



Issue No 508 November 2020

## New arrivals



Students and cows on Stonesfield Common

The picture shows students from the Abingdon and Witney agricultural college (who own the cattle) having just herded the four cows and their calves up Akeman Street onto Stonesfield Common. They will stay on the Common until January. The UK has 34 native cattle breeds, of which 14 are rare. These cows are Whitebred Shorthorns. They are among the 14 and considered rare according to the Rare Breeds Survival Trust.

The breed originates from the border country in the North of England and is a good choice for upland land management. They require little supplementary feeding, so are ideal for overwintering on the rough grazing of Stonesfield Common. The breed are considered to be docile, good mothers, and easy to manage.

When cattle are allowed to graze freely they select different plants, and even different parts of the plant, to nibble or browse. Over time, this selective eating by the animals creates a varied structure within the plants and the habitat. It is this that helps create the right conditions for a wide range of plants, insects, birds, reptiles, and mammals to exist. The weight of the cows ensures that flower seeds are pressed into the soil by their hooves, which will help germination in the spring.

These cattle are helping us manage the Common to maintain and enhance its Site of Special Scientific Interest status. I hope you'll visit the cows and be sure to follow the rules that are posted on the gates.

Richard Morris

**#Backthewhitehorse Share Offer is now open. See page 6**



# Christmas Gifts from our Creatives



## **A Blackbird Sang (Genny Early & Tony Davis): art in paper, wood and steel inspired by Nature**

info@ablackbirdsang.co.uk

01993 891030

www.ablackbirdsang.com

A range of nature-inspired sustainable gifts in wood, paper and steel: wooden Christmas decorations £6; steel leaves with quotations £9.95; tealights (snowdrops, wrens, cow parsley, hares, deer) £12; garden sculptures £12-£55; steel bird silhouettes for fences, gates, etc. £7.50-£15; indoor/outdoor wall art £79-£329. Local delivery available.

## **Kerry Burniston: painter/ maker \*\*\***

kerry.burniston@gmail.com

01993 891700

www.kerryburniston.co.uk

Instagram: @kerryburniston

I make all sorts! Colourful, highly decorated paper bird ornaments, painted pebble jewellery, framed painted slates, oil and acrylic paintings, painted paper collage, prints, notecards and small string baskets.

Prices range from £2.50 to £400.

Please call for an appointment to view with no obligation to buy.

## **Sonja Burniston: printmaker/ illustrator**

sonjaburnie@gmail.com

01993 891700 (Kerry Burniston)

Instagram: @sonjaburniston

A range of colourful and heartfelt screen-prints, posters and cards at prices ranging from £3 to £60. Please call Kerry for an appointment to view both Sonja and Kerry's work at the same time.



## **Carport Christmas Art & Craft Market**

28 & 29 November, 10am-3pm, at Grey Cat Studio, Woodlands Rise, Stonesfield.

This event will be subject to Covid-19 guidelines for social distancing and the wearing of masks

**\*\*\* Exhibiting artists**



## **Disclaimer**

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### **Deadline for next issue 10 Nov**

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# Christmas Gifts from our Creatives



## **Chris Davies: artist/printmaker (Finalist, BBC Big Painting Challenge 2018)**

paintedwallcandy@yahoo.co.uk  
01993 891693 / 07966 626403  
Facebook: @paintedwallcandy  
A range of reasonably-priced prints of landscapes and nature from £40 to £70 and Christmas cards from £5 per pack. Please get in touch for an appointment to view.

## **Claire Fyfe-Jackson**

01993 898327  
Instagram: @clairefyfejackson  
Unique handmade designer jewellery in silver and semi-precious stones; flowers made from recycled metal. Especially for Christmas – sprigs of mistletoe, holly and flower decorations made from recycled metal, some with crystals, to decorate your home or as a unique present.

## **Judith Henderson**

judith.oldboot@outlook.com  
07966 314095  
Hand-rolled beeswax candles in red, green or yellow, £2 each/three for £5; available as long as stocks last.  
Proceeds from these to the Friends of Frank Wise School, a Special School in Banbury. Collection by arrangement.  
'Pete's Trees': a CD of folk fiddle and guitar performed by Henderson:Hooper, £10 from www.wordandnote.com or as above.

## **Nick Hooper**

nick.hooper@zen.co.uk  
07968 286810  
'Bird Being', a children's story for 11 year-olds and over, contains illustrations by Stonesfield artists and will be available from mid-November.  
'Six Strings' CD – solo guitar of Irish tunes, awarded five stars by R&R magazine and priced at £10. Both items sold in aid of 'Back the White Horse'.

## **Jenny Lines: artist/printmaker**

jenny\_lines@btinternet.com  
01993 898454 / 07468 563014  
www.jennysprints.com  
A range of etchings, many inspired by the landscape around Stonesfield. Available framed or unframed from £70 to £200. Free delivery in time for Christmas within a five mile radius. Please see my website and call or email for prices, availability and any further information.

## **David Rudge Light Frame Designs**

drlightframedesigns@gmail.com  
01993 898084 / 07814 142658  
www.drlightframedesigns.co.uk  
Covent Garden's silhouette artist David Rudge lights up your favourite images in solid light frames. All silhouettes are hand-cut and lit beautifully. Commissions taken.

## **Rachael Sherlaw-Johnson \*\*\***

rachael.sj@btinternet.com  
01993 891318  
www.rachaelsherlaw-johnson.co.uk  
Vibrant, exciting oil paintings from £40 to £200; cards £2 & books c.£10. Appointments to view can be made subject to Covid-19 guidelines (one person at a time and masks to be worn). Local delivery available.

## **Rebecca Sherlaw-Johnson \*\*\***

rebeccasj@btinternet.com  
01993 891328 / 07771 707818  
Paintings, brightly hand-painted boxes, bird tables, bug houses and wooden items from £10 to £80. Local delivery available. Photographs can be provided by email.

## **Griselda Sherlaw-Johnson: embroidered felt designs \*\*\***

griselda.sherlawjohnson@gmail.com  
Original and colourful embroidered felt designs including animal tree decorations, window hangings, small pouches and cases – all hand-sewn and each one individual, they make ideal presents.

## **Stonesfield Soap Company (Tanya Bainbridge):**

### **handmade soaps, aromatherapy bath and skincare products**

info@stonesfieldsoap.com  
01993 891949  
www.stonesfieldsoap.com  
We make a range of luxury artisan soaps and aromatherapy bath and skincare products crafted from natural plant oils and butters. Prices range from £4 to £19 depending on product and packaging. Gift sets available. Orders received by 10 December qualify for free local delivery; collection from us also available.



# Notices & news

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## Changes due to COVID-19

Please check the latest Government guidelines before attending any events.

The publishers and editor cannot be held responsible for any events mentioned in the *Slate* that are changed or cancelled due to any new restrictions that come into force or for any other reason.

Publishers and editor

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## West Oxfordshire District Council

The Government has launched a new payment for those on low incomes who are unable to work while self-isolating.

West Oxfordshire District Council will be processing applications and making payments to those who:

- Have been told to stay at home and self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace, either because they have tested positive for coronavirus or have recently been in close contact with someone who has tested positive
- Are employed or self-employed
- Are unable to work from home and will lose income as a result
- Are currently receiving Universal Credit, Working Tax Credit, income-based Employment and Support Allowance, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Housing Benefit and/or Pension Credit.

