

The Stonesfield Slate

Issue No 491 May 2019



Dates for your diary – May

2	Local elections	Village Hall	6.30am–10.15pm
2,9,16,23,30	Book Break	Stonesfield Library	12.30–2pm
6	BBQ (weather permitting)	SSSC	12noon
9	Over 60s Club	Village Hall	2pm
11	Visiting bellringers	St James' Church	1.45–2.30pm
13,20	Monday Coffee	St James' Centre	8.45–10am
13,20	SJC Cuppa	St James' Centre	10–11.30am
13	Stonesfield Players AGM	Village Hall	7.30pm
13	Annual Parish Meeting	Village Hall	7pm
13	Gardening Club talk	St James' Centre	7.30pm
18–27	Artweeks	Various locations	Various times
18	Band Night – CORSAIRS	SSSC	9pm
23	Bingo	SSSC	7.30pm
25	Ladies Breakfast	St James's Centre	8.45 for 9am
27	BBQ (weather permitting)	SSSC	12noon
31	Pop up Café	SSSC	9.30am–12noon



Photo: Paul Bates

Publishers

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

Editor for this issue

Jenny Haviland (891614)

Editor for May

Vivienne Kendall
(891803)

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

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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*Assembling outside the
Sports & Social Club for
the great Stonesfield
Spring Clean on Sunday
24 March*

Notices

Sustainable Stonesfield SUSTO and the Parish Council fight CALA appeal

When we took up our four-day residence in WODC's Council Chamber on 2 April, we entered a strange new world. A world where, according to CALA, people who go for walks in the countryside are called receptors; if they are walking in the AONB, they are called sensitive receptors. If they look at the view while they are walking, they are 'sensitive receptors having a sequential kinetic experience'.

The way our village develops is 'morphology'. The arable field on the edge of our small rural village is a 'peri-urban site'. Our hard tennis courts are 'all weather pitches on an urban playing field'.

It was a world where, if you build 68 houses on the edge of the village, you are not changing the character of the landscape: you are simply softening the edge of the village and moving the boundary out a bit. Where building the houses supplies jobs for the builders, which justifies building them, even though they are ruining the AONB. Where, if you offer a slim belt of trees which take twenty years to mature and even at full height will be lower than the roofs, you have effectively screened and integrated the development. If you put a short, narrow footpath through it, going from nowhere to nowhere, you are offering a recreational activity for the village – this, despite the fact that the development is on a busy road out of the

village in the 'wrong' direction for anyone who would want to take a walk.

It is a world where adding 68 houses with parking spaces for 135 cars to a rural settlement with already seriously congested roads and overburdened water and sewage facilities will ENHANCE the village, and enliven it. Where new residents on the edge of the village will walk half a mile with their toddlers to do their weekly shop in our little village store – and back again with their shopping bags, perhaps via the pub and the garage, to revitalise those services. Or they will go by one of the 3-weekly buses into Witney and return two hours later, in the middle of either Monday, Tuesday or Friday.

In this world, we only consider whether there is a need, not whether there is an absence of need. Apparently, they are different. We think that by offering properties costing upwards of £350,000, we are addressing a need for affordable housing. We think that if we build the houses in Witney instead, where there are shops and services galore, the new residents will not contribute to the life of Stonesfield by coming to shop in our village, or use our library; and that this is a more serious impact than the damage done to our country's priceless landscape, and Witney is therefore to be rejected.

In this new world, Stonesfield appears as an ageing community with a diminishing workforce and an increasing need for social care. We struggle to run any of our groups and societies for lack of

volunteers; without an injection of young blood, we will eventually atrophy and die out completely, possibly before the current Local Plan has run its course in 2031.

As we emerged from the council chambers, blinking in the Spring sunshine and taking in the blossom, we asked ourselves whether this strange new world bore any relation to reality . . .

There will be one more day's evidence heard on 16 May; the decision is expected in July.

*Caroline Friend, Sustainable Stonesfield
(sustainable.stonesfield@gmail.com)*

CALA appeal (1)

The Appeal against the dismissal of their housing scheme took place at the start of April over four packed days. For anyone attending it was a fascinating insight into the Appeal system.

