

# The Stonesfield Slate

Issue No 493 July 2019



## Dates for your diary – July

1,8,15,22	Monday Coffee	St James' Centre	8.45–10am
1,8,15,22,29	SJC Cuppa	St James' Centre	10–11.30am
3,10,17,24,31	Country Dancing	Village Hall	8–10pm
8	Stonesfield open gardens	Start at village shop	7pm
10	Parish Council meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm
11	Over 60's Club Lunch	Village Hall	1pm
11	Bingo	SSSC	Eyes down 7.30pm
12,13	Concert	St Mary's, Woodstock	7.30pm
13	Summer Reading Challenge	Library	10am–12noon
14	Players' auditions	St James' Centre	2pm
14	Treasure Box	Methodist Chapel	3pm
15	Bike Night	SSSC	6pm
20	Manor Summer Party	Manor garden	3–5pm
20	Duck Race & BBQ	River	5pm
21	Six-a-side cricket	SSSC	11am
24	Village Hall AGM	Village Hall	6.30pm
26	Pop-up Café	SSSC	9.30–12noon
26	Treasure Box	St James' Centre	10.30–12noon



## Publishers

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## Editor for this issue

Vivienne Kendall  
(891803)

## Editor for August

Vivienne Kendall

## Printer

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

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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*May Day celebrations at  
Stonesfield School on  
Thursday 23 May*

# Notices

## STOP PRESS!

### CALA Homes appeal dismissed

The CALA Homes appeal against refusal of their planning application for land north of Woodstock Road was dismissed on 21 June by the Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State.

In a long and detailed statement, he stated that 'the proposed development would cause significant harm to the character and appearance of the AONB' and that 'the loss of part of the field, which is characteristic of the local landscape, and its replacement by 68 dwellings would represent a highly adverse magnitude of change.'

The report is available on <https://stonesfield.online>

### Irene Harris

Many thanks for all the cards and messages of sympathy I received when my mum, Rene Harris, passed away.

Also a special thank you to Ann for all the meals and help you gave my mum over many, many years; to Jenny for all the rides to wherever and whenever they were needed; to Jane for her quick response, help and advice whenever she was called; to the volunteers and members of Lunch Club and Stonesfield Over 60's Club for the happy times Mum spent with you all. A sincere thank you to everyone.

Barbara

### Summer Treasure Box

There will be two Treasure Box sessions in July to start our summer programme, which is all about 'Stories of Jesus'.

On Sunday 14 July from 3pm there will be an event for all ages in the Methodist Chapel. This is Rural Missions Sunday – don't be put off by this title! We will be celebrating the occasion with lots of Treasure Box fun – activities for all the family.

Then on Friday 26 July from 10.30am to 12noon in the St James' Centre there will be the usual mix of crafts, games, stories and songs. All children are welcome (adults, too); children under 5 must be accompanied by an adult.

The dates for the other Treasure Box summer holiday sessions are Friday 9 August and Tuesday 20 August 10.30am to 12 noon, and there will be a Treasure Box Family Walk on Sunday 1 September starting at 2.30pm.

If you need more details, please contact Muriel Barrett on [murieljbarrett@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:murieljbarrett@yahoo.co.uk).

### Manor Summer Party (Jamie's Party)

**Saturday 20 July**

A warm welcome awaits everyone, of all ages, at the Summer Party on Saturday 20 July, 3–5pm, in the Manor garden. It's for the village with love from St James's Church and all friends.

Come along for tea and enjoy this beautiful garden, with plenty of time to relax, chat, and play bouncy castle; games and activities provided!

Please remember that children need to be accompanied by an adult.

We look forward to welcoming you!

*Lindsey Sellar*

### Stonesfield Village Hall News

Our AGM and Committee Meeting is on 24 July.

We would welcome anyone who is interested in the upkeep and running of the village hall to come along and support us with any new ideas, to join the committee, or possibly assist us by being our new Chairman?

We would also like to extend the invitation to anyone from other groups within the village, as we are hoping to build a core group of people who can liaise with all the other committees when we all need to pull together and pool our resources.

If you would like any information prior to the meeting, or would like to hire the hall please let me know.

We also need a cleaner, to maintain the hall throughout the week. For further information, please do get in touch.

