# The Stonesfield Slate Issue No 490 April 2019

#### Dates for your diary - April

1,8	,15,29 SJC Cuppa	St James' Centre	10 –11.30am
1,2	9 Monday Coffee	St James' Centre	8.45–10am
8 8	22 Players Drama Group	Village Hall	8 –9.30pm
4,1	1,25 Book Break	Stonesfield LIbrary	12.30–2pm
8	Gardening Club	Waterperry visit	9.30am
10	Parish Council meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm
11	Over 60s Club	Village Hall	2pm
11	Bingo	SSSC Eyes	down 7.30pm
12	Easter Treasure Box	St James' Centre	10.30–12noon
16	Lawrence of Arabia talk	Friends Meeting Ho	ouse 7.30pm
19	Treasure Box Easter Trail	St James' Centre	10.30am
19	EASTER Fun Day & Café	SSSC	10am–4pm
20	Band Night Steamroller	SSSC	9pm
22	BBQ (weather permitting)	SSSC	12noon
27	Plant Sale	Four Acres, Pond H	ill 8.30–11am
24	Village Hall Committee	Village Hall	7.30–8.30pm
26	Craft Networking Group	St James' Centre	7.30–9pm
27	FoSS Charity Fundraiser	Village Idiots	7.30/8–11pm



Publishers

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

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

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The sheep on the Common. These Romney sheep are due to leave the Common in mid April

### Notices

#### Sustainable Stonesfield

By the time you read this, we will be only days away from the hearing of CALA's appeal against the refusal of planning permission to build 68 houses on the Woodstock Road just opposite the new Pye development. SUSTO are collaborating with Stonesfield Parish Council and the AONB Conservation Board to present our case at the appeal hearing, which starts on 2 April and is expected to take four days.

We would like to thank all those who wrote to object in response to the leaflet put through our door by Pegasus, CALA's agents. We know that 109 people sent emails, because they copied us in. Many more may have emailed without sending us a copy, and still more may have posted their replies.

It was immensely moving to read how passionately you feel about this issue. Everyone was very alive to the fact that we are in the AONB and that this should protect us against building which does not conserve or enhance the beauty of the area. The landscaping offered did not, in your view, mitigate the disaster of how our village would look with this intruding on to its open edge. You were worried about the impact all those people would have on our already overburdened infrastructure; the increased number of cars clogging up the roads and polluting the air and the night skies; and you were sad at the legacy we would be leaving our children. The loss of wildlife habitat was also a deep concern.

Many of you were quick to point out that this site had been removed by WODC last year, following the Inspector's ruling that there were no exceptional circumstances to justify breaking the AONB protection. You thought the design of the site and of the houses were very poor, and you pointed out that, as there were still many unsold new houses in the village, and hundreds of other new houses being built elsewhere outside the AONB, there was no need for yet more, here.

We have tabulated all your responses, and will use them in our case. Your voice has been heard and will be relayed to the tribunal. However, because it is an appeal, the hearing will rest largely on evidence given by expert witnesses. We have six experts on our side ranging from landscape consultants to local planners. We have put an enormous amount of work into instructing them and into constructing our case. If the appeal goes against us, please be assured that it won't be for want of giving it our very best shot.

The Appeal is open to the public and will be held at the WODC offices, starting at 10am. You are welcome to attend.

Caroline Friend, Sustainable Stonesfield

### Village Idiots Band Night in aid of FoSS

Come along to the village hall on Saturday 27 April and dance the night away to the Village Idiots. Doors open at 7.30pm, band playing from 8pm. Tickets are £7 in advance from Helen or Caroline heleneds77@gmail.com 07880 880314, or £8 on the door.

All proceeds to our village school.

FoSS

### Sheep in the river – a reminder to dog owners

It took four of us to haul a poor waterlogged ewe out of the river today (Sunday 3 March); then it took an hour to wring the water from her coat, for Ed the shepherd to shear all the wet wool away, and for two of us to carry her back to the rest of the flock. She was exhausted, but all right.

When we discovered her in the water, the rest of the flock were at the far end of the lower part of the Common in a tight group, looking very alert. Ed felt it was likely that they had been alarmed by a dog, and we had seen one running loose close by the sheep just before we found the one in the river.

So please, while sheep are grazing the Common, you should keep your dog on a lead. While your dog may normally be well behaved, they can act unpredictably, causing distress to the sheep and extra work and expense to the farmer. This particular sheep is lucky to be alive.

Viv Kendall (91803)

#### Players Safari Supper Saturday 11 May at 7pm

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

Tickets are £15 from Ros Mengech. (ros\_mengech@yahoo.co.uk. 01993 898276)

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

#### **Lunch Club Volunteers Needed**

We are now almost at full capacity and are therefore in need of some additional helpers to keep things running smoothly!