CALA was backed up by nine experienced, well-paid, professions who had spent months preparing for this battle furnishing themselves with boxes of documents on everything from Government statistics to back copies of *Stonesfield Slate*. The nit-picking from this document at least raised a laugh.

Stonesfield fought the battle with troops from SPC, Sustainable Stonesfield and the Cotswold Conversationalists – David and Goliath! However, our teams were magnificent; the preparation work impeccable and the cross-examination work superb. All the teams have worked incredibly hard to pull this off and not particularly wanting to single anyone out, Jim Astle (we could not have done it without you, Jim), David Brown and

Richard Morris were amazing. Well done chaps!

We now wait to see what happens and what the Inspector decides, which could be several months, but if unsuccessful in stopping this ill-conceived carbuncle of a development it won't be from want of trying.

Wendy Gould

CALA appeal (2)

Having witnessed part of the planning appeal by CALA Homes for the careless and excessive development proposed for the Woodstock Road, thanks and appreciation are due to the Stonesfield SUSTO/Parish Council team and others who so well represented the views of Stonesfield residents.

It struck me that the appellant's agents spoke coldly from their heads, but our team spoke warmly from their hearts. Enduring one lengthy witness statement from the opposition, I have never heard so many words spoken when so little was said.

These outsiders – CALA Homes and their lawyers – know little and care nothing for the vitality and quality of life we enjoy in this village, never mind the well-rehearsed details of protection for the AONB, the scale of development, respect for the unique marriage of old stone villages and the surrounding landscape which makes the Cotswolds special, lack of employment opportunities, pressure on the school and pre-school, narrow byways and roads, absence of genuine consultation on local need, and the proposed unaffordable 'affordable' homes.

This standard, pattern-book development, which takes no account of vernacular architecture, could be anywhere. It is unwanted and totally out of place in Stonesfield. I hope the planning inspector agrees.

Dennis Beasley

CALA appeal – a vote of thanks

I would like to add a note of appreciation to the SUSTO Group and to the Parish Council for the immense amount of hard work, time and experience that they have put in, unnoticed by many, to preparing for the CALA appeal and participating in the formal hearing early in April. Special thanks should go to Richard Morris, – David Brown and David Lines for presenting evidence so effectively; Caroline Friend for meticulous recording of the proceedings; and particularly to Jim Astle for his valiant cross-examination of witnesses.

Viv Kendall

Stonesfield Players

The Stonesfield Players will be holding their Annual General Meeting in the Club Room of the Village Hall on Monday 13 May starting at 7.30pm. Please come along to show your support for our village drama group, tell us your thoughts and hear about our exciting ideas for the future. Refreshments will be provided.

David and Lynn Stevenson, Chairpersons

Stonesfield Common

Over the years I've occasionally walked up past Highfield and on towards Charlbury, to look for farmland birds,

and there's always the chance of a surprise, such as a couple of Peregrine sightings. This winter was a little different. Having been made aware of the Wychwood Project Bird Aid, I went to Highfield crossroads to see what was around.

Instantly Yellowhammers were visible on the hedgerow tops, eventually the count reached 30, all coming to the seeded area. Linnets were present in good numbers, 35, and a few Chaffinches, again all coming to the seed. Similar numbers were seen in subsequent visits, emphasising how important this project is for farmland bird survival over the winter period. In addition, there were 304 Skylark up there, the biggest number I've seen in the county.

The Wychwood Project Bird Aid, feeding in various locations, is a great project and is well worth locals taking an interest in.

Paul Wren

Birdlife at Highfield and Bird Aid Breaks Records Skylark and Yellowhammer Numbers Soar

Bird Aid is a West Oxfordshire initiative that works closely with the Wychwood Project to help feed our threatened farmland birds during the 'hungry gap' from January to early May. Bird Aid particularly targets help at three key farmland bird species: yellowhammers, skylarks and linnets.

These birds used to be able to feed on seeds in the stubble fields over winter before the land was ploughed in the spring, but the modern practice of immediate ploughing after harvest now

makes it much harder for flocks of these birds to survive the winter.

Over the past 15 years Bird Aid, led by Louise Spicer, has organised 12 feeding stations on farms in Charlbury, Chipping Norton, Over Norton, Hailey, Stonesfield and Crawley.

