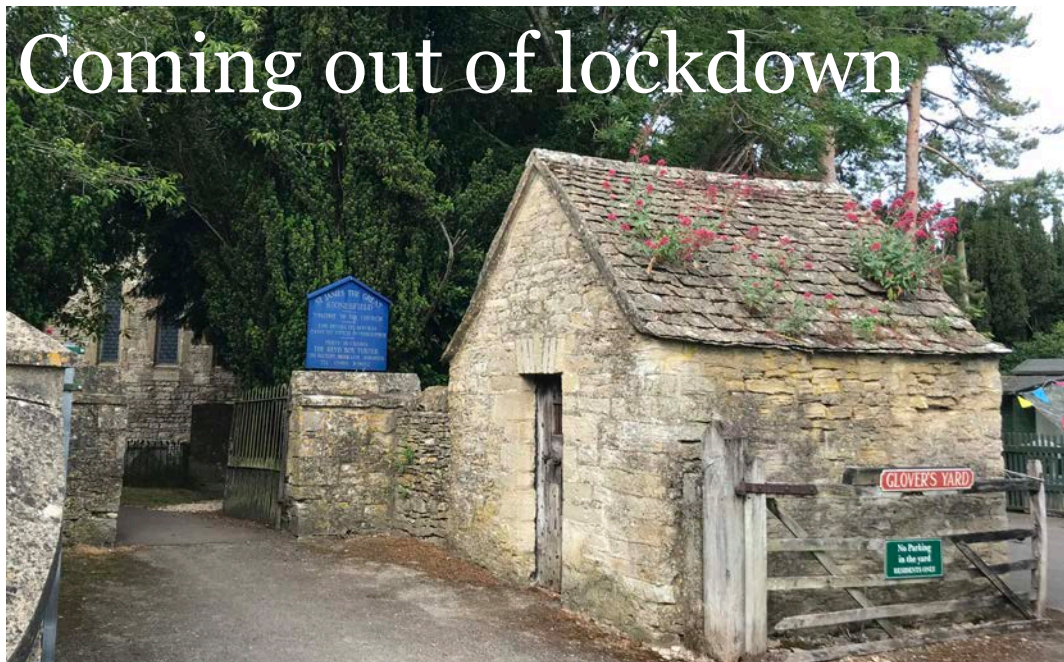




Coming out of lockdown



As the country starts to exit lockdown let's take this opportunity to remember the people who have helped us throughout this time.

It was not only the NHS staff, doctors and carers who were at our side. The village shop remained open throughout. The post women and men kept us in contact with loved ones... and delivered bills. The supermarkets and 'white vans' delivered our on-line orders. The refuse men ensured we were not overwhelmed by our own rubbish. Thames Water restored essential supplies after a struggle with a burst pipe.

And many more.

This edition of *The Stonesfield Slate* has more stories from residents recounting their experiences over the last few months. In the words of one Stonesfield resident: *'I hope we will hold on to the things we have learned once this is all over.'*

Continued on page 2



From page 1

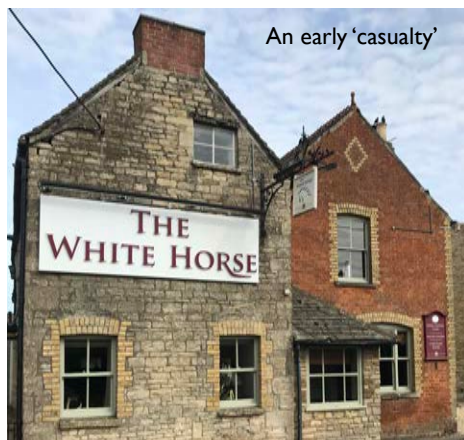
Many local businesses have struggled, including some of those who advertise in the *Slate*, and we trust Stonesfield residents will continue to give them their support to get them back on their feet.

One 'casualty' was The White Horse which closed just before lockdown started and now Marina and Nigel have handed back the tenancy. We all hope that a new tenant is found by the time pubs are allowed to reopen and we can return to 'propping up the bar'.

Sport has also ceased and so, for the first time for years, there are no sports reports. Other clubs have been equally quiet and

are now looking forward to the day when everyone can get back together.

Until then stay safe and enjoy July's *Slate*.



Important note

In view of the current coronavirus advice, any events are liable to change or cancellation. We strongly suggest you check with the organisers of all events. The information was up to date at time of printing but is liable to change.

Please follow the latest government advice, available on www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response

For more links to useful phone numbers / websites about how to look after yourself and the community go to www.stonesfield.online

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Coronavirus updates

Reopening of high streets

Retailers and small independent shops have been reopening from Monday 15 June, with customer safety paramount. West Oxfordshire District Council has provided posters and social distancing floor markers.



In Witney, a town centre plan has been developed which will restrict traffic, impose a 20mph speed limit and widen pavements to aid pedestrians and encourage cyclists. The other main towns in the district are also being examined to see if any changes are needed. The District Council is keen to receive comments from residents and businesses on these changes; which should be sent to enquiries@westoxon.gov.uk.

Face coverings on public transport

It became compulsory to wear a face covering on public transport in England on 15 June, but children aged under 11, people with disabilities or breathing difficulties, and anyone travelling with someone who relies on lipreading are all exempt.

NHS Laundry bags

During the lockdown, I have been sewing within a coordinated group, making items to help NHS staff as they care for people affected by COVID-19. I have made drawstring laundry bags for the Churchill, JR and Southern NHS workers to put their uniforms in at the end of a shift, to transfer the whole bag home safely and into their washing machines without having to remove the uniform, reducing the risk of the virus spreading.

I would like to say a BIG, sincere thank you to everyone who answered my call and sent me cotton sheets, duvet covers and pillowcases back in April. The quick response was overwhelming! Also, thank you for the threads and tape donated.

In all, the Oxfordshire group of sewing volunteers I have 'worked alongside' have made 10,000 laundry bags.

As you read this, I will hopefully (within the current guidelines) have reopened for business, fitting, altering and sewing again, for my regular and new customers.

Massive thanks go to Tina Slatter, Barbara Rees and Natasha Woodin for their help with washing, packing and posting, as I kept sewing! It's been a great team effort. I'm very proud that while we stayed at home we have managed to do something to help the people who have been working so hard to save lives. Thank you all for helping me to "do our bit".

Louise Everett Brown (813873)
lou.smiley1@btinternet.co

STONESFIELD VOLUNTARY TRANSPORT SCHEME

As you know, we have had to suspend our service of voluntary transport to medical appointments because of the Government requirements for social distancing and to protect both our clients and our drivers.

However, if you are in need of transport for medical reasons and are unable to find this from your own household, there are one or two other possibilities that may be able to help.

For further information please phone Viv Kendall on 01993 891803.

Some phone numbers to call for help

West Oxfordshire District Council:	01993 861000
Oxfordshire County Council:	01865 792422
Citizens Advice West Oxfordshire:	03444 111 444
Age UK Oxon Free Telephone Support:	01865 411288
Witney and West Oxfordshire Foodbank:	01993 890000
Volunteer Link-Up:	01993 776277
Samaritans:	116 123
Talking Space:	01865 901222
Mind UK:	01865 247788
Shelter:	0808 800 4444
Debt Advice (Stepchange):	0800 138 1111
Crime Stoppers:	0800 555 111
Action Fraud:	0300 123 2040
Mental health line (24hr)	01865 904 997 (adults) 01865 904 998 (children and young people)

Find more information at www.stonesfield.online/covid-19-information/

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.