Volunteers normally help on just one Wednesday a month but you are welcome to do more of course! We would like you to chat to our guests, make teas, help serve lunch etc, along with several other helpers. We run from 10.30 to 3pm every Wednesday at the St James' Centre.

As a separate need we could also do with some volunteer speakers to entertain our guests after lunch for around 30/45 mins, or perhaps you could share a craft activity with them? Please give Kate Harris a ring on 898781 if you think you can help, or pop in any Wednesday and see what we do!

#### **Two Easter Treasure Box events**

There will be an Easter Treasure Box on Friday 12 April from 10.30am to 12noon

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in the St James' Centre. All children are welcome to come and enjoy Easter crafts, songs, games and stories.

And on Friday 19 April the Treasure Box Easter Trail will start from the St James' Centre at 10.30am. From there you will be able to follow clues and pictures at various locations around part of the village. Along the way there will be challenges, questions and a few Easter surprises – and refreshments for everyone in the St James' Centre afterwards and, of course, an Easter Egg Hunt. This is a family-friendly-fun-event and all children are welcome but they must be accompanied by an adult. (Should the weather not make an outdoor trail possible there will be a shorter indoor trail in the St James' Centre.)

Muriel Barrett (891479)

#### **Lawrence Returns**

Here is another chance to attend *Shadow* of the Desert, the exhibition and the talk, this time in Charlbury.

As part of the Charlbury Festival the Stonesfield Players will be putting on another performance of David Lines' critically acclaimed and sellout radio play, *Shadow of the Desert*, on 15 June, along with the exhibition at the Memorial Hall in Charlbury. So if you missed this in Stonesfield, failed to get a ticket or want to see it again here's your chance. Advance bookings from andytacon@outlook.com.

Backing Into the Limelight: A Talk on the Enigma of Lawrence of Arabia As part of the fundraising for the festival, David Lines and Becki Sherlaw-Johnson will be giving their talk on Lawrence on 16 April at 7.30pm at the Friends Meeting House, Market St, Charlbury: tickets on the door £5.

Many of us know something about T. E. Lawrence, usually from seeing David Lean's film *Lawrence of Arabia*. Perhaps you have managed to read Lawrence's famous book *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, widely regarded as a definitive work, when attempting to understand the Middle East, but who was this enigmatic hero and icon?

As we researched and prepared the script for *Shadow of the Desert*, we found a brilliant Oxford scholar, archaeologist, tactician, and adventurer alongside a shy, very private man who lived the life of an ascetic. The popular image of Lawrence revolves round two intense years of fighting in the desert; behind that lies a man who was, and largely remains, an enigma despite the many attempts made to understand who and what he was.

This talk aims to shed some light on both the man and the influences and politics that inspired him.

#### The Way of the Cross

Everyone is very warmly invited to come along to Stonesfield Parish Church on Good Friday (19 April), to learn about how the Christian symbol of the cross has become so central in life, both in the past and today. The cross is found in so many places, and there are many different designs too!

The story of the first Good Friday will be explained, together, of course, with the good news of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Day.

Through the ages, people of faith have 'taken up their cross and followed Christ', and their inspirational stories will be featured.

The 'way of the Cross' exhibition will be open between 10am and 2pm and again 3 to 5pm; there will be a Good Friday Service of meditation, 2–3pm, to which everyone is very welcome, of course.

Tea and hot cross buns will be served in the St James' Centre from 3 to 5pm – don't miss it!

#### Village Hall News

With the lighter evenings, the hall becomes a little quieter as some of our groups can now go back outdoors and enjoy the fresh air for the summer months. This means that we have a few more spaces available if you would like to start a club or group, and with the play park behind the hall, and social club next door, you could have some escapism, the kids could be entertained, and you could relax with a drink afterwards.

We are also offering special rates for party, and charity bookings.

Jacqueline Carthew, Secretary & Booking Clerk for Stonesfield Village Hall (898919; facebook.com/stonesfieldvillage hall; http://stonesfield.info/stonesfieldlife/venues/village-hall.php)

#### SAFER cleans up

As announced in the February *Slate*, Stonesfield Action For Enhancing Road Safety (SAFER) has been formed as a working group for Stonesfield Parish Council. March saw SAFER volunteers cleaning the road safety and direction signs in Stonesfield (see p. 15).

At the same time a survey of all these signs was carried out noting damaged or defective signs. This list has been provided to Oxfordshire County Council (OCC), who are responsible for maintaining road safety and direction signs. OCC have agreed to address these defects over the coming months.