Bird Aid would welcome more bird watchers to help with the surveys from November to end of March. The charity is also keen to hear from farmers or landowners who could provide a feeding site. For further information on how to get involved please contact: judy.anders66@gmail.com.

Artweeks in Stonesfield

18 to 27 May

There is an amazing variety of art being created here on your doorstep and May is a wonderful time to enjoy an amble around our lovely village and see what our local artists have been busy making!

Grey Cat Studio is featuring five artists work, whose media includes print-making, painting, craft, and collage. Work is by Rachael, Rebecca and Griselda Sherlaw-Johnson, Kerry Burniston and Jenny Lines.

Other artists in the village are Claire Fyfe-Jackson (jewellery), Hannelore Meinhold-Morgan (ceramics) and Chris Davies (painting).

You can find all the information you need online at artweeks.org and there are some catalogues at the library.

SAFER

Anyone know Liam Wildish? Probably not – he's a Nottinghamshire window



cleaner who cleans road signs in his spare time. Anyone know who's been doing the same job in Stonesfield? Probably not but nevertheless it is being done. This is with the approval of our Parish Council and Thames Valley Police. Other contributions to our safety will follow. For example, a traffic mirror has been set up for the Boot Street /Laughton Hill Junction.

Our local sign cleaner is not alone but he/she needs a bit of help. A half dozen of us are giving time and energy to this project but more are needed to complete the next phase, starting Community Speed Watch. If more came forward each individual's contribution need be less than a couple of hours per person per month. The support of the Parish Council and the TVP means that the necessary equipment and safety gear will be provided.

There is much more traffic passing through our Stonesfield than there was just a few years back. More cars mean less time and less space for each vehicle. Let's take responsibility for our own roads, paths, and bridleways by assisting SAFER in ensuring that courtesy and consideration take precedence over timetables and schedules for those passing through this village.

Interested in helping? Contact via <https://stonesfield.online/safer/>

John Poucher

Stonesfield Village Hall News

The evenings are getting lighter, and we are all feeling a little more energetic, so we are pleased to welcome Yoga to our list of activities, which is held on Thursday evenings, 7.30–8.30pm. For more information please contact Clare Nuttall on 07477 209900 or info@wychwoodchiropractic.com

You will need to look out your polling cards on 2 May as we have polling for the Local Government Elections from 6.30am to 10.15pm, in the village hall. There may possibly be another Election on 23 May for the European Parliament.

Towards the end of May we have Artweeks, with lots of artists at various locations around the village. We are lucky enough to be hosting an exhibition by Chris Davies (as seen on BBC1s Big Painting Challenge) in our clubroom on the weekend 24–26 May. Do try to take some time to visit all the talented artists that we have in our wonderful village –

As always, please support the various activities running within the village, and bear us in mind if you need extra space for your parties or functions.

Jacqueline Carthew, Secretary & Booking Clerk for Stonesfield Village Hall, mailing address: 2 Friends Close, Stonesfield OX29 8PH (898919; facebook.com/stonesfieldvillagehall; <http://stonesfield.info/stonesfield-life/venues/village-hall.php>)

Village Fête

Friends of Stonesfield School are hoping to organise a village fête this year and we need your help! The date would be Saturday 20 July. If you could help in any

way – man a stall for an hour, bake a cake, put up a marquee, etc – we would love to hear from you. Please contact FoSS a.s.a.p. (898851; rach_aldred@yahoo.com)

Ladies Breakfast

St James Centre Saturday 25 May

All ladies are invited to this event to enjoy a healthy breakfast and great fellowship, 8.45 for 9am. Our speaker is Martine Smith-Huvers who many of you will know. She will talk about the impact of music on her life.

The cost is £5. Could you please let Bina (891293), Janet (891566) or Kathleen (891733) know if you are joining us.

Stonesfield Spring Clean

Huge thanks to the 40+ volunteers who joined the village-wide clean-up on a sunny Spring morning on 24 March, with further thanks to the additional 15+ Stonesfield Scout Group Beaver, Cub, Scouts, (and their leaders), who also tidied up the Playing Field and Play Park.