*Jacqueline Carthew, Secretary & Booking Clerk for Stonesfield Village Hall (01993 898919 or [stonesfieldvh@gmail.com](mailto:stonesfieldvh@gmail.com); [facebook.com/stonesfieldvillagehall](https://facebook.com/stonesfieldvillagehall); [stonesfield.info/stonesfield-life/venues/village-hall.php](https://stonesfield.info/stonesfield-life/venues/village-hall.php))*

### Stonesfield Community Trust

Trustees are pleased to announce that the Dean Court land has now been sold. The proceeds will be used for future Community Trust projects.

We have previously mentioned that we are interested in doing a 2019 Xmas Community Lunch, aimed at people who would otherwise be alone over the festive period. Sadly, to date we have had no one contact us to express any interest in either coming along on the day, or helping with the event. As this will take a lot of organising, it is quite disheartening.

We know that Christmas seems a long way off at the moment, but if you know of anyone that may be on their own on Christmas day, please do let us know so that we can start arrangements to make sure that they have a special day too.

*Jacqueline Carthew, Property Manager, Stonesfield Community Trust ([jacquelinecarthew@gmail.com](mailto:jacquelinecarthew@gmail.com) or 07896 847722)*

### SAFER

As with other Stonesfield residents, the folks at SAFER are not enjoying the prevailing wet weather. In our case the reason is that Oxfordshire County Council has been unable to start its one-week monitoring of traffic on the four roads in our village as a laptop is needed to set this up and weather conditions are



not propitious. This means we are not able to bring you the results from the survey. For the moment the elements are triumphing over technology.

However OCC assures us that this will be accomplished in the very near future and we hope to have the results and analysis for the July Parish Council meeting. We are also aiming to provide *Slate* readers with details in next month's issue. Let's all pray for the return of areas of high pressure!

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/>

## Stonesfield Players

### Reminder

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.

David Stevenson  
([stevenson342@btinternet.com](mailto:stevenson342@btinternet.com))

## Relax Kids and Chillskills

I am thinking of starting Relax Kids community classes in September for children in years 1 to 4 at primary school, as well as running Chillskills sessions for children aged 10 to 13.

All Relax Kids classes include mindful movement and games, stretching, self-massage, breathing techniques, positive affirmations and relaxation. Children will finish the course with a toolbox of strategies and techniques to help them notice, understand and manage their big emotions (such as anger, stress, worry).

I am proposing to run a family session on Wednesday 10 July from 3.30 to 4.30pm, based around a 'happiness and holidays' theme which is aimed at the younger children. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact me either via email to [lucyandphil29@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lucyandphil29@hotmail.co.uk) or phone 01993 898159.

Lucy Martin

## Wine/coffee and nibbles evening Advance notice

Everyone is very warmly invited to come along to the Rectory (Brook Lane) on Saturday 31 August, between 7pm and 9pm for wine/coffee and nibbles – time for a chat and to make some new friends.

Make a note of the date now!

St James' Church, Stonesfield

## Sunday Cream Teas in Combe

We will be serving delicious homemade cream teas on 14 July, and every Sunday afternoon till 25 August, from 2.30 to 5pm at the Reading Room, Combe; raising funds for local Combe charities.

Sally Purssell (01993 898348)

## Book Break's Break

Book Break is taking its usual August break and will start again on Thursday, 5 September. It has been another year of good reading and lively discussion. Although our focus tends to be upon the shorter novel, this year we have read two longer, modern novels: *The Children Act* by Ian McEwan and *Exposure* by the late Helen Dunmore. In contrast to our usual reading aloud of a novel, we also enjoyed a shared play-reading of *An Inspector Calls*. A tense and engaging read, the play seemed topical in a number of ways, particularly in its portrayal of a society failing in its compassion for its most vulnerable members.

We are grateful for the use of Stonesfield Library as our venue but this does, inevitably, limit our group size.

Wendy Lynch (891107)

## Afternoon teas at the Methodist Church

Scrumptious cream teas, cakes and special gifts will be on sale at the Methodist Church on Saturday 3 August, 1 to 5 pm.