SAFER are now seeking additional volunteers to assist with their work. To find out more and to volunteer please go to https://stonesfield.online/safer/

Paul Bates, SAFER Secretary (Paul.bates11@gmail.com)

#### Bridewell Gardens Plant Sale Saturday 13 April 11am to 2pm

With a variety of herbaceous perennials at reasonable prices. Do come along and support our charity, which promotes gardening for better mental health.

Please note that this is a plant sale ONLY and the gardens will not be open to visitors.

Open days for 2019 are: 19 May, 23 June and 28 July.

Bridewell Gardens, Wilcote, OX7 3DT (868313; www.bridewellgardens.org)

#### To all dog owners

Thank you so much for bagging up your dog's poo. It is so nice not to have to worry about stepping in it.

Could I please ask that you don't leave the bag beside the path while you

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continue your walk? I know (or hope) you intend to pick it up on the way back, but many of you forget. Meanwhile, the rest of us have to walk by it, wondering if it has been forgotten. The bags are unsightly and spoil the walks for other people. Some of us who don't even have dogs pick them up and take to them to the bin to spare other walkers.

Could you please carry the bags with you? I wonder if a special satchel has been designed to make this easy?

Caroline Friend

### Wychwood Whittling Event 9 April

Whittle wizard wands, a wooden 'wol', or whatever you wish! Begin to learn the art of whittling green wood with David Knight. Starting with knife safety, sharpening and moving on to basic cuts and techniques, this is a 3-hour session designed to whet your appetite and get you started. Wood, tools and protective equipment will be supplied. Advice will be on offer should you wish to buy knives and sharpening stones.

This day-long event is split into two sessions: morning and afternoon. As a pair consisting of an adult and a child (8+), choose which session you would rather attend. First come, first served. The event is held at Combe Mill, Blenheim Palace Sawmills, Combe OX29 8ET. Tea room available as required.

Morning Session: 10–1pm Afternoon Session: 1.30–5pm

Cost is £30 per Pair. Booking essential.

To book your place: 07584 262437; www.wychwoodproject.org;

info@wychwoodproject.org.uk; Facebook: www.facebook.com/WychwoodProject

Contact on the day: Toby Swift 07891 134804

#### Living Colour on Cloth A weekend of Eco Textile Workshops with Nikola Orpen M.A.

It's not too late to book for the workshops described in detail in March edition of *The Slate*! Please note change of venue for the Sunday Workshop.

Saturday 6 April, 10.30–4.30pm at St James' Centre, Stonesfield OX29 8PP. **Eco Printing using flowers and leaves**.

Sunday 7 April 10.30–4.30pm at Hillcrest, Islip Road, Bletchingdon OX5 3DP.

Indigo and Shibori (Japanese)

### **Indigo and Shibori (Japanese resist)**

For more information and to secure your place please contact Nikola on texatelier2@gmail.com

Local contact: Liz Roberts (01865 714491 elicatrob@gmail.com)

#### Craft Networking Group Crafters networking, sharing and enthusiasts' group

Thank you to everyone who responded to my post before Christmas on Next Door Stonesfield about getting all the creative people in the village together. Our first meetings have been a joy finding out about silhouette art, silversmithing, Fabergé egg making, mixed media art forms and lots more.

We start each meeting off with a sharing session looking at the attendees latest

work (please bring items along to share), talking about the different types of craft and learning some of the techniques used. If you are interested in any form of arts and crafts then please come along and meet likeminded people. It takes place in the St James' Centre, 7.30 to 9pm. It is a completely informal meeting and takes place on the last Friday of every month. During each meeting one or two people will give a small main demo/talk/display of what they do, create and enjoy. This is also for those of us who run businesses as crafters, enabling us a chance to network and learn from each other's experiences. There will be tea and coffee available. I am asking for a suggested optional donation of £2 each to go toward the hall hire and beverages on arrival.

This meeting is open to everyone who is creative in someone way or other, whether that's artists, stitchers, glass blowers or soap makers and those who are also interested in general crafts too who would like to learn more. Our next meeting will be on 26 April.

I hope to see you all there

Dave Rudge, Silhouette and light artist, D.R. Light Frame Designs (898084)

#### **Drama Group**

What a great start to our new Players Drama group! It has been such fun meeting new people who wanted to give drama a try and meeting those that wanted to get back into it! We have covered improvisations to old music hall pieces *The Lighthouse Keepers Daughter* and *The Chinese pendant* and read from Act 1 of *The Plaza Suite,* which has been hilarious. Watching each other's take on specific parts has been so interesting and a shared learning experience. I can't wait for our next sessions.