Thanks also to Ben and Sam Tomlin for opening up the SSSC early for us, providing refreshments and facilities. And to Richard and Julie Grime, who very kindly drove around collecting up all of the bagged rubbish (and the fridge!).

Over 20 bags of rubbish was collected (in addition to 10+ bags of recycling), with a number of other larger items (including a fly-tipped fridge, numerous tyres, and car parts) moved to a central point for collection by WODC the next day.

Two sites of flying-tipping on the Green

Lane bridleway between Woodstock Road and The Ridings have also been reported to WODC. To date, one of the two fly-tipping reports has been actioned/removed. The other, the builders rubble, may contain asbestos and therefore, we expect may take longer to be resolved.

We also tidied up the recycling centre in Field Close – hopefully you have already noticed the difference here and throughout the village.

My next step is to write up the list of comments/recommendations made by the volunteers, for example frequency and location of future village-wide litter picks, consultation re positioning of village litter bins and dog waste bins etc. Once written up, I will share this with everyone for your further feedback, before then also sharing it with the Parish Council. Do please let me know if you have any suggestions.

Thank you again – it really was very heartening to see so many volunteers. And lovely to catch-up with, and meet, so many village residents.

Jess Huband (jesshuband@hotmail.co.uk)

Toad Patrol in Fawler 2019

The pattern of this year's toad migration has been weird. –It started with a bang – 55 toads helped across the road over the weekend of 1 March but there followed hardly any movement for the next two weeks. Suddenly over the weekend of 15 March it was as if the word had got out that there was a big party at the pond and every toad had to rush to be present. A mighty flow of 132 toads appeared. After that the tail-end Charlies meandered along and by the 23rd

everything had finished. Thanks to the efforts of our magnificent band of volunteers. Although we mourned 45 toads squashed, we celebrated the survival of 217.

Hilary Stacey

Shadow of the Desert by David Lines

There will be another chance to see this popular radio play, written by David, directed by Becki Sherlaw-Johnson and performed by the Stonesfield Players, at the Charlbury Festival on Saturday 15 June along with the exhibition.

Doors open at 7pm for an 8pm performance at the Memorial Hall in Charlbury. Tickets will be £10. For advance bookings contact andrew.tacon@outlook.com.

Bridewell Organic Gardens.

Open Gardens, 19 May, 23 June, 28 July
Bridewell Gardens, Wilcote, OX7 3DT.
2–5pm entry £5 suggested donation, children free. Visit our stunning walled garden and vineyard, knot garden, fruit cage, raised beds, ponds, creative planting and garden art. Home made teas served in the garden. Bridewell jams, honey, chutney, handcrafts, garden plants, our award-winning organic wine for sale.

For further information: 01993 848238 or go to www.bridewellgardens.org

Stonesfield bells

Visiting ringers will be ringing our church bells on Saturday 11 May from 1.45 to 2.30pm.

Politics & local affairs

Parish Council

The Annual Parish Meeting

The council confirmed they would hold the Annual Parish Meeting on 13 May at 7pm in the Village Hall. There will be a usual full council meeting from 6.30 to 7pm before the APM for normal business. All members of the public are welcome.

Town & Parish Council Elections Update

Cllr S Powell, Cllr D Brown, Cllr D Baldwin and Cllr P McArdell are confirmed as uncontested re-elected councillors. Cllr Jim O'Brien will re-stand as a councillor to be co-opted on at the next meeting in May. There are two other parties potentially interested in the vacant positions at the moment.

CALA Appeal Update

Cllr David Brown provided a written report to councillors ahead of the meeting. This report is provided within the minutes which are posted on the website. On 16 May the CALA inquiry resumes, updates will follow as we have them.

SAFER (Stonesfield Action for Enhancing Road Safety)

The new mirror has been put up. The speed survey signage is in progress and has been designed, they will be in place soon along with permanent blue signs provided by police that will go on the entrance to the village.

Village Tidy Up

The council would like formally to thank

Jess Huband for her work on a successful litter pick on 24 March. Approximately 40 residents joined the clean up with a further 15+ representatives from the Scout Group, Beavers, Cubs and their respective leaders. Over 20 bags of rubbish were collected with a number of larger items (including a fly tipped fridge, tyres and car parts). WODC has removed the collected rubbish.

