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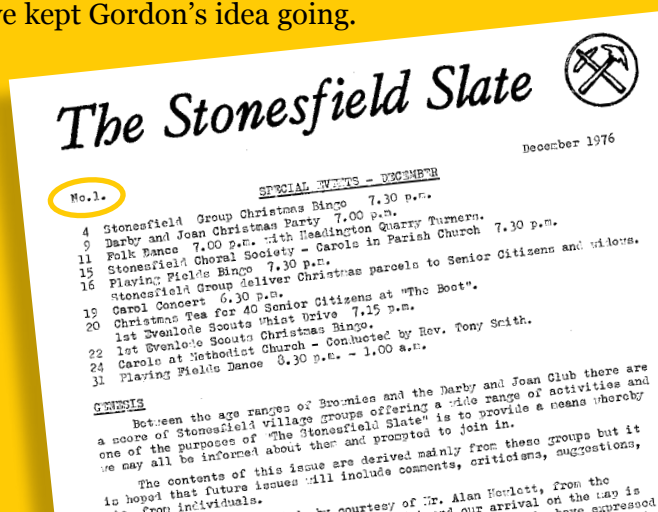
Stonesfield Slate

Issue No **500** March 2020



500

In December 1976 the first edition of the *Stonesfield Slate* was published. It was the brainchild of Gordon Rudlin who wanted a newsletter advertising events to be delivered to every house in the village because he kept hearing of things after they had happened. This month the *Slate* is celebrating its 500th edition. Congratulations to all the volunteers who, over the past 43 years, have kept Gordon's idea going.





Slate reaches 500

*With or without offence to friends or foes
We sketch your world exactly as it goes.*

(this was on almost every Slate front page for decades)

This village publication, delivered monthly, for free, to all households in Stonesfield and Fawler, has been going since December 1976 – 43 years! This issue marks its 500th edition.

In all that time, there have been just four publishers. It was started by Gordon Rudlin, who was vexed by only hearing about events after they'd happened. In January 1998 he handed it over to Richard & Dale Morris. They in turned passed it to Simon & Jenny Haviland at the end of 2004. And now the baton has been taken up by Paul & Diane Bates.

But the publishers don't magic the *Slate* from thin air, nor write it themselves. Without those who actually write the text and send in their adverts, there would be no *Slate*. From its inception, there's been a large and changing group of volunteers who get it into printable form, print it, and distribute it (from 1991, printers have printed & collated it). As technology has advanced, the production side has required fewer people, but the distribution team still, literally, needs plenty of feet on the ground. A few of today's deliverers have been doing it since the very first issue!

These days, the *Slate* is funded solely by its advertising revenue. In earlier years, regular contributors paid a kind of subscription, and individuals donated

money, and occasionally a plea went out for extra funds from readers.

There is definitely room for more varied articles – a 'cub reporter' would be great, or debates about local issues as in the past, though communication is much quicker online these days. Hopefully, the internet will not be the death knell of *The Stonesfield Slate*.

The following was printed in issue 25, December 1978, and is still fitting for this 500th edition:

*Now we've reached the age of two,
Some acknowledgement is due –
So thanks to all contributors
And thanks to all distributors
And, being our own creditors,
To typists and to editors
And, because we hope you need us,
Thanks to all of those who read us.*

P.S. More about *The Stonesfield Slate* on centre pages

Dale Morris (898210), involved with the *Slate* since August 1979



Dates for your diary – March

1	Evensong to mark Rev'd Roy's retirement	Combe Church	6pm
2,9,16	Monday Coffee	St. James' Centre	8.45-11.30am
2,16,30	Drama Group	Village Hall clubroom	8-10pm
3	Sew, Chat, Handicraft Group	St James' Centre	10am-12 noon
5,12	Book Break	Stonesfield Library	12.30-2pm
6	World Day of Prayer	Methodist Church	2pm
7	FoSS Family Quiz Night	School hall	7pm
7	Ladies Night	SSSC	8pm
8	Stonesfield Spring Clean	SSSC	9am
9	How to be a 21 st Century Gardener	St James' Centre	7.30
12	Over 60s Club	Village Hall	1pm
12	Bingo	SSSC	Eyes down 7.30pm
14	Farewell to Rev'd Roy & Bev Turner	St James' Centre	4-6pm
15	Games Night	SSSC	7.30pm
18	FoSL meeting open to all	The White Horse	6.30pm
19,26	Book Break	Stonesfield Library	12.30-2pm
23,30	Monday Coffee	St. James' Centre	8.45-11.30am
23	SUSTO public meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm
28	Morris Dancing taster session	Charlbury Memorial Hall	2-4.30pm

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Deadline for next issue 15 March

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Printer

Windrush Press, Witney
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Advertising:

Deadline for next issue 10 March.

Advertisements to
slate-ads@stonesfield.online

Current and past copies of *The Slate* available at www.stonesfield.online/slate

Notices & news

Welcome

If you are new to the village, welcome! We hope you will be happy here and perhaps become involved in some of the many and varied things on offer.

Toads on the roads!

This year's Fawler Toad Patrol is about to start or may even have started by the time you read this. If you'd like to join us, please contact either Harriet (harrietkopinska@googlemail.com) or me,

Hilary Stacey (891267).

Stonesfield's 2020 Spring Clean (litter pick)

This year's village spring clean (litter pick) will be on Sunday 8 March, from 9am, meeting at the Sports & Social Club (SSSC). The SSSC are kindly opening up early and providing tea, coffee, and bacon baps (plus the use of their facilities throughout the morning).

We will follow the same productive format as in 2019, but a few weeks earlier in March this year, before the verges, hedges, and undergrowth cover over the litter. Please wear suitable clothing/footwear (hi-vis jacket if possible) and bring gloves, plus litter pickers (if you have any), with you. Additional litter pickers, bags etc. will be provided by West Oxfordshire District Council.

Children are very welcome to attend but are the responsibility of their parent/grandparent/carer and must be

accompanied by an adult at all times. All attendees will be asked to register upon arrival (for insurance purposes) and litter picking will commence after a short health & safety briefing.

Hopefully there will be less litter to collect than last year... We look forward to seeing you there. Thank you in advance for your support!

(*The Slate* was interested to learn that in January, children from Great Rollright Primary School collected over 600 items of litter in just 45 minutes. Their school has set up its own eco club as well as food waste caddies for children's lunch leftovers, together with collection boxes for recycling crisp packets, batteries and postage stamps. ~ Editor)

Jess Huband (jesshuband@hotmail.co.uk)

We've moved!

Witney Welding Ltd would like to thank our many loyal customers who have supported us for the last 15 years. We have relocated the business to Enstone and will continue to work locally. Our new contact details are listed in the classified adverts section on page 42.

Pete & John

Mother Goose

It was a long time a-coming, but worth waiting for – when we finally got to see the Stonesfield Players' panto, we loved it! The whole thing was joyous and energetic, full of laughs and hugely entertaining.