With our large wall-crack inside the Church yet to be fully diagnosed, we hope to raise funds in preparation for what is to come. It will be an afternoon of good company and fellowship, delicious food

and tempting gifts to buy. Everyone is very welcome and transport can be arranged.

Kathleen Alb  rt (891733)

## Oaklands Farm supports biodiversity and Bird Aid

It was a beautiful May evening when Genny and I visited Ollie Stobo and Oaklands Farm to find a new Bird Aid feeding site. Ollie kindly gave us two hours of his time, driving us around his fields, with his Natural England Countryside Mid-tier Stewardship report to give us the facts and figures.

We were delighted to hear that Ollie has currently 4.9 hectares of land planted with Nectar Pollen Flower mix & Winter Bird Food mix, and has replanted 800 metres of hedgerows on his land. His 6800m of in-field hedges (not adjoining roads) are cut only every three years to help wildlife. Hares abound in the fields – we saw six or more while we were there!

In at least five fields, Ollie grows Winter Bird Food mix crop to feed wild birds and help pollinators, including the field down Witney Lane (covered in white campion last year). Bird Aid will start winter feeding on this site in the autumn. Thanks to Ollie for his contribution to supporting wildlife in our countryside as part of his commercial farming practices.

Please get in touch using [judy.anders66@gmail.com](mailto:judy.anders66@gmail.com) if you could help with surveying once a month or feeding our farmland birds once a week this winter. Thank you.

Judy Anders & Genny Early



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## Stonesfield Cycling

Rolling down the hill from Chipping Norton to Charlbury on my road bike on a sunny warm spring afternoon, it occurred to me that perhaps other cyclists would like to arrange to meet and ride as part of a 'pop up' cycling group.

I have set up a WhatsApp group 'Stonesfield Cycling'. WhatsApp is very easy to install on a mobile phone, and is a free of charge messaging system.

Anyone (over 18 years old) can join the group. Group members can send and receive ride invitations stating where and when to meet up for a cycle ride. People can reply to invitations; say whether or not they will join the ride, and find out more about who plans to ride and where the ride will go.

I have set up a website with application form at <https://sites.google.com/view/stonesfield-cycling/home>. The form asks for your name, mobile phone number and the estimated average speed you like to ride. Using this information, I will send you an invitation to join the Stonesfield Cycling WhatsApp group which most closely matches your average speed.

You can become a member of more than one group while you work out which one suits you best. You can leave the groups that don't match your ability at any time, and remain a member of only those groups that do.

Interested? Please send me your details by visiting <https://sites.google.com/view/stonesfield-cycling/home>, and I will add you to the

group that matches your abilities. I look forward very much to cycling with you soon.

*Miles Barrington-Ward*

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## Woodstock Music Society Concert

Woodstock Music Society's summer concert presents the Requiem by Bob Chilcott, Haydn's Drumroll Symphony (no 103) and also his Missa Brevis in F. The concert will be held in St Mary Magdalene Church, Woodstock, on Friday 12 and Saturday 13 July, at 7.30pm. Tickets are £13 in advance or £14 at the door, from The Woodstock Bookshop (01993 812760) or by email from [concerts@woodstockmusic.info](mailto:concerts@woodstockmusic.info). Full time students' tickets are £5, and accompanied children under 16 are free.

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## Blenheim Palace

Blenheim Estate have developed and opened a new area of permissive footpaths in Long Hanborough giving access to the surrounding countryside and the wider estate surrounding Blenheim Palace. More details will be available soon.

Blenheim and the University of Oxford have officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work together on a series of new initiatives and research programmes relating to historical heritage, forestry and the environment.

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## Countryfile Live

### Special rates for local residents

The organisers of Countryfile Live would like to offer local residents of



Woodstock, Bladon, Combe, Long Hanborough, Church Hanborough, Stonesfield, Wootton and Cassington the opportunity to purchase tickets for this year's show at an exclusive price of £10 for an adult ticket and £5 for a child ticket. This represents a saving of £25/70% on the door price of an adult ticket.