Those who meet the criteria, and have been provided with an eight-character account reference from the NHS Test and Trace Service, will be eligible for a one-off payment of £500.

For more information and to apply for a test and trace support payment, see: [www.westoxon.gov.uk/council-tax-and-benefits/coronavirus-council-tax-and-benefits/](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/council-tax-and-benefits/coronavirus-council-tax-and-benefits/)

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## Remembrance Sunday 8 November – important

It is with great regret and sadness that, due to the complexities of COVID-19 restrictions, there will be NO formal Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial this year. This decision has only been made after strenuous efforts with the appropriate authorities to find a way for it to go ahead, and everyone recognises that this ceremony will be hugely missed.

Organisations may still, of course, wish to lay wreaths informally, and should do so as and when they wish.

There will be a service at the Parish Church at 10am, and this will include two minutes' silence at 11am. Everyone is very warmly invited, but of course, numbers have to be strictly limited. If you would like to attend, please email [stonesfield@stonesfieldparishchurch.org](mailto:stonesfield@stonesfieldparishchurch.org) or telephone 898757. Seats will need to be allocated on a first come, first served, basis.

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## **NHSE Armed Forces Engagement Questionnaire**

The NHS has launched a questionnaire and series of online events and focus groups to explore how it can improve health and wellbeing support for the families of serving personnel, reservists, and veterans in England.

Anyone can share their views, however, we are particularly keen to hear from armed forces families (regular, reserve, and veteran families) people who are serving in or who have served in the British armed forces (regular and reserve) and organisations working with or supporting the armed forces community. Responses will be treated in confidences and will help to improve the care and support we offer to armed forces families in England.

To access the questionnaire, please visit [www.engage.england.nhs.uk/survey/health-and-wellbeing-support-armed-forces-families](http://www.engage.england.nhs.uk/survey/health-and-wellbeing-support-armed-forces-families)

For further information, including details of online events or to request a copy of the engagement toolkit, please email [nelcsu.armedforcesfamilies@nhs.net](mailto:nelcsu.armedforcesfamilies@nhs.net). The deadline for responding is 30 November 2020.

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### **Dog owners**

We would like to remind dog owners to keep control of dogs when walking in fields with grazing animals. There are many new dog owners since lockdown, and dogs are a cause of sheep worrying and do chase livestock. Sheep can die of shock even if uninjured. It is particularly upsetting and distressing for owners of sheep and other members of the public to witness incidents of dog attacks with deceased or injured

sheep. Please keep your dogs on a lead AT ALL TIMES when walking amongst ANY livestock.

May we also take this opportunity to remind dog owners to please pick up dog mess and take it to a bin.

Stonesfield Parish Council

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## **Garage Sale Community fundraising update**

The Stonesfield Garage Sale held on a sunny day in September raised just under £2,000 for the following local causes:

Chrissie's Owls

Friends of Stonesfield School (FoSS)

Save our pub #backthewhitehorse

Stonesfield Pre-School & Daycare

Stonesfield Scout Group

Stonesfield Village Hall

Sunshine Cat Rescue

With additional funds being made by households recycling their unwanted wares, it was fantastic to see so many residents, families, and village groups getting involved.

We've received lots of constructive feedback on how to make the next Garage Sale event, or perhaps a Car Boot Sale, even better – so watch this space for spring 2021! In the meantime, thank you.

Claire, Jacqueline, and Jess (07970 107805)

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## Carport Christmas Arts & Crafts Market

**28 and 29 November**

This year, Grey Cat Studio will be holding their annual Christmas show under the carport (outdoors, but with the advantage of a covering over our heads).

Lots of ideas for unique Christmas presents from local artists and artisans: paintings, cards, books, jewellery, hand painted birds, boxes and bird tables, knitwear and felt wear.

This year, the artists are: Rachael, Rebecca, and Griselda Sherlaw-Johnson and Kerry Burniston.

Part of the profits will go to the Back the White Horse Campaign.

We will be open from 10am to 3pm at Grey Cat Studio, Woodlands Rise, Stonesfield, OX29 8PL. We will be asking people to be aware of social distancing and to wear masks. Thank you.

Becki Sherlaw-Johnson  
rebeccasj@btinternet.com

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## Stonesfield's Christmas Market!

We are so excited to be organising our own COVID-19 safe Christmas market this year!! It will be held on Sunday 6 December at The Village Hall and playing field from 2-8pm. We are fundraising for The Village Hall and Stonesfield Pre-School.

If you would like an arts/craft stall or a food stall, please email [samayhall@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:samayhall@hotmail.co.uk) for a registration form. Stalls are £10 and a donation of a tombola prize. Limited

numbers are available and forms must be completed by 22 November.

We really hope this event will be a festive treat for all to enjoy whilst staying safe and shopping locally!

Hannah Willans, Stonesfield Pre-School



## The #backthewhitehorse share offer is now OPEN!

This is your opportunity to buy shares in the White Horse and help us bring it into community ownership, saving it from the property developers who may be waiting in the wings.

Shares are £50 each and you can buy multiple shares up to a maximum of 1,000 (£50,000) per person. Anyone over the age of 18, whether they live in Stonesfield or not, is eligible to buy shares. This is not a get rich quick scheme, but more of an investment in the village we all love, to help it thrive with more than a pub at its heart.

This is a first for the village. No one has attempted it before. Over 100 other communities have successfully bought and

now run their own pubs – will you help us join their ranks?

A share prospectus, with application form, will be delivered to each household, but are also available from the village shop. Our business plan and further copies of the share prospectus can be downloaded from our website: [www.backthewhitehorse.com](http://www.backthewhitehorse.com) or if you email us at: [info@backthewhitehorse.com](mailto:info@backthewhitehorse.com) we'll send them to you.

Stonesfield Community Pub Limited

## **A White (Horse) Christmas!**

Firstly a big THANK YOU to everyone in the village who has donated to and bought from our previous stalls, because of you we have raised significant monies for #backthewhitehorse campaign funds.

We will be back outside the village shop, on Saturday 28 November from 9am, with a range of goodies to fulfil your Christmas desires such as wreaths, chutney, jam, beer, mince pies, gingerbread, and cake.

Avid followers of the Great British Bake Off will know that the final happens just before our stall takes place, so we'd like to challenge our bakers to attempt a showstopper Festive Cake (it's for fun, not compulsory). We will create a picture gallery of any entries for stall visitors to judge and the cakes themselves will be sold on our signature teatime plates. Will you win the golden handshake?

You can help boost our funds by entering a cake in the showstopper challenge or donating items for sale on the stall, or by coming to buy. It would be really helpful if you could let us know in advance that you're entering a Festive Cake / donating

other items by dropping us a quick line at [susan@backthewhitehorse.com](mailto:susan@backthewhitehorse.com).

As before, we will have 'crowd control' in line with the latest COVID-19 regulations to keep you all safe.

Don't miss out, we look forward to seeing you there!

Susan Rudlin (891679)

## **Village Hall News**

It has been so nice to be able to welcome people into the hall again by opening our doors and hosting the flu clinic for the community last month. It was very busy with no appointments to spare, so hopefully, it saved some of our more vulnerable villagers from having to travel too far to get the flu jab.