The Dame was fabulously outrageous, the lovers enchanting, goose adorable. The bailiffs made a great double act, the rotten landlord was deliciously boo-worthy, and the Fairy Queen splendidly majestic: everyone was on top form. Who will forget Mother Goose's strip tease, or Billy's stand-up routines? All glorious stuff.

The make-up team did a fantastic job. The Good Fairy shiny and resplendent with silver cheeks and pink eye lashes, the Bad Fairy unrecognisable with pouting lips and wicked eyes. As for The Dame: a new definition of ugliness has been born and I mean that in the nicest possible way. The French have a term for it – *jolie-laide*

('pretty hideous'): I think Mother Goose embodied this perfectly. The wigs were amazing, as were the costumes – a huge feat for such a large cast, with special credit going to the imaginative couture for the Dame – truly jaw-dropping at times (along with the knickers).

The kids were excellent, from ballet to songs to street scenes and the school bench. It was lovely to see such confidence and enjoyment.

Well done to everyone on the technical side of things – lights, sound, music – and of course to everyone backstage working their backsides off.

I gather the panto was not without its challenging moments. Hats off, then, to David and Lynn Stevenson for seeing it through, with the ever-capable Becki Sherlaw-Johnson stage managing. You made a great team and a great show.

Caroline Friend



Retirement of the Rector – Rev'd Roy Turner

As reported in the February issue, Roy will be retiring in March, taking his last church services in both villages on Sunday 15 March. To mark Roy's retirement there will be a special service of Evensong on Sunday 1 March at 6pm at St Laurence Church, Combe, attended by the Bishop of Dorchester, Bishop Colin.

Do come along to this special service of Evensong, or to one of the usual morning services, to thank Roy and Bev for their ministry, friendship and care over the last 11 years, and wish them a joyful retirement.

In addition, everyone is very warmly invited to come to a farewell tea at the St James' Centre on Saturday 14 March, between 4 and 6pm.

Morris dancing taster session

Memorial Hall, Browns Lane, Charlbury,
Saturday 28 March 2-4.30pm

Come and give Border Morris dancing a go! We are a very friendly and relaxed group of Morris dancers dancing the traditional border style of dance with sticks and wearing rag/tatter jackets. We are looking for new dancers and musicians of all ages and abilities to join us, no previous dancing experience required. You could soon be dancing out and having fun at local fêtes, fairs and festivals.

Are you thinking ... I have two left feet / I am not fit enough for that / I have no timing or rhythm / I can't even skip let alone dance / That's a lot of bearded old men drinking beer / I don't want to go along on my own / I don't have the time? Forget all of your worries – we are an

inclusive and welcoming group of varying levels of ability. The dances are easy to learn and you can make them as energetic as you like. Some dances can even be done at walking pace. We practice for one hour a week but it is not necessary to come along every week. We also enjoy some social time over a drink after practice.

We would also like to meet new musicians who enjoy playing simple traditional folk music on any kind of instrument.

Are you interested? Then why not come and give it a go, meet the team and have a cup of tea and a chat? No long-term commitment is expected, just come and try it.

Refreshments and cake will be served. Children welcome but must be accompanied by an adult. For further information please contact Teresa on 07881 963328 / 01608 810934.

Twitter: @wychwayz / Facebook:
Wychwayz border Morris / Website:
www.wychwayz.org

***Megalosaurus* 2020 UK 50p coin**

In 1824 William Buckland, an eccentric clergyman and palaeontologist, produced the first scientific description of what became known as a dinosaur based on fragments of jaw and bone found in Stonesfield. Buckland named the creature *Megalosaurus*, which means 'great lizard'.

Early depictions showed an animal walking on four legs with a posture like a hippopotamus. Today we understand *Megalosaurus* was a theropod, a large bipedal predator that roamed

Britain during the Middle Jurassic period 170 to 155 million years ago.

Along with specimens of *Iguanodon* and *Hylaeosaurus*, the fossilised remains of *Megalosaurus* led anatomist Richard Owen to conclude that all three belonged to a distinct group of reptiles, coining the term 'Dinosauria' to describe this new taxonomic group. His discovery fuelled public imagination and 'dinomania' shows no signs of abating today.

Featuring a design by palaeo-artist Robert Nicholls who specialises in producing anatomically accurate reconstructions of natural history specimens, this 50p coin was designed with the expert guidance of the Earth Sciences Department of the Natural History Museum. Available as a gold and silver Proof, colour-printed silver Proof, colour-printed Brilliant Uncirculated exclusive to The Royal Mint and standard Brilliant Uncirculated edition, it's a fitting tribute to a landmark British discovery.



Naming storms

The United Kingdom's Met Office, in collaboration with its Irish counterpart Met Éireann and, since 2019, its Dutch counterpart the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute, decided to introduce a storm naming system following the St Jude's day storm on 27–28 October 2013 which caused 17 deaths in Europe and the 2013–14 Atlantic winter storms in Europe.

The idea was to create a single, authoritative naming system to

- prevent confusion with the media and public using different names for the same storms.
- aid the communication of approaching severe weather through media partners and other government agencies.

In this way the public will be better placed to keep themselves, their property and businesses safe.

The criteria used for naming storms is based on the National Severe Weather Warnings service. This is based on a combination of both the impact the weather may have, and the likelihood of those impacts occurring. A storm will be named when it has the potential to cause an amber or red warning. Other weather types will also be considered, specifically rain if its impact could lead to flooding as advised by the Environment Agency, SEPA and Natural Resources Wales flood warnings. Therefore 'storms systems' could be named on the basis of impacts from the wind but also include the impacts of rain and snow.

This year the Met Office and Met Éireann asked people to send in their ideas for

future storm names, receiving thousands of suggestions. The full list of storm names for 2019 / 2020 is:

- Atiyah, Brendan, Ciara, Dennis, Ellen
- Francis, Gerda, Hugh, Iris, Jan, Kitty
- Liam, Maura, Noah, Olivia, Piet,
- Roisin, Samir, Tara, Vince, Willow

The Met Office makes use of suggestions submitted via social media and email. Everyone is welcome to suggest names for future consideration via nameourstorms@metoffice.gov.uk



Politics & local affairs

Sustainable Stonesfield – what next?

Following two years of intensive work on housing issues, which culminated in our victory over CALA on the Woodstock Road, SUSTO is now considering its position.

We formed our group in 2017 in response to a sudden deluge of housing applications. We are an unelected band of volunteers who wanted to prevent inappropriate housing developments. There is currently a lull on that front, and we wonder what our next project should be. More importantly, we wonder whether there are people in the village who would like to join or replace us. Times are difficult; more people are feeling the need to step up and help. Caroline's Climate Emergency Group has met with huge interest and support. What else can we do together to strengthen and protect our community? A possible project is to develop a Neighbourhood Plan.

In the UK, planning is subject to the National Planning Policy Framework at a national level and the Local Plan 2031 at the West Oxfordshire District level. While the WO LP is relatively new we have a degree of protection, but as we progress towards the end of the LP period, pressure from developers will increase again to build inappropriate housing in our village.

