

The Stonesfield Slate

Issue No 492 June 2019



Dates for your diary – June

2	Treasure Box Family Walk	St James' Centre	2.30pm
3,10,17,24	Monday Coffee	S. James' Centre	8.45–10am
3,10,17,24	SJC Cuppa	St James' Centre	10–11.30am
5, 12, 19, 26	Gatehouse Pilates	Village Hall	9.30am
6,13,20,27	Book Break	Stonesfield Library	12.30–2pm
6,13,20,27	Pilates	Village Hall	7.30 to 8.30pm
7, 8, 9	Folk Dance Weekend	Village Hall	
8	Cricket World Cup Event	Playing Field	10am
12	Parish Council meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm
13	Over 60's Club	Village Hall	2pm
13	Bingo	SSSC	Eyes down 7.30pm
15	<i>Shadow of the Desert</i>	Charlbury Memorial Hall	7 for 8pm
18	Gardening Club trip	car share	10.30am
22	Band Night – BITEBACK	SSSC	9pm
28	Pop-up Café	SSSC	9.30–12noon
29	Parish Church Gift Day	St James' Church	10–4pm
30	Stonesfield Open Gardens	Various locations	2– 5.30pm

Publishers

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

Editor for this issue

Vivienne Kendall
(891803)

Editor for July

Vivienne Kendall

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

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 Stonesfield
Gardening Club plant
sale on 27 April*



Photo: Paul Bates

Notices

CALA development

The 16th of May was the day of closing statements on the CALA appeal to build 68 houses north of the Woodstock Road. SUSTO, the Parish Council and the AONB Conservation Board (the joint Rule 6 Party) have done their best to put the case to the Inspector that this development should not be permitted. The decision of the Local Plan Inspector six months ago to have the site removed from the Plan, and the District Council's subsequent planning committee decision to refuse permission, should be upheld.

CALA brought in a crack team of lawyers and expert witnesses, at no doubt vast expense, to argue the opposite.

This is the conclusion delivered by Jim Astle on behalf of the Rule 6 parties:

It is submitted that on the evidence before the Public Inquiry:

- There are no exceptional circumstances in the public interest to justify this major development in the AONB;
- The appeal proposal would not amount to sustainable development;
- The harm caused by the proposed development would overwhelmingly exceed any benefits, of which there are few if any;
- The appeal proposal would not be in accordance with the local development plan or any other material consideration;
- The appeal should therefore be dismissed.

A big thank you is due to everyone in the village who has written letters objecting to this proposal, to the Parish Council for joining us in this fight and paying for expert witnesses, to the whole of the SUSTO committee who have worked hard in various ways over the past three years and especially to Jim Astle for leading us at the appeal – we couldn't have done it without you. We now have to sit and wait with fingers crossed (and anything else you care to cross) for six to eight weeks to find out the Inspector's ruling.

Richard Morris, Chair of Sustainable Stonesfield

Stonesfield Community Trust

Sadly, over the Easter Weekend, Stonesfield Preschool was a victim of trespass and criminal damage caused by unauthorised older kids being on the property. The incident has been reported to the police, but if anyone can shed any light on the matter, please let us know.

At the same time the defibrillator was found on the floor outside the building, which is believed to have been the result of a faulty cabinet. Since then, for safety reasons, the unit has had to be moved into the building. A new cabinet has been organised, and will be installed soon so the unit will be back and available for use by the community.

There was also an incident where damage was done to a vehicle parked on The Cross, outside Glovers Yard. Glovers Yard is a Residents Only car park, so not for

general use, and is also the entry way for the Preschool. Please be mindful not to block the access, be extremely careful when manoeuvring around the area, and park in the allocated spaces on The Cross.

Back in February, we announced that for Christmas 2019 we would really like to host a Community Lunch for 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.

If you have any questions please contact Property Manager Jacqueline Carthew by email: jacquelinecarthew@gmail.com.

Parish Church Gift Day 2019

The annual Gift Day for the Parish Church will be held on Saturday 29 June.

Thank you to everyone for your generous donations last year, enabling the church to meet its financial commitments, including worship, activities such as Monday coffee, children's activities, running costs, repairs to the building and contribution to the Diocese for our Parish Share.