Full details are on <https://www.countryfilelive.com/blenheim-palace/local-resident-ticket-offer?fbclid=IwAR3syFVDTeNSBTLKqhlIWeeN86T588d4UBMjLSgfwE-NamAA7UBzbG-HqTA>

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## Charity golf day 13 September

New Yatt Riding for the Disabled is holding a charity golf day at North Oxford Golf Club on 13 September. Teams of four are invited @ £50 per person, which includes coffee and bacon rolls, 18 holes of golf & a light meal, followed by prizegiving. 18-hole team Stableford, best 2 scores on each hole. Closing date for entry is 6 September.

If you are unable to make up a team, the organisers will happily pair you up with one. To enter, please visit [www.newyattrda.org.uk](http://www.newyattrda.org.uk) or contact Adi Hughes on [nyrdaevents@gmail.com](mailto:nyrdaevents@gmail.com).

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## Portable Pictures

### brings the big screen to your home or party venue

Brek and Luke of Fawler have set up an Oxfordshire branch of Portable Pictures and are offering residents of Fawler, Stonesfield, Charlbury and Finstock 15% off summer bookings (ends 31 October) as part of our launch. Whether it's for a children's birthday party, entertainment at your wedding or you just fancy screening your favourite film in your garden, we can tailor a cinema package to suit your needs.

We will set up a large portable cinema screen, professional PA system and full HD projector in any location, turning your living room, back garden, village hall or local pub into a movie experience to remember. A popcorn and hot dog machine are also available if you fancy authentic cinema catering!

Brek and Luke have both worked in film; Brek as a director and Luke as a sound technician. If you have an innovative idea for bringing people together in Stonesfield to watch films, and/or want support with a fundraiser, then get in touch as we like to work locally as much as possible.

For more details: [www.portablepictures.co.uk](http://www.portablepictures.co.uk) or call us on 01993 898937.

# Politics & local affairs

## Stonesfield Parish Council

The Parish Council held its latest meeting on 12 June 2019.

The Council discussed planning application 19/01315/FUL and has submitted an objection to this on the basis that the access to the site via the existing driveway is not adequate for existing use (it is single drive access only) and there is a hazardous junction with Church Street, which is a blind corner and not safe to take additional traffic. This change of use is for commercial use and those visiting will not know the area, making this particularly hazardous. In addition, the Council felt that this could set a precedent for further development requests on this land.

Jim Astle represented the Parish fantastically well at the last day of the CALA planning hearing and the Council would like to formally thank him for his work on this. The Council is waiting for a decision from the planning inspector. At this time we are hoping for a decision prior to August 2019. It is difficult to ascertain which way the decision will go.

Michael Heduan provided a report on SAFER, which will be submitted to the website with the minutes. OCC traffic surveys have not yet been done but will hopefully be done soon.

Richard Bishop presented a report to the Parish Council. A copy will be placed on the website with the minutes.

There have been reports of the odd property in the village leaving bins outside all week long. Please can residents remember to move bins off the public highway and back on to driveways when it is not a bin collection day.

Cllr G Lawrence reported on the Village Hall. The hall is still waiting for quotes for repair work, which the Village Hall committee is arranging. The Parish Council does have concerns that repair work is not being carried out in a timely manner, and reiterates that the village hall is not a Council asset, and therefore the Council does not have control of the funding and maintenance of the hall.

Cllr G Lawrence also reported that she checks the defibrillator regularly. It has been checked and the battery is currently fine.

Countryfile tickets are available to residents at a discounted rate. Details are on p.5 above and on the website.

The clerk can confirm that replacement signs at Greenfield Road and Farley Close have been requested as these are damaged / in need of repair.

The date of the next Parish Council meeting is Wednesday 10 July, 7.30pm at the village hall; all are welcome. If you have specific questions for the Council or items you would like to discuss, please contact the clerk in advance at stonesfieldpc@gmail.com.

## West Oxfordshire District Council

The District Council has had its hands full dealing with current matters and looking to the future. The Council's concern for the wellbeing of all its residents is exemplified especially in the period following elections.

Environmentally, the Scrutiny Committee considered various important matters including air quality, which was deemed to be of concern in central Witney, particularly in the area around Bridge Street and the adjacent road junctions. Also of concern locally and nationally was the possible curtailing of the use of single-use plastics. Difficulties with Thames Water were again aired and preparations made for the next Water Day conference were detailed.