Karen East, Interim Clerk to the Parish Council (stonesfieldpc@gmail.com)

West Oxfordshire District Council District Digest

With the elections now imminent, things have been relatively peaceful at District.

The proposed motor museum on the airfield at Enstone has been deferred pending further information. The Development Committee was evenly divided in spite of the new architect's plans, Sir Norman Foster no less. Huge representation from the neighbouring villages highlighted the perceived objections, mainly to do with fears of massive increases in traffic flows.

Thames Water was again the subject of criticism for inadequate infrastructure for sewage. Highlighted were problems in Finstock and Stonesfield.

Problems caused by single-use plastics were debated with various suggestions being referred to Cabinet/Council for consideration.

Provision of electric charging points for

electric vehicles and their siting was the subject of debate with the County's plans to incorporate them in street lighting columns being welcomed.

The West Oxfordshire department responsible for trees owned by the Council explained and amplified the policy for tree management and preservation.

The appeal enquiry into the refusal to permit building 68 new houses on the Woodstock Road in Stonesfield is ongoing. The barrister employed by the prospective developer quoted many facts and figures without much regard for either accuracy or veracity. However, the speakers from Sustainable Stonesfield were positive, accurate and strong in their rebuttals. Both Jim Astle and David Lines presented their arguments with great force and, hopefully, clear understanding on the part of the Inspector. The Enquiry reconvenes in May.

When you receive this, the District and Parish council elections will be only days away. Please remember to –exercise your right to vote.

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

Local Elections

On Thursday 2 May residents in 16 of the 27 wards in West Oxfordshire will go to the polls to have their say on who represents them at a local level. Local government elections select councillors, who are responsible for making decisions on running services in your local area. These include housing, planning, leisure, licensing, public safety, and waste and recycling collections.

In order to vote in this important election, residents must be on the electoral register.

Further information: 01993 861616 or e: communications@westoxon.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

Stonesfield Primary School

Last month I wrote about the importance of promoting a love of reading and I am delighted to say that our Wolfy Book Day was a great success. The author Mini Grey visited and as well as entertaining the school with two of her stories (*The Last Wolf* and *The Bad Bunnies' Magic Show*) she ran illustration masterclasses which all the children loved. There were fantastic costumes galore and our creative teachers completed the day by organising drama and storytelling workshops and the opportunity to create outdoor trails inspired by Hansel & Gretel. As well as being a celebration of books we embraced the environmental theme of Mini's latest book, *The Last Wolf*, and discussed the importance of trees and their multitude of benefits.

School children taking action over climate change has hit the news recently with students in Oxford and worldwide striking and raising awareness. Not only is it vital that children of primary school

age are educated about the threats facing our planet, but that they also feel empowered to offer solutions and make a change. Last week Beech class (year 4 and 5) staged a wonderful performance of *A Big Green Adventure*. Our children's knowledge and passion about topics such as pollution, deforestation and recycling shone through. It made me proud to be their headteacher, knowing that our future is in such capable hands.

Thanks to the support of The Woodland Trust and the expertise of the Sylva Foundation, every child in the school has had an opportunity to plant a tree this month in the school grounds. We are so lucky to have such amazing grounds already but we will benefit further from the shade, shelter and of course the wonderful colours these new trees will offer. Children embraced our tree planting project and learned so much about the process and their benefits as well. In recent months it's been a delight to see red kites soaring majestically over the school and hopefully our grounds can be a haven for wildlife and inspire eco-warriors for many generations to come.

Ben Treveil, Headteacher

Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock

Exhibition, 4 May–2 June. *Matisse: Drawing with Scissors: Late works 1950–54*

This exhibition features 35 lithographic prints of the famous cut outs by this renowned French Artist, produced in the



last four years of his life. It includes many of his iconic images such as *The Snail* and *the Blue Nudes*.

Exhibition, 15 June–8 September.
Wonderland: A wander through the world of Alice

Fall down the rabbit hole and into the magical world of Alice in Wonderland in this interactive exhibition for families. Join the Mad Hatter's Tea Party, play croquet with flamingos and escape the Queen of Hearts. Discover the inspiration behind Lewis Carroll's fantastic tale created during a trip down the River Isis.