Judging by the support and interest shown, the church is a special place for so many in the village. For some it is a place to meet with others to worship God, a place for prayer and quiet, or a place to ask for God's blessing on special life and family events such as baptisms, weddings and funerals. For others, it is the upkeep of the magnificent 13th-century building itself, which is of paramount importance.

A Gift Day provides everyone for whom

the church is special, in whatever way, with an opportunity to show their support in a tangible way.

You are warmly invited to bring your gift, large or small, to the church on 29 June, between 10am and 4pm. When you come, do stay for a cup of coffee or tea. Gift Aid forms will be available to enable you to enhance your gift by 25% if you are a taxpayer. Donations can be made in cash, by cheque (made payable to 'Stonesfield PCC') or bank transfer (bank details available at the church on 29 June or directly from Keith Bellew – telephone: 01993 891302).

If you are unable to come on 29 June, but would like to contribute, please drop your gift into the Rectory in Brook Lane or in the wall safe inside the church.

On behalf of the Parochial Church Council

Jamie's Party – Advance notice

20 July is the date for Jamie's Party (3–5pm), as usual at the Manor gardens. It's for the village with love from St James's Church and all friends. A warm welcome awaits all comers. Tea, relaxation and fun – whatever the weather. See you then!

Charlotte Oakeshott (891222)

Village Fête – revised date

FoSS (Friends of Stonesfield School) has decided to run the fête later in the year. The date has now been set for Saturday 28 September – an ideal time to get your produce ready for the show tent! There are a great many clubs, groups and talented individuals in Stonesfield and we would love to hear from you if you

would like to run a stall, perform, give a demonstration, etc. Please contact Rachel Aldred on behalf of FoSS. (rach_albred@yahoo.com, 898851).

Treasure Box walk

There will be a Treasure Box family walk on Sunday 2 June starting at the St James' Centre at 2.30pm, and finishing at the St James' Centre for refreshments. Anyone is welcome to come along. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Muriel Barrett (891479)

Shadow of the Desert

The Stonesfield Players are reprising their popular radio play, *Shadow of the Desert*, by David Lines and directed by Becki

Sherlaw-Johnson, at the Charlbury Festival on 15 June at the Memorial Hall in Charlbury. Doors open at 7pm for a performance at 8pm and there will be a repeat showing of the exhibition in the bar.

T. E. Lawrence achieved international celebrity almost as soon as he returned from the desert. Thanks to his tireless work attempting to create an independent Arab state he also created enemies in the establishment. But haunted by his experiences in the desert and considering Lawrence of Arabia to be a failure, Lawrence sought to escape the icon he had become.

With the threat of another war growing, media harassment, politics, government agents, doomed relationships and a man who cannot escape his past contribute

towards a powerful play about personal freedom.

Booking in advance is recommended. Tickets £10 available from the box office: 01993 891217, 07795 441986 or andrew.tacon@outlook.com; also from Charlbury Deli and Café, Market St. Charlbury.

Stonesfield Players

Pantomime auditions

Auditions will be held in the St James' Centre on Sunday 14 July, starting at 2pm, for parts in a pantomime to be staged early in the New Year, hopefully at the beginning of February.

Which pantomime we produce will depend entirely upon the amount of support we get at the auditions. All are welcome to attend. However, junior parts will only be open to those in school year 4 and above, as at the start of September term 2019. Juniors who wish to audition will be expected to read either a piece of prose or poetry, or sing a song. This will be of their own choice and brought to the auditions with them. Rehearsals will commence in September.

Allotments available

We have two and a half plots available in the allotments on the Woodstock Road.

If you like the idea of moderate exercise at your own pace in a tranquil setting, the pleasures of growing and eating your own, the therapeutic effect of being intimately connected to the natural world in your own little bit of our beautiful countryside, then get in touch and we'll show you around.

Jon Gordon (898803; jmg@couffin.co.uk)

Bird Aid – the bit we couldn't fit in last month!

Thanks to the support of our local farmers and volunteers, Bird Aid is growing in impact, helping to reverse the decline in farmland bird numbers. In addition to Highfield, you may have noticed the increase in birdlife around Tudor Stone's field on Combe Road, especially yellowhammers and flocks of linnets – timid birds who benefit from the good view points in his thick tall hedge, before flying down to ground level to feed.