A Neighbourhood Plan (NP) for our Parish can make sure that any new development in Stonesfield meets real need and not developer profits, and takes into account its surroundings. It can prevent development where it would cause

unacceptable environmental damage, especially within the AONB. A Stonesfield-specific NP will become a statutory planning document that WODC has to adhere to when making future decisions.

Neighbourhood Plans provide a great opportunity to have more influence on how the place in which you live changes over time. Your local knowledge, and your sense of what needs to be protected and what needs to change, can really make a difference. An NP must be a genuine community document resulting from the widest possible community involvement.

We invite you to a public meeting in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 23 March, to discuss the way forward for SUSTO. Please come and tell us what you think SUSTO should do next, and whether you could help in any way.

Richard Morris (898210)

Robert Courts MP visits Bird Aid sites in Stonesfield and Ditchley

Robert Courts joined Bird Aid volunteers one early morning in January to visit Bird Aid feeding sites at Highfield, Witney Lane and Kingswood Brake, and then Ditchley Estate. He was impressed with the Bird Aid project, and its beneficial impact on birdlife. We were very happy to show him marsh tits at Kingswood Brake (which aren't very common) as well as good-sized flocks of farmland birds such as yellowhammers and linnets along the

hedgerows of the other feeding sites. We had a good discussion with Robert about the new Agricultural Bill, including policies to support bird life, and how the new schemes are intended to reward farmers for benefits to the public, e.g. better air and water quality, higher animal welfare standards, improved access to the countryside or measures to reduce flooding.

If you are interested in volunteering for Bird Aid, please contact Judy Anders (judy.anders66@gmail.com)



Robert Courts (centre) with Bird Aid volunteers Genny Early, Alan Larkman, John Sampson and Louise Spicer

West Oxon District Council District Digest

With the new financial year fast approaching, the District Council is in the process of finalising the Budget for 2020/2021. The proposals form a good well-balanced budget with all services retained and all the grants available to our residents and their villages/councils also fully retained. This excellent Budget will enable West Oxfordshire to retain its position as the second-lowest council taxing authority in the country.

The Council is intent upon making WODC carbon neutral by 2030. An increased tree-planting programme will see the number of

carbon-consuming trees doubled in the next few months and years.

The Council was unanimous in its opposition to the proposed Oxford/Cambridge Expressway. This decision applies whatever the suggested route. The Council will write officially to the Government expressing its strong objection.

The Council was shocked and not a little surprised to realise that of the expected companies which had previously indicated their interest in tendering for the contract to produce and install Electric Vehicle Charging Points (EVCP) in West Oxfordshire, none were intent upon actually tendering. So, the Council has decided to make a direct award to a national company to fulfil a contract for 18 EVCP in the district. Witney will receive 12 (2 rapid, 10 fast), Charlbury will get 2 (1 rapid, 1 fast), and Burford will receive 4 (1 rapid, 3 fast). The cost of these is as follows: fast points, £2,500 each; rapid, £18,000 each. Funds have been allocated in the budget. Extending the provision will follow once the initial contract has been successfully completed.

Plans are in hand for a period of public consultation on establishing a system for a Community Infrastructure Levy on new building development. The financial details and implications will form an integral part of the public consultation documents.

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

Recycling collection

During March and April, your Household Waste Recycling Centres will be closing for two days to carry out a deep clean and essential maintenance.

Closing dates:

Alkerton (Banbury) -
Tues 3 & Wed 4 March

Ardley (Bicester) -
Tues 17 & Wed 18 March

Dix Pit (Stanton Harcourt) -
Tues 24 & Wed 25 March

Drayton (Abingdon) -
Tues 28 & Wed 29 April

Oakley Wood (Wallingford) -
Tues 31 March & Wed 1 April

Redbridge (Oxford) -
Tues 10 & Wed 11 March

Stanford (Faringdon) -
Tues 21 & Wed 22 April

Full details can be found at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wasteclosure including details of your nearest site during closures. Thank you in advance for your patience. For those residents with van or trailer permits, please note these can be used at any of our centres.

Sign up now for garden waste collections

Residents are being urged to sign up or renew their subscription which runs from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 and costs £30 per bin a year for a fortnightly collection. Those signing up before 8 March will have their licence in time for when the new subscription year starts, and can be sure of not missing any collections from April. The

waste is turned into compost used on local farmland.

Signing up for garden waste collections is quick and easy and can be done using a credit or debit card, either by calling 01993 861025 or online at www.westoxon.gov.uk/garden.

Waste Wizard

Oxfordshire is the top-performing county nationwide for recycling, with 58% of household waste being recycled. Our residents help to make that happen but there is still more we can do to increase the county's recycling.

The Waste Wizard is the County Council's response to the evil spell that no-longer-needed items sometimes cast over residents when it's time to recycle or reuse them. The online tool allows anyone bewitched by the bin to type in the name of any item along with their postcode to find out whether it can be repaired, reused, donated, recycled or if it needs to go into a specific bin or can be disposed of at a household waste recycling centre. There are lots of different ways to get rid of waste but you only need one Waste Wizard to help make sure you do the right thing.

- Boost the number of items that get repaired locally.
- Increase the number of items reused or donated.
- Cut the amount of contamination in kerbside collection bins.
- Ensure anything that can't be reused, repaired or donated is properly recycled or disposed of.

New contract promises greener power

The Cabinet has approved the renewal of the Council's contract with broker West Mercia Energy (WME) with the intention of switching to a larger balance of renewable electricity and fully green gas supply as it becomes available.

The intention to scale up the use of renewable energy follows the Council's declaration of a climate emergency and its ongoing work to reduce carbon emissions across its operations. The four-year contract will also have the flexibility of including energy produced, for example, through renewable sources installed in Council buildings.

Call to ban dumping of sewage in rivers

Councillors have called on the Government to ban dumping of sewage in rivers. Witney Town Council recently issued a warning after sewage spilled into streams following heavy rainfall in the lead up to Christmas. Also, sewage fungus has been reported in the Colwell Brook and Emma's Dyke, which was discharged from the nearby Thames Water sewage treatment works.

Under current legislation, Thames Water has a permit regulated by the Environment Agency to release sewage into rivers when its system is under strain following periods of heavy rainfall.

New developer levy set for consultation

Plans are being formulated to introduce new charges on housing developments in West Oxfordshire. The District Council wants to introduce a series of charges

under the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and is set to launch a six-week consultation to gauge views on the initiative.

The CIL is a charge that may be levied on most forms of development to help fund the infrastructure to support the future growth of an area. Proposed charges vary between £100 per square metre for developments of 11 properties or more in low value areas to £300 per square metre for developments of 10 dwellings and under on high value sites. Non-residential sites including offices, hotels and restaurants will not incur a CIL charge although supermarkets will have a £100 per square metre levy.

Other considerations such as zero-carbon developments may result in lower or no charges to meet the Council's commitment to combating climate change.

The draft CIL charging schedule for the purpose of public consultation went before Cabinet on Wednesday 12 February.