For more information on events and activities visit:
w: Oxfordshire.gov.uk/museums

Friends of The Oxfordshire Museum Talks and lectures

Wednesday 1 May: *In and around the Wychwood Forest* by Simon Draper, Victoria County History. Tickets £4 w: friendsoftom.org

Saturday 18 May: *The evolution of smocks through the eye of the County collections*. Tickets £8 from the museum reception.

Children's Activities

28 May: TOM Tots fun for under-fives. 10.30–11am, free of charge supported by Friends of museum.

Crafty drop-in family fun, 2–4pm, £2 child / £5 family

30 May: Crafty drop-in family fun, 2–4pm, £2 child / £5 family

Reminiscence and Activities for older people

3 May, 2 – 3.30pm, £1 per person.

Those were the days – Do you remember...
All Creatures Great and Small: bring a photo or memory of a well-loved pet. Remember the tiddlers caught in jars, the working horses, visits to the nit nurse.

Friday 31 May, 10.30am–12.30pm.
Painting with Scissors-free creative activity for older people

For further details and to book a place call 01993 814106.

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

Clubs & societies

Stonesfield Gardening Club

Last month we had no evening meeting, but a small group took themselves to Waterperry Gardens to see what there was in the way of spring bulbs. We were fortunate that the fritillary meadow was at its best and the field running down to the river was full of daffodils. As I write this, members are nurturing plants for our plant sale, which we hope will be as popular as ever.

Our speaker for the May meeting on Monday 13 is Chris Day, who will be talking about 'Growing Under Cover', whether that is in the greenhouse, cloche, polytunnel or conservatory, and offering tips to get the most out of your greenhouse throughout the year. All welcome!

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

Stonesfield Sports & Social Club

The SSSC will be open on both May Bank Holidays when, weather permitting, we will be running a BBQ.

Saturday 18 May is Band Night, when we will be entertained by THE CORSAIRS from 9pm.

Our monthly BINGO will be held on Thursday 23 May. Eyes Down 7.30 pm

Come along and enjoy a slice (or two!) of cake and a cup of coffee / tea –and a chat at our POP UP CAFE on the 31st from 9.30 am.

We look forward to seeing you at some or

ALL, of these events we are holding during May.

Brian Clarke

Stonesfield Over 60s Club

We met for our April meeting on the afternoon of Thursday the 11th. Having greeted each other we chatted for a short while until we were ready for our entertainment. An hour of music and verse given to us by 'Old Gold' and no I don't mean the Chocolates (they are All Gold).

We have been entertained by music and poetry by Marilyn and her sisters Mo and Mary on several occasions in the past but change in circumstances means change in the pattern of what we do and on this occasion Marilyn had brought along her husband and two friends. We were entertained in style, lots of well known old favourites and one or two not so well known. The book of amusing verses was well received and we all had something to smile about. We thanked them so much for being with us.

The kettle was boiled and a cuppa ready. We enjoyed this with Hot Cross Buns and delicious cakes provided by Pam and Tony, still celebrating their Diamond Wedding. Thank you both. They had brought along the beautiful card sent by Her Majesty The Queen.

A few notices were given out, next month would be the Annual meeting and there were things we had to deal with. Subs will be due at that meeting.

and that day we will have a bring-and-buy stall to boost our funds. Do try to come and invite others to come and pay us a visit. Anyone over 60 is welcome.

We ended our afternoon with the raffle. As always A big thank you to all the helpers.

Best wishes for Easter. Not too many Eggs.

Avis

North Leigh History Society

7 May: *Archeological finds in Oxfordshire*.
A talk by Malcom Hodges, a detectorist.

We meet in the Turner Hall, Church Road OX29 6TX at 7.30pm. Visitors £4, Members free.

Further details from Diana Power (01993 882301).