Grateful thanks to Michael Green at Akeman Street Farm for providing rapeseed tailings for feed, and a further feeding site at Kings Wood. Also to Dave Holloway for providing storage and to Ollie Stobo for offering us a new site – we are delighted to have so many new farmland sites in Stonesfield. We'd welcome more volunteers of all ages to help with feeding just once a week from November to March, and/or to help with surveying once a month. For more details or to get involved, please contact us.

Judy Anders, Genny Early
(judy.anders66@gmail.com)

Village Idiots Band Night

A huge thank you to the Village Idiots for putting on a fantastic night last month. Thanks also to the Sports and Social Club for providing the bar, and to Hannah Ball for providing the disco lights! A good amount of money was raised for the school and a great time had by all.

FoSS

Shadow of the Desert

What happened to Lawrence after Arabia?

Stonesfield Players present for the Charlbury Festival a radio play at the Memorial Hall, Charlbury on 15 June at 8pm

Tickets £10 available from the box office: 01993 891217; 07795 441986; andrew.tacon@outlook.com

and from the Charlbury Deli & Café, Market Street Charlbury.

Written by David Lines Directed by Becki Sherlaw-Johnson



Fundraising supper

Many thanks to all those who came to our pop up bistro on 8 May. We raised £500 on the evening to support those affected by Typhoon Idai. It was a very social evening, with everyone sitting together and making new acquaintances. Mac'n'cheese was on the menu, along with rhubarb trifle fresh from the allotment.

Watch our website for future midweek pop ups at the Bistro on Peaks Lane!

Jaimie and Jacqui, Good Gourmet

Blenheim Palace

Blenheim Estates' Ancient Woodland to Host New School Camps

Blenheim Estate has joined forces with The Bushcraft Company to offer schoolchildren the unique opportunity to live wild in their ancient woodland; cooking over open fires and sleeping under canvas.

Taking place during the summer and autumn terms, the three to five-day residential camps are aimed at children from 7 to 18 years. The Bushcraft Company plans to run an open day at Blenheim Palace in June for anyone interested in finding out more about what's involved.

As well as experiencing the great outdoors, youngsters will also be able to find out more about the Blenheim Estate's rich fauna and flora; including its unique ancient oak woodland, which has

remained virtually unchanged for centuries.

Impact of Flower Show and Nocturne Concerts

A high number of visitors is expected on 21–23 June, with the Blenheim Palace Flower Show running in the day and Nocturne Concerts in the evening.

Although they have two very separate audiences and arrival times, there will be a robust traffic management in place, particularly mid- to late afternoon. We apologise in advance for any inconvenience that this causes.

Glyme Valley Ladies' Probus

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

It's not worth the risk

Do you know that 95% of collisions are due to human error? Distraction, speeding, not wearing a seatbelt and driving under the influence of drink or drugs are the big fatal four on our county's roads.

Oxfordshire County Council Fire and Rescue Service has put together top tips to help you avoid the fatal four; see 365alive.co.uk/fatalfour.

Politics & local affairs

Parish Council

The Parish Council held its monthly meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting on 13 May.

Wendy Gould and Frank Huddleston stood down as councillors this time and following an uncontested election Cllr David Brown, Cllr David Baldwin, Cllr Phil McArdell and Cllr Simon Powell were re-elected. Cllr Geraldine Lawrence and Cllr Jim O'Brien were re-elected via co-option. There are currently two vacancies for Councillors. Cllr David Brown was re-elected as Chairman and Cllr Phil McArdell was elected as Vice Chair.

The Parish Council would like to thank those who attended the APM and provided reports; these will be circulated with the minutes and posted on the website.

The 16th of May was the final day of the CALA homes hearing, and representatives from the Council attended. As soon as we hear any updates from the hearing we will pass this information on to you.

The Parish Council is subject to an annual audit. The end of year internal audit has now been completed by the clerk and the auditor. Phillip Hood was appointed as internal auditor and is generally pleased with the Council finances. The clerk sought the Council's approval in the full Council meeting and it has now been sent to external auditors for final sign off.

Minutes of the last meeting will be posted on the website next week.