Please note: Until further notice the library is closed.

For further details, or to join us, please contact Mike Pollitt
01993 891856, mikepollitt@btopenworld.com

Notices & news

Carol Cutler

On 28 May, our dear mother Carol passed away peacefully in her care home, Penhurst Gardens in Chipping Norton. She had only recently moved, before Christmas, from the family home in Stonesfield where she'd lived for 52 years since our arrival as a young family in 1968. The lockdown in March came at a time when she was well settled into her new life, happy and healthy. Sadly she contracted the COVID-19 virus and within a fortnight she had died. We had all thought that she would go on enjoying her new life in Penhurst Gardens for many years to come.

On behalf of Carol's whole family, and children Alison, Jeremy and myself, Lindsey, I would like to express our appreciation for all the kindness and support, and messages of condolence we have received from the community. On Monday 8 June, a short funeral was conducted by Rev Roy at the graveside of her late husband Jim, which was attended by her family and Stonesfield friends. Carol's eulogy had an aviation theme, and right on cue at the start of the service we heard a light aircraft fly overhead, an unknowing pilot giving a 'fly-past'! The birds were singing, including a very loud blackbird accompanying the hymn *Morning Has Broken*. It all came together to make the service triumphant!

A Memorial Service to celebrate Carol's life will be held in due course.



In the meantime, there is an on-line tribute page: www.carolcutler.muchloved.com where donations in her memory can be made for the Contented Dementia Trust in Burford, or BBOWT- Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust. Thank you.

Lindsey Thornton

Paul Fletcher

It has come as a huge shock and sadness to the village to learn of the very sudden and unexpected death of Paul on 1 June.

He was a man of many talents, some connected to his work as a skilled decorator, and some, rather more rare, the personal talents which enabled him to get on with people so that many of us looked on him with affection, admiration and respect.

On a personal note, Paul and his father, Michael, welcomed Anne and me to Stonesfield and took on the task of decorating our whole house internally and externally. This was nearly 27 years ago, and Paul has been an ever-present feature with his brushes and paste table ever since. In fact he was here painting the outside of the house shortly before he died.

During the passing years, both father and son became friends. Paul had that elusive quality of integrity and a gentle sense of humour which endeared him to all who were privileged enough to call him a friend.

The village and its neighbouring villages have lost a personality and a warmth which will remain fresh in the memories of those who knew him and grieve for him. We send our love, thoughts and prayers to Mike and Jill and indeed to the whole family.

Anne and Richard Bishop

.....

Dr Graham Swift

Dr Graham Swift died on 24 May 2020, peacefully in Letcombe Regis, aged 88. He was a GP at the Woodstock Surgery for 40 years. If you wish to make a donation to Médecins Sans Frontières and to be notified of the future arrangements for a Memorial Service when possible, please contact J Godfrey & Son, 01367 718998.

Sally Hope

.....

War memorial

Hopefully many of you will have noticed that the War memorial has been re-planted for the summer. This year, due to the nurseries being closed, it has been rather difficult to get hold of enough plants. Fortunately some plants have been

donated by the Gardening Club and Eugene.

Thanks to their contributions, we hope once again that the War memorial will be a colourful place in the village and cheer people up as they pass by.

Sarah Brown

.....

New arrival

We welcomed baby Minna on 15 January 2020. She arrived safely before lockdown and it has been a joy to have the welcome distraction of a new baby during this very unusual time. She is a much-loved baby sister to Annabelle (5) and Betsy (3).

Katie and Tom Griffiths

.....

Stonesfield Village Hall News

At the beginning of June, the window on the back corner of the village hall building was smashed. We are very disappointed that this has happened, especially when the hall is currently closed and has no revenue coming in. We are not a big company – we are a small group of individuals who do what we can to keep the hall up and running for use for local groups. We would rather invest our time, energy and money into making improvements, and not having to keep replacing things that are being broken and damaged. This is a community building, so the people who will be affected by this will be local people who want to use it.

On a more positive noteWe have our New Doors!!!! We are so pleased to be able to return the padlock and actually have doors that work again, and this time they are more suitable for the hall's use!

Obviously this means that the locks have changed, so if you do have an old key please return it in an envelope clearly marked with which organisation held them, to 2 Friends Close, Stonesfield OX29 8PH. If you are a group that has bookings running with the hall, new keys will be issued.

Although village halls are low on the Government list for reopening, information is coming through to suggest that reopening may be possible after 6 July if it can be done safely, with limited group numbers, ventilated rooms and a one-way system in place. This is under review and subject to change. Currently, we will remain closed, although based on the guidance updated on 5 June 2020, we are allowed to support community requirements as follows:

- For the purpose of hosting essential voluntary activities and urgent public services, such as food banks, homeless services;
- Temporarily to host a blood donation session for these services only. The government strongly advises that Public Health England guidelines are followed; and
- For early years childcare provided by a person registered on the Early Years Register under Part 3 of the Childcare Act 2006

If we can assist with any of these requirements, please do let us know.

Jacqueline Carthew (898919)
Secretary & Booking Clerk for Stonesfield Village Hall
Stonesfieldvh@gmail.com
facebook.com/stonesfieldvillagehall

Charlbury goes for 20mph

Oxfordshire County Council has now installed a 20mph speed limit in parts of Charlbury.

The new speed limit covers all the minor roads between Park Street (starting south of the Pre-School), Hixet Wood, Dancers Hill, Enstone Road, and Market Street; plus the area around the Enstone Road crossroads, exit from Hundley Way, and Ditchley Road. The 30mph limit will be extended further along Banbury Hill to encourage drivers to slow down well in time for the 20mph limit, while improving crossing safety for pedestrians following the walking route.

Signage has been put in place on the roads affected, and temporary signs warn motorists on each of the roads at the start of the area covered by the new limit.

Stonesfield's Dark Little Secret

The best part of 30 years ago we moved to Stonesfield – a lovely little village, home of the Megalosaurus, the world's first scientifically described dinosaur, but not a mention of the village's Dark Little Secret. Maybe in those days it wasn't here, but today it certainly is! Over the years the internet arrived, and if you Google Stonesfield today you get 1,540,000 results and not surprisingly no mention of it; after all it is a secret.

Last year (or was it the year before) I think I had an encounter with it, but thought nothing of the incident, as I am that way inclined. This year with the lockdown, gardening seemed a good and safe way to pass the time – wrong: it had made its presence known! At first I just thought I

was reacting as normal (excessively) to being bitten by the squadron of midges, gnats and mosquitoes that circle around my garden.

Having always been a magnet to biting insects over the years, you learn to recognise what bit you, but this was different. Blood, fluid, swelling and peeling skin, six bites. The last one was, well, enlightening – there, next to a dribble of blood was a small black fly, that wasn't quick enough to get away. Upon closer inspection it had a black and grey striped abdomen, saggy and wasp-like but definitely not a wasp! Was it a dreaded blackfly, better known as the Blandford Fly? Stonesfield's Dark Little Secret was about to be exposed!

Walking the dog the next day, after an uncomfortable night due to the bites and at a safe distance, I mentioned my bite to the nice lady who makes the soap and has a biology background: yes indeed it was probably a Blandford Fly and wait for it, also known as the STONESFIELD STINGER! Or in Woodstock the WOODSTOCK FLY! You locals kept that quiet: the little beastie even has a local vernacular name! The Dark, nay Black Secret was out. I never heard a whisper in 27 years and now, in this warm weather, she was in my garden. I say she as it's only the females bite AND will travel up to 10 miles for a meal! Are they more prevalent due to the driest, warmest May on record or was I just unlucky? Who knows? What I do know now is information on the bites is on all the local doctors' websites, who knew. And that what gardening I can do, is done in thick bite-proof trousers and jacket, despite the weather!