Oxfordshire County Council Budget:

In February, following resident and business consultation, I proposed an 'investment budget' to reduce neglect, ill-health and social isolation. The proposals include community support for vulnerable people so they can live independently for longer and more help for struggling families to reduce the chances of children having to go into care.

Funding for children and adult social services will increase by £30 million next year, including an extra £8.1 million from the government. This money is needed to support an increase in adult social care

needs for both older and disabled people, as well as the increasing number of child protection cases, which have grown in line with national trends.

The budget proposals also include investment in infrastructure across the county over ten years, such as an extra £50 million for new and existing schools. Most of the funding comes from housing developers to meet the need for more pupil places in Oxfordshire.

The Council proposes to spend £30 million in 2020/21 from its capital budget on repairs to roads, bridges, drainage and footways across Oxfordshire's towns and villages, with major schemes scheduled in Banbury, Abingdon and Witney.

Responding to climate change features prominently across budget proposals, including support for sustainable travel such as improving Park & Ride services on the A40, and the replacement of over 50,000 streetlights with energy-efficient LEDs. All budget proposals have to consider the climate change agenda and how the County Council will meet its carbon neutral target by 2030.

North Cotswold Line Taskforce:

For several years I have been working with other councils, Network Rail, First Great Western and Local Enterprise Partnerships

as part of the North Cotswold Line Taskforce to improve services on the route. There are proposals to have four trains an hour from Hanborough to Oxford and London. Below is the video link to the Westminster Hall 'North Cotswold Line Transformation' debate:

www.parliamentlive.tv/Event/Index/be737d5d-4a10-49ce-acb7-bab8b8b8f5b8

Woodstock Library:

There is no news yet on Woodstock's library which is temporarily situated in the museum. We are working with Community First and the Blenheim Estate to see whether an innovative solution can be found to provide a new library facility in the town.

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

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 MARCH please ring

Viv Kendall (891803) or Nigel Collier (891372)

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.

Education & culture

Stonesfield Library

Opening hours:

Monday	2.30–7
Tuesday	closed
Wednesday	10am–12noon
Thursday	2.30–5pm
Friday	closed
Saturday	10am–12noon

Manager: Debbie Wilson (898187)

FoSL (Friends of Stonesfield Library)

We're lucky in this village to have one of Oxfordshire's 43 libraries, albeit the smallest. No matter, as there is a regular rotation of books with other libraries, and, for a small fee, access to a million books. (Yes really!) We open four days a week for a total of 11 hours, and 22 volunteers cover 50% of this time. If you want to find out more, and might consider joining FoSL, come to our next meeting on Wednesday 18 March at The White Horse, 6.30-7.30pm.

Val Phillips (891455)

North Leigh Library News

Our Creative Writing Group launches on Tuesday 17 March at 3.30 pm. This is not a creative writing class but an opportunity to share things we have written - stories, poems, etc. - and to explore ideas together that might help us develop our writing, a sort of 'bring and share' approach. We hope that people will also bring along things that they have found in books, magazines or newspapers that they found interesting or quirky or that might inspire us. This group is a way to meet fellow aspiring writers and it is up to us all to make of it what we want.

If you have any questions, please email kyterobert@gmail.com

We have another author visit, this time by Merilyn Davies, who will talk about her books. This will be on Wednesday 18 March at 7pm and promises to be a very interesting evening.

We are launching the Oxfordshire Bloomin' Good Reads, which is the adult reading challenge, with a social gathering

FoSL: Friends of Stonesfield Library

Open to anyone who wants to help keep our village library open. We have been providing voluntary cover for half of the existing library hours (about 6 hours a week) since the library service was cut back.

For further details, or to join us, please contact Tony Scott on 01993 891380, tonyandrachel.scott@virgin.net

with wine and nibbles on Monday 2 March starting at 5pm.

All are welcome to these events, which take place in the Library in North Leigh. Do come along!

Phil Bloomfield, Friends of North Leigh Library

Stonesfield School

Please save the date for 'The FoSS Family Quiz Night' on Saturday 7 March at 7pm. The quiz will be hosted by Dave and Laura Rudge in Stonesfield School Hall. It will be a mix of film clips, music, questions and challenges for all the family. There will be a well-stocked bar, tuck shop and snacks available. Tickets are £3 for adults and £2 for children. We warmly welcome all to come and join in with the fun to help raise funds for the School. For tickets please contact Kathryn Jones

(kathjewel@yahoo.co.uk), Jenny Smith (pearsejl@googlemail.com) or ask a member of FoSS.

Save the date for the Summer Fete -

Saturday 11 July 2020. This is a really fun village event and we hope to have lots of great stalls and activities on offer along with the show tent, entertainment stage, BBQ, bar and the refreshments tent. If you are interested in running a stall, performing on the entertainment stage, helping out in the planning or on the day, please contact Kathryn Jones (kathjewel@yahoo.co.uk). We really want the whole village to feel welcome and come and enjoy this fun event with us.



We have a fully extended childcare provision running from Pre-School. Here is what is currently available:

Breakfast Club

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, 8–8.50am (£5.50 per session)
Cereal, toast and fruit juice included

Pre-School Sessions

9am–3pm daily for children aged 2–4 years (£16.00 per session)

After School Club

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 3.15–6pm (£16.00 per session)

If you would like registration forms for any of the above,
please contact our administrator, Mrs Zena Rozee
(tel. 01993 898012 or email: stonesfieldpsad@outlook.com)

The Oxfordshire Museum

A new exhibition by Members of the Oxford Photographic Society (OPS), one of the longest running photography societies in the country, opened in the Cloister Gallery of the Soldiers of Oxford Museum (SOFo) in Woodstock in February. The exhibition features 50 of the society members' *Favourite Images* which will be on display until Sunday 15 March. Images displayed cover a wide variety of genres from travel, wildlife and street to the more unexpected and obscure.

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum is open Tuesday-Friday 1–5pm, Saturday 11am–5pm, Sunday 2–5pm. Standard admission is £4.50 including entry to all exhibitions.

Exhibition: until 26 April

1980s Britain: Money Changes Everything

Like no other decade, the 1980s were bold, brash and contradictory times: an age of boom and bust; of greed, spending and charitable giving, when hair was big and shoulder pads bigger; the decade of dandies swaggering in frills and flounces, while keep-fit fanatics lunged in Lycra and legwarmers; the action-packed decade of new technology and momentous historic events that shaped our modern world.

Family History Search:

Are you eager to find out more of your family history, but would like some guidance? Oxfordshire Family History Society has an advisor, available on the first and third Wednesday of each month 1–4pm. Visit the library or phone 814124 to book a free session.

Friends of The Oxfordshire Museum Talks:

4 March: Woodstock Building Group, *Woodstock – Its buildings and people*. Friends free, visitors £4. Talk starts 7.30pm. For further information: www.friendsoftom.org.uk

Those were the days! Do you remember...

A monthly group for people to reminisce about the past, bring photos and objects and share memories.

6 March: *The best things in life* - Come and share your memories of things that don't cost a lot but bring a smile to your face.