The next Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 12 June at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

SAFER

SAFER is a sub-committee of Stonesfield Parish Council and was formed by a group of residents who are concerned about increased levels of through-traffic, speeding and dangerous driving in the



village. Would you be interested in helping to make Stonesfield more sustainable and safer for existing families and future generations? More information on how you can become involved is available on the Parish Council's website: <https://stonesfield.online/safer/>.

West Oxfordshire District Council

At the recent Annual Parish Meeting in Combe, I gave a very potted summary of the year's activities. It referred briefly to the Appeal Hearings for the Woodstock Road development in Stonesfield. This continued in May, with a decision announced probably in June/July.

It is almost to be expected that the District is still in conflict with Thames Water. The infrastructure in West Oxfordshire is antiquated and inadequate for the number of dwellings already in existence quite apart from the proposed developments. Thames Water is full of promises and hopes of improvements but little appears.

Combe, fortunately, has so far escaped the brunt of the building boom and sincerely hopes this happy state will continue.

At a time when elections seem to occupy much of the news, it would be remiss of me to fail to refer to my very good friend and ex-colleague in the Ward, Charles Cottrell-Dormer. Charles unexpectedly lost his seat on 2 May. He has served the people of West Oxfordshire for forty-eight years and has given exemplary service in many capacities, not least as Chairman of the Uplands Planning Committee. He will be greatly missed by his colleagues of all parties. His acerbic comments regarding the exaggerated claims of builders have delighted the committees over the years. I am saddened by his departure – another casualty, perhaps, of the mishandled Brexit chaos. But time moves on, and I will make our new Councillor, Natalie Chapple, welcome in the Ward. I am sure we will work together to represent the concerns and wishes of all our residents.

*Richard Bishop (01993 891414;
richard.bishop@westoxon.gov.uk)*

From our County Councillor District Council Election Results

West Oxfordshire remains under Conservative control. [For a summary of the results, see p. 19]

Primary school places

More than nine out of ten parents whose children are set to enter the classroom for the first time this September have been offered their first choice of primary school in Oxfordshire. Since 2010 the council has created more than 10,000 new primary school places.

Barbecues

The good weather has meant many of us getting the BBQs out. However, Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue has already been called out to deal with out-of-control grills. Many of these incidents could be avoided by:

- Making sure your barbecue is standing on a flat surface and away from fences, trees and sheds.
- Keeping a bucket of water or a garden hose nearby and don't leave the barbecue unattended.
- Always ensuring you fully inspect the BBQ and cylinder for wear and tear and any damage.

Woodstock library

Members of the public at Woodstock Library can connect their own devices to the Internet via Council supplied WiFi. The Library staff have been instructed on how to connect to the Wi-Fi.

Currently all options are being considered to maintain a permanent library facility within Woodstock. I would urge residents to visit Charlbury and Wood Green in Banbury to see what a new library shared facility could look like. The County Council will work with Woodstock TC and residents before a final decision is taken.

*Cllr Ian Hudspeth (07956 270318,
Ian.hudspeth@oxfordshire.gov.uk)*

From our Member of Parliament Cotswold Line Upgrades

Our MP Robert Courts has met with the Rail Minister, Andrew Jones, to discuss the need for upgrades to the Cotswold Line, including further redoubling and more frequent services. Robert has pledged to continue to keep up the pressure on all involved to ensure vital railway upgrades for West Oxfordshire.

Refillable water bottles

The 'Refill West Oxfordshire' initiative is part of national award-winning campaign to reduce plastic pollution. It has already won the backing of many local businesses who have agreed to refill people's water bottles free of charge; one is Witney Blanket Hall. Participating businesses are shown on an app to help people find them and can also display a sticker in their window.

Better Mobile Coverage in Rural Areas

Robert Courts has joined in calls on the Government to make it a requirement that network operators enable roaming between providers to improve mobile coverage in rural areas. He recognises that a lack of co-ordination between network providers has left many rural areas covered by some but not all the networks. This is hampering economic, educational and leisure opportunities for residents in rural areas and remains a significant brake on growth. Introduction of roaming services between networks would vastly increase the operational coverage for many in West Oxfordshire.

Robert Courts (robert@robertcourts.co.uk)

Stonesfield Village Hall News

Thank you to everyone who came along and voted at the two election days.

