strive for success in their respective League and Cup adventures. As winter takes its icy grip, I wish I could say all was rosy in the garden, but our teams' recent adventures have met with mixed fortunes. I'm

delighted to report that The Firsts are in rampant form in the league following fabulous wins away at Milton (4-6), Chadlington (1-2), Bampton (2-4) and Eynsham (3-6). The fun doesn't stop there, as they trounced local rivals Combe (3-0) at home, courtesy of a magnificent Raffy Rice hat-trick and also knocked Bampton out of the Fred Ford

Cup (4-2). I don't want to jinx it, but they are having a fabulous season and are sitting pretty at the top of the league 5 points clear of nearest rivals Moreton, with two games in hand!

Now, this may sound odd but the best I can say about our beloved Reserves is that they are (at the time of writing) top of the league by two points, being chased relentlessly by Kingham, Milton and Chadlington. They started the current period well, following a walk-over at home against Eynsham (a no-show) and an away win at Bampton (3-2). Then the rot set in with defeats away at Kingham (3-5) and Chadlington (1-0). These were compounded by home defeats against lowly Spartans (1-4) and 'in-form' Milton (0-3). A quick glance at the goal tally shows 38 scored and 38 conceded: therein lies the problem. With the defence performing like a sieve, what chance do they have of promotion this season? If Brian Clarke doesn't get the cheque book out and sign some defenders soon, then it doesn't look promising for our boys. With goals guaranteed, their games are both enjoyable and painful to watch, in equal measure.

The Fredo award this month is an easy one. If you live on the Combe Road and have a brother called Carry who looks just like you and makes decoy runs to confuse the opposition defenders and you take advantage by scoring a hat-trick, then it has to be yours: add in that you did it against the team at the top of the hill then it's obviously a 'no-brainer'. The score-line should have read: Raffy Rice 3-Combe 0. Well done, Raff, the whole

village salutes you! Fredos are for sharing, so I'm sure your lovely Mum will insist that Carry enjoys half of it this month!

Tom Flanigan (891979)

Stonesfield Cricket Club

For 2019 we've committed to running both Under 15s and Under 13s junior teams, with regular training and evening matches against local clubs.

U15s is for current school years 9 & 10 – please register your son's (or sporty daughter!) interest with manager Pete Stringer ASAP via email to cockshootclose12@btinternet.com so we can keep you informed.

I'm running our U13 team this season, which is for school years 7 & 8 but I will take really keen year 6s as soon as they're 10. U13 games will be a fun 8-a side format, where all the players get to bat & bowl in each game. Please email or text me below if you have a player who wants to join in the fun!

If anybody out there is interested, we'd love a shirt sponsor so we can kit out the juniors with new shirts to match the men (and featuring sponsor names). Contact details as below; it's likely to cost a few hundred pounds.

Finally, our superb Indoor Winter Net practice starts for all 1st XI, 2nd XI and U15 players at Charlbury Community Centre at 4pm on Sun 10 Feb, it's just £2 per week and we've 10 weeks booked. New players of all abilities are most welcome.

*Stewart Moss (07866 278685;
stewmoss@hotmail.co.uk)*

Church news



Anglican Worship in the Parishes of Stonesfield with Combe Longa



Rector: The Revd Roy Turner

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

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

www.stonesfieldparishchurch.org

Stonesfield Churchwardens: Neil Melrose (891566) and 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

I hope everything was as you wished it over the Christmas holidays; that you were able to enjoy fun with friends, good food and good cheer.

We certainly need good cheer that will sustain us through these times of uncertainty concerning the political scene. As I write this letter it is uncertain what will happen concerning our near neighbours across the English Channel. They have certainly played hardball with us concerning our departure from the EU. I am not of the same political persuasion as Theresa May but I have to say that she has shown a real resilience concerning her foes and her supposed friends. I hope that she was able to enjoy a little respite at hearth and home over the festivities.

How do you find that peace of mind so needed in today's society and indeed for the challenges we face? The world seems to be going crazy and throwing out all

the anchors concerning the certainties that we have always relied on. That of family life, of honesty and care for one another, that of looking after the young and the vulnerable. Perhaps we could make one more New Year resolution and take time out to think about how we live our lives and how that impacts on other people individually and nationally!

We have just commemorated the centenary of the end of the First World War and the peace that was hard-fought and won. Sadly it was only to last some twenty odd years before we were plunged into another appalling war. I am sure that those heroes that fought in both wars, to maintain the way of life, so longed for, of peace and security, would be astonished that we are still making the same mistakes even today. We are still thinking that conflict and violence somehow will establish a lasting peace.

We all know, deep down, that these

activities, reported and shown on our TV screens day in day out, are never going to finally bring the peace and security we all long for. So why do we do it?