The current Disabled Facilities Grant scheme will be increased. The Community Facilities Grant Scheme period for the current request period will be extended to 31 December 2019.

At the recent full Development Control Committee (includes both Uplands and Lowlands Sub-committees), the Mullin Automotive Park on the old airfield in Enstone was debated and decided. Members of interested local groups, representatives of the developer and the architect, Sir Norman Foster, all gave their opinions. Peter Mullin himself spoke about his aspirations and hopes for the area. All were succinct and to the point in their comments. After much discussion, giving all members ample opportunity for expressing their individual views, the decision was finally taken to approve this innovative and exciting scheme.

The newly elected council is settling down to business and it bodes well for the future of West Oxfordshire.

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

## Proposed development at East Witney

West Oxfordshire District Council has launched a public consultation on the East Witney Strategic Development site, which is allocated in the Local Plan for some 450 homes. It is seeking views on the provision of links across the Windrush Valley and into Witney town centre; the type of housing and open space needed and the potential for a new 'community hub' as part of the development.

The consultation is available until 17 July on [www.westoxon.gov.uk/spd](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/spd), at local libraries and other key locations including the District Council offices at Elmfield and the Witney town centre shop. There will also be an exhibition at Cogges Farm on Thursday 4 July between 2pm and 8pm.

## From our County Councillor

### £3.5 million investment for highways

More than more than 50 miles of road across Oxfordshire are to be given a new lease of life thanks to the 'surface dressing' technique which waterproofs and extends the life of roads. The cost of the work is in the region of £3.5m.

Oxfordshire County Council takes road repairs and maintenance seriously and has put around £25m extra into fixing highways in this and last year, as part of a £120 million investment in infrastructure. After a short period of bedding

in, loose chippings are swept away and the surfaces are indistinguishable from any other except for the absence of cracks and potholes. Skid resistance is also improved.

As part of the surface dressing programme this year, the County Council will be trying out a technique called 'Surface Seal' – an additional treatment added to a newly dressed road, which prevents defects, cracks, and potholes.

**Electric vehicles**

Oxfordshire County Council has taken delivery of a new fleet of electric cars and vans for its fire and rescue service and general staff pool car resource. The vehicles can travel up to 160 miles on a single charge.

The County Council is committed to being carbon neutral by 2030.

*Cllr Ian Hudspeth (07956 270318, [Ian.hudspeth@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Ian.hudspeth@oxfordshire.gov.uk))*

**From our Member of Parliament  
Small businesses**

If you are one of West Oxfordshire's many small business owners, you'll know that late payment can be a huge problem – not just in terms of cashflow but also the future of your business. The Office of the Small Business Commissioner (SBC) was launched in December 2017 to ensure fair payment practices for Britain's small businesses, support them in resolving their payment disputes, and bring about culture change.

While noting the great improvement in broadband connectivity in West Oxfordshire, I am inviting users to take part in a survey on the quality of their broadband service and/or mobile signal. The information provided will help him in discussions with utility providers, regulators and the Government when tackling the issues of speed, quality and choice. The survey can be found on <https://www.robertcourts.co.uk/news/broadband-mobile-signal-survey>.

*Robert Courts ([robert@robertcourts.co.uk](mailto:robert@robertcourts.co.uk))*

**National Summer Reading  
Challenge**

It's here again! This year it's a Space Chase. See the advert overleaf for how to sign up.

At the end of the Chase, which starts on 13 July and goes on for the whole of the summer holidays, the Friends of Stonesfield Library will host the annual Medal Ceremony for all those children who have read their six library books and completed the challenge.

That date will be Wednesday 11 September from 3.30 to 5pm at the Village Hall.

There will also be an Adult Reading Challenge. Read a library book and enter a prize Draw which offers free tickets for many treats, eg Blenheim, Cotswold Wildlife Park, Wychwood Brewery, Cogges, and many others. More details are available at the Library.

*Val Phillips (891455)*

**The Oxfordshire Museum  
Wonderland – continues until 8  
September**

Fall down the rabbit hole and into the magical world of Alice in Wonderland in this interactive exhibition for families. Alice's Day on 6 July offers a tea party celebration with Mad Hats and Masks, giant garden games and The Mad Hatter's Tea Party at 2-4pm.