We have two new Pilates groups running, so if you are thinking about taking up a new challenge, please do bear in mind all the groups based at the hall.

It has now been a 17 months since our previous chairman moved away from the village, so we would love for someone to join us in a chair person capacity. It is such a small commitment, with only four meetings a year, the next one being our AGM on the 24th of July. We have a good group of proactive trustees who oversee the day to day running, but we always welcome fresh ideas, and anyone with experience of village halls or previous chairing experience would be an asset. We would love to hear from you!

*Jacqueline Carthew, Secretary, Trustee &
Booking Clerk for Stonesfield Village Hall
(898919)*

New artificial pitch at Chipping Norton leisure centre

Chipping Norton has a new multi-use games area – a sand-dressed artificial turf surface suitable for a wide range of sports and activities including tennis, football, hockey and netball. An investment of £100,000 for the all-weather pitch and sports equipment was sourced from funding generated by a residential scheme in the town. Booking is via the Chipping Norton leisure centre on 01608 644412 or <https://www.better.org.uk/leisure-centre/west-oxfordshire/chipping-norton-leisure-centre/contactus>.

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 Library

Telephone: 01993 89818

Friends of Stonesfield Library (FoSL)

Just under two dozen FoSLs help to keep our village library open by manning the library, on a rota basis, for roughly 6 hrs each week – about half of its opening hours. We serve there either in pairs or with Debbie, the official county librarian. For the most part, any one of us only does one session each month.

Our next meeting is on 26 June at the White Horse pub, starting promptly at 6.45pm (in order to be finished by the start of the pub's weekly quiz). If you'd like to learn more about what the FoSLs do, please come along – we'd be pleased to see you.

Dale Morris

Stonesfield Primary School Forest School

Recently the governors of Stonesfield

School conducted a parental questionnaire to allow parents to contribute to the long-term vision of the school and evaluate current strengths and areas for development. Along with identifying the welcoming community nature of the school and the dedicated, caring, nurturing staff, our Forest School was identified by many as a main strength. We are passionate about the opportunities that our Forest School gives our pupils: outdoor learning (in all seasons and weathers!); developing problem-solving, creativity and independence; and above all learning new skills and having fun. We offer Forest School to our children in Reception, Year 2, and, unlike most schools, Year 4.

We are fortunate to have a brilliant Forest School leader, Sarah Walker, who many of you will also know through the village Scouts. Sarah ensures that every session is unique, with children pushed out of their comfort zones with a smile on their faces. Under Sarah's supervision children have become remarkably skilled with tools: whittling wood into a variety of objects. One parent commented: 'Our child prefers her bow and arrow – made under the watchful eye of Sarah – to her princess dolls at the moment, which is just fantastic.' I have been treated to some interesting delicacies prepared by the children around the campfire, including dandelion omelette, crumpets and nettle tea.

With school budget constraints ever

tightening, we are only in a position to offer our Forest School due to grants. We receive a Sports Premium grant from the Department for Education – it is unclear whether this will be guaranteed beyond 2020 – and are also extremely grateful to the Community Trust for generously funding a day a week. We also rely on the generosity of parent volunteers who give up their time (again in all weathers), get stuck in and help give the children the undisputed highlight of their week.

It was a pleasure to see so many villagers support the school recently at the Village Idiots fundraising gig at the village hall. The school is at the heart of the community and we rely on you to be able to continue to offer the best experiences for our future generations.

Dog walking on the school premises

Time and again recently we are finding dog mess on the school field and in our Forest School area. We know our parents wait with their dogs at the school gate, so can only conclude this is a villager trespassing on private property, causing a serious health hazard for our pupils. If it's you – please stop.

Ben Trevail, Headteacher

Helping children to enjoy reading

Assisted Reading for Children is looking for volunteers. This award-winning charity trains and supports volunteers to help selected primary school children develop a life-enhancing love of reading. It only takes one and a half hours, twice a week during the school day, in a primary school near you. If you are interested in volunteering, or providing

any kind of help you can, please visit <https://archoxfordshire.org.uk> or phone 01869 320380.

The Oxfordshire Museum Wonderland

A wander through the world of Alice: 15 June – 8 September. 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 fantastical tale, created during a trip down the River Isis.