I believe it is because we are throwing out those anchors in our corporate, community lives that have always sustained us and nourished our lives together.

If we could at some point stop and

honestly examine our own individual and national selfishness and greed that seems to drive the way we behave, we perhaps would be able to see where we could change our lives and live the life that our heroes of the past fought and died for. I believe it's worth a try. I hope you do.

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

Rev Roy

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

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 |

Sunday 10 February [Fourth Sunday before Lent]

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

Sunday 17 February [Third Sunday before Lent]

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

Sunday 24 February [Second Sunday before Lent]

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

Sunday 3 March [Sunday next 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.

Stonesfield Methodist Church

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

| | | |
|--------|------|---|
| Sun 3 | 11am | The Revd Fred Ireland Holy Communion |
| Sun 10 | 11am | Dawn Haley |
| Sun 17 | 11am | Peter Allen |
| Sun 24 | 11am | Margaret Broadberry |

World Day of Prayer Service

1 March, 2pm – Methodist Church

This women-led global ecumenical movement provides the opportunity for Christian women of different countries to share their lives, concerns and prayers with the whole world. It is a Service for all people, and will be held as always on the first Friday in March.

This year the Service has been prepared by the women of Slovenia. Do come and hear this beautiful Service titled 'Come – Everything is Ready'

Refreshments follow and transport can be arranged.

Readers are needed for the Service. Anyone who would like a reading part please get in touch soon.

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

Roman Catholic Worship

New Year's Resolutions

What have you resolved for 2019? Eat less chocolate, exercise more, phone that irritating cousin, give more to charity? The chances are, we are told, that by now you will have already abandoned that resolution as too difficult, takes too much time, not really achievable – we all know

the excuses. Perhaps we should be less ambitious, as St. Francis Xavier said, 'Be great in little things,' and St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta said, 'Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love.' In other words, focus on the small changes we can make in our lives that are important at a deep level to our spiritual and emotional well-being. We can re-charge our lives by small acts of kindness or helpfulness that cost us very little but make a difference not only to someone else, but also to our own inner peace.

'Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each another, just as in Christ God forgave you.' Ephesians 4:31-32

We have in Jesus Christ a perfect model of kindness: he gave his life that we may live eternally – the ultimate act of generosity. But Jesus doesn't ask the same of us, only that we follow as far as we can his command to us to 'love one another.' John 15-17

MASS TIMES

SUNDAYS

St Teresa's, Charlbury: 9.15am
St Kenelm's, Enstone: 9am, second Sunday of every month

WEEKDAYS

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

Confession: Confessions are at 10am

after morning Mass on Saturdays, and on request.

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

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



Christine Elliot from the Wychwood Project teaching John Sampson how to scythe on the Common with other volunteers

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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.

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Copy should be sent to sj@sjhaviland.co.uk by 15th of the month or dropped in to Jenny Haviland, Peakes House, Peaks Lane, Stonesfield, OX29 8PY (tel. 01993 891614).

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

Enjoyable Drawing Courses and Workshops in February and March. For more information contact Gabriele at gabrielekern31@gmail.com <mailto:gabrielekern31@gmail.com> or ring 01993 880430.

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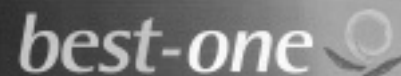
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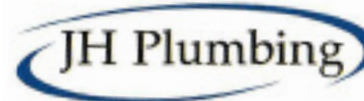
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The White Horse, Stonesfield

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Christmas has come and gone and now it's time to start looking forward to longer days and Spring springing. Thanks to everyone who supported us during the festive season. As usual, we had a great time! Now some dates for your diaries:

Thursday 31 January – Pie & a Pint Night

Back by popular demand. We will have a selection of homemade pies served with chips or mash, peas and gravy washed down with a pint, small glass of wine or soft drink for just £10.95

Wednesday 6 February – Folk Night

Our last Folk Night in December seems like such a long time ago now, so we're really looking forward to the next one. It's always a really popular evening, so get in early to make sure you get a seat. Musicians, poets, spectators all welcome. Why not have a bite to eat before it starts?

Bar opening hours

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| Tuesday–Thursday | 5pm–Close |
| Friday | 12noon–3pm 5pm–Close |
| Saturday | 12noon–3pm 6pm–Close |
| Sunday | 12noon–3pm |

Food served

| | |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| Tuesday–Thursday | 6pm–9pm |
| Friday | 12noon–2.30pm 6pm–9pm |
| Saturday | 12noon–2.30pm 6pm–9pm |
| Sunday | 12noon–3pm |

Children are always welcome and WE NOW OFFER A CHILDREN'S MENU.
Dogs are very welcome in the bar area or garden!

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