Just speaking to my wife, she knew; she'd apparently read it in the *Slate*! She kept that secret: how did I miss it?

Info on the fly can be found at www.blackfly.org.uk/Vernacular/vernacular1.htm and https://cabiblog.typepad.com/hand_picked/2007/10/the-blandford-f.html.

Graeme Cairns
(Bite Collector Stonesfield)

Lockdown Stonesfield – Part 2

The lockdown is steadily easing, but it's still important to acknowledge everyone's problems and sacrifices.

Parents of young children have clearly had a tough time. One young mother writes: 'Being at home alone with kids for ten weeks has been one of the hardest things I've ever done. I've been cook, cleaner, teacher, parent to three children with hugely different needs. Juggling three curriculums from three schools, while trying to keep spirits up, keep a sense of routine and normality and keep my own worries hidden, has been no easy task.'

Children have all been missing friends and family: 'Missing my favourite people... I find it difficult not being able to hug people...it makes me want to cry sometimes.'

And they miss 'spending time with my friends that I took for granted before the lockdown', school, teachers and favourite activities like dancing, riding, music and football. School trips, 'going to Blenheim, swimming, the cinema, shopping' – all have stopped.

But these things that haven't happened have left space for family time. 'It has been

nice to spend more time with my siblings than normal,' and 'We've spent more quality time together than we have in years. We've laughed, danced, talked, read, learned. We've stopped rushing around and we've got to know each other again.' There have been new activities too: 'PE with Jo Wicks, family walks, 'Zooming' my teachers, the NHS Clap, Facetime and texting.'

At home, 'focusing on school work has sometimes been difficult'. Lack of routine has been a big problem: 'My teenage sons have been rather lost without their friends and the structure of school life.' Some mention sadness that their family will not be going on holiday this summer.

For school leavers, the lockdown has brought urgent problems. 'Having exams cancelled has been challenging, since it's what we've worked towards for the past 2 years.' 'Not knowing what will happen next is hard (especially for those starting university in the autumn).' One, on his gap year, has had 'all his travel plans for the next six months taken away.'

Young working adults have had to work from home: not easy, although online work meetings help. They miss work colleagues, taking part in sports, and the 'people and laughter' in the pub. But the flip side has been good: 'Lots of exercise, and Zoom and other online links offer a new way of socialising'.

The self-employed found a different challenge. 'Being a freelancer, the initial cancellation of work was a terrifying plunge into the unknown. But after grappling in the dark for those first few weeks... accepting [it] as we all surrendered our freedoms and our plans...'

Some of the young people have been mindful of the seriousness of the situation, and its implications for the community: 'The most difficult thing for me has been people not adhering to lockdown rules.' 'On one side it's been utopian... [but there] is a constant undercurrent of guilt for those elsewhere without the emotional and financial support that I'm privileged to have. The gap between those who are on furlough in their countryside homes doing yoga and baking and those who are working, unprotected, underfunded and undervalued is impossible to sit with. Slowing down has helped me notice who's being left behind.'

Working people have divided broadly into those who have had to stop, and those who have been able to find ways to work from home. Those who stopped miss the work community but at the same time are feeling 'very reluctant to mix with people, travel on public transport. I'm not in a hurry to walk into crowded shops or restaurants again.'

For some working people, the job itself has enormous challenges: 'The last week has undoubtedly been the most difficult during my time as headteacher: digesting government guidance, consulting with staff, governors and parents, and finding the solution to children's right to education in a safe environment.' For others, technology has enabled them to find new ways to do what they do. 'As a lecturer, I travelled to college every day. [Now] we meet every day via Teams. Most students are dealing with the situation really well. Others need more support, which is no different from teaching in the classroom.'

There have been bonuses too: 'not having to drive to work... a learning curve to get to

grips with the technology but it quickly came good... I would be happy to go on working from home’.

What everyone misses is time with their family and friends: ‘Especially knowing that my Mum is on her own, and worrying what we would do if she, or we became ill; also having two family weddings cancelled, and knowing that we can’t visit a new baby.’ ‘I was so sad to miss my Dad’s 80th birthday celebration’ and ‘[For me] the main change has been the lack of encouragement, motivation, laughs and face-to-face support of my friends.’ But for some: ‘A silver lining for us has been having our grown-up children home. I can’t keep the fridge full or the washing machine empty!’

Part of our normal lives which many are missing is simply being able to make spontaneous decisions, and having variety in their days.

The extra time at home has enabled people to enjoy ‘walking: taking time to stop and look’, reading, writing, yoga, pilates, gardening. One lady said: ‘It has been wonderful to have less pressure, to have more time to spend with my partner.’ And ‘finding opportunities to help friends and neighbours’. ‘It has also reminded us how lucky we are to live in such a beautiful place.’

Two final thoughts as we begin to recover from lockdown: ‘Thank you to all the amazing individuals who have been helping so many. I am staggered by your bravery and desire to help others’, and ‘I hope we will hold on to the things we have learned once this is all over.’

Again, our huge thanks to everyone in Stonesfield who has contributed their thoughts and feelings to this project.

Viv Kendall

Important reminder to contributors

Please note that contributions for inclusion in the *Slate* should be emailed to slate@stonesfield.online. This replaces the old website address which will shortly cease to operate.

For residents without access to email, handwritten copy may be left at the village shop (in an envelope marked ‘Stonesfield Slate’); if using this facility, please let the Editor know – the telephone number will be listed on page 2 of the *Slate*.

Slate Editor



More ideas please

The *Slate* is made possible by articles contributed by Stonesfield residents. We would like as many contributors as possible. Are you able to contribute?

If you have something to share, please send an article to the Editor at slate@stonesfield.online or deliver it to the village shop (in an envelope marked ‘Stonesfield Slate’).

Slate Publisher

Politics & local affairs

Stonesfield Parish Council

Stonesfield Parish Councillors hope that everyone in the Parish is well and receiving the support that they need.

Parish Matters

The clerk has requested replacement litter bins for Church Street and by the village shop. No date for replacement has been given yet; this is likely to be delayed due to COVID-19. The clerk has contacted PYE homes and Blenheim Estate to request that they install a grit bin and dog waste bin on the Charity Farm Development; no further update at this time. Fencing at the Common is being discussed; we hope to get this done over the summer.

SAFER – Parish Council Working Group

Cllr Heduan and Cllr Hudspeth walked around the village (socially distanced) on 15 May to look at areas that need discussion with Highways / OCC.

Planning

Applications received from WODC for this parish: 20/01140/FUL Erection of two storey side extension to create an annexe, Russett Cottage, Witney Lane, Stonesfield, Witney, Oxfordshire OX29 8DN.

WODC Art

The clerk is speaking to Genny Early to discuss whether acrylic transfer options of a design are possible to go on bus stops, in addition to the bench at Brook Lane which the Parish Council is commissioning.

Grants

There have been two grant requests, from Stonesfield Voluntary Transport Scheme and the Preschool.