Alice's Day, 6 July

Join us for a tea party celebration of all things Alice! Please see the website for further details: oxfordshire.gov.uk/museums.



Smocks: Now open!

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 & reproduction, Arts & Crafts, fashion and nostalgia.

Those were the Days, do you remember Friday 7 June, 2-3.30pm

A monthly group for people to meet, reminisce about the past, with photos, objects and shared memories.

The theme of this month's session is 'the good old days' – looking back at a time when technology was simpler and the pace of life was slower. What were the good old days? You decide. £1 per person; tea and coffee will be served.

Friends of The Oxfordshire Museum Talks

5 June: Nigel Bryant on *William Marshall: The Greatest Knight who ever lived*.

3 July: Local historian Tony Hadland talks about agricultural labourers - *My Last Ag-Lab*.

Talks are free for Friends of the Museum; visitors £4. Lectures start at 7.30pm and for further information visit: friendsoftom.org.uk

Poppies for the Soldiers of Oxfordshire

As part of The Marlborough School WW1 Project, *Woodstock Then and Now*, the school's art department has been working on an idea which ties in with the centenary of the Treaty of Versailles, in remembrance of the soldiers who fell in the Great War. A group of students have been making poppies which will be 'planted' in the grounds of Oxfordshire County museum, as part of a formal ceremony in conjunction with the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum on 28 June; open to all. The poppies will remain on display to the public at the site until 24 July.

Clubs & societies

Stonesfield Gardening Club

The plant sale at the end of April raised an amazing £656 for the club! A donation will be given to a local charity/good cause at the end of the year.

We had a very brief meeting in May as the speaker did not appear (he had us down for 2020 by mistake!); we hope to reschedule him for another date. Many thanks to those of you who turned up – at least you were able to sign up for the trips to:

- Miserden Garden, Stroud (which will be our next meeting on Tuesday 18 June); entry to the garden is £7.50 and there is a café if you would like to buy lunch there
- Hardy's plant nursery, Whitchurch, on Wednesday 18 September with guided tour £6.50.

Please email me ASAP if you would like to join either of these trips.

We will be organising the village open gardens on 30 June from 2 to 5.30pm and would be very happy to receive donations of cakes or plants to be sold at the St James' Centre from 1.30pm on the day.

Sybil Barton (sybil.a.barton@gmail.com;
<http://stonesfieldgardening.info>)

Stonesfield Sports and Social Club

Our monthly Bingo will be held on Thursday 13 June: eyes down 7.30pm.

Saturday 22 June is Band Night: come and listen or dance to BITEBACK from 9pm.

Enjoy a cup of coffee or tea at our Pop up Cafe on 28 June from 9.30am.

A forthcoming event for your diary: Stonesfield Bike Night at the Playing Field on Monday 15 July, with barbecue and live music. More details to come in the July *Slate*.

Brian Clarke

Stonesfield Over 60's Club

Our May meeting was the Annual Meeting and we dealt with the final details of transferring from the Darby and Joan club to the Stonesfield Over 60's. The final financial statement was agreed, as was the changeover.

There was a discussion on future subs, which are now due for 2019/2020. All those present promptly paid: thank you and it is good to know that you wish to carry on with a club that was formed long before we were old enough to belong. New membership cards will be available at the June meeting.

We also discussed other issues of importance, before taking the time to visit the Bring & Buy stall. The necessary tea or coffee and cakes were served by the 'A' Team. Thank you to all who brought and bought, and of course those who helped. The raffle was drawn and a busy but successful afternoon saw us heading homewards.

We will continue to meet as usual on the second Thursday of each month.

Our next meeting will be on 13 June at 2pm, and anyone over 60 who is interested in coming along will be very welcome. Names will be taken that day for the Summer Lunch in July.