We also want to say a big thank you to all of you who got involved with the Stonesfield Garage Sale in September. The format seemed to work well, and raised much-needed funds for a number of struggling groups in our community, and everyone seemed to have fun whilst recycling items they no longer needed.

Following on from that success, and as it has not been the easiest year for anybody, we are determined to try and raise spirits, and funds again, this time with a Christmas Market on 6 December!! Alongside the Pre-School, we are having an event taking all the social distancing requirements into consideration, whilst providing fun, festive ambiance, and a relaxed shopping experience.

If you visit Field Close, you will be pleased to find there is a new service to the village! We would like to welcome the Taco Truck, which is in situ in the Village Hall car park

on Thursday from 5–7pm. Please take the opportunity to have a night off from cooking, and visit Chris to see what's on the menu!

For more information on the hall, bookings, or our upcoming events, please contact:

Jacqueline Carthew (898919) Secretary & Booking Clerk for Stonesfield Village Hall  
stonesfieldvh@gmail.com

## Healthwatch Oxfordshire

Healthwatch Oxfordshire wants to hear from anyone who works to provide care and support to someone in their own home in Oxfordshire.

The county's independent health and social care watchdog is asking people employed in home care support, including those who work privately, on a self-employed basis or for an agency, to share their experiences of what this is like by completing an anonymous survey at [www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Paidcarers/](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Paidcarers/)

The feedback received will help those who pay for and plan care in the county understand what is working well and what could be better.

If you'd prefer to talk this through over the phone, or to request a paper copy or

translated version of the survey, please call 01865 520520.

To find out more about Healthwatch Oxfordshire see [www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk](http://www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk)

## Police and community support

For information or advice on security concerns, please contact [woodstockNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:woodstockNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk) or call 101.

## Stonesfield Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

For information, see [www.facebook.com/StonesfieldNHW](http://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

## STONESFIELD VOLUNTARY TRANSPORT SCHEME

Voluntary transport to medical appointments remains suspended at present. We continue to monitor the situation and will re-start our service as soon as that is possible.

**If you are in need of transport for medical reasons and are unable to find this from your own household, there are other possibilities - for further information please phone Viv Kendall on 01993 891803.**



# Politics & local affairs

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## **Stonesfield Parish Council**

### **Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

Following Cllr Brown's resignation as Chair, Cllr P McArdell was unanimously voted in as Chairman.

Cllr M Heduan and Cllr D Brown stood for the role of Vice Chair. Cllr David Brown was elected as Vice Chair following a majority vote amongst councillors.

### **Stockey Woods**

It was reported that Sustainable Stonesfield are pursuing getting village green status for Stockey Woods. The majority of parish councillors agreed that this was an important asset that we do not want to lose as a parish.

### **White Horse community pub**

Representatives from the community pub group attended the parish meeting. Lots of discussion was had.

We were advised that the business plan and prospectus is almost complete and the group hopes that by the time this *Slate* is published the shares will be available to purchase. The business plan is a work in progress, but has been shared with the parish council.

The group confirmed that they are not asking the parish council to subsidise the pub, but discussions around the parish council taking a public works order loan were had. Concerns from the parish council regarding the loan were raised, as this would mean a likely increase in precept (council tax), and a direct cost to

the taxpayer in the village, if we took this on.

Cllr McArdell reminded the group that two months ago, when this was first discussed, it was made clear by the group that they required grants only and a parish council grant of £4,000 was given to the community pub group on this basis. We were advised that no further funding investments from the parish council would be requested. Last month, the public works order loan was floated again, which caused concern. Some councillors felt that the share offer allows members of the public to contribute, if they wish. Concerns were raised regarding the business case of the pub.

Cllr Baldwin was in support of the parish council financing some of the costs needed for the pub. He added that the group have not yet been able to have a structural survey. He felt the parish council should help keep it going. All other councillors were against supporting the pub group further from a parish council financial perspective. A vote was taken and councillors agreed not to pursue looking into ways of supporting the pub group financially any further. (Majority vote 7:1 against pursuing financial support.)

All councillors wished the pub great success and look forward to updates and seeing the share offer.

**Reports from councillors**

Cllr Brown asked Cllr Hudspeth if there are any proposals to look at the A40 following the terrible accident this week. Cllr Hudspeth explained there is funding for a bus lane on the A40, but not for making the road a dual carriageway. The District awaits the report following the accident. Safety can then be considered once the cause is known, if appropriate.

Cllr Bishop complimented the work of those working throughout COVID-19.

Cllr Heduan raised concern with 1 Farley Lane planning application which was discussed at a previous meeting with Cllr Bishop. This property received approval for planning (6 dwellings in the office building) despite numerous objections and concerns regarding the build, and asked for feedback on this regarding the decision at WODC. Cllr Bishop advised that people can write to the District, but members of the public cannot appeal the decision. The vote at WODC was unanimous in favour of the build.

Cllr Baldwin asked Cllr Bishop about how many emails he had received in support of the community pub. Cllr Bishop said he had received 75, but none expressing support of the parish council funding the pub.

**Other business**

The parish council agreed to pay 50% of the cost of servicing the church clock and also £200 towards churchyard grass cutting.

Cllr Lawrence confirmed that the defibrillator has been checked and the batteries are working. As a reminder, it is positioned just outside the Village Hall.

Cllr Brown reported that Phil Martin is stepping down from the scouts. The scouts have plans for the build of the new hut and are out to tender. The fundraising is not as active at the moment while the community pub is fundraising, but the group would welcome any donations.

Cllr Baldwin advised that Stonesfield Mutual Aid is still active and explained that they still had some funds and that goodwill in the community is still there. If anyone is in real hardship the fund will assist them. Cllr Baldwin thanked those who helped previously for all of their support and councillors echoed this, and also thanked Cllr Baldwin for his work with Stonesfield Mutual Aid.

Cllr Gould noted that the flu clinics at the Village Hall went well.

**Blenheim Estate**

The Parish Council would like to say thank you to Roy Cox, Nick Bainbridge and team at Blenheim Estate for providing logs to block a gate in Stonesfield for us. Supplied and delivered free of charge after the parish clerk requested assistance.

Date of next full council (public) meeting: Wednesday 11 November 2020 at 7pm. Zoom virtual meeting. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Karen East, Clerk to the Parish  
clerk@stonesfieldpc.uk  
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**Stockey Woods campaign**

The County Council has appointed an independent inspector to hear the application to make Stockey Woods a village green, which is being contested by the Blenheim Estate. The public inquiry will start on 26 January and last up to eight days.

Sustainable Stonesfield, supported by the Parish Council, are fighting to get the woods declared a village green to ensure in perpetuity that residents of Stonesfield can roam throughout the woods as they have done for generations. In order to assist our cause, we are using expert legal advice. A specialist barrister will represent us, but that understandably comes at a cost.

In the August *Slate*, we asked people if they would be willing to pledge money to help our campaign. The response was amazing. We have written to all those who pledged money asking them to send their donation now, because we know the date of the Public Inquiry and need to instruct our Barrister.