If you would like to give acting a try, then come and join us on Monday evenings at the Stonesfield village hall club room (dates below). We meet fortnightly and it is free to attend. Our group has 13 people at the moment, we would love to grow this number. If you are unsure about joining in, you are more than welcome to come along and watch the others act.

The Players are always looking for volunteers to learn about stage craft with scenery and lighting, become a prompt, work with the costume department or help in general. We are open to everyone (not just people from Stonesfield) and our age range is 16 +. It is a nice friendly group that welcomes all newcomers with open arms. For those studying GCSE drama this is a good group to try out some of those techniques you've been learning and for the adults it is quite therapeutic becoming someone else and laughing your way through an evening!

Dates: 8 and 22 April, 6 and 20 May, 3 June (some of these dates are bank holidays but the group will still meet)

8–9.30pm, Stonesfield Village Hall Club Room

Dave Rudge, Stonesfield Players

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## Politics & local affairs

#### **Parish Council**

#### The Common

There are sheep on the Common. Can you *please* keep your dogs under control or on leads. Please note that horses are not allowed on the Common.

#### District, Town and Parish Council Elections Thursday 2 May 2019 A reminder of the timetable for the Elections:

The Parish Council will be looking for some new Councillors this time, as Wendy Gould and Frank Huddleston will be standing down. Nomination papers must be delivered by hand to WODC, Woodgreen, Witney by 4pm on Wednesday 3 April if you are interested in applying to become a Parish Councillor. Monday15 April at 5pm is the deadline for receipt of applications to vote by post, or from existing postal or proxy voters wishing to change their arrangements. Wednesday 24 April at 5pm is the deadline for receipt of applications to vote by proxy unless there is a valid emergency, in which case consideration will be made.

### SAFER (Stonesfield Action For Enhancing Road Safety)

The Parish Council has offered a grant of £3,185.00 to SAFER to fund a Community Speedwatch programme together with Speed Measurement Equipment at four locations in the village. The primary objective of SAFER is to enhance road safety in the village by responding to the concerns raised in the

Stonesfield Speed Survey in November 2018 and implementing a series of interventions including Community Speedwatch.

#### Change of Clerk

The current Clerk has resigned and there will be a replacement arriving shortly. Karen East from Gosford and Water Eaton PC has agreed to take on the role in the interim period whilst SPC goes through the process of recruiting a new clerk.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 10 April in the Village Hall. All members of the public are welcome.

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

### West Oxfordshire District Council District Digest

My report this month contains a snapshot of the workings of your council and its attempts to give you all the political leadership you would want.

The recent Council meeting not only dealt with the Budget for 2019/20 but also gave a concentrated overview of council activity. The Budget was passed and confirmed that the rise in Council Tax of £5 at band D maintained its position as the second lowest in England. All grants and services were maintained.

The investment income of the council was also maintained at £635,820 for the coming year. The New Homes Bonus realised £1,763,143.

WODC has embarked on a series of Commercial Property acquisitions giving a forecast income of approximately £3.9 million in 2019/20.

In the local context, we live in a rural area – 71,494 hectares with a population of 108,600. It is the second most sparsely populated of the 67 local authorities in South East England. The District has 83 parishes ranging from towns to hamlets, widely spread but with a concentration in the towns of Witney and Carterton.

Our employment level is high with only 2.1% unemployed in West Oxfordshire, whereas in South East England the figure is 3.2% and 4.4% in the UK generally.

Our median house sale price in the District is £310,000, with £311,000 in the south east and £242,286 in England as a whole.

The Council has set a target of providing 2700 new homes between April 2018 and April 2023.

WODC finances and balances are robust. The Council is looking after the financial well being of its residents.

I hope these figures are of interest. They go to show that we live in an excellently administered and organised District.

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

Extra care homes for Chipping Norton A planning application for an extra care

housing scheme in West Oxfordshire has been approved, subject to conditions. The new scheme, to be built in Rockhill, Chipping Norton, will comprise of 80 extra care homes - 40 one-bed and 40 two-bed apartments - designed to meet the needs of older people. It will offer a number of communal facilities including gardens, a dining area, lounges and hobby/activity areas. Some of the apartments will be let at affordable rents and others will be available for shared ownership. Priority will be given to people who have a local connection to Chipping Norton and the surrounding area, then cascade to the whole District.

Further information: Communications: t: 01993 861616 or e: communications@westoxon.gov.uk

### From our County Councillor Woodstock Library

The library has moved into The Oxfordshire Museum on a temporary basis after the building in Hensington Road was found to have suffered structural damage. Problems with some of the walls were uncovered during routine maintenance and health and safety inspections. Now further extensive surveys have revealed the building is damaged beyond economic repair and will be demolished. Various items have been retained such as the window and brass plaques. We are looking at all options for a permanent solution to retaining the Library in the town.