STONESFIELD VOLUNTARY TRANSPORT SCHEME

arranges car transport to doctors' and dentists' surgeries in Woodstock, Charlbury, Long Hanborough and Witney, and to Water Eaton Park & Ride (for buses to JR, Nuffield and Churchill Hospitals)

**If you need a lift for a medical visit in MAY
please ring Peter Hill (898823) or Viv Kendall (891803).**

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

Sport

Stonesfield Football Club

Where to start this month? There's good and bad news I'm afraid, so let's get the bad news done and dusted. The Firsts were unlucky to lose a pulsating Fred Ford Cup Semi-Final (4-3) against Kirtlington, where they gave their all but a couple of simple errors (not naming names) cost them dearly. It's not been plain sailing in the league either, with a farcical loss at home (1-0) to Witney Royals, followed by a dismal defeat at title-challengers Moreton (3-1). The good news started away at Witney Royals where a stunning 4-goal demolition job by the incomparable Raffy Rice, in a one-sided affair (6-0), got their league challenge back on track. As things stand, they have two games left and need to win both to be crowned champions. The good news doesn't stop there as they've also reached the final of The Junior Cup after a deserved but narrow win (1-0) over Bampton, where young Carry Rice (on as a super-sub) kept his head with a subtle touch to finesse the ball round the keeper and into the net. A touch of class that had all our supporters purring with delight! They'll play old foes Milton in the final which should be a great game under the lights at North Leigh. A league and cup double beckons so good luck to our boys!

Our Reserves are a strange bunch: they took on the two Ascott teams at home and had a great win (2-1) against Ascott Rgs., followed by an amazing draw (5-5) with FC Ascott. Next up it was local rivals

Chadlington who inflicted a humiliating defeat (7-0) on our boys and were crowned champions in real style. Never predictable, our boys then went over to Brize Norton and turned in one of their best performances of the season in a magnificent win (6-2). They are in third place, behind Kingham on goal difference but amazingly can still win promotion if they beat Wootton in their final match and Milton deny Kingham. It's on a knife-edge and I wouldn't like to predict which way it's going to go! Mind you, we have to congratulate Chadlington for winning Div 4, they thoroughly deserve to be Champions and with luck we can join them in Div 3 next season.

The Fredo, this month, is, once again, between The Rice brothers. Super-sub Carry who put us in the final, or the 4-goal hero Raffy, who kept our dreams of Championship glory alive? It would be easy just to share it, but 4 goals in one match is quite an achievement, so step up Raffy, The Fredo is yours!

Tom Flanigan (891979)

Stonesfield Cricket Club

At last our outdoor season has arrived! We all think 2019 could be a vintage one for the club, we expect both our senior sides to seriously challenge for honours.

The 1st XI begin in the league on 4 May with a tough trip to 2018 champions Witney Swifts on the Leys, great deeds are hoped for from new signings Tim

Wyatt and Rob Hicks! The 2nd XI start at home to Deddington 2nds on the same date, this season we are aiming for promotion from Div 7 North.

The junior section still need some MORE PLAYERS! It's incredibly inexpensive, and all the equipment is provided – do please contact me if your son or daughter would like to give it a go. The Under 15s (school years 10 & 9) train on Thursday evenings at the field 6pm, and have their first match on Monday 29 April. The Under 13s (school years 8, 7, 6) train 6pm on Tuesday evenings at the field, and we

have some matches on Thursday evenings.

Lots of healthy fun is guaranteed!

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

Bowls

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Church news



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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 first wrote this letter to you in 2015 but it seems quite fitting for us today in 2019.

We have just had St George's Day on 23 April and I wondered if you thought about it or considered what it might mean to us as a nation. I ask the question because we are coming up to our general election date and we will all be asking ourselves what sort of UK do we want to see for ourselves and our children.

Lots of people in England will relate to what we believe England ought to stand for. The political parties, particularly the UKIP party will want to emphasise being British and having what they would consider self-determination.

I know lots of people who are worried about what it means to be part of a sovereign state rather than

being part of a Federal Europe. I understand that the received wisdom to unify different groups of people is to have a common currency first and then unifying laws. That's what happened in the USA. They had a common currency and then a federated union. Better people than me understand these things. But it seems to me that it's what people believe about how we should respect, care for and behave that is much more important. Surely that's how families operate! It's not the fiscal or the rules of the house, which are important I grant you, but the compassion and the shared standards, the values and commitment to those values that bind people and families together.

As a nation we have a patron saint who serves as an example regarding the qualities that are supposed to cement us together. So who was this St George?