Stonesfield Mutual Aid Group has requested that the balance of the grant fund agreed in a previous meeting for Stonesfield Mutual Aid is paid to them, as they now have their bank account open. The grant was £1000 and £43.15 was drawn last month so the balance is £956.85. (It should be noted that Cllr D Baldwin is on the committee for this group but is not a signatory for the bank account).

It should also be clarified that Stonesfield Mutual Aid is not a working group of the Parish Council. It is a separate community group which the Parish Council supported by means of a grant. David Baldwin in his personal capacity is a committee member of the group. (The clerk has been contacted by two residents seeking this clarification).

Land at North Farm Stonesfield

Empire Homes have submitted the application for the 3m chain link fence. This is ongoing.

White Horse Pub, Stonesfield

We are aware that the current landlords have given up the pub. The owner, John Lloyd, may now wish to sell the pub – at the moment this is unknown. SPC registered the inn as an asset of the community when we had previous concerns that it would be lost.

The clerk has had emails from several residents indicating that they have heard that the Parish Council is taking the pub on as a community asset. It should be clarified that at this time, **this is not the case** and John Lloyd still has ownership of the pub to our knowledge.

Litter

There has been an increase in litter in the parish. The Parish Council has been arranging additional litter picking to combat this. Please take litter home and clear up dog mess if you are out walking your dog.

Working Groups of the Parish Council

The clerk has been asked by a resident about working groups of the council. The only working groups of the Stonesfield Parish Council are SAFER (represented by Cllr M Heduan), the Litter Picking group (Jess Huband leads this and helps arrange our annual Spring Clean) and a Climate Emergency working group (early stages), represented by Cllr S Powell and Cllr D Baldwin.

For clarification, working groups have to request any budget required for full council approval (individual representatives cannot make lone decisions). Working groups report to the Parish Council as a whole, and agreements are made within full council meetings.

Date of Next Meeting:

8 July 2020 at 7pm – Virtual Zoom meeting

Update following Council meeting of 10 June:

A code of conduct for councillors as a reminder of good practice and councillor

conduct was adopted at the June meeting and will be published on the website.

Stonesfield Voluntary Transport Scheme requested a grant of £90 to contribute to the cost of DBS for their drivers. The Pre-School requested a grant of £478.78 towards an urn and wipe-clean sofas. It was resolved to approve both grants.

Some cattle will be put on the Common for grazing, coming soon and leaving around October. The Common needs some work – fencing, a new pump for water for the cattle, fixing of the external drinking bay and pollarding of some of the willows. Richard Morris, accompanied by some of the Councillors, had a walk around the Common and discussed all of the options required. It was agreed to carry out this work as soon as possible.

It was reported that recently someone had lit a fire on the Common. This is not permitted. Genny Early has kindly offered to put a sign up for us which we have accepted. There have been reports of people have been swimming in the river near the common. It is reminded that the water is not particularly safe to swim in and this is not recommended.

There was no objection from Councillors for the planning application at Russett Cottage, Witney Lane.

Reports of fly tipping at the allotment were conveyed to the Council. The clerk will contact WODC to see if this can be cleared. In addition, the clerk will request that the recycling bins near the village hall are emptied, as these are full.

Karen East, Clerk to the Parish
clerk@stonesfieldpc.uk

SAFER – Speed surveys return

A recent survey conducted by the RAC has shown that nearly half the respondents have witnessed an increase in drivers breaking the speed limit during the coronavirus lockdown. Some 44% said they have seen more motorists speeding now than they did before the Government introduced the ban on non-essential travel. Roads with a 30mph limit are the most likely to be abused according to respondents questioned, with 23% saying they have seen drivers clearly going too fast. Department for Transport figures show that road traffic is around two thirds lower than normal due to the lockdown.

The facts: If someone is hit by a car these are the odds they face:

- At 40 mph they are 90% likely to be killed,
- at 30 mph they are 50% likely to be killed and
- at 20 mph they are 10% likely to be killed.

Note: a young child hit head-on at 20mph will likely die or sustain life-threatening or life-changing injuries.

With lockdown restrictions easing, the SAFER Stonesfield team will soon be back on the roads of our village, conducting speed surveys. There have been many comments recently about excessive speed in the village. The Stonesfield Community Speedwatch (CSW) team has a high visibility role and works under the guidance and direction of Thames Valley Police (TVP). Anybody recorded speeding in Stonesfield above the limit will be reported to TVP.

Finally, the SAFER team recently escorted Cllr Ian Hudspeth on a tour of Stonesfield's road safety hazards and risks. The team has set out a strategy for improving road safety in the village, which includes signage, road marking and the evaluation of a 20mph zone, or reduction to 20mph across the village. Note these changes were supported by nearly 70% residents who responded to the 'Stonesfield Speed Survey' conducted in 2018.

Drive safely and please don't speed!

Cllr Michael Heduan MBE
SAFER, Stonesfield Parish Council

Police and community support

For information or advice on security concerns, please contact woodstockNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk or call 101.

Stonesfield Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

For information see www.facebook.com/StonesfieldNHW.

If you are interested in joining our scheme, please follow this link and ensure you click 'Join a scheme' then select 'Stonesfield' to complete your request: <https://member-registration.neighbourhoodalert.co.uk/30/Join>

Deanna Blakeway Asplundh

From our District Councillor

As you will all be only too aware, most of the normal activities of our social lives are suspended for the time being. This, of course, applies also to the normal business of the District Council. However, much has

been achieved in West Oxfordshire in spite of it all.

Now, I don't usually indulge in statistics in my reports, but you might be interested to learn just how much work has been carried on. These facts and figures are for April and May.

- 12,935 residents of West Oxfordshire have contacted the Council since lockdown commenced with a variety of anxieties and concerns
- £22.9m was paid out to 1,824 businesses in West Oxfordshire
- 31 homeless people have been provided with accommodation
- 332 food parcels have gone to vulnerable residents; this assisted by voluntary sector partners
- 554 vulnerable residents have been contacted by councillors
- 540 residents have received emergency support
- 2,177 shielded residents were phoned during lockdown
- 24,373 refuse bins and the same number of recycling bins were collected weekly.

All this was, of course, in addition to the work done by officers to keep the main committees current. Planning has operated much as usual, with sub-committees debating and deciding remotely. All councillors are available to help and support their residents in the usual way.

It is not pleasant for any of us to endure the isolation and the disruption of routines, but the efficiency and good humour emanating from District HQ has

helped to alleviate the suffering and irritation which lockdown has brought about. Councillors have been impressed and heartened by the co-operation of residents and the public intent on making the best of an unusual and less than pleasant situation.

Councillors extend to all our residents our best wishes and hopes for release from the restrictions which have bound us all.

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

Other advice from WODC

Household waste disposal

Residents are being urged to take care when approached by individuals offering to dispose of their household waste cheaply – waste is the responsibility of the householder. If fly-tipping is traced back to them, they could face a £400 fixed penalty notice. Anyone offering to take waste away should hold a waste carrier's licence issued by the Environment Agency (EA) which should be presented at the time; this can be checked on the EA website by calling 08708 506 506.

The Dix Pit household waste recycling centre at Stanton Harcourt is now open and a full bulky waste collection service is also available; contact www.westoxon.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/getting-rid-of-large-items/.



Public toilets

West Oxfordshire's public toilets reopened on 15 June. New safety measures include social distancing markers on both the inside and the outside of the toilets, and the main entrance doors of toilet blocks will be propped open to reduce the possibility of contamination.

