



Issue No 518 October 2021

## Fallen Horse



Fallen pub sign: Sept 2021

It is now eight months since The White Horse was purchased by its current owner and the pub remains closed.

A locked gate has been installed to prevent access to the garden. A traffic cone placed to discourage entry to the courtyard. A sign erected to prohibit “unauthorised vehicles” from the car park. Cushions piled and blinds drawn to shield the interior from prying eyes. The building falls into disrepair. The garden is overgrown. Water has flooded the entrance hallway. The hanging wooden sign has rotted and fallen off, and slates are dropping from the roof.

As far as we are aware, no adverts have been posted for a tenant, for a manager or for bar staff; and the premises licence remains in the name of the previous owner. It is clear that The White Horse is unlikely to reopen in the foreseeable future under its current ownership.

Stonesfield Community Pub Ltd has emailed the current owner, Jonathan Bowers, on three occasions with an offer to purchase The White Horse from him on behalf of the village but, at the time of going to print, we have received no response.

We shall be holding a public meeting at the Stonesfield Village Hall, OX29 8HA, on **Saturday 2 October at 5pm** to discuss our options for securing the future of The White Horse for the benefit of the community.

If you have any questions you would like to be addressed, please email them in advance to [info@backthewhitehorse.com](mailto:info@backthewhitehorse.com).

All are welcome and we look forward to seeing you at Stonesfield Village Hall.

Peter Smyth  
[pete@backthewhitehorse.com](mailto:pete@backthewhitehorse.com)

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Dates for your diary are always subject to change. Please check with event organisers.

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### **Copy:**

#### **Deadline for next issue 15 Oct**

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or contact the Editor.

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## Dates for your diary

### October

2	White Horse Pub: public meeting	Village Hall	5pm
3	Harvest Festival	St James' Church	11am
4	Stonesfield Gardening Club talk	St James' Centre	7.30pm
4, 7, 11, 14	Taekwondo	Village Hall	5.30-6.30pm
4, 11, 18	Monday Coffee	St James' Centre	8.45-11.30am
5	North Leigh History talk	North L. Memorial Hall	7.30pm
5, 19	Carers' Café	St James' Centre	10am-12noon
5, 12, 19, 26	Zumba	Village Hall	7-8pm
5, 12, 19, 26	Zumba Strong	Village Hall	8.15-9.15pm
6	Parish Council meeting	TBC	TBC
6, 13, 20, 27	Quiz night	SSSC	8pm
6, 13, 20, 27	Pilates	Village Hall	9.30-10.30pm
6, 13, 20, 27	Folk dancing	Village Hall	8-10pm
7, 14, 21, 28	Book Break	Stonesfield Library	12.30-2pm
16	Ladies' Breakfast	St James' Centre	8.45am
17	Steaming & BBQ	Combe Mill	10am-5pm
25	Monday Coffee	St James' Centre	10-11.30am
18, 21, 25, 28	Taekwondo	Village Hall	5.30-6.30pm

### November

2	North Leigh History talk	North L. Memorial Hall	7.30pm
11	Service of Remembrance	War Memorial	10.45am
12, 13	Stonesfield Players	Village Hall	7.30pm

# Notices & news

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## Mary Evins

Ron Evins and all the family would like to thank everyone for their many messages of sympathy and condolences for the loss of Mary. She will be greatly missed by us all and everyone who knew her, a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, friend and neighbour.

Kind regards and stay safe,

John Evins

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## Jean and Frank Hall

We are very fortunate to have had Jean and Frank as our neighbours for 42 years. They are a lovely couple, always willing to help when needed.

Frank always had the time of day to chat over the garden fence. He is a great storyteller and has a remarkable memory.

We remember vividly the day we moved in and Jean came round to introduce herself and handed us the most delicious homemade Steak pie, we said at the time 'what lovely welcoming people!' They will be hugely missed by their neighbours and friends. We wish them all the best.

Madeleine and Vernon Pinney

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## Thank you

Jonathan, Andy and I would like to say a very big thank you to 'The Village Idiots' for their amazing village event on the evening of 21 August in memory of my dear husband David.

Thank you also to the Sports and Social Club for their support and to all who came, gave so generously to Cancer Research, and made it such a wonderful evening to remember. We know that David himself would have loved it!

Jenny Lines

St James' Church, Stonesfield

### Harvest Festival

Do come to celebrate Harvest at our special All Age service!

**Sunday 3rd October**

**11am**

*Gifts of money for the charity Send-a-Cow,  
or goods for the Foodbank,  
will be gratefully received at the service*

## Most successful Roman Villa open weekend

September 11 and 12 proved to be the North Leigh Roman Villa Volunteers' most successful open weekend to date. Saturday saw over 250 visitors to the mosaic, while Sunday achieved the highest attendance on a single day of 330 since the volunteer group started. This made for the busiest weekend at the Roman villa yet, over one third higher than the best previous weekend.