St George was a soldier of the Roman Empire, from the then Greek-speaking Anatolia, now modern-day Turkey, and is venerated as a Christian martyr.

George was born to a Christian family during the late third century. His father was from Cappadocia and served as an officer of the Roman army. His mother was from Lydda, Judea (now Israel). She returned to her native city as a widow along with her young son, where she provided him with an education. The youth followed his father's example by joining the army soon after coming of age. He proved to be a good soldier and consequently rose through the military ranks of the time. By his late twenties he had gained the title of *tribunus* (Tribune) and then stationed in Nicomedia he became a member of the personal guard attached to Roman Emperor Diocletian.

In 303 Diocletian issued an edict authorising the systematic persecution of Christians across the Empire. George was ordered to participate in the persecution but instead confessed to being a Christian himself and

criticised the imperial decision. An enraged Diocletian ordered his torture and execution. But did you know that St George is shared as a patron saint around the world!

St George is the patron saint of Aragon, Canada, Catalonia, China, England, Ethiopia, Georgia, Greece, Montenegro, Palestine, Portugal, Russia, and Serbia, as well as the cities of Amersfoort, Beirut, Ferrara, Freiburg, Genoa, Ljubljana, and Moscow, as well as a wide range of professions, organisations.

Perhaps we might be on to something here. Instead of the Euro or the court in Brussels it could be something much more understandable. It could be Christian love and ideals that should bind us together. What do you think? Maybe our vote should go to the person who best exemplifies those virtues on the seventh!"

What do you think?

God bless and see you soon, D.F.T.W.

Rev Roy

SERVICES FOR MAY

Sunday 5 May [Third Sunday of Easter]

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

Sunday 12 May [Fourth Sunday of Easter]

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

Sunday 19 May [Fifth Sunday of Easter]

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

Sunday 26 May [Sixth Sunday of Easter]

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

Sunday 2 June [Seventh Sunday of Easter]

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 MAY

Sun 5	11am	Revd Rose Westwood Holy Communion
Sun 12	11am	Philip Mansell
Sun 19	11am	Stella Bristow
Sun 26	11am	Peter Allen

Summertime is on it's way. What will you do with those extra hours of light and hopefully sunshine too?

Recently I watched a T.V. series titled 'Pilgrimage' and I loved it. Seeing the magnificent Churches the pilgrims visited and the long and often gruelling journeys they were eager to make. People of all denominations and all walks of life took part. Friendships developed and an understanding of each other too. Many pilgrims were looking for a closer

relationship with God, some using the time for reflection, others just enjoying the experience and the company of fellow walkers. But for what ever reason, the pilgrims found the walks invaluable.

So this summer I hope to walk a short pilgrimage or two myself---for reasons of my own.

How about you?

Sunday Services here at 11am. All very welcome indeed.

Kathleen Albért

Roman Catholic Worship Service

One of the Pope's titles is 'The Servant of the Servants of God', reflecting Jesus' view of status. To Jesus greatness is the reverse of the usual assumptions. Jesus saw that the greatest will be the least, and the last will be first. Jesus asked his disciples 'For who is the greater, the one

who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table?' Jesus answered his own question 'But I am among you as one who serves' (Luke 22: 26, 27). Jesus saw that in serving others, putting others before self and opening up ourselves to how service to others is a blessing for us. In the Acts of the Apostles 20:35 we are told 'In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus when he said 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'. So easy to say, but hard to put into practice, but we can try and try again.

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 Clive Dytor, Chair, Parish Committee: chair.stteresaschurchcharlbury@gmail.com

Roman Catholic Community in Stonesfield

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The White Horse, Stonesfield

IS SUMMER JUST AROUND THE CORNER??

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.

What an amazing Easter it was! Hopefully it's the shape of things to come and we'll have a Summer like last year's.

We will be having our Micro Beer Fest again this year in August so watch this space and social media for more news of that.

Our Quiz night is still really popular. Thank you to everyone who still supports it after the change of day from Tuesday to Wednesday. Don't forget the Folk Night will still be held on the first Wednesday of every month, so the quiz will take a break that week.

Also, we will be opening longer hours on a Sunday so instead of closing at 3pm we will be open until 6pm (although the restaurant will still close at 3pm).

Bar opening hours

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

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