However, if you missed that opportunity to pledge funds it's not too late to make a donation and we can always use more. Here's how:

1. By Bank Transfer to the SUSTO Bank Account. This is our preferred method of donation, so please use this wherever possible. The account details are:  
Sort Code: 30-98-97  
Account Number: 84966768  
Account name: Sustainable Stonesfield  
When setting up the online bank transfer on your bank account, please insert your surname in the payee reference section.
2. By Cheque payable to Sustainable Stonesfield – please deliver to David Lines, Rivertop, Church Street, OX29 8PS (on the corner of Churchfields and Church Street) and ensure you write your name and address on the reverse of the envelope.

Many thanks for your support. If we are successful, the whole of Stockey Woods will remain accessible to future generations of Stonesfield villagers in perpetuity: a prize worth chasing!

Richard Morris, Chair Sustainable Stonesfield

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**From our District Councillor**

Business is slowly returning to some semblance of normality, in these abnormal times utilising abnormal techniques. Webex and Zoom enable Council business to be enacted satisfactorily, although one important planning meeting had to be cancelled part way through because of a 'glitch'.

The District Council has updated its flood procedures and flood defence procurement contracts. It is hoped that this will help with any anticipated flood difficulties in future.

A new and comprehensive Equality Policy has been agreed. The Equality Act 2010 compels local authorities to comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty. This protects people from discrimination on the following bases:

Race; Disability; Gender; Gender reassignment; Sexual orientation; Marriage and civil partnership; Age; Religion and belief; Pregnancy and maternity.

The Act also specifies that public bodies must review and publish updated policies every four years. The West Oxfordshire policy also incorporates a clear definition of anti-Semitism which demonstrates a clear intention that no one should be treated unfairly.

In its report on revenue currently assessed for the budget, it was noted that our Budget position has been adversely affected by the pandemic to the tune of £1.8million.

Much time and effort has been expended by the whole Council and particularly its officers on the new Government White Paper – Planning for the Future; Pillar One – Planning for Development. This Government initiative has by no means attracted widespread support. As a result of criticisms by elected councillors, and the objections of our planning officers, a lengthy and comprehensive response has been drafted. This document is far too long and detailed to be easily summarised here, but suffice it to say, the District Council has raised a plethora of objections and suggestions in its response to Central Government. It is felt that, if the document were to be translated into law, vast tranches of the country, particularly in the southern part of England, would be obliterated under a sea of concrete. Also, the general effect would not alleviate the perceived housing need especially in the ‘affordable’ sector.

Plans for the Eynsham Garden Village, to be named Salt Cross, are being constructively developed. These plans are in conjunction with a comprehensive review of the necessary infra-structure and a transport strategy.

All this work is in addition to the day-to-day activity of a District council, and goes a long way to proving that the COVID-19 disaster has not shut down the business of looking after our residents and caring for their welfare. In this context, I should like to compliment all our officers, whether working in the office or at home, for their

dedication and enthusiasm. Especially for the considerable success in alleviating the hardship, both financial and social, caused by the difficult times in which we all live.

Much good wishes to you all – keep well and make as much happiness around you as you can.

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

## **From our County Councillor**

The rise in confirmed COVID-19 cases is a fast-moving situation. On-going discussions are taking place locally, regionally, and nationally as regards the number of COVID-19 cases and a very close eye is being kept on trends and data. We will be ready to respond in terms of how any new system affects Oxfordshire.

For now, work continues with partners to send increased and targeted communications that call on people to follow preventative measures and government guidance so we can contain the situation and reduce the rate of infection. We need everyone to take responsibility for their own actions as families, individuals, colleagues, and neighbours. The only way we can drive down the number of COVID-19 cases is through collective action on the part of people.

## **COVID Secure team**

To help ensure Government safety rules are being applied, a new COVID Secure team is now operating across Oxfordshire. Funded by Oxfordshire County Council’s NHS Test and Trace grant, and delivered jointly across all Oxfordshire councils, the team’s aim is to work with and support businesses to help them comply with the

rules and guidance that apply to them and to ensure good infection control measures are in places which the public access.

A new local focused COVID-19 contact tracing system for Oxfordshire will be launched, designed to support and compliment the national system. It will provide another layer of support to help control the virus and #stopthespread. Collectively, Oxfordshire's six councils will work to contact people that the NHS test and trace national system is unable to reach. People contacted will be advised to isolate, talked through how to access local support when isolating, and asked about details of their close contacts so these can then be followed up by the national team. The service will run seven days a week with calls coming from the council using a local (01865) phone number. Text messages will also be sent to people with mobile phones telling them to expect a call.

### **#StopTheSpread**

- The NHS COVID-19 app is available. Please download it if you can. The more people who use the app, the more we can keep each other safe and stop infection rates rising.
- If you have COVID symptoms, you must isolate for at least 10 days and get a test. Do not wait for a test or test result before self-isolating.
- The main symptoms of coronavirus are a high temperature, a new continuous cough, and a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste. Most people with coronavirus have at least one of these symptoms.
- If you have at least one of these symptoms, you should book a test by calling 119 or registering online at

[www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test). It is essential you do not go to A&E asking for a test.

- If you do not have COVID symptoms, please do not book a test. You could be taking a test away from someone who really needs it, such as a key worker. This is increasingly important as we head into autumn and winter, when more people will get colds and the flu.
- If another member of your household has symptoms, you must self-isolate. But you should only get a test if you develop symptoms yourself. Further guidance on self-isolation is available.
- If you have been in close contact with someone who has coronavirus and have been asked to self-isolate, you should only get a test if you develop symptoms yourself.
- If you have been abroad and are in quarantine, you should only get a test if you develop symptoms.

If you are self-isolating or in quarantine, then a negative test result does not mean you can end isolation early. The virus can take time to develop and so a test early on does not prove that you will not go on to develop the virus – you could still be at risk of spreading the virus to other people.

Please do not hesitate to contact me and keep safe.

Ian Hudspeth (07956 270 318)  
[ian.hudspeth@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:ian.hudspeth@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

# Education, culture & more

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## Sally Wainwright OBE

How many of you knew that Sally Wainwright, recently honoured with an OBE for services to writing and television, lives in Stonesfield? I recently did a count up of the awards she has won for her writing (21 of them, including 5 BAFTAs). Add to that the OBE and the Freedom of Calderdale, which she was awarded in March. It is an impressive list.

Most people know Sally best as the creator and writer of *Last Tango in Halifax*, *Happy Valley* (she's writing the 3rd series right now), and *Gentleman Jack* (just about to start filming the 2nd series). Her list of credits is long and includes *Scott and Bailey*, *To Walk Invisible*, *At Home with the Braithwaite's*, *The Amazing Mrs Pritchard*, and many others. If you had asked Sally what she wanted to do as a young girl she would have said write, and by the age of nine she would have told you she wanted to write for *Coronation Street*.

Sally was born in Huddersfield in 1963 and brought up in Sowerby Bridge. She read English Literature at York University and achieved her ambition to write for *Coronation Street* in 1994 after writing for *The Archers*. She remained with the soap until 1999 when she left to focus on writing original work. *At Home with the Braithwaite's* was the result and was nominated for several awards. Sally never looked back.