Council seeks local landlords with property for let

The coronavirus has left more people than ever living in temporary accommodation – currently 39 households in West Oxfordshire (as at 26 May 2020). The District Council is calling for anyone with a property available for private letting to get in touch. By renting through the council, landlords can enjoy a range of benefits including no agency fees, a free property assessment and an ongoing comprehensive package of support for both landlords and tenants. To find out more please email prs@westoxon.gov.uk.

Other advice in West Oxfordshire: Revised S3 bus timetable

Although some bus services were updated in mid-June, the Stagecoach S3 timetable for buses between Oxford and Chipping Norton has not been updated since 5 April, and buses still run approximately every two hours. All timetables can be found at www.stagecoachbus.com, and for phone enquiries call 01865 772250.

From our County Councillor

I have submitted my request that Woodstock and all villages in the Division have 20mph speed limits, along with cycle racks by bus stops. Unfortunately, we now know that we can't fund 20 mph schemes

from the first funding tranche for Oxfordshire. We must be realistic that even if we receive all the funds, probably they won't be enough to cover all projects across the county, but I think it's right to be ambitious.

Oxfordshire County Council is working with all the other councils on a recovery programme as we move out of the lockdown. The reopening of Household Waste Recycling Centres is an example of a return to the new normal as there are restrictions, please check before visiting them.

The County Council is supporting Care Homes and Care providers by purchasing PPE; to date the total is £2 million. To assist in the reopening of schools, Oxfordshire County Council has provided every school across the county with PPE. We have been working closely with schools to help them to prepare, should they decide to reopen.

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

Education, culture & more

Stonesfield Library

Tony Scott has decided to retire from his appointment as chairman of the Stonesfield volunteer librarians. Tony established the group of volunteers almost eight years ago to save the village library from closure, and he established the template for other library volunteer groups throughout the county. Now there are over 800 library volunteers in Oxfordshire. Tony has led our group magnificently, establishing all the procedures for working in the library, ensuring we were properly trained for the role and for chairing all our mercifully brief meetings. Our heartfelt thanks Tony, for a brilliant job.

Although the library remains closed, be assured that no customer will incur any overdue fines during this closure. The Oxfordshire Libraries Digital Service is still available. You can apply to join the library at www.libcat.oxfordshire.gov.uk and click on Join the Library. Fill in your details, and your access instructions will be emailed to you within two working days. Then you can enjoy access to a huge range of e-books or audio books covering both fiction and non-fiction titles, and access e-music titles with over 60,000 albums to choose from, through Naxos Music Library. There are digital reference and learning resources too, offering high quality homeworking support and sources for personal study. You can download the Oxfordshire Libraries app to your phone or tablet from your app store as well.

Mike Pollitt (891856)

Stonesfield Primary School

I am delighted to say that the wider reopening to pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 has been a great success and it has been an absolute pleasure to welcome back 39 children from those year groups. It's been a huge team effort by the staff to make it happen, and it's all been worth it. The children settled in quickly, adapting and accepting the new routines and their responsibilities to protect themselves and others. There has been fun, laughter and a lot of smiles. One parent has reported that when walking across the field on their first day back their child said, 'I can't stop smiling and I don't know why.' I feel so proud of the children and staff for being so positive and embracing our 'new normal'. Online learning and virtual chats have continued for children not able to attend.

The Governing Body has implemented many changes over recent years to make the most effective use of the school's limited budget. However, the Governors have concluded that the time has now come to make a more fundamental change to the class structure of the school to keep within resources and to benefit the way the curriculum is taught. So, it has been agreed that from September 2020 the school will restructure from 5 classes to 4 classes. School funding is driven by the number of pupils attending, and over the last ten years there has been a steady decline in pupil numbers, which reflects the changing demographic of Stonesfield village and West Oxfordshire in general. We want the

school to be at the heart of the community, for villagers to be proud of the school, and for parents to choose Stonesfield because it provides a fantastic education and opportunities that other schools can't offer. If you are a family who are new to the village, or have a child starting school in September 2021, or are thinking of transferring your child to Stonesfield, I would love to show you around our wonderful school.

The Governing Body is seeking new governors from the community. If you are interested in providing support and challenge to the school with its strategic direction we would love to hear from you. Please contact one of our Co-Chairs for an informal chat about the role of a school governor and the expertise we are seeking:

Harry Holland
(hholland2353@stonesfield.oxon.sch.uk)
or
Sue Corrigan
(scorrigan@stonesfield.oxon.sch.uk).

Induction and training is provided by Oxfordshire County Council. More information can be found here:
www.nga.org.uk/Governance-Recruitment/Be-a-school-governor-or-trustee.aspx.

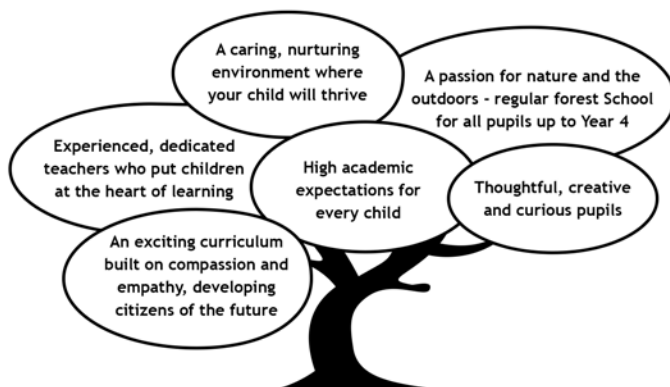
Ben Trevail, Headteacher
head.2353@stonesfield.oxon.sch.uk

Stonesfield Primary School

Learning together to achieve our best.



Looking for a friendly, inclusive, local school for your child?
Stonesfield Primary School has places in all year groups - we would love to show you around.



To arrange a tour with the headteacher, Mr Ben Trevail, please contact the school office.

Tel: 01993 891687

Office email: office.2353@stonesfield.oxon.sch.uk
Headteacher email: head.2353@stonesfield.oxon.sch.uk

Stonesfield Pre-school

How lovely it is to be back at Pre-school again. As I write this I can hear two of our younger children, Charlie and Emrys playing outside happily with water sprays, chatting to each other and discovering to their delight that they can aim the spray towards the office window at 'Lizzie'; there are shrieks of laughter as I play along with their funny game! All our children have been so resilient, returning to a different type of pre-school environment after being at home for weeks, and we are very proud of them all. Our term 6 staff team, Louise, Pam, Sandra and Sarah have been devoted to making sure each child's needs are met, helping them feel secure by introducing favourite, interesting and thought-provoking activities.

We are extremely grateful to the Parish Council for granting us £500 from their emergency COVID-19 fund. The money is being used to help us keep our environment safe for the children and staff. We have purchased a slimline urn to ensure we have a constant supply of hot water for all the extra cleaning routines we have in place. We have also ordered two lovely wipe-clean early years home corner sofas to replace the soft furnishings (rugs & cushions) we are no longer allowed to use. The children will now have a cosy area to sit and listen to a story or look at a book independently.

Thank you also to our village church people who kindly loaned us their urn. We liked it so much we have purchased the exact same one!

Here is a little snap shot from our Early Years teacher Pam Andrews of some of the activities the children have enjoyed over the past few weeks...

We painted rainbow pebbles, learning how to use water to clean our brushes and keep the paints clean.

We investigated insects on the tuff tray.

We had a story about Jack and the beanstalk and discovered a special instrument... a golden harp!

We practised snipping chives for the "soup".

We painted each other's feet and made our own coloured footprints.