**Summer Holiday Activities for children**  
Tuesdays: TOM-TOTS 10.30–11am, with

stories, songs and rhymes for the under-fives; free

TOM-ART 2–4pm: creative drop-in sessions. £2 child / £5 family

Wednesdays: Wicked Workshops for children age 8+, to include archaeological investigations, hands-on science, animation and Vikings. See the museum website (below) for times and cost.

Thursdays: TOM-ART 2-4pm, creative drop-in sessions. £2 child / £5 family

**Friends of The Oxfordshire Museum  
talks**

3 July: Tony Hadland talks about agricultural labourers

No talks in August

Talks are free for Friends of the Museum; visitors are welcome for £4. Talks start at 7.30pm.

For further information visit [friendsoftom.org.uk](http://friendsoftom.org.uk).

**Festival of Archaeology – 20–21 July**  
Over the course of the weekend Cherwell Community Archaeology plan to display finds from previous local digs, and encourage public participation in archaeology. We will be at The Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock during the normal opening hours. This will be a touch, feel and identify session for both adults and children.

Full details of all events are available on <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/leisure-and-culture/museums/oxfordshire-museum>.

*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 (01993 89818)



The Reading Agency and Libraries Present

# SPACE CHASE

Summer Reading Challenge 2019

Get set to blast-off in our **FREE Space Chase** reading challenge at your local library this summer!

Join **Stonesfield Library** from  
**13 July to 14 September**  
for an intergalactic reading adventure into space!

Children across Oxfordshire can take part in the Space Chase Summer Reading Challenge 2019. Join our super space family The Rockets for a special mission to track down books nabbed by mischievous aliens!

Read at least six library books of your choice over the summer holidays and as you read, collect stickers (some are smelly!) to help the Rockets track down the aliens and find the missing books. Complete the challenge and get a Space Chase bookmark and game, wristband, medal, and certificate. Under 3s have their own special card and stickers.



## Out of this world...



There'll be lots of brilliant new books and activities at the library throughout the summer holidays and there's a website to add to the fun too, as we celebrate 50 years since the Moon Landing and 20 years of the Summer Reading Challenge.

Visit [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/spacechase](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/spacechase) to find out more.

Illustrations © Adam Stower for The Reading Agency



## Clubs & societies

### Stonesfield Folk Dance Club

June was a very special month for us, with our 47th annual Folk Dance Weekend when we welcomed dancers from all corners of UK. With one of the best folk bands in the UK, 'The Night Before' with the fantastic Nicky McConkey on fiddle, we danced the weekend away with dances being called by Andrew Swaine & Daisy Black – two of the best, who did not disappoint with a mixed programme of traditional, contra, square and Playford dances.

Daisy, who is regularly on BBC Radio 3, was commissioned by Stonesfield Folk Dance Club to adapt the story of William Kempe's 'Nine Days Wonder' when he danced all the way from London to Norwich in nine days back in 1599.

The Club also produced a CD featuring Alan Kimber-Nickelson singing a selection of English folk ballads. Alan was at the Folk Dance Weekend and sang to great acclaim many of the songs; each of the dancers was given a copy of the CD.

It is now the start of the Folk Dance Festival Season and between now and the end of August many of our members will be attending Festivals around the country.

Why not come and join in the fun? It is surprisingly easy to pick up the basics of traditional English Country Dancing. We meet 8 to 10pm on Wednesdays at the Village Hall.

For more information about us see

[www.stonesfieldfolkdance.danceorg.uk](http://www.stonesfieldfolkdance.danceorg.uk) or contact Stewart Nicholls on 01295 730271 or [stewart.nicholls@virgin.net](mailto:stewart.nicholls@virgin.net).

### Stonesfield Gardening Club

June is traditionally the month when many villages open their gardens to curious members of the public, and Stonesfield is no exception. Every two years the committee of the Gardening Club manage to persuade some of the keen gardeners in the village to let us have a peek behind the hedges. As is the case in so many places, the real gems are hidden away behind an unassuming stone wall and open up into a plantsman's paradise or a fun-filled escape. Stonesfield gardens were open on Sunday 30 June and I hope that many people took the opportunity to enjoy them.