Sport

Stonesfield Football Club

At the start of this season, if you'd told our Firsts that they would win the league, contest two cup semi-finals and a final, ending up as runners-up, then they would probably have accepted that as a successful season. As it turned out, they were bitterly disappointed in the Watts Junior Cup Final against Milton, losing out in extra time (5-2). In normal time they were the better team and should really have made the most of their chances to finish off their opponents, but Milton pegged them back to 2-2 with just a few minutes to go. The match turned on a controversial decision that led to a red card for George Redknapp and a penalty to Milton. After that there was only going to be one winner. So, congratulations to Milton, they were a dogged opponent that never gave up and lifted the Cup at the end. Our boys ended the campaign as League

Enjoy the summer sun, don't get sunburnt and I hope to see you all on 13 June. Best wishes,

Avis

Champions, where another inspirational Raffy Rice hat-trick destroyed Bampton in a 4-1 win, followed by an easy last day win (3-0) at Middle Barton. Promotion to the top-flight was always the aim this season and with that secured, our boys will be happy. Next season in the Premiership will be tough, but promises to be very interesting indeed.

The Reserves had the possibility of securing second spot in Div 4 and automatic promotion, but their final win away at Wootton (4-3) proved to be too little, too late as they missed out on goal difference. It was an exciting season for them where their games always featured loads of goals: defence proved to be their Achilles heel as unfortunately too many of them were in their own net! They'll go again next season and do their best to realise their dream of Div 3 football.

So, with the playing field now marked

out for a sizzling summer of scintillating cricket it leaves me to thank everyone in the village for all your support this season. Thank you to the Sports and Social club for sponsorship and providing fabulous facilities. Thanks also to the playing field committee for use of the pitch. A special thanks to both Sam and Ben Tomlin for their warm welcome and kind hospitality to our players and opponents after each match; we really do appreciate your fine efforts. Finally, thank you to all at The Slate for your help in bringing our football club news to the Stonesfield masses!

The final Fredo Award of the campaign will come as no real surprise. The Brothers Rice have been fabulous all season and I would hate to incur the wrath of their lovely Mum, Ursula, by choosing between them. So, I am going to push the boat out and award a Fredo each to both Raffy and Carry: you've each made mammoth contributions to our Club's success this season! Never in the history of The Fredo award has it been more deserved.

Tom Flanigan (891979)

Stonesfield Cricket Club

Saturday 8 June, starting at 10am, is our Cricket World Cup Family Event at the playing field. There will be a continuous game of soft ball cricket going on for all. Do please just turn up and join in the fun! Kids, Mums, Dads – it's just for fun with a FREE gift for all who join in! In addition, we'll have the practice net set up for anyone to try proper batting

against a few of our best young bowlers (see if you can avoid being dismissed within 5 minutes!), or try bowling at one of our talented batsmen – kit will be provided. The England vs Bangladesh World Cup match will be screening in the club house, and in the afternoon the 1st XI play Marsh Gibbon. We hope to see as many new faces (young and old) as possible!

On the field, the 1st XI started the season with defeat on the Leys to 2018 champions Witney Swifts, but bounced back at home to beat Faringdon with an innings of 96 by Sean Holley. The 2nd XI have started like a train, thrashing Deddington 2nd with a colossal innings of 143no by Mark Hatton, then Chinnor CC in the cup, largely thanks to Michael Franklin's 5 wickets.

The Under 15 team have been playing well, particularly with their superb bowling, beating Chipsey U15 but narrowly losing to Witney Mills U15 & Great Rissington U15. The Under 13s have been training hard (but we still need more players!) and they have their first match in late May.

*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).

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 preached a few weeks ago on Jesus being our good shepherd, and I intended to share this particular story about the 23rd Psalm. I didn't have time in the service in Combe, so I promised I would write it up in my next Letter in June and here it is.

There is a story from yesteryear that says it beautifully. The year was 1850. On the prairies of the Midwest light snow was still falling in March. There was a little log cabin on the prairie in which a little boy, Timmy, was on the verge of death from diphtheria. A Methodist circuit rider came by to visit Timmy. He wanted to see if the boy was all right, since he had heard that he was not doing well. He came into the room to find little Timmy sick in bed.

The circuit riding preacher asked Timmy if he knew how to say the 23rd Psalm.

Timmy replied that he had learned it in the second grade at his Sunday school. He started reciting the Psalm, 'The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.'

The pastor told him he was reciting it much too fast. Timmy tried to say it again; this time more slowly. The pastor decided to teach him how to say the 23rd Psalm in a different way.