We played in the messy kitchen outside and enjoyed smelling all the different herbs: lemon balm, mint, marjoram

We went for a walk to buy some eggs from Brook Lane (The next day we made cakes with the eggs we had bought).

We listened to loud buzzing bees in the churchyard and spotted the bees in the trees too, we also noticed lots of flowers on our walk.

We are learning a new hand washing song to the tune of 'Twinkle, twinkle little star'.

We will update everyone again in August. Currently we are busy behind the scenes preparing for September: such an exciting time, when we will be welcoming the children back after the summer holidays and we look forward to settling in our new starters too.

We still have places available for children age 2 to 4 years. If you are interested in registering your child at our wonderful community pre-school please contact Lizzie or our administrator Zena on stonesfieldps@outlook.com. You may be entitled to government funded childcare: www.workingfamilies.org.uk/articles/free-childcare-for-children-aged-two-three-and-four/

Lizzie Wharton

Stonesfield Pre-school Manager (898370)
stonesfieldps@outlook.com

Nature Notes:

Dragonflies

What is this life if, full of care

We have no time to stand and stare?

William Davies 1911

The deep croaking gave it away. A male raven was on his morning flight coming up Stocky Bottom, along the edge of his territory just below Churchfields allotments.

Standing by the pond I had just seen my first dragonfly of the year as it whizzed passed me with prehistoric wings. The purple/blue body with brown edges confirmed a male broad-bodied chaser: this was now his pond and a territory to defend against all comers. He was sizing me up before settling onto his regular perch, no doubt thinking 'Another Homo sapiens, recent blow-ins!' The first dragonfly fossils are from the Carboniferous times, 300 million years ago. We truly are recent arrivals and let's hope we have some staying power.

In June and July you can see my favourite dragonflies around the Evenlode. The beautiful and banded demoiselles are weaker fliers. When they alight the wings are folded back along the bodies of metallic blues, purples and browns. Watch for the stunning greens of a female banded demoiselle. A female broad-bodied chaser is already putting eggs into the pond. As slow worms help us on the allotments eating slugs, the dragonflies will help by eating flies and other troublesome insects.

The raven heads over the trees with a rasping croak and I give a wave, unsure if the allotments are inside or outside his territory.

John Sampson

Bird Aid

Bird Aid, the local charity that feeds farmland birds during the 'hunger gap' has doubled the number of feeding sites from 11 to 22 in the last year. The charity's success is thanks to a passionate and growing band of over 40 volunteers, many from Stonesfield and Charlbury, who hand feed the birds daily from November to May.

The expansion is also due to Ollie Stobo and Michael Green providing new sites, storage provided by Dave Holloway, over a ton of wheat donated by Michael Green and all the volunteers who survey monthly from December to March. A huge thank you to everyone.

New Bird Aid sites were created in Charlbury, Finstock, Hailey, Leafield, North Leigh, Stonesfield, Wilcote and Wootton. It's still early days for some new sites, but the Kingswood Brake site had heartening results with over 20 yellow hammers, 2 reed buntings and 200 linnets in the first feeding season.

The project's regular surveying suggests over 850 yellowhammers and chaffinches, almost 850 linnets and over 50 skylarks were fed over this last winter. Bird Aid trialled two new feeding methods this winter to save on volunteer time and provide more feed for longer to the shy farmland birds. As larger birds such as corvids and pheasants tend to take the bulk of the feed, the charity trialled covering the seed with large gauge wire cages. This had mixed results, however in some sites ensured yellowhammers and sparrows had access to more feed for longer. The trial of automatic feeders that spray seed out twice per day was not successful as the seed built up too quickly in the same spot. The

charity has learnt that scattering seed by hand is the most effective method so far, and a joy when the grateful birds descend to feed.

For help with coordinating the project, please contact judy.anders66@gmail.com.

Local walks: Ancient roads and tracks around Stonesfield

In the Iron Age, tribal communities were farming to the south-east of Stonesfield. The Romans continued the arable farming and the Stonesfield Roman villa was built. The villa was to the left of the Combe Road, alongside Akeman Street. It was famous for a while when it was discovered in 1712, but was slowly dismantled by souvenir hunters; it was never properly excavated.

The main area farmed through the centuries can be seen on a map of the Parish dated 1792; a field called Home Field contained 20 open smaller fields with names like Cockshutt, Maplewell and Farley Way Furlong. The boundaries of Home Field were Akeman Street to the south and Farley Lane to the north. Further along Farley Lane towards the allotments, the lane continued south to Akeman Street. It was originally the road from Chipping Norton towards London, and known as Norton Riding. Stonesfield 'straight' towards Woodstock, and the Combe Road were not built until after the field enclosures of 1801. The remains of the track to Akeman Street from where Farley Lane meets the Woodstock Road has been mostly ploughed over, but when you reach Akeman Street the track ahead to Combe exists as an ancient hedge.

Walking south on Akeman Street, you follow the old parish boundary past the Stonesfield villa, along Bagg's Bottom to

the river. Shown on the perambulation of the parish boundaries in 1807, there is a point where Akeman Street reaches the Evenlode, called Combe Wignam. I don't know what it means but it is certainly the point where the original road from Combe met Akeman Street. It came from Chatterpie Lane in Combe, across the field following the hedge, to Combe Wignam. A short walk along the river from there brings you to the existing ford, then called Stonesford.

Here also is what was the main road to Stonesfield from Woodstock and Combe, until the Woodstock road was built. It was, not surprisingly, called the River Road, but at some stage it became Brook Lane. Akeman Street continues up over the common, to cross the River Evenlode below Wilcote.

If you have followed this so far, you might ask how the residents of Stonesfield Roman villa travelled to North Leigh Roman villa. Where did they cross the river? Did they go via Combe? It is something that you might ponder as you enjoy walking from Stonesfield to the North Leigh Roman villa.

Graham Rutson

Local history: Once upon a time in a Pub: The Boot, Boot Street

Situated on the west side of Boot Street, this public house was licensed from the mid-18th century. John Howes was registered as the licence holder in 1753 and it continued to trade until 1972. It was restored and reopened in 1974, but closed again in 1979. Since then this once thriving village pub has been converted into a private residence.

In the latter years of Frederick Griffin's tenancy [mid-last century] he would take a jug down to the cellar and fill it straight from the cask ready for opening time. If a customer visited the pub in the early evening he was assured of a fresh pint of beer, but if custom was slow and someone visited late in the evening, he would get a pint from the same jug of not-so-fresh beer.

In 1973 Ind Coope decided to close down and sell the old Boot Inn and the pub's garden across the street by auction 'with benefit of licence'. John Leaves and Tony Crofts bought it, with the aim of reopening it as a pub. The garden was bulldozed to form a car park; and they spent a year working on the building, forming a bridge to link the main pub and the clubroom/toilet building. The new Boot Inn finally opened triumphantly in February 1974 and, mercifully, the fire in the big inglenook actually stopped smoking on the opening night.

The only pub in the village with a proper cellar, it rapidly went 'free', introducing first Scottish and Newcastle and later Charrington's beers, together with a policy of regular live music. Rock bands, soloists and an eccentric group based around a Northumbrian pipe player all appeared regularly.

Although in those days everyone went round to keep all three village pubs going, the Boot attracted real village characters. Reg Mills, Ray Brown and others formed a very lively liar-dice circle, which produced amazing insights into the psychology of individual players. Sunday lunch times, when families were welcomed to the sunny yard, were particularly happy.