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### 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**

Promoting a love of literature and language has to be one of the cornerstones of a school's core purpose. At Stonesfield we are passionate about children's books and use evidence and research-informed practices to instil a love of reading in our children. We read to our children every day and choose high-quality termly texts which sit at the heart of our curriculum. These books are selected for their themes and plots but also to expose children to a richness of language and vocabulary.

By the time you read this, World Book Day will have been and gone. It saddens me to see the commercialisation of World Book Day, celebrity authors, and the day reduced to little more than a fancy dress parade which has little to do with reading. Like many schools we have reviewed our provision for World Book Day to ensure exposure to brilliant books and the excitement that brings.

I am delighted that Mini Grey, one of

the world's leading authors and illustrators of children's picture books, is joining us for a day to lead our own Wolfy Book Day. Her latest book, *The Last Wolf* (longlisted for the prestigious Kate Greenaway prize), is an innovated take on Red Riding Hood, which explores an environmental theme with empathy for the wolf.

All children will be participating in an illustration masterclass as well as hearing Mini telling her stories in her inimitable style. What an incredible opportunity for our children! There's no better way at fostering a love of reading than meeting brilliant authors who break down the writing process, resulting in children being enthused to write too. Win win.

We are in a rich age for children's literature. I'm currently reading *Our Castle by the Sea,* the second novel for children by Lucy Strange. I adored her debut, *The Secret of Nightingale Wood,* with its classic timeless storytelling, and the follow up is proving to be every bit as good. My office is crammed with books – please pop in and have a browse, I'm always happy to recommend and lend!

Ben Trevail, Headteacher

### Community Education at the Marlborough School, Woodstock

Our next day of fun and practical hobbybased workshops for adults and young people is coming up on 18 May, and we've added a course to the programme. Discover how to capture the places and people around you on our new one-day *Street Photography* session. Or let local artist John Somerscales get you Drawing with Confidence.

You can also learn how to make Piped and Zipped Cushions with Sue Hazell, or a delicious four-course summer menu with chef Sophia Matthews, or make natural products for your skin.

We also continue to run our weekly daytime and evening courses.

Please check availability on our website or call the office to book: 901993 813592; comed.4560@marlborough.oxon.sch.uk www.marlborough.oxon.sch.uk/commed

Celia Clark, Coordinator

#### Oxford Museum, Woodstock Oxford Art Society 6–28 April

This specially selected selling exhibition features members work of paintings, sculpture and printmaking of the highest quality by artists in Oxfordshire. Free admission

#### Smocks Exhibition, 19 April

The smock-frock is present through many generations in various styles and fabrics. Using our collection from Oxfordshire and Berkshire, we take you on a journey looking at working life, The Great Exhibition, Sunday best, revival and reproduction, Arts and Crafts, fashion and nostalgia.

Talk: 18 May, 2pm. Tickets £8 available from the museum

#### **Easter Holiday Family Fun**

TOM Tots: Tuesdays 10.30–11am. Music, stories and rhymes for the under 5s. £1 per child / £2.50 per family.

#### Family fun drop-ins

Tuesdays & Thursdays: 2–4pm. Fun and creative activities for all ages.

Tuesday 9 April: Dinosaurs at dawn: create a sponge painting collage.

Thursday 11 April: Flutter by: Design a woodland scene with spring butterflies Tuesday 16 April: Pop into spring: Colourful and surprising cards to make. Thursday 18 April: Eggstraordinary: model and decorate your dinosaur eggs. £2 per child / £5 per family

Free activity packs and trails are available to add to your family's enjoyment. Visit oxfordshire.gov.uk/museums

### Those were the Days Reminiscence Session

Meet on the first Friday of the month 2–3.30pm. Share memories and enjoy good company. April's session is themed 'Home Sweet Home'. £1 pp includes tea or coffee. For more information: 01865 300639

### Friends of The Oxfordshire Museum Talks

Wednesday 3 April: *The Botanical 'Bobarts'* of Oxford and Woodstock by Mark Davies, Historian and author
Wednesday 1 May: *In and around the*Wychwood Forest by Simon Draper,
Victoria County History
7.30pm starts, Friends free, visitors £4.

Woodstock Library. Temporarily in Museum. Open Tues 10–1.30; Wed 10–5; Thurs & Fri 11–5; Sat 10–1.30.