The Coach House 2–3.30/4pm, £1 per person, tea and coffee will be served. For further details phone 01865 300639.

Music – local and further afield

Have you heard about the folk session that happens on the first Wednesday of the month at the White Horse? Starting at 8pm, it is a friendly, gentle, fun evening for singers, instrumentalists, poets and listeners alike, and has been running since June 2018. Musicians sing and/or play solo, in small groups, or accompanied by improvising fellow musicians, and on many an evening the rafters of the restaurant at the White Horse have been raised by spontaneous four-part harmonic renditions of traditional songs, folky covers and more. Some people bring their own compositions, and on several occasions we have heard new songs for the first time. Sometimes traditional tunes from England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, France, Quebec, Bulgaria and elsewhere are played; but the repertoire is broad and is inspired by whoever turns up on the night and which instruments they bring – ranging from

fiddle, guitar, mandolin and banjo to bodhran, accordion, slide guitar and even spoons! Although we have only promoted the evenings locally, word has spread and some musicians have travelled from all corners of the county, and we even had a fiddler from Norway recently! Local poets too have brought and performed their own material and they are very welcome, as are those of you who would like to come along to listen over a glass of wine or a meal. Marina and Nigel are wonderful hosts at the White Horse and we always have a really good evening. The next folk evening will be Wednesday 4 March.

Venturing further afield:
Rowan Rheingans (of Lady Maisery/The Rheingans Sisters) will be appearing in a one-woman storytelling music show, *Dispatches on the Red Dress*, at the Northwall Theatre in Oxford on Friday 13 March. Having seen Rowan perform in her other groups, I would warmly recommend going to see her. Unravelling the joy and pain from a story of her grandmother's youth in 1940's Germany, Rowan celebrates small acts of resistance and boldly asks a troubling question for our times: can hope for our future be found in the very darkest pockets of our history? www.thenorthwall.com/whats-on/dispatches-on-the-red-dress/



On Saturday 14 March, fiddle legend and multi-instrumentalist Chris Leslie will be performing at Aston Village Hall. Chris built an international reputation with the dazzling acoustic outfit Whippersnapper, as a key member both of the Albion Band and of Simon Mayor's Mandolin All Stars. Chris has also appeared with Jethro Tull's Ian Anderson, and in 1997 joined folk rock legends Fairport Convention. Aston Village Hall, Aston Road, Aston OX18 2DU. www.ents24.com/aston-events/aston-village-hall/chris-leslie/5968987

Folk Weekend Oxford returns with many exciting events taking place in Oxford from 17-19 April. On the Saturday, local fiddle/guitar duo Henderson:Hooper will be playing in Blackwells (2.30pm) and Stonesfield/Finstock trio The Boot Band (Susanna Starling, Judith Henderson and Nick Hooper) will be performing in the Ashmolean (11.45am). Just turn up and listen!

The Boot Band are very excited to announce that they will be performing at Wilderness Festival in Cornbury Park on Friday 30 July! www.wildernessfestival.com/programme/the-boot-band/

Judith Hooper
.....

Clubs & societies

Climate Emergency Group

Our February meeting was all about tree planting. Paul Orsi from the Sylva Foundation gave us an overview of the national situation (with some impressive, albeit depressing statistics); Lucy Staveley gave an inspirational account of what individuals can achieve in their community (around Burford); and Dave Baldwin told us about the Stonesfield Parish Council Environment Working Group (SPCEWG).

The SPCEWG has been set up so that we can all get involved in tree planting projects and other environmental initiatives in our community. Dave will be researching suitable sites, sourcing saplings, and working with volunteers to plant and care for new trees. Dave's email is d.baldwin@stonesfieldpc.uk. Please contact him if you would like him to put you on his email group for hearing about tree planting projects etc. This is separate from our Climate Emergency Group, which is meeting once a month to discuss a range of topics. If you want to hear about tree planting from now on – where it might be happening, how you can help – write to Dave. Dave has also said he is willing to come to individual gardens to advise on tree management/planting, so do take him up on this as well.

The next meeting is on Monday 2 March at 7.30 in the St James' Centre: creating a community garden, produce sharing and plastic-free gardening. These monthly meetings are open to all. There is no group or club to join, and no subscription fee. We

now have a sponsor for room hire, so no entry fee either. It is a forum for anyone who is interested in these matters to come along and listen and maybe take some good ideas away with them.

Notes from all our meetings are on the SUSTO page on the Stonesfield website, together with a very useful information sheet on local shops which sell loose/unwrapped produce.

Meeting on 6 April: buying an electric car; solar panels. Future topics include: time banks (barter system); work environments; repair café; clothing exchange; switching to green energy; internet usage; pensions and banks. If you have a particular interest in or knowledge of any of these areas, please get in touch.

If not me, who? If not now, when?

Please drop me a line if you are not already on my mailing list, and I'll keep you updated with future meetings and initiatives. Many thanks.

Caroline Friend (caroline.v.friend@gmail.com)

Stonesfield Gardening Club

Our February meeting started with the Annual General Meeting which was attended by more than 30 of our 50 members. The treasurer outlined our financial position, which is good enough for us to make a substantial donation to the Stonesfield Scouts for their new hut fund. We elected a new committee and said goodbye to Sybil Barton and Gill Barrett,

both standing down after years of service, and each was presented with a gift to thank them.

After the formalities, Genny Early and Gill Barrett gave us an interesting illustrated talk about the wild flowers that are growing on Stonesfield Common, in particular the rare meadow clary, and what the local working groups (and the sheep and cows!) are doing to encourage them. Long-standing residents could remember a time when the orchids in particular were far more numerous.

In March we have Timothy Walker coming to talk to us about how we can adapt our gardening to the demands of the 21st century – should be very thought-provoking.

Diane Bates

diane@bateshome.co.uk

www.stonesfieldgardening.info

Stonesfield Sew, Chat & Handicraft Group

We meet monthly in St James' Centre on the first Tuesday from 10am–12 noon. Anyone is welcome to join us for coffee with or without a current project. Those who regularly attend have a variety of interests: some use threads, textiles, wool etc in traditional ways, others are more contemporary. If you enjoy sharing and chatting about your interest in arts and crafts, please come along – 3 March, 7 April, 5 May. Any queries contact Ann Lowe (898837).

Over 60s Club

We were fortunate with the weather for our February meeting and the sun shone for us to make our way to the hall. Once inside we could enjoy one another's company and it was great that so many were there. We had an impromptu few houses of bingo (free of charge) with small prizes that had been donated. Tea/coffee and cakes were served and enjoyed by all. We were asked to bring suggestions for future meetings next month. New ideas are always very welcome. As usual, our meeting concluded with a raffle.

Our March meeting will begin at 1 pm with a soup lunch, with a pudding to follow. In April we are to have a talk and slides about the Bus Museum at Hanborough Station and our refreshments that day will include hot cross buns.

Hope to see you at our next meeting. Best wishes, take care.