Among these visitors were 26 volunteer cleaners drawn from Friends of North Leigh Roman Villa, who helped Laura Mountford of English Heritage to clean and conserve the mosaic. One family party involved in cleaning said: "We all

thoroughly enjoyed helping clean the mosaic today and wanted to thank you for the opportunity to be involved".

In conversation with the dozen local volunteers staffing the site over the weekend, visitors remarked on the great opportunity to handle so many different Roman artefacts and added: "You've changed the way I think about the Romans." "Thank you for making these dry stones interesting."



This was possible because as well as North Leigh Roman Villa volunteers, the event welcomed volunteers from Tackley Local History Society. They helped set North Leigh villa in the wider Roman context of this part of Oxfordshire, and to provide details to visitors of the newly unearthed villa in Tackley, which has its own mosaic. Specialists from English Heritage were also present explaining artefacts and coins from the Roman era. The event also featured on Radio Oxford, via a live interview with John Perkins from the Tackley group.

Another first was the use of a contactless card terminal for donations, alongside cash donations. So far, in addition to the Blenheim Bursary award announced in the summer, visitors in 2021 have donated over £400 towards improving the site.

Cumulatively, since the North Leigh volunteer group began in the summer of

2019, more than 3,250 visitors have now seen the mosaics at the site.

Follow us on Twitter: @villa\_north To join Friends of North Leigh Roman Villa or arrange a special opening contact: nlrsvols@gmail.com

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## Village Hall News

It is lovely to have the Village Hall back to busy, with all the clubs running again.

- Baby and Toddler Group
- Taekwondo
- Zumba and Zumba Strong
- Pilates

Folk dancing: Stonesfield 49th Folk Dance Weekend is being held 8-10 October, so there will be restricted access to the car park over that weekend.

I know that the groups are keen to see people, so if you would like more details on any of the activities running please make contact. There is a nice range of things to do for all ages, but we always have space for more and are happy to offer taster sessions for groups that are thinking of starting up.

We are still keen for groups to come forward to run a cafe on the 1st Saturday of each month to raise money for their organisations - If you would like the opportunity to try it out, please do let me know.

Don't forget we have the Craft Fayre in November and the Christmas Fayre in December!

Jacqueline Carthew, (898919)  
Secretary & Booking Clerk  
stonesfieldvh@gmail.com

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## From the Village Idiots

Thank you so much for your donations to Cancer Research UK at the memorial gig for David Lines in August, and a big, big thank you for making the evening truly special. The band couldn't believe the number of you who made it to the Playing Field to celebrate his life. You danced, you sang, and you made the evening utterly memorable. Thank you as well to everyone at the Social Club and those helping the band for their hard work in organising and running the evening - and to David perhaps, for organising the perfectly timed break in the weather!

David's infectious sense of humour and gentle demeanour left a lasting impression on everyone he met, and it was truly an honour for us to be able to celebrate his life through a set list of the favourite songs that he loved to play.



We were humbled and blown away by your generosity. The fundraising total, including a wonderful pledge from the Sports and Social Club, currently stands at a fantastic £2,100. You can still donate at [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/villageidiots2021](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/villageidiots2021)

Mark Saville

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## New friends, new hobbies

I live overlooking the river Glyme at Hordley near Wootton. During the pandemic I feel I gained new friends because so many people were then, and are still, using the public footpath that runs by. Many dogs have also been walked and they are such a pleasure to see. I live on my own, so chatting to passers-by has been a gem, especially the two ladies from Stonesfield who gave me a wonderfully creative idea about peace for my hobbies.

I have been blessed by all the wonderful trees here and the huge variety of birds that are always attracted to them. I am also blessed with having a camera to catch sight of them and to have email access that allows me to chat to my family and friends, locally and far away.

Out of the pandemic, friendship and kindness have emerged and is very much needed. It gave us the chance to reconnect with people and past times.

For many years I have suggested children, teenagers and adults always choose a hobby they would truly love, even it is just for one hour a week at the kitchen table. It is also a creative, practical way to find our way out of difficult circumstances. Throwing ourselves into something we love with the aim to let go of uncertainty and mirror back to us who we are deep down. This allows us to step forward in practical, clear and strong ways, no matter what we may have been going through.

Margie McGregor

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## Ladies' Breakfast

There will be a Ladies' Breakfast in the St James' Centre on Saturday 16 October 8.45am for 9.00am. Come and enjoy some

time together with others over a delicious breakfast, followed by a short, inspirational talk from Helen Walker from Combe. Tickets cost £5 and are available from Bina Farrow 891293, Kathleen Albért 891733 or Muriel Barrett 891479.

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### **Children's Play Area**

Recently the springs on two rocking toys in the children's play area have been broken. These springs are substantial devices and could not have been broken by young children. The broken ends of the springs could have injured children playing in the area. All users of the playing field are reminded that the equipment in the children's play area is for use only by children of 12 years and under. If users of the playing field and its equipment are seen to be abusing the facilities, the Playing