Lorraine Horne, Audience Development Officer, The Oxfordshire Museum, Park Street, Woodstock, OX20 1SN (01993 814103; mob 07990 368 183; www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ oxfordshiremuseum)

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### Clubs & societies

#### **Stonesfield Gardening Club**

Our March meeting was very well attended as it featured the ever-popular Timothy Walker, chatting to us about how we can bring more colour, scent and interest to our gardens over the winter. Using wonderfully compelling photographs, he showed us plants that will give birds and insects cover and food, while brightening up our gardens with their colourful fruits, as well as plants that will scent the garden on the days we can venture out. The plants he recommends are often native ones which, while easily sourced in local

nurseries, are popular for the reason that they perform so well. It was however surprising to see which plants not native to this country will survive under a blanket of snow. Lots of ideas, as always!

On 8 April we will be visiting Waterperry Garden to look at the spring bulbs, then holding our annual plant sale at Four Acres, Pond Hill from 8.30 to 11 on Saturday 27 April. Come early for the best bargains.

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

#### Stonesfield Gardening Club - Calendar 2019

April 8	9.30	Trip Waterperry Garden
April 27	8.30-11	Plant sale Four Acres, Pond Hill
May 13	7.30	'Growing Under Cover', Chris Day
June 18	11.00	Trip Miserden Garden
June 30	2-5	Stonesfield Open Gardens
July 8	6.00	Village Walk – Open Gardens (Members only)
Sept 18	10.30	Trip: Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants
Oct 14	7.30	'Chrissie's Owls', Chrissie Harper'
Nov 11	7.30	'Behind the Scenes at Waterperry', Rob Jacobs
Dec 9	7.30	Christmas Social Quiz
Membership costs just £8 per year (£15 per couple)		

Additional benefits – 10% discount at Yarnton & Freeland Nurseries

http://stonesfieldgardening.info

### Stonesfield Sports and Social Club

The club will be holding an Easter Fun Day on Friday 19 April. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt and a Pop-up café from 10am to 4pm. Come along and help search for those eggs.

On Easter Monday the club will be open from 12 noon and hope to have a BBQ, weather ermitting.

Brian Clarke

#### Over 60s Club

We arrived for our March Meeting on the 14th to find as expected Mark parked outside and the tempting smell of the Fish and Chips he was preparing for our lunch. We are most grateful to him for kindly coming along and we once again enjoyed tucking in. After a short break while the tables were cleared, we moved on ready to enjoy an afternoon singalong with Tessa and Paul. Word booklets were provided, Tessa played on her keyboard and Paul ably led the singing. All well known numbers and the members joined in and made a joyful sound. We thanked them for coming and hope they will visit us again. Time then for a cuppa and Shortbread.

Pam and Tony Bishop were congratulated a little early on their forthcoming Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 28 March. A card and small gift were presented to them.

There were a few announcements and of course the Raffle.

Thanks as always to all the helpers, we couldn't do without you.

A warm welcome awaits anyone over 60, so not call in?

Hope to see all at our next meeting on 11 April at 2 o'clock.

Take care and keep warm, it will soon be Spring. Best Wishes

Avis

### Woodstock Music Society Spring Concert

Elgar's *The Light of Life* and *The Snow* Saint Saëns' *Cello Concerto in A minor* 

Friday and Saturday 5 and 6 April at 7.30 pm in St Mary Magdalene Church, Woodstock. Tickets: £13 in advance or £14 at the door, from The Woodstock Bookshop (01993 812760) or email: concerts@woodstockmusic.info.

#### **North Leigh History Society**

2 April: *Pagans and Puritans*. A talk by Tim Healey. Turner Hall, Church Road OX29 6TX at 7.30 p.m. Visitors £4, Members free. Further details from Diana Power (01993 882301)

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## Sport

#### **Stonesfield Football Club**

Am I a jinx, or what? As soon as I predicted total league domination for The Firsts, they carelessly let their guard down and proceeded to lose, not one but two league games and both at home too! Firstly, it was a very strong Bourton Rovers side who inflicted their first defeat (2–1) followed by a real battle with rivals Milton where our boys lost out in a 7 goal thriller (4–3). Not surprisingly, The Rice boys got the show back on the road again away at Coombe where they plundered the home defence to give our boys a great win (3–0). While those two defeats will niggle, they did no lasting harm to their League aspirations as the trailing pack failed to take advantage and they remain 7 points clear with a game in hand over Moreton. An easy win (4–0) over Middle Barton saw them ease into the Semi Final of The Watts Junior Cup. They are also in the Semi-final of The Fred Ford Cup, where they will face Kirtlington, who are struggling in the Premiership, for a place in the final. My prediction? No way, I don't want to jinx it, but it would be no great upset if our boys prevailed.