Avis

Sports and Social Club

Looking forward to March and the lighter days, 7 March is the date of Ladies Night from 8pm with cocktails and prosecco on offer. Bingo is on the 12th, eyes down 7.30pm. On the 15th we are holding a games night. Come along and enjoy a game of pool, darts, crib, and card games including UNO starting from 7.30pm. For all events non-members are welcome.

Brian Clarke

The Stonesfield Players Drama Group is back!

After the success of our three sold-out performances of *The Wonderful Story of Mother Goose*, the drama club is back! The club started last year with the goal of creating more members for the Stonesfield Players; from this some of these new members took to the main stage and used all those new skills.

The group, for ages 14 and over, will meet every other Monday at the Village Hall club room, 8-10pm. Every week we will have fun with improvisation, play readings, and learning warm-up techniques, blocking, projection and generally having fun with acting. This time we will be working towards a summer revue. The club initially started using a grant from the Jay Miller Fund but we now have to charge a small weekly fee of £3 a session, payable only when you attend.

Dates we will meet: 2 March, 16 March, 30 March, 13 April (Easter Monday), 27 April, 11 May, 25 May, 8 June, 22 June, 6 July.

For more information or to join the Players' mailing list for upcoming events, email Dave: stonesfieldplayers@gmail.com

Dave Rudge, Players Secretary

Witney Music Society

For the final concert in its 2019-20 season, Witney Music Society welcomes the return of the Carice Singers. This outstanding vocal ensemble will be presenting *'Tis Nature's Voice*, a programme focusing on springtime with songs by English composers alongside some fascinating European rarities. The concert is at 7.30pm on Friday 13 March.

Tickets (£12, £1 for under-19s) will be available at the door from 7pm or in advance online or in person from Greenway Antiques or Rapture in Witney. For more information please telephone 01993 702296 or visit the Witney Music Society www.witneymusicsociety.org.uk.

North Leigh History Society

Tuesday 3 March Roman Silchester: the oldest public baths in Britain. A talk by Rev'd Margaret Dixon.

The Roman town of Silchester was developed on the site of an Iron Age settlement and remained as a thriving town until more than a hundred years after the Romans left, when it was abandoned. Since 1997 the University of Reading has been leading excavations and continues to uncover new findings. The recent discoveries at the bathhouse have reshaped our understanding of the early Roman occupation and are causing much interest in the world of archaeology. Margaret Dixon has been involved in these excavations and will bring us up to date on the latest findings. Join us to find out more.

We meet in the Turner Hall, Church Road, North Leigh, OX29 6TX at 7.30pm. Visitors £4, members free. Further details from Diana Power (01993 882301). If you want to go on our mailing list, contact Robert Kyte at kyterobert@gmail.com

1st Stonesfield Scouts

As promised, our much-loved Bingo is back! Friday 27 March, with a wonderfully chocolatey Easter theme, fabulous prizes, great raffle wins, amazing atmosphere, fun for all the family, bar and refreshments... Please come and support us, as we raise funds for our future hut. We welcome any donations of prizes and if you know any local companies or individuals who would like to donate a voucher or prize, we'd love to hear from you! Doors open 6:30pm for 'eyes down' at 7pm.

This term our sections have hit the ground running – literally for the Beavers with their Health and Fitness badge as well as their Skills Challenge badge, learning to tie knots and prepare camp skills for the lighter evenings. Cubs have been learning about road and fire safety as well as

working hard on their International Scouting badge and World Challenge badge, learning how to dance a ceilidh while celebrating Burns' Night. Scouts spent the last weekend in January at 'Medieval' Winter Camp, enjoying a hog roast, fencing, jousting, archery, pheasant plucking, amongst many other *olde worlde* activities! In preparation for the camp, they learnt a variety of woodworking and DIY skills, creating banners and shields for the medieval tournaments.

As always, we'd love to hear from anyone who'd like to help us out, either volunteering with the young people, or behind the scenes keeping the whole show on the road! Contact us at info@stonesfield-scouts.org.uk

1st Stonesfield Scouts



From the archives

The Stonesfield Brownies performed *Aladdin* in 1994

Sport

Stonesfield Football Club

As you open your cherished copy of this month's beloved Slate, the first daffodils will be 'tossing their heads in sprightly dance' (William Wordsworth) and enticing us to relish what has come to be known as the 'business end of the season' where cups and leagues are won and lost. So, what can we rightfully anticipate as we head into daffodil season, normally called 'spring'? Our Firsts can, hopefully, look forward to ending the season on a high in one of the cups. Unfortunately, it won't be Junior Shield success, as they travelled to Deddington in their quarter-final and were well beaten (4-0). A freak result? When you consider that several players were away on skiing duty (a tough job, but somebody has to do it), the result isn't that much of a shock. They have a Fred Ford Cup semi-final to look forward to after a thumping 4-0 win at Bampton Utd. A first round tie in The Senior Cup (v Spartans) is also coming up, so maybe Cup success is a reasonable anticipation. They continue to hold on to second place in the Premiership, courtesy of goals from Micky Phipps and Carry Rice (2) in a pulsating, fabulous home win, against local rivals Charlbury (3-2). This spring really does have a look of promise about it!

What can we say about our lads in The Reserves? They haven't been helped by the stop-start nature of this season's league campaign but their recent loss (1-0) away at Chadlington hasn't helped them in their dog-fight to avoid relegation. The excellent spirit in the side is epitomised perfectly by

the attitude of Ben Franklin who was hit by the bombshell that a knee injury will rule him out for the rest of the season.

Following the news that current player-manager Wink (honestly, that IS his name) has decided to step down at the end of this season, Ben stepped forward and offered to take over the role of team manager from this point onwards! The club thanks Wink for all his efforts and wishes Ben every success including a barrowload of goals and good luck.

No real quibbles about The Fredo Award this month. Ben Franklin has displayed his credentials as a true club-man, by turning his own adversity into an opportunity to serve. Stepping forward and embracing the role of Reserve Team Manager at a time when the team are struggling shows true grit. Clubs like ours survive on the selflessness of individuals like Ben and a Fredo Award, though richly deserved, is the least we can offer. Welcome to the Pantheon of Fredo Award winners, Ben!

Tom Flanigan (891979)

How the *Slate* was originally produced



When the *Slate* started the personal computer hadn't been invented. The copy was typed on a Roneo stencil on a manual typewriter. If you made a typing mistake you had to use a horrid pink fluid to cover the goof before re-typing.

The stencils were wrapped around a drum on the Roneo machine and the handle cranked around printing each side of an A4 piece of paper, one page at a time. These were then stapled together and tada! the first edition of the *Slate* was born.



deliver copies to the Ridings. Jill is still delivering the *Slate* today, 43 years later.

The *Slate* still relies on a band of volunteers who every month edit the copy, on a computer today, and arrange for it to be delivered to every house in the village.

The Stonesfield

No.1.