Sally's connection to Stonesfield began when she was living in Hounslow in the

1980s and driving a London bus, while she made her first attempts to break into TV writing (she would later immortalise this in *Jane Hall*). She lived in a shared house with, among others, Austin Sherlaw-Johnson, whose family have lived in Stonesfield since 1970. They married in 1990 and moved to Stonesfield in 1991.

Sally quickly became involved with the Stonesfield Players, directing Jean Anouilh's *Antigone*, *Skirmishes* by Catherine Hayes, and several one act plays for them, including her own *The Wrong Parents*.

In 1994, she and Austin moved north and returned to Stonesfield in 2001 with their two sons, George and Felix. Once again, Sally found time to direct two very good productions for the Players: *Airswimming* by Charlotte Jones and *Di, Viv and Rose* by Amelia Bullmore, which featured the last performance by Jay Miller.

She also directed a forty-minute version of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* with Year 6 at Stonesfield School.

Sadly, these days Sally is so popular as a writer, director, and producer for television that she hasn't been able to take on a big project for the Players, although she was one of the judges for their Lockdown Play Writing Competition earlier this year.

Since 2000, with the exception of two projects (*Shakespeare Re-Told* and *The Canterbury Tales*), she has created and written all her own work. She was a producer on most of them and directed

episodes on *Last Tango*, *Happy Valley*, and *Gentleman Jack*.

What next? Well, she has several exciting new potential projects in the pipeline, all being created in Stonesfield.

Becki Sherlaw-Johnson

## Stonesfield School

The autumn term is well under way, despite the restrictions necessary due to COVID-19. Teachers are rising to the challenge of developing techniques to deliver high quality lessons while following all the safety rules. The school's main objective for this year remains to achieve the best educational standards we can in our inclusive and supportive environment.

Governors are continuing to meet online and at our first full board meeting, Harry Holland and Sue Corrigan were re-elected

co-chairs. We have also set up our committees focused on the delivery of the high-quality curriculum and the financial management of the school to ensure best use of limited resources. A key part of our role is having oversight of all aspects of the school, and so we have agreed a new schedule of governor monitoring to ensure standards are high and resources are being well used.

We are still looking for new governors to join us in this important and rewarding work, especially, but not exclusively, those with finance-based expertise, so please get in touch if you are interested.

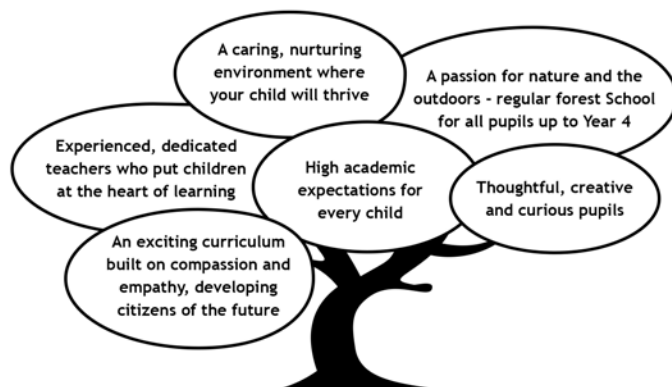
Stonesfield Governors

## 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](mailto:office.2353@stonesfield.oxon.sch.uk)  
Headteacher email: [head.2353@stonesfield.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:head.2353@stonesfield.oxon.sch.uk)

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## **Stonesfield Primary School**

With pupils returning after lockdown, our twin priorities have been catching children up academically while supporting their mental health and wellbeing. Staff have worked tirelessly to adapt our normal curriculum to ensure children do not miss crucial elements of learning. We have also prioritised our Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) curriculum for all pupils, establishing new routines and giving children a common language to identify and share their feelings and emotions. Our highly regarded Forest School also gives our pupils much needed time outdoors, enjoying and learning in natural surroundings.

During this half term, we have also worked with a company called Evolve. Using their pupil survey, Wellbeing Compass, we collected baseline data for our pupils in years 1 to 6 on six dimensions of wellbeing. The results were fascinating. Our scores were above the national average for Physical Activity and Diet, and in line with the national average for Emotional Wellbeing, Personal Development, and Brain Health. The survey highlighted sleep as an area to focus on – the national picture is that lockdown has disrupted routines and the survey seemed to suggest that a number of children were not getting enough sleep, were easily distracted, and found concentration difficult. Using resources from The PSHE Association, all children have now had lessons on the importance of sleep and what a good bedtime routine is like. The survey also enabled us to identify children requiring targeted support. Evolve have worked with pupils in small groups aiming to develop their confidence, self-esteem, and resilience. Our Special Educational Needs

Coordinator (Senco), Mel Carruthers, is also providing pastoral and nurture support for other pupils.

We recognise that ensuring our pupils have strong mental health will not be a short term fix – this is a priority we are committed to in the long term: developing compassionate, resilient, emotionally intelligent citizens to make our village proud.

If your child is due to start school in September 2021, I would love to show you around and give you a flavour of what life at Stonesfield Primary School is like. Please contact the school office on 891687 to arrange a tour.

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

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## **Stonesfield Pre-School and Daycare**

We are pleased to announce our first 100 Club winners for the October draw.

1st Prize – Kate England £25  
2nd Prize – Karen Ball £10

Congratulations to you both.

Zena Rozee

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## **Stonesfield Pre-school**

### **Making the most of each and every moment**

During the last month the children have been very busy going about their 'Work' at pre-school. In particular, carrying out many tasks in the home corner, such as cooking, making cups of tea, and looking after the baby dolls. It is thought-provoking and fascinating to stand back and observe a child as they absorb themselves in their many self-initiated



tasks. The children's home corner play is driven by noticing what adults do, imitating what is observed and then doing it spontaneously when the adult is not there. The children are engaging in imaginative role-play based on their own first-hand experiences. We often add extra resources to extend play and exploration, real vegetables were added to the play kitchen and we created a pop-up hairdresser's that was sparked by the children's interests.

The children have also been talking about 'Ourselves and our families'. They have made paper cut outs of themselves and have been naming body parts... earlobes, elbows, and knee caps to name but a few. Family photograph sharing has been a great visual prompt to support the children with their speaking and listening development. With adult support, the older children have enjoyed playing listening games in the rainbow room, too.

We are now exploring the wonderful season of autumn with the children, so much fun to be had with lots of colourful, crunchy leaves to run through, kick and throw up into the air! We are also collecting autumn items and materials to add to our seasonal nature table.

### **Early Years Quote of the Month**

We would like to share a thought-provoking Early Years quote with you each month. This month we have chosen...

*When you:*

*Cut it for me, Write it for me, Open it for me, Set it up for me, Draw it for me or*

*Find it for me,*

*All I learn is:*

*That you do it better than me*

We held our Annual General meeting on 8 October via Zoom. Our Chairperson's

report is available to read on our website [www.stonesfieldpreschool.com](http://www.stonesfieldpreschool.com)

Finally, we are really happy to be working together on a fundraising project with the Village Hall, to help us raise much needed funds for both of our organisations that are a vital part of the village community. Please join us for Stonesfield's Christmas Market on 6 December from 2–8pm at the Village Hall and playing field. There will be local arts and craft stalls, festive food, and drinks too!