The Reserves have done well recently thanks to the influence of veteran goalkeeper and manager Micky Phipps. The defence has stopped leaking goals, at least in the league. A great win at home against Bampton Utd (3–2) and a draw (1–1) away at Kingham has steadied the ship and it is still possible that they could win promotion. Their hopes of

Supplementary Cup glory were dashed at high flying Carterton Town 'B', who top the league above them. Despite a spirited performance they couldn't quite match their opponents and crashed out (2–0). Every cloud has a silver lining (as they say) and it leaves them to concentrate on the league. Again, no predictions, but good luck to our boys.

So, the much-coveted Fredo award. The Rice boys have dominated the award this season but, for once, despite their heroics against the mighty Coombe, they've come up short this month. The old stalwart that is Micky Phipps has been doing his level best to bring glory to our reserves this season and has managed, at least for now, to mend the holes in their sieve-like defence. If you've been following their exploits, you'll realise that takes some doing and is more than worthy of a Fredo. So, Mickey Phipps, the Fredo is yours and deservedly so!

Tom Flanigan (891979)

#### **Stonesfield Cricket Club**

By the time you read this it will be April – Spring should be in full bloom! The Cricket Club has two Sunday sessions left indoors (7th & 14th) at Charlbury, before we play our first fixtures of the season. The 1st XI start with friendlies on Sunday 21st at Oxford Downs in Standlake, followed by a home game on 28th vs Kidlington. The 2nd XI have an interesting friendly at Moreton-in-the-Marsh on Sat 20th, followed by a trip to

Sunningwell 2nds on Saturday 27th. All spectator support appreciated as usual.

Our relaunched youth section start training on the field and in our portable practice net as soon as the weather allows in early April prior to first junior fixtures early May. We've purchased new youth equipment and bats, smart modern coloured team shirts for matches, and even plan to lay on chips after home games! But, we URGENTLY need more players, especially school year 7 & 8s for the U13 team. We have a talented core for the U15 side (school years 9 & 10), but could do with a few more joining the squad. Please email / text / phone me ASAP if you have a youngster interested, don't delay! This

summer the Cricket World Cup and The Ashes are being held in England, so it's a great time to get involved in this fabulous social, skilful, healthy sport and away from the games console or phone & computer screens for a few hours at the weekend.

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

#### **Bowls**

Looking for a summer sport or social activity? Woodstock Bowls Club are looking for new members, all ages welcome.

For more details please contact Brian Clarke (8917700.



A roadsign cleaned by SAFER volunteers (see p. 5)



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### 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

We are well into our Lent season now and Easter is coming ever closer on 21 April. Of course we have our Lent course meeting on Wednesdays up until Passion week that you are all welcome to. The Lent courses are all at the Rectory: contact me concerning the details on 01993 898552.

Passion week starts with Palm Sunday, on 14 April, when Jesus rode into Jerusalem and folks threw down their coats and palm leaves on the track in front of him as he rode on a donkey. Passion week also contains Maundy Thursday, when we remember the last supper in the upper room with his twelve disciples. Then Good Friday, when we meditate concerning our Saviour on the cross. Then Holy Saturday or Easter Eve and then the culmination of Jesus' work on the cross, as we celebrate his resurrection on Easter Sunday morning.

We will be very busy at church as we celebrate Maundy Thursday with a communion service. It is always a very special and hallowed time together. Then Good Friday and our hour of meditation. We will gather again on Saturday Evening for Easter Ceremonies by candlelight. Then on Easter Day we will have our special 6am Dawn Service at Combe; a very atmospheric service as we start in the dark and as the sun rises we celebrate the coming of Easter. We then have our services at 8 o'clock 'Said Service' at Stonesfield together with our 9.30am at Combe and then back to Stonesfield for our final 11am service of the day.

However, I must tell you of a very special event at Stonesfield church this year. Following the success of 'Journey to Easter' that everyone so much enjoyed, we have a wonderful presentation of a special symbolic presentation of what the cross represents for our faith. The whole of the church space will be used to tell

the story of what the cross has meant through the years and in different eras. This meditation will follow through for us to form our reflective meditation on Good Friday this year.

It will be a very fine presentation and well worth the visit to St James', Stonesfield. I know that people outside the parishes are planning a visit to share the experience.

The setting will be of a quiet reflection as you work around the images and a time to sit and view as you feel fit.

We are so looking forward to this Easter and we hope that, as last year, you will be able to join us and visit what will be a brand new and unique presentation.

I look forward to greeting you there along with other members of the church. As always it will be a free event and return viewings will be warmly welcomed.