There are memories of the night when no one wanted to go home at 11pm and someone picked up one of Baker Barrett's geese and threw it into the bar, clearing it in record time. And the geese sometimes got involuntarily 'fed' during high-speed lager-drinking contests.

In the end, after four years in which the pub had become famous across four counties, it closed because, without a restaurant pulling customers in from outside the village, a one-bar pub without a restaurant could not generate enough income to service a mortgage and a brewery loan. Boot Barn became Boot Barn Pottery and the car park became Friend's Close.

More information may be found on www.stonesfield.online/stonesfield-life/

Douglas Rudlin

Nicky Holland's Japanese moss garden
See next page



My Song, Your Song, Our Song

To be 'sung' to the tune of 'Your Song' by Elton John & Bernie Taupin

It's a little bit funny, being lockdowned inside, All your family's there, you can't easily hide.

If you had enough money, lucky you if you did,

You have a big house where you all can live.

Grayson Perry shows sculptors and artists he knows

And folks send in their paintings for his art show.

I know this ain't much but it's the best I can do -

Write silly poems and share them with you.

And Boris tells everybody it won't be long.

We wish it was that simple but now that he's done,

I hope you won't mind,

I hope you won't mind,

If I put down in words,

How confusing those guidelines make our new normal world.

I walked through the garden and picked up some moss,

Garden centres are open now but I'm still quite cross,

'Cos I'm shielding and can't go until COVID is gone,

So with a saucer and pebbles I made something from none -

In a moment of peace it was easy to do,

This small 'Japanese garden' that I share with you.

Anyway, the thing is, what I really mean,

This is the sweetest spring I've ever seen

I want to tell everybody 'bout dawn and birdsong,

Finding pleasure is quite simple and easily done.

I hope you don't mind,

I hope you don't mind,

That I put down in words,

How wonderful life is while we're in this world.

I hope you don't mind,

I hope you don't mind,

That I put down in words,

How wonderful this life is - let's care for our world.

Nicky Holland

Blackbird

I have been watching a blackbird learning to eat from the feeder as if he were a sparrow.

He perches on the waterbutt, watching the swing of the cage, launches himself, grabbing at the suet balls. At first he aimed at dislodging a chunk to eat on the ground, leaving scraps for pigeons. Now he is more adept at clinging to the wire and pecking until he loses his balance in a great commotion of feathers.

But he persists. His mate gathers up the crumbs, feeds her young

Since we have been in lockdown, he has almost mastered it, so much so, that

when he finished the suet balls, he unearthed my seedlings, one orange eye fixed on me, malevolent, mocking, unperturbed by my approach, only retreating at my second remonstrance.

Romola Parish

Clubs & societies

Stonesfield Gardening Club

Another month when we have been unable to meet our fellow gardeners, and we had to cancel our walk round a few of the village's gardens that were to be open to members.

May was very hot and dry and although we had some rain in early June it really wasn't enough to make a difference to parched lawns. The rain did come in the middle of the month so maybe they will bounce back.

We have also all had to be self-reliant for plants, as garden centres were closed for a long time and when they re-opened involved long queues. Fortunately many people in the village provided seedlings to those who couldn't get them any other way; a lovely example of community action.

We will not hold our July meeting, when we had intended to have a talk from Ruth Madder, the Director of the Bridewell Organic Garden at Wilcote. However she has agreed that we may be able to visit the garden in August. We will let members know details nearer the time.

Diane Bates (898841)
diane@bateshome.co.uk
www.stonesfieldgardening.info

Stonesfield Sports and Social Club

Subject to Government guidelines, the Sports and Social Club will re-open its doors for outside drinks only on 4 July.

Weekdays	4pm – 11pm
Saturday	12 noon – 11pm
Sunday	12 noon – 10 pm

A one-way system will be in place, with 2 metre social distancing at all times (especially when queuing at the bar). Contactless payment is preferred, although cash will be taken. Hand sanitisers will be provided.

We look forward to seeing you again, and thank you for your support. Keep safe.

Brian Clarke

Church news

Church of England Worship at St James the Great, Stonesfield (Benefice of Stonesfield with Combe Longa)

Good news! The church is now open again during the day for private prayer. It is so good to be able to have the door open with a welcome! Sanitisers and wipes are provided for your use before entering and leaving the church. You are welcome to sit anywhere, but please leave one of the special chair signs provided, so that others do not sit on the same chair. You will find further guidance in the church.

For any enquiries or help, including pastoral support, arrangements for funerals etc, please contact one of our churchwardens:

Kate Harris (01993 898781); Neil Melrose (01993 891566) or
stonesfield@stonesfieldparishchurch.org,

or the Area Dean: The Revd Jeremy Auld,
Rector of Woodstock and Bladon

(01993 810749) or
www.woodstockandbladon.com

www.stonesfieldparishchurch.org

Parish letter

The recent, and continuing, limitations on our normal activities may have given some of us an opportunity to engage in spring cleaning. For me, this included a bookcase full of lovely children's books – what fun to look at them again as I cleaned!

One of the books was by Lionel Fanthorpe, entitled *The story of St Francis of Assisi: prayers, prose and verse for children of 5 to 8 years*; the text is simple yet profound, and is brought to life with beautiful illustrations.

St Francis was born in 1181 and grew up in the town of Assisi in Italy. As a young man he followed his dreams of being a soldier, but was taken prisoner and became quite ill in prison. This gave him time to think, pray and listen to God about what to do with the rest of his life. He decided to give away all his money and spend his life serving God and helping people in need.

Although, of course, most of us would immediately associate St Francis with his love for, and affinity with, birds and animals, there is much more for which he is remembered: he was a man of prayer, a great teacher and preacher, and, in great humility and love, he helped many people in practical ways – the poor, the sick, those in any kind of need.

St Francis started a new Christian Brotherhood, who are known today as the Franciscans; Franciscan monks devote their lives to the service of others.

The famous prayer of St Francis of Assisi is as relevant today as when it was written – and we can make it our prayer too:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

*Where there is hatred, let me sow love,
Where there is injury, pardon,*

*Where there is doubt, faith,
Where there is despair, hope,
Where there is darkness, light,
Where there is sadness, joy.*

*O Divine Master, grant that I may not so
much seek to be consoled as to console,
Not so much to be understood as to
understand,
Not so much to be loved as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive,
It is pardoning that we are pardoned,
It is in dying that we awake to eternal life.*

Lindsey Sellar

Stonesfield Methodist Church

There are no services planned for this month. If you would like to join the online Zoom Service held on Sundays at 10.30am, please contact me for details. The services are led each week by a Circuit Minister or Local Preacher.

What seemingly simple pleasures we seek when life's usual pursuits are no longer possible. For me to sit in my garden at the end of the day with a hot chocolate for company, and the clear night sky all around, brings pleasure indeed. The ever-twinkling stars are perfect entertainment.

St. Paul writes in his letter to the Corinthians: life can change for us in the twinkling of an eye. He says be prepared, put all things right in your heart and mind, hold tight to the faith and live in God's Peace.

I wish you peace and hope we meet here together before too long.

Kathleen Albért (891733)

Roman Catholic Worship

A universal transformation

We have recently celebrated Pentecost, or Whit Sunday as it is known. 'Whit' is thought to be based on an Anglo-Saxon word 'wit' meaning 'understanding'. The first Christian Pentecost was when the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles and other disciples, on the 49th day after Christ's resurrection. They were then gifted with the precious understanding and recognition of the meaning of Jesus, his death and resurrection, and were transformed into witnesses.