Lizzie Wharton, Pre-school Manager

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## **The Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock**

The Oxfordshire Museum is situated in the heart of Woodstock, with free admission, 10 galleries, Garden Café, gift shop, and beautiful walled garden. There is something for everyone!

### **Exhibitions**

#### **Distance – closes 8 November**

Distance is explored through Oxfordshire landscapes, townscapes, and through depictions of events and activities. In addition to work by well-known artists, including William Turner of Oxford and Stanley Anderson, the exhibition includes items from the collections in the care of the Museum's Service that have not previously been on public display.

From the 'Distance' exhibition



## **The Oxfordshire Craft Guild Christmas selling exhibition**

**14 November – 3 January**

We are thrilled to host this annual selling exhibition featuring many of the county's leading craft designers and makers. The exhibition includes jewellery, textiles, ceramics, glass, wood, and more – perfect for Christmas!

### **Online lectures**

The Friends of The Oxfordshire Museum are offering a varied programme of monthly online lectures, even if you are not a member! For more information visit: [contact@FriendsOfTom.org.uk](mailto:contact@FriendsOfTom.org.uk)

### **Opening times:**

Wednesday – Saturday 11am–5pm

Sunday 2–5pm

Last admission 4.30pm

Mondays and Tuesdays – Closed

### **Stay in touch**

You can keep up to date with all our events and exhibitions by visiting our website [www.oxfordsire.gov.uk/museums](http://www.oxfordsire.gov.uk/museums) Twitter & Facebook @oxonmuseum

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## **Local History: Glympton House**

### **4 miles North West of Stonesfield**

There was a manor house here by the 16th century, if not earlier, and since the present house stands very close to the medieval church, it was probably on this site, although nothing now survives that is earlier than the 18th century. John Cupper and his wife, Audrey Peyto, and their descendants owned the property from 1547 to 1632.

The Wheate family acquired the estate in 1633, the parish was enclosed in the late

17th century, and a deer park was created around the house. William Wheate and either he or one of his successors had the house remodelled later in the 17th century. By the early part of the 18th century it had an H-shaped plan with north and south courtyards, each flanked on three sides by wings of the house.

In the first half of the 18th century either Sir Thomas Wheate, 1st Baronet or Sir Thomas Wheate, 2nd Baronet had the house remodelled with a Georgian elevation of seven bays. By the early part of the 19th century the western range of the old house had been demolished. When the 2nd Baronet died without a male heir in 1746, the baronetcy passed to his brother Sir George Wheate, 3rd Baronet, but Glympton Park became the dower house of his widow, Mary.

George Henry Barnett, the nephew of Sir Jacob Wheate, 5th Baronet, inherited Glympton Park in 1846. In 1849, Barnett removed the east and west wings from the main front, re-faced the main front in Bath stone in mid-18th century style, and added an Italianate kitchen block on the east side. Barnett moved the main entrance to the west side and gave the new entrance a Tuscan porch. Glympton Park remained in the Barnett family until Benjamin Barnett sold it in 1944.

Alan Paul Good, the Anglo-Irish head of a successful engineering company, bought the house in 1944 and had grand plans for remodelling it. Failing health compelled Mr Good to relinquish his position as managing director of the Brush-ABOE group in 1952, and he died in South Africa in 1953 aged 46.

In the following years, the house had a number of owners, some for very short

periods. For example, in 1988 Alan Bond, an Australian businessman, purchased Glympton, but was forced to sell a year later when his business empire collapsed.

Glympton Park's current owner is a trust created by Prince Bandar of Saudi Arabia. Prince Bandar bin Sultan, former Saudi ambassador to the US, bought the estate in 1992. Prince Bandar has transformed the house and estate since that date, buying another 500 acres of land and various houses within the estate, including the old rectory and Ludwell farm cottages. He has reconstructed the house, laying out new gardens, replanting the park, establishing a pheasant shoot, and developing the farm.

Paul Bates  
[paul@bateshome.co.uk](mailto:paul@bateshome.co.uk)

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## Help feed our farmland birds

Ever seen a Yellow Hammer or a flock of Linnets? These glorious farmland birds are disappearing, so our charity and its many volunteers provide supplementary feed from November to May to reduce their decline.

Some 'red-listed' species are familiar 'farmland' birds such as House Sparrows and Skylarks, but many people are unaware of the challenges they face. Even species such as Chaffinches started to decline in 2012. So it's never been more important to act now and do all we can to conserve these precious specialist birds.

Remember Bird Aid? We have now re-launched as Farmland Bird Aid Network, an independent charity. Our hope is to help see thriving populations of farmland birds in our countryside, able to support themselves naturally.

In addition to feeding wheat, millet, and rapeseed daily, we recommend:

- Boosting seed food by providing uncut areas, a wide mix of crops, stubbles or seed-rich wild bird cover crops
- Creating thick, thorny nesting cover in hedges or by retaining areas of scrub, gorse or brambles
- Cutting hedgerows on rotation every three to five years

We now have over 20 sites across West Oxfordshire – many near Stonesfield. We are looking for a few more volunteers to help us feed once a week or fortnightly. You could help at Southill Solar Farm or Kingswood Break – both beautiful sites, a short cycle or drive from Stonesfield.

To find out more about our charity, visit [farmlandbirdaidnetwork.org](http://farmlandbirdaidnetwork.org). If you can help with feeding or surveying, please get in touch with [info@farmlandbirdaidnetwork.org](mailto:info@farmlandbirdaidnetwork.org)

Thank you.

Judy Anders  
[judy.anders66@gmail.com](mailto:judy.anders66@gmail.com)



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## An Englishwoman from New York

Blenheim Art Foundation has a solo exhibition of the British artist, Cecily Brown, running until 3 January 2021. This is composed entirely of new works created in response to the Palace.

Cecily Brown was born in London, studied at the Slade School of Art and then moved to New York in 1994 where she continues to work. She is credited as a central figure in the resurgence of painting at the turn of the millennium.

The exhibition includes a series dedicated to the hunt and a number of battle paintings that evoke Blenheim's military history. The exhibition closes with Brown's largest painting to date, titled *The Triumph of Death*. It was painted in four parts that were assembled for the first time onsite at Blenheim Palace. Completed in 2019, the work offers a poignant and prescient visualisation of a society in crisis.

More information can be found at [www.blenheimpalace.com/whats-on/](http://www.blenheimpalace.com/whats-on/)



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## 80th Anniversary of Blenheim Palace's Top-Secret WWII Spy Role

Blenheim Palace is celebrating the 80th anniversary of its top-secret wartime role as the headquarters of MI5. In 1940, the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill became the temporary location of Britain's secret intelligence agency, after its London offices were destroyed in the Blitz.

A series of pre-fabricated huts were set up outside the Palace, the Great Hall was filled with filing cabinets, and the Long Library became a typing pool. Part of the Palace's upper floor was also transformed into a communications centre, which included a translation service and reference library. As many of the records held in London had been lost, the work done at Blenheim to rebuild their intelligence documents was so vital to the country's wartime role, Churchill would call on virtually a daily basis to see how things were progressing. He reportedly also sent chocolates and cigars when specific projects were completed, and visited the site on at least one occasion.