So do have a look at our full range of activities and services provided over the Easter celebrations and plan to join us as much as you can.

God bless and of course D.F.T.W.

Rev Rov

#### SERVICES FOR APRIL

#### Sunday 7 April [Fifth Sunday of Lent]

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [BCP/said]
10am	Stonesfield	United Benefice Communion
		(followed by APCM at 11am)

#### Sunday 14 April [Palm Sunday]

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [BCP/said]
9.30am	Combe Longa	Parish Communion [CW/sung]
		(followed by APCM)

11am Stonesfield Morning Prayer

#### Maundy Thursday [18 April]

7.30pm	Stonesfield	Benefice Holy	y Communion
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#### Good Friday [19 April]

	, , ,	
2pm	Stonesfield	Good Friday meditation

#### Easter Eve [20 April]

7.30pm Stonesfield Easter Ceremonies

#### Sunday 21 April [Easter Day]

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

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#### Sunday 28 April [Second Sunday of Easter]

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

#### Sunday 5 May [Third Sunday of Easter]

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [BCP/said]
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9.30am Combe Longa All Age Worship11am Stonesfield All Age Worship

#### Mid-week Communion Service [said]

Wednesdays 9.30am at Stonesfield. Everyone is most welcome.

#### **Stonesfield Methodist Church**

#### SERVICES FOR APRIL

Sun 7	11am	The Revd Charles Harris
		Holy Communion

Sun 14 11am Eddie Fowler

Sun 21 11am Easter Day Service

Stella Bristow

Sun 28 11am Richard Bowler

Thank you to all those who came to the World Day of Prayer Service on 1 March. Very many charities around the world are supported by this organisation and donations from the Service here amounted to £207.

Next year – Zimbabwe!

Kathleen Albért

### Roman Catholic Worship The unexamined life

What is Easter? Why is it important? We

tend always to focus on Christmas with its gift giving, feasting and cheery celebrations; however, Christmas is the start of the Christian story, not its ending. Over time, focus has shifted to Christmas away from Easter, partly because Lent followed by Easter, while it has undertones of great expectations of holy joy to come, much of the message seems to be about suffering, repentance, pain and death.

We forget that the purpose of Christmas is to bring us Jesus Christ, whose destiny was to sacrifice Himself for us on the Cross at Easter. In the New Testament, which gives us the narrative of Jesus Christ's time on earth, the language used is designed to reflect the fulfilment of the various prophesies in the Old Testament about salvation and redemption by a 'perfect' sacrifice. By dying on the Cross Christ offered Himself for us as that 'perfect' sacrifice to redeem us all. The Letter to the Hebrews refer to this:

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you

prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'Lo, I have come to do your will, O God.'

We no longer have to offer animal or other sacrifices to appease or placate God, all we have to do is not lose sight of how Christ offered Himself for all time as that sacrifice.

#### 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.

#### EASTER SERVICES

Holy Thursday 7:30pm Mass of the

Last Supper

Good Friday 3pm Celebration of the

Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday 8pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday 9.15am Mass of Easter

Morning

Please check St. Teresa's website for details of Confession times etc:

https://stteresaschurch-charlbury.com/

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

Roman Catholic Community in Stonesfield

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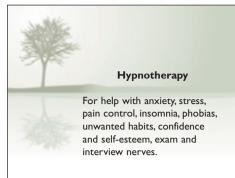
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#### **Dog-walking service**

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

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The winter months are coming to an end, and if you haven't done so already, it's a great time to be thinking about plans for the summer, especially if you can only get away in the school holidays.

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### The White Horse, Stonesfield

#### SPRING IS IN THE AIR

It's been another great month at The White Horse so, once again, we'd like to thank all who support us. This is what we have coming up in the next few weeks.

#### Thursday 28 March

Due to the popularity of our Pie & a Pint Night we will be holding another this month. We'll 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.

#### Sunday 31 March

Mother's Day is coming up, so why not treat your mum to a meal with us and we'll treat her to a little bottle of Prosecco?

#### Wednesday 3 April

Our 'White Horse Wednesday' Folk Night is another popular evening amongst musicians, poets and spectators alike. It is a very informal evening and always great fun. It starts at 8pm but arrive early to make sure you get a seat. You can always have a bite to eat while you wait.

Bar opening hours		Food served	
Tuesday-Thursday	5pm-Close	Tuesday-Thursday	6pm-9pm
Friday	12noon–3pm	Friday	12noon-2.30pm
	5pm-Close		6pm–9pm
Saturday	12noon–3pm	Saturday	12noon-2.30pm
	6pm–Close		6pm–9pm
Sunday	12noon–3pm	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!

Phone 01993 891063

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

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