SPECIAL EVENTS - WOODHURST

- 4 Stonesfield Group Christmas Bingo 7.30 p.m.
- 9 Darby and Joan Christmas Party 7.00 p.m.
- 11 Folk Dance 7.00 p.m. with Feedingstone Quarry Tum
- 15 Stonesfield Choral Society - Carols in Parish Ch
- 16 Playing Fields Bingo 7.30 p.m.
- Stonesfield Group deliver Christmas parcels to Se
- 19 Carol Concert 6.30 p.m.
- 20 Christmas Tea for 40 Senior Citizens at "The Boat
- 21 1st Evonkide Scouts 'Whist Drive 7.15 p.m.
- 22 1st Evonkide Scouts Christmas Bingo.
- 24 Carols at Methodist Church - Conducted by Rev. Ton
- 31 Playing Fields Dance 8.30 p.m. - 1.00 a.m.

GENESIS

Between the age ranges of Bromley and the Darby & Joan of Stonesfield village groups offering a 'side' of the purposes of 'The Stonesfield Slate' is to pr may all be informed about them and prompted to join.

The contents of this issue are derived mainly from that future issues will include concerts, criti

title is inherited, by courtesy of Mr. Alan For old Folk Group who no longer publish, and our arr

est and offered help. Grateful thanks to all and to

the printing elbow needs a bit more power! If you h the skill of running an electric duplicator p

CHILD NOTES

Students in Farley Field have been allocated to rents for those being received by the clari

popular. A letter from Mr. George Powell, a Fe spelling. A new chevron sign has been placed at the corner

Greenfields and it is hoped this will reduce the speed of a

JUBILEE MEETING

The Clerk of the Parish Council was asked to call a mee 6th November to discuss ideas for the Jubilee celebrations in efforts to form a Committee to organise events, organised by organisations in the village. Anyone who would be interested should contact Mrs. Ushaw.

Editors this issue: Polly Clowett, Cynthia Southgate. F.11. COPY FOR JANUARY 1977 TO Polly Clowett, Peacock House by 15 DEC

The *Slate* volunteers

When Gordon Rudlin came up with the idea of a village newsletter he got the Village Hall committee to sponsor the project. He then asked around the village for volunteers - to be editors, typists, printers, and deliverers. This is the slip of paper returned by Jill Rowlinson volunteering to type, on her very old typewriter, and to

To Gordon Rudlin, Beech Glade, Manor Drive, Stonesfield

"THE STONESFIELD SLATE"

I would willingly:

1. Assist in editing ()
2. Type stencils - I have/ do not have a typewriter (✓) (very old)
3. Work the Roneo duplicator ()
4. Collect and stitch the sheets ()
5. Deliver in... The Ridings... road or tree (✓)

Signed... Jill Rowlinson...

Address... 5, Cookshot Close

..... Stonesfield.....

Phone no. 3446

For many years little illustrations by Rachel Sherlaw Johnson were scattered about where there was a space to fill.

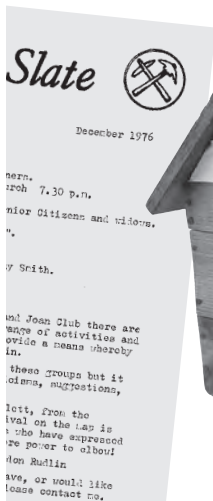


The Stonesfield *Slate*

ISSUE NO 178



The Publishers and Editors of the Stonesfield Slate wish everyone a very happy New Year (regardless of whether you think it is the New Millennium, see article page 3)



The *Slate* contributors

From the beginning the *Slate* has relied on people in the village sending in copy to be published in the next edition. Groups promote their sports event, meetings, plays and concerts. The Parish, District and County councillors have reported on affairs of state, and of course residents have written to complain about all manner of things – but a few topics have repeatedly come up. For many years copy was delivered to the *Slate* editor via this bird box which sat in the Post Office.

The Slate even won a prize in 1990



To celebrate the start of the new millennium the *Slate* had a full page photographic cover for the first time. It was just by luck that it snowed the day of the deadline in December. The only other time there has been a photographic cover was January 2009.

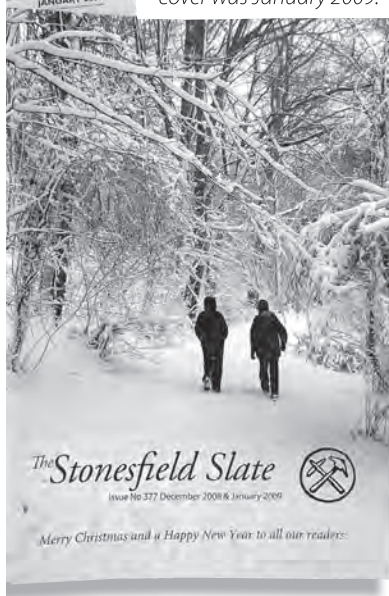


Jill Rowlinson and Gordon Rudlin at Gordon's retirement party.

The *Slate* publishers

Gordon Rudlin was the originator of the *Slate* and its first publisher from December 1978 until December 1997. Dale and Richard Morris took over the publisher role for the next seven years bringing the *Slate* fully into the digital era. Simon and Jenny Haviland were then publishers until December 2019. The *Slate* is

now in the capable hands of Paul and Diane Bates to continue the publication for another 500 editions! Best of luck.



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

Dear ones, this is my swan song as far as my letters to you over the years are concerned. My last services in the Parishes will be on 15 March.

I have really been blessed whilst I have been your Parish Priest and do thank you all for your support. If you are able to come and say goodbye at any of the services between now and the 15th it would be lovely to see you. We do have a goodbye tea on 14 March in the St James' Centre between 4pm and 6pm and you are very welcome to that too.

You will of course remember that I always sign off my letters with D.F.T.W. which means 'Don't Forget To Wave' and if you can't make any of the services or the Goodbye Tea then a wave would be much appreciated.

The life of the church goes on though and we have a wonderful team of people who will make sure that the services carry on, hopefully seamlessly, and for any other services like weddings, baptisms or funerals just get in touch with the church

wardens and they will all be pleased to help you get things arranged.

The Lent Courses will be happening before Easter so do watch out for groups happening during the day in Stonesfield and in the evenings at Combe and Stonesfield. I have been told about them and the Lent Courses will be very fine this year. Charlotte Oakeshott and Ian Farrow will be taking them in Stonesfield and the Combe Lent Courses will be arranged through Richard and Allison Francis, so watch out for further details.

There will be, sadly, a gap between my leaving and a brand-new Rector arriving but don't worry – if needs be the church wardens have said that they would let me know and the Bishop has given me permission to come back and officiate if necessary until the new Rector arrives. The contacts for each church warden will be advertised so that you can get in touch for any spiritual need you may have.

So to finish this 'swan song' letter can I say that the time, my eleven years here, seems to have flown by since I was handed the reins by dear Geoff, our former Rector, in 2009. I do hope that you will give the next

Rector all your valued support as you did to Geoff and myself. Keep on hoping, keep on believing and may you and your loved ones be kept underneath the loving protection of our loving Father in heaven.