Security surrounding the estate was extremely high and staff, who were mainly women and mostly staying at Keble College in Oxford, were dropped off by bus at the Woodstock gate entrance to Blenheim where their passes were checked. They were then transported up to the Palace, where they were checked a second time before heading into the Palace's Great Court, through a third checkpoint.

Antonia Keaney, Blenheim Palace's social historian said, 'Everyone who worked at Blenheim Palace during this time was sworn to secrecy, and many of the staff did not speak about their vital roles to anyone.'

We were fortunate enough to interview some of the ladies for an archive several years ago, and some of them had only recently revealed what they did during the war to family and friends. One of the women said if the Germans had ever found out we had lost virtually every possible contact for their spies, we would have undoubtedly lost the war.'



Cynthia Boot

One of the last surviving former MI5 staff members is 95-year-old Cynthia Boot, who was just 17 at the time, and too young to join the Forces. Even today, very few people are aware of her secret wartime role. 'We had to sign the Official Secrets Act, and after that we never said where we worked, we always just said we worked near Oxford,' said Cynthia. 'We were allowed to say we were at the War Office,



MI5 at Blenheim, 1940

but we weren't allowed to say what we did, what we saw, or how anything worked.'

MI5 did not leave Blenheim immediately the war ended as they had nowhere to go. The Palace was not officially handed back to the Marlborough family until 1948.

More information can be found at [www.blenheimpalace.com/whats-on/](http://www.blenheimpalace.com/whats-on/)

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### **Follow-up to BBC Radio Oxford recording of interviews with Stonesfield people, 1987**

Following on from the notice in September's *Slate*, Mickie Taylor of Hats Off Studios contacted me and has kindly transferred the cassette recording onto digital, and separated each interview into individual MP3 files which can easily be sent in an email attachment. I am now in the process of making contact with the families involved so that they have the opportunity to listen to their individual interview, and give permission for this to go on a public platform, like the Stonesfield website. I have no contact details for Dominic Hamerton's family – if anyone can help with this please, I would be very grateful. My contact details are below. Thank you!

The interviews are:

George Laughton, farming family since the mid 1800s

Richard Chancellor, Chair of Stonesfield Society

Canon John Grimwade

Jean Hall of the Women's Institute

Dominic Hamerton describes his cycle ride from John o'Groats to Land's End

Avis Ushaw, Chair of the Parish Council

Lindsey Thornton (891059)  
[lindsey.25@btinternet.com](mailto:lindsey.25@btinternet.com)

# Clubs, societies & sport

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## **Stonesfield Gardening Club**

### **Front garden 'lockdown' project**

We always liked the circular bed in Bob and Nel Hain's front lawn, but once we moved in, we wanted to give it a more all-year-round interest.

After nearly 11 years of thinking about it – on and off – we agreed on a knot-garden design that would give some structure through winter and more planting space to put seedlings and cuttings produced in the greenhouse every spring. With no idea of what was about to happen throughout the world, we started measuring up in late February.

We removed the turf and stacked it in pieces tidily out of the way, dug up the bulbs and sorted them ready for putting back later: aconites, snowdrops, crocus, anemones, hyacinths, tulips, and dahlias. By the end of March, we had put in the edging around the new bigger circle and marked out the design with box hedging (finished off mid-April, despite lockdown restrictions, when more plants were delivered).

After a fair bit of watering and bulb replanting, the hedge had its first clip and the home grown flowering plants could go in. Reclaimed bricks went around the edge, but it took a while for us to decide on pebbles to fill the remaining gaps; these were delivered and moved via the wheelbarrow into final position in mid-June.



This is not at all how I was told to design a garden; instead of clearing everything out and starting afresh, it has evolved over time with input from all the family – much more fun! Many thanks to all the passers-by for your words of encouragement from a safe two metres away over the hedge.

Having enjoyed looking out over the colourful display through the summer, at the end of September, many of the flowers are fading away, but the hedging now has space to get growing! The project has provided a focus of normality for us whilst school and work were disrupted and I really appreciate how lucky we are.

Sybil Barton, Four Acres, Pond Hill

This is the second in our features on gardening projects that members have undertaken this year. Any member is more than welcome to contribute!

Best wishes to all.

Diane Bates, Secretary  
diane@bateshome.co.uk  
[www.stonesfieldgardening.info](http://www.stonesfieldgardening.info)



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## **Sports and Social Club**

Even though we are still living in very strange times the Sports and Social Club is ready to welcome you in our COVID-19 compliant and very friendly atmosphere. All we ask is for you use the NHS Track and Trace on your smart phone or sign in manually before enjoying a chat and a drink, or watch your favourite sport, as we have a SKY sports package.

Opening hours: Monday–Friday 4–10pm,  
Saturday/Sunday 12noon–10pm.

Brian Clarke (891770)

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## **Stonesfield Football Club**

So, no sign of this pandemic going away anytime soon, but it is heartening to see that our two teams are back out on the field strutting their stuff and going for glory. That feels like progress to me. How are our boys doing? A mixed bag, I'm afraid. The Firsts have played two games in the Premier League and lost both, at Tower Hill (2–1) and Carterton (5–3). The later loss was hugely frustrating as our boys led 3–1 at half time, but a second half collapse saw them ship 4 goals without reply. An early season portent of trouble ahead? I don't think so: they faced up to a tough challenge from Hook Norton in Round 1 of The Fred Ford Cup and a stunning Raffy Rice hat-trick secured their place in Round 2 (3–1). The game hung in the balance with our boys struggling in midfield against their younger opponents until Mike Phipps vacated the subs bench, to set up two of Raffy's three goals with fabulous passes that ensured safe passage for our boys. Their reward is an away tie at Charlbury... a derby match that is always a humdinger!

The Reserves have done reasonably well after three games in Division 3 and currently sit mid-table. They opened their account at home with a narrow loss (1–2) to Hook Norton, then followed that up with a home draw (3–3) in a pulsating encounter with Brize Norton. Pick of the bunch and their first win of the season (5–1) was at Chipping Norton Town. Manager Ben Franklin can be proud of their start to the season and his decision to play the veteran Sam Hibberd as target man and striker has reaped dividends, with the venerable Sammy scoring in all three games! Let's hope he and the team can keep it up as the winter months approach.

The reader will be aware that Fredo Awards are not given away lightly and this month is no exception. Mike Phipps is a contender following his cameo role in midfield against Hook Norton, a master class that lasted 15 minutes and won the game. Mind you, it really would be harsh to bypass Raffy Rice with his perfect hat-trick: left foot, right foot, header! Of course, his lovely Mum, Ursula, could also claim some credit as she cooked his fry-up that morning, including his favourite succulent sausages. Maybe credit should go to his hairdresser who furnished him with a carefully designed quiff that had him feeling dapper. In reality, it's no contest, Raffy, hat-trick hero, the first Fredo belongs to you!

Finally, please do come along and support our lads, but also remember to respect the rules and maintain your distance to keep everyone safe and well. Enjoy a drink afterwards in the Social Club, but please also follow the rules that Sam and Ben Tomlin have worked so hard to put in place. Take care.