He asked him to count the words on his fingers, beginning with his thumb. 'The Lord is my . . .' This way when he uttered the word 'my' he would be holding the fourth finger of his hand. The preacher explained, 'Your parents wear their wedding rings on the fourth finger of their hands. This is the finger of love.' So, if each time Timmy recited 'The Lord is my shepherd, when he grabbed his fourth finger, it would be a reminder that the Lord is his personal shepherd: 'The Lord is MY Shepherd.' This pleased

Timmy and he recited the psalm accordingly. Then the pastor bid Timmy farewell and went on his way.

When he came back to see Timmy it was springtime. He noticed that there was a mound of upturned earth with a cross on it in the backyard. He realised that Timmy had passed away. Timmy's parents spoke about what a good boy Timmy was. Then they described his final night. They had kissed Timmy good night. In the morning when his mother went to check on him, she realised that he had died. But there was something that caught her eye and she found it extremely strange. She noticed that Timmy was holding on to his fourth finger. She asked the pastor. The pastor

could only answer her with tear-filled eyes.

You and I know what it meant. 'The Lord is my shepherd.' Or as Jesus said, 'My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one.'

Jesus, the Good Shepherd knows us all by name, even you and me.

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

Rev Roy

SERVICES FOR JUNE

Sunday 2 June [Seventh Sunday of Easter]

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

Sunday 9 June [Pentecost]

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

Sunday 16 June [Trinity Sunday]

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

Sunday 23 June [First Sunday after Trinity]

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

Sunday 30 June [Second Sunday after Trinity]

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

Sunday 7 July [Third Sunday after Trinity]

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

Mid-week Communion Service [said]

Wednesdays 9.30am at Stonesfield. Everyone is most welcome.

Stonesfield Methodist Church

SERVICES FOR JUNE

Sun 2 11am Revd Rose Westwood
Holy Communion
Sun 9 11am Margaret Broadberry
Sun 16 11am Revd Melanie Reed
Sun 23 11am Service at High St.
Methodist Church,
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Sun 30 11am Ian Prince

John Wesley's wonderful prayer!

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Kathleen Albert (891733)

Roman Catholic Worship

A state of grace

What is grace? We talk about graceful people, i.e charming or attractive; one has a period of grace before a debt is due; a duke is referred to as His Grace; we say grace before meals as a thanksgiving. So what is a state of grace? It is in effect enjoying God's favour. Catholics see grace as 'the free and undeserved help that God gives us to respond to his call to become children of God . . . is the participation in the life of God' (p434, Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1994). Thus grace is a spiritually enabling gift from God, which is given freely to help us fully embrace Christ's teaching of eternal life through Him. A state of grace is to live a complete existence that fully embraces our spiritual destiny through the life we lead here on earth, using our gifts and talents.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth . . . From

the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. (John 1:14, 16-17)

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 Clive Dytter, Chair, Parish Committee: chair.stteresaschurch charlbury@gmail.com

Roman Catholic Community in Stonesfield

WODC Council Elections on 2 May 2019

The results of the election of a district councillor for the Stonesfield and Tackley ward are as follows:

BALDWIN, David John	Labour Party	103	
CHAPPLE, Nathalie Claire Anne	Liberal Democrats	648	Elected
COTTRELL-DORMER, Charles	Conservative Party Candidate	485	
PARKINSON, Mathew	Green Party	182	

Turnout: 44.27%

Following the elections, the political balance of the Council is Conservative 28; Liberal Democrats 10; Labour/Labour and Co-operative 9; and Independents 2.

Previously it was Conservative 32; Liberal Democrats 8; Labour (& Co-op) 5; and Independents 4.

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Redston, MA, PGCE, via 01993 868697.

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Elbie House East End
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The White Horse, Stonesfield

STILL WAITING . . .

Well, after a false start at Easter we're again waiting for the sun. Regardless of the weather, we're getting our garden ready for the lovely weekends and evenings we're surely going to enjoy soon. The Marquee is going up and we look forward to seeing you dining 'al fresco' and enjoying a G & T or two in the garden.

We will be giving our menu a bit of an update for the Summer, as well as serving our 'Specials' which change on a weekly, if not daily, basis. So, what better reasons are there to visit your pub?

Bar opening hours

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

Food served

Wed–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!

Phone 01993 891063

Web: www.whitehorsestonesfield.com

Email: info@whitehorsestonesfield.com

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