Members of the Gardening Club, many of whom will have either opened their own gardens or served teas in the St James' Centre on the day, will get their chance to see the gardens during a village walk on Monday 8 July, when we will be visiting four of them, finishing with wine and canapes. This is a 'members only' evening, but I'm sure the Membership Secretary will be on hand to accept the modest £8 that constitutes our annual fee should any non-members be interested in joining us. We will gather at 7pm outside the Village Shop.

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

## Stonesfield Over 60's Club

The atmosphere in the Village Hall was bright, warm and welcoming as we arrived for our June meeting on a very wet day. We were down in numbers, as expected, but those of us who had made our way to the hall greeted one another cheerfully. We gathered round tables forming ourselves into teams for a Quiz. As usual there was a lot of fun and laughter as answers were agreed and recorded. Scores at the end were close: two teams tied for first, one mark less was third and one mark down was fourth.

Various bits of business were dealt with and names were taken for the Summer Lunch. This will be on 11 July at 1pm. If you haven't already done so and wish to come, please let either me (898134) or Diana (891392) know by 6 July.

Another happy afternoon ended with the raffle before we all headed home.

I look forward to seeing you for the Summer Lunch. Best wishes,

Avis

## Scout Group

**Duck Race & BBQ Saturday 20 July from 5pm**

An evening of family fun down by the river! Buy a duck from any Beaver, Cub or Scout or outside the shop on Saturday mornings in July. Ducks cost £1, all proceeds help us raise essential funds for equipment and activities for our young people. Don't miss the BBQ, bar, cake sale, amazing raffle and stalls open from 5pm. Ducks released at 6pm – you'd be quackers to miss it!

## Summer skills

Since Easter, Cubs have been learning about lambing at Blenheim, how to play golf and making small rafts to race in the river. In the coming weeks the Cubs will be building shelters and practising their campcraft skills in time for County Camp, visiting Enstone airstrip, kayaking on the Thames and abseiling from trees.

The Scout troop are working on map-reading skills, orienteering, pioneering and their survival badge this summer term, ready for camp in July, when they will be building shelters and sleeping in them.

We had an amazing 5-day camp at Easter in Dorset. In the words of one of our scouts: "Our trip to Dorset was a great new experience, very tiring by the end of the week, but still one of the best trips the troop has been on because the activities (axe-throwing, raft building, and loads more) were really fun!" The troop cooked on fires all week, visited the Tank museum and rode in an armoured vehicle, and took part in a wide range of adventurous activities. In June we have also AquaCamp – a weekend of water sports with other Oxfordshire scout troops.

*1st Stonesfield Scout Group*

## Stonesfield Sports and Social Club

The social club is holding its first ever bike night on 15 July; there will be live music and a BBQ from 6pm.

Here also is a polite reminder that the annual membership renewal of £5 for 2019-2020 is now due.

*Brian Clarke*

# Sport

## Stonesfield Cricket Club

As of mid-June, both the 1st XI & 2nd XI teams have started well, and both sit handily placed in the top half of their divisions – ready to push on mid-summer. We also have an Airey Cup fixture still to come. We've had more standout individual performances: innings of 97 by Adrian Birkett & 76no by Jamie Burns, and 67no by 2nd XI keeper Sam Townsend. New signing spin bowler Scott Thomas is currently top wicket-taker, with 15 to date.

We had a lovely social match at the end of May when some much loved old stars turned out for Kevin Sherbourne's Presidents' XI as they narrowly beat a mixed adult / U15 Stonesfield team – great fun!

The U15 team have played some good cricket so far, winning games vs Chippy & Minster, but losing narrowly to Rissington & Witney Mills. Next are big games vs Charlbury & Shipton-U-W. Fred Holloway has been in the runs, with his 2nd half-century score.

The U13 team have been training hard every Tuesday evening, and it's been lovely to have some keen young lady players join up! So far only one match has been played, a spirited loss to Kidlington, but we hope to have more games in late June / early July. New U13 & U15 players are still welcome!