Tom Flanigan (891979)

# Church news

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## **Church of England Worship at St James the Great, Stonesfield**

### **(Benefice of Stonesfield with Combe Longa)**

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

For any enquiries or help, including pastoral support, arrangements for funerals, etc., please email: [stonesfield@stonesfieldparishchurch.org](mailto:stonesfield@stonesfieldparishchurch.org) or contact the Area Dean: The Revd Jeremy Auld, Rector of Woodstock and Bladon (01993 810749), [www.woodstockandbladon.com](http://www.woodstockandbladon.com)

### **Parish letter**

November is traditionally a time for remembering and remembrance – we remember and give thanks for those who gave their lives for us in war, and we also remember family and friends who have died and are no longer with us. Our services on 8 November, as detailed at the end of this letter, provide a means of doing this corporately.

Remembering can be a useful launch pad for taking stock, assessing where we ‘are’ now in our lives, and looking forward.

As we think ahead and consider the ups and downs of life, the challenges so many of us face, and also the opportunities for change, new priorities and appreciation of all that is good, perhaps the prayer below will be helpful. It was written by the Scottish theologian John Baillie and

originally published in 1936 in his book: *A diary of private prayer*.

*Teach me, O God, to use all the circumstances of my life today that they may bring forth in me the fruits of holiness rather than the fruits of sin.*

*Let me use disappointment as material for patience.*

*Let me use success as material for thankfulness.*

*Let me use trouble as material for perseverance.*

*Let me use danger as material for courage.*

*Let me use reproach as material for long suffering.*

*Let me use praise as material for humility.*

*Let me use pleasures as material for temperance.*

*Let me use pain as material for endurance.*

*Amen*

Lindsey Sellar



## Services for November

### Sunday 1 November [All Saints' Day]

9.30am Combe All Age Worship

11am Stonesfield All Age Worship

### Wednesday 4 November

5pm Combe Service of  
Remembrance for the recently  
departed

### Sunday 8 November [Remembrance Sunday]

10am Combe Remembrance  
then service at War Memorial at  
10.45am

10am Stonesfield Remembrance  
(limited numbers – sign up  
essential) No service at War  
Memorial

5pm Stonesfield Service of  
Remembrance for loved ones who  
are no longer with us

### Sunday 15 November [2nd Sunday before Advent]

9.30am Combe Parish Communion

11am Stonesfield Parish Communion

### Sunday 22 November [Christ the King]

9.30am Combe Parish Communion

11am Stonesfield Parish Communion

### Sunday 29 November [Advent Sunday]

10am Combe United Benefice  
Communion

### Wednesday Service of Morning Prayer

9.30am Stonesfield Every week

11am Combe 18 November

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## Roman Catholic Worship

### Keep going

Father Tony Joyce says in his recent weekly parish Bulletin 11 October 2020:

How does one keep going in times of great adversity, such as this COVID-19 pandemic? Let us give some time to personal prayer in which we seek the guidance and help of the Holy Spirit to inspire all those who are striving to discover the safe antidotes to the virus and for those in public life who have to make decisions for the common good of all. In all of this we, as Christians, are able to find additional personal and communal strength from God's word in the Scriptures. Isaiah reminds us that the Lord promises and wants the very best for us. He expresses this in terms of a great and fulfilling banquet shared by the new humanity which God is bringing into being. Nothing is lacking: harmony, love, joy, peace, acceptance and all that will truly fulfil our deepest hopes and desires. Jesus, as the one who inaugurates this new kingdom, uses the same symbolism in the parable of the wedding feast (Matthew 22:1–14). The symbolism continues with regard to the guest without the appropriate wedding garment. An essential element to be an authentic guest at the feast is to 'want' to be there and to have 'personal faith' in the Lord who makes the invitation. In this regard again St. Paul summons us to such faith and hope with this line from The Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians 4:12–14, 19–20 *'There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength'*.

Let us go forward in our current situation and difficulties, humbly petitioning the Lord to strengthen us in faith, hope, and love.

Father Tony Joyce, Parish Priest, Holy Trinity Church, Chipping Norton and St. Teresa's, Charlbury

**St. Teresa's is now open for Holy Mass on:**

Monday 9.30am

Tuesday 9.30am

Wednesday 7pm (followed by Adoration)

Thursday 9.30am

Friday 9.30am (followed by Adoration)

Sunday Mass 9.15am (previously booked)

If you wish to come to the Sunday Mass at St. Teresa's, please email  
CharlburyMass@gmail.com

Confession by arrangement with Fr. Clive.

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.*

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

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.....  
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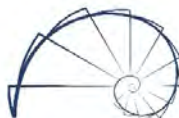
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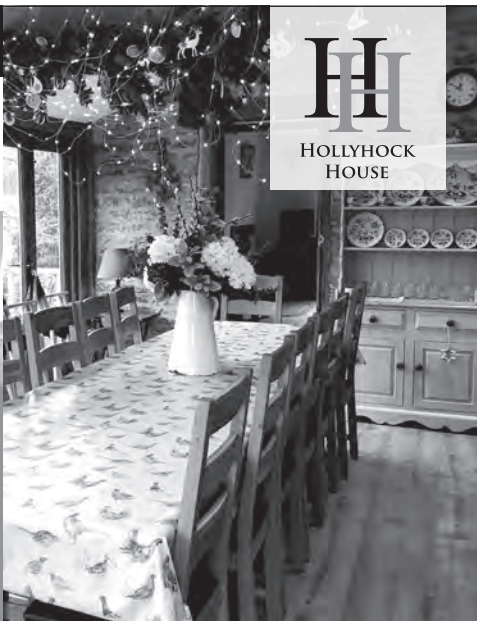
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# BLenheim



## The New Collection is Here at Park View

Our newest collection of homes has launched at Park View, Woodstock. The collection includes 1-2 bedroom apartments, 2, 3 and 4 bedroom homes, a number of which will be available under Shared Ownership and Affordable Rent schemes.

We're proud to be truly affordable homes for local people as part of this new community. Visit [blenheimestate.com/parkview](https://blenheimestate.com/parkview) to find out more.

## Christmas at Blenheim Palace

We love Christmas at Blenheim Palace and we are so happy that even though 2020 has been a difficult year, the good news is Christmas will still be happening, although a little differently this year.

But don't worry we haven't gone all Baa Humbug...

For 2020 we cannot offer joint tickets for the Palace and Light Trail. Book your tickets and time slots separately at [blenheimpalace.com/christmas](https://blenheimpalace.com/christmas)

## Blenheim Estate Lamb is now Available at Aldens Butchers

We are excited to be launching the sale of Blenheim Estate Lamb through Oxford-based butchers Aldens. This is the first time Blenheim Estate Lamb has been on sale to the public, and we are very proud to be able to offer this truly local product to our nearby communities. Visit [aldenoxford.co.uk](https://aldenoxford.co.uk) to find out more.

**Palace, Park & Gardens Now Open. Buy One Day, Get 12 Months Free\***  
For the latest news and updates visit [blenheimpalace.com](https://blenheimpalace.com)



\*Terms and Conditions Apply



**Despite the news headlines, there are still many great holiday destinations that are welcoming visitors, and there are lots of great deals around for next year already.**

**Give us a call on 01993-627814, come in for a chat, or email us at [info@greatexperiencetravel.co.uk](mailto:info@greatexperiencetravel.co.uk), and we'll keep you up-to-date with the best places to go.**