*There are different kinds of spiritual gifts
but the same Spirit; there are different
forms of service but the same Lord; there
are different workings but the same God
who produces all of them in everyone. To
each individual the manifestation of the
Spirit is given for some benefit. To one is
given through the Spirit the expression of
wisdom; to another the expression of
knowledge according to the same Spirit;
to another faith by the same Spirit; to
another gifts of healing by the one Spirit.*

St Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, 12, 4:9

Traditionally Pentecost, a spring festival, was the time for adult baptism, and the newly baptised wore white garments reflecting their re-birth in Christ. Whit Sunday is therefore a celebration of the disciples' and our own understanding, and thus our own transformational re-birth.

St Teresa's will be closed for Holy Mass until further notice due to the COVID-19 pandemic; however, after a deep clean we expect to be open for private prayer.

Holy Mass is being live-streamed on Sundays from a number of different churches:

St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham: 11am

Blackfriars, Oxford: 9.30am

St Aloysius, The Oxford Oratory:

Monday–Saturday 8am (EF Low Mass);

6pm (English Low Mass with sermon)

Sunday 8am (EF Low Mass with sermon);

11am (Latin Sung Mass with sermon);

5:30pm (Vespers & Benediction)

Prayers of spiritual communion:

O my divine Jesus, how great is my desire to receive your sacred body! Oh, come now into my soul, at least, by a spiritual communion! O Jesus, my divine Saviour, save me. O my God, hiding myself with a humble confidence in your dear wounds, I give up my soul into your divine hands. Oh, receive it into the bosom of your mercy. Amen.

Parish pilgrimage (tbc): 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: holytrinityrchippy@gmail.com or 01608 642703.

For parish updates, any further information and further support: please see www.stteresachurch-charlbury.com/ or contact Clive Dytor: chair.stteresachurch-charlbury@gmail.com

Roman Catholic Community in Stonesfield
Keep praying.

Suze Mathews (891720)



Hare: Genny Early

BLLENHEIM



We are thinking of our community during this challenging time and hope you are all keeping safe and well.

To keep everybody safe and to manage volumes onsite, it is essential to book a time slot prior to any visit to Blenheim Palace, this includes all Annual Pass Holders. Advice is changing rapidly so by the time you read this we may have opened more areas and facilities onsite for you to enjoy.

For the first time ever, The Luna Drive-In Cinema Experience is coming to Blenheim Palace, kicking off from July 6th. Catch new and classic movies each night of the week in a nostalgic, socially distanced, drive-in setting from the comfort of your car.

We're delighted to announce we have appointed award-winning consultancy Velocity who are helping us to re-imagine a future based around people, places, public transport and new technology. Read more at blenheimestate.com/estate-news

Another delightful addition to our Blenheim Estate family was born last month, our first purebred British White calf. This calf is one of a number expected this summer to strengthen our herd who were introduced to protect our ancient oak woodlands.

**For the latest news and updates visit
blenheimpalace.com**

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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.

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Our tax specialists are also here to help with your personal tax compliance, including preparing personal tax returns and offering guidance on HMRC correspondence. They can also advise you on tax planning on the sale/gift of assets, including the new reporting of capital gains on the sale of private residences.

Dealing with your own affairs and getting them in order can appear daunting. We're here to make life easier. Do pick up the phone or email us and we would be happy to have a free, no-obligation initial chat with you. We can meet on video call or in person when safe to do so.



Anna Burnside PARTNER
anna.burnside@theburnsidepartnership.com

JACQUI BIRKS TAX DIRECTOR
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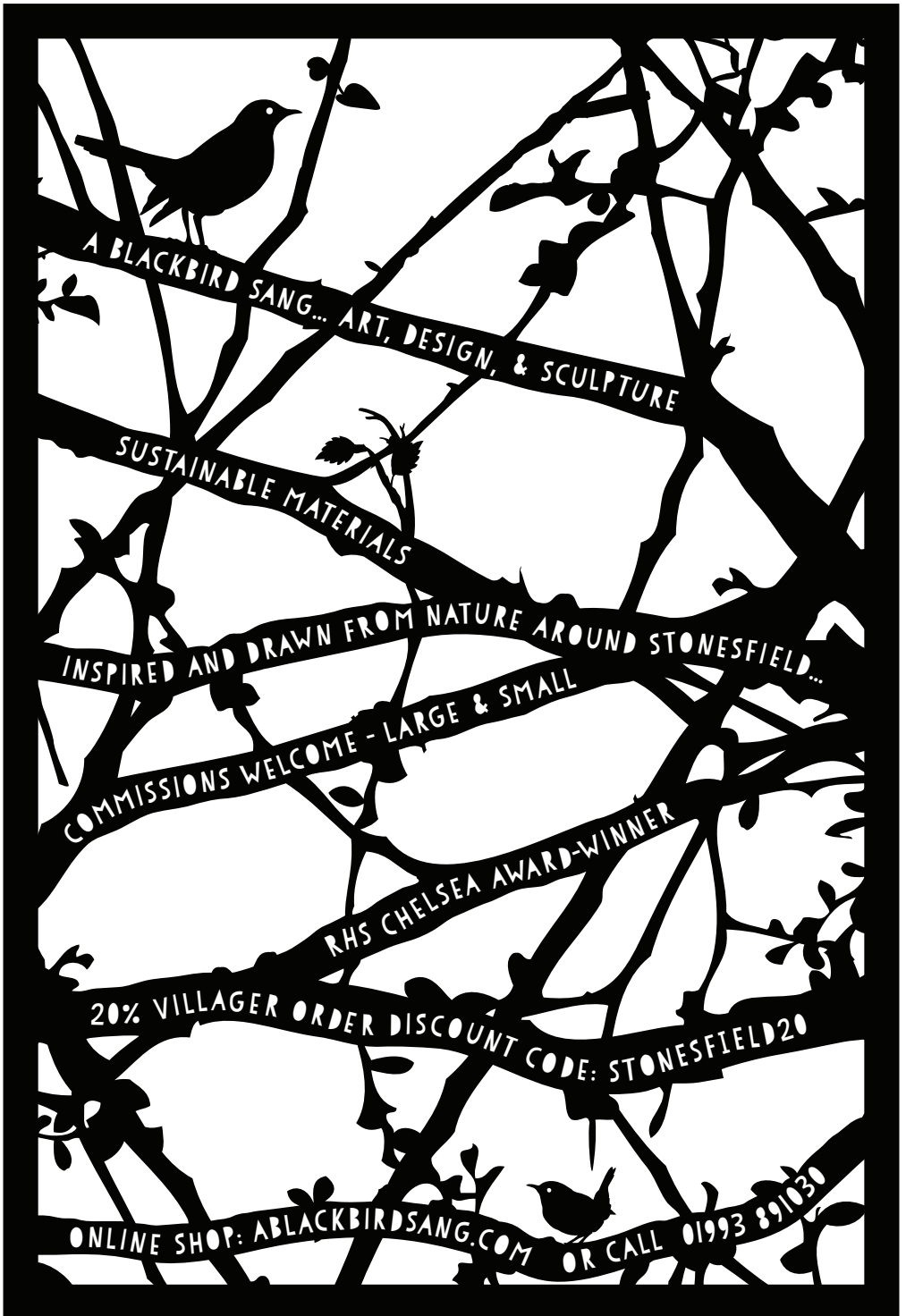
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