Do pray for Bev and me as we move into unknown territory, the unknown territory of retirement for me and Bev's unknown territory of eating the meals I will be

preparing for her as she continues to work for a little longer. She does work as a practice manager at a GP surgery so I guess the doctors will keep an eye on her for tell-tale signs of food poisoning.

God bless you all and for the last time,
D.F.T.W.

Rev Roy

Services for March

Sunday 1 March [Lent 1]

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [BCP/said]
9.30am	Combe Longa	All Age Worship
11am	Stonesfield	All Age Worship
6pm	Combe Longa	Benefice Evensong with Bishop Colin to say farewell to Roy and Bev

Sunday 8 March [Lent 2]

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

Sunday 15 March [Lent 3]

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

Sunday 22 March [Mothering Sunday]

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

Sunday 29 March [Lent 5]

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

Sunday 5 April [Palm Sunday]

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

Mid-week Communion Service [said]

Wednesdays 9.30am at Stonesfield. Everyone is most welcome.

Stonesfield Methodist Church

Services for March

1	11am	Mr Eddie Fowler
8	11am	The Rev'd Rose Westwood, Holy Communion
15	11am.	The Rev'd Hilary Ewing
22	11am	Mr Karl Williams
29	11am	Mr Richard Bowler

Zimbabwe!

A World Day of Prayer Service will be held at this church on Friday 6 March at 2pm. The Christian women of Zimbabwe have prepared a service to share with the whole world, a service full of their music, their thoughts and their hopes. Family life in Zimbabwe is very often challenging and yet the women speak only of love, peace and reconciliation. This service is for absolutely everyone. Come and be part of it, as it resounds across the globe on 6 March!

Kathleen Albert (891733)

Roman Catholic Worship

Share your bread

We all give so much: our time, our energy, our money, our skills, our commitment to the very many good causes that we support. In so doing, irrespective of our motivation, which can be varied as the causes that we support, we are following a two-millennium tradition of giving where there is need. The prophet Isaiah (58:7-10):

*Thus says the Lord:
Share your bread with the hungry,
And shelter the homeless poor,
Clothe the men you see to be naked
And turn not from your own kin,
Then will your light shine like the dawn
And your wound be quickly healed over.*

*Your integrity will go before you
And the glory of the Lord behind you,
Cry, and the Lord will answer;
Call, and he will say 'I am here'.
If you do away with the yoke,
The clenched fist, the wicked word,
If you give your bread to the hungry,
A relief to the oppressed,
Your light will rise in the darkness
And your shadows become like noon.*

This passage goes further than simply telling us to give to the poor, it's encouraging us to become good by behaving better. By behaving better, 'being good', we will show others how to be better, creating a perfect chain of generosity.

Psalm 112: 4-9 R.v4

Response: *The good man is a light in the darkness for the upright.*

*He is a light in the darkness for the upright
He is generous, merciful and just.
The good man takes pity and lends,
He conducts his affairs with honour.*

*The just man will never waver:
He will be remembered for ever.
He has no fear of evil news;
With a firm heart he trusts in the Lord.*

*With steadfast heart he will not fear.
Open-handed, he gives to the poor;
His justice stands firm for ever.
His head will be raised in glory.*

However, these passages are not only directions for how we live our lives, but indicate how we will be recipients of the greatest generosity ever; the gift of God made man, to live and die for us, leading us from darkness into light.

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 will be at 10am
after morning Mass on Saturdays, and on
request.

Parish Pilgrimage:

Saturday 18 July to St. Chad's Cathedral,
Birmingham on the occasion of Deacon
Dytor's ordination. For further information
please contact Suze Mathews, 01993
891720 or email
suzemathews899@btinternet.com

Fr Tony Joyce can be contacted on
holyltrinityrcchippy@gmail.com or by
telephone 01608 642703

For parish updates and any further
information:

www.stteresaschurch-charlbury.com/
or contact Clive Dytor:
chair.stteresaschurchcharlbury@gmail.com

Roman Catholic Community in Stonesfield
.....

New Church thought

*'Love comes into being through useful
service to others.'* E. Swedenborg

What 'teams' are you a part of? Not just
sports teams – any groups working
together to reach a goal. While browsing
through the *Slate* archive this month, I was
struck by how many village things I've been
involved with, to a greater or lesser degree,

over the decades we've lived here. Most
things would probably have happened
anyway without me, but joining in helped
me grow and (I trust) contributed to
Stonesfield life.

That's the thing about communities, and
teams – most events and organisations can
only work effectively if people come
forward to help or take part. You get to
know others; some even become friends.
That's how my roots here have deepened,
and how they continue to grow.
Involvement. Helping out. Contributing.
Taking up opportunities, or making them.
It all builds neighbourliness. I love living
here!

Dale Morris (898210)

Advertisements

For boxed ads please email slate-ads@stonesfield.online for full details of availability, sizes, requirements and cost. Line ads: £2.00 per 30 words.

Advertisements should be emailed to **slate-ads@stonesfield.online** by 10th of the month.

Line ads can also be delivered by hand to Diane & Paul Bates, Waterloo Barn, Laughton Hill, Stonesfield, OX29 8DY. All advertisements must be paid for in advance.

Disclaimer

The Stonesfield Slate is a village amenity, produced and distributed by volunteers. It can not be held responsible for any of the views expressed in its pages nor does it endorse any of the products or services advertised.

Whilst we strive to ensure all information is correct, we are not responsible for anything that happens as a result of you using the information. If you find any errors or omissions then please contact the Publisher and we will endeavour to correct them.

The editor and the publishers reserve the right to edit, shorten or omit any article submitted for publication.



Good Gourmet

Upcoming events at our pop-up restaurant

Saturday 29th February

3 course Italian Bistro

£30pp BYO

March

Bistro dates and menus to be confirmed

Dates available for wedding, party
and private catering.

See our website for news, events,
menus and to make a booking

or

call 01993 898614

www.goodgourmet.co.uk

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Maeve O'Donnell
Acupuncture

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pain relief, arthritis, migraine, fatigue,
hormone imbalance, and more.**

Appointments available at my Stonesfield
clinic or in your own home.

To find out more or arrange an initial
consultation please contact me on 01993
898102 / 07791 278618

maeve@maeveodonnellacupuncture.co.uk

or visit

www.maeveodonnellacupuncture.co.uk

 @maeveodonnellacupuncture



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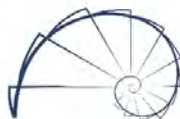
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is beached in a museum berth.

The church bells ring on a Sunday
and are silent the rest of the week, but once they rang when the frost came
and then you would have seen

the quarrymen roused from their firesides,
deturfing the damp slate stacks, exposing the rough hewn edges
to let the ice open the cracks.

You can see still the roofs that they furnished
mellow and weathertight. But there is now no way of knowing
who the fool, where the field, why the foolish.

This poem is one of a collection "In Polygonia" written whilst Poet in Residence at the Oxfordshire Historic Landscape Characterisation Project (Google the name to see the interactive map created by the project). The collection is available via Stonesfield Library or via <https://romolablog.wordpress.com>