*Stewart Moss (07866 278685)*



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- Free entrance
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Stonesfield Social Club playing field OX298HA



# 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](http://www.stonesfieldparishchurch.org)

Stonesfield Churchwardens: Neil Melrose (891566) and Kate Harris (898781)

Combe Longa Churchwarden: Andrew Hobson (891273)

BCP=Book of Common Prayer: CW=Common Worship

*For pastoral help please contact the Rector*



### From your Parish Priest

I hope you are all well and looking forward to what you have planned for the summer break. I look forward to the summer with warmer weather (maybe) and the sense of ease that the sunshine can bring.

Whatever you have planned, I hope that it will be a time of refreshment and a time to recharge your batteries. For me, I find it difficult to plan holidays a year in advance. My yearly calendar gets booked up a year in advance as far as weddings and services are concerned, and I have to book blocks of time without knowing what we are going to fill them with so that I can plan my own recreation.

Speaking of recreation, I believe that we neglect our physical and emotional health at our peril. I was listening to a Radio 4 programme concerning mental health issues and how our lifestyle these

days is contributing to a decline in people's wellbeing. It occurred to me that we ought to include in that simple menu our spiritual health too.

As I talk to people in my daily work, I know that there is a hunger for peace of heart and mind that is almost universally sought after. We all know of people who anonymously ask advice from agony aunts concerning their problems. These questions are very often: Is this the right course of action? Is this the right person to be my soulmate? Should I take that job overseas where I know no one and would have no friendship base to rely on?

There are so many worries and stresses of life that people need guidance on. There is no wonder that people look forward to a time away on holiday to try and regroup and take stock. The trouble is that the problems are so very often still

there when we return to our normal way of life, and then there's also the credit card bill to pay for the holiday of a lifetime that was going to bring us that peace of heart and mind that we were searching for.

The truth is we need to make sure that the 'peace' we so long for is not out there in some holiday hide away but in our hearts 365 days a year. You know what is coming next. Yes, the peace we so desire is in the faith we can find in the roots of our Christian faith.

We have just celebrated the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings to set

Europe free. I remember reading of all the church services that preceded those landings to ask God for His help. I believe that He is still with us today to bring real peace to all our hearts, if we will let Him.

I know that the church has not always presented itself as it should, but let's not throw the baby out with the bath water. Let's join together and regain our heritage of peace and joy that I believe only our Christian faith can assure. Hope to see you soon and in the meantime, D.F.T.W.

*Rev Roy*

### SERVICES FOR JULY

#### 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

#### Sunday 14 July [Fourth 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	Evensong

#### Sunday 21 July [Fifth Sunday after Trinity]

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

#### Sunday 28 July [Sixth Sunday after Trinity, St James transferred]

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

### Sunday 4 August [Seventh 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 JULY

Sun 7	11am	Hilary Ewing Holy Communion
Sun14	11am	Stella Bristow
Sun 21	11am	Keith Crawford
Sun 28	10.30am	Farewell Service for Revd Melanie Reed at High Street Methodist Church, Witney. No service at Stonesfield.

Kathleen Albért (891733)

### Roman Catholic Worship

#### Pentecost and Ascension

Pentecost was that moment in the life of the Church which signalled that everything that followed would be different from everything that went before. Most importantly, Pentecost tells us that Christ's universal message will be understood by all:

*When Pentecost day came round, the Apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they*

*were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech (Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11).*

Further, the traditional rituals by which the followers of Christ had lived their lives were replaced with others which we are told in the Acts of the Apostles: *'It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and ourselves not to saddle you with any burden beyond these essentials'* (Acts 15:22-9.) In other words, focus on the important message that Christ gave us through His life and sacrifice of Himself.

in June we celebrated the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. The Ascension of our Lord signals the end of his earthly mission and demonstrates incontrovertibly the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. It was also a homecoming for Jesus as he returned to his Father in Heaven, signalling to us that we too may follow him to heaven should we so wish. Then, we too, like the Apostles at Pentecost, may share the 'marvels of God' (Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11).

### 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*

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Due to the problems of queueing last year, we are going to sell beer tokens in advance, so you can buy 3 for £10. We will also be putting alternative drink stations outside (weather permitting), selling bottled beers and soft drinks.

In the meantime, our marquee is now up in the garden, so it's the perfect place to come and enjoy a meal and a few drinks during the lighter evenings.

#### *Bar opening hours*

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

#### *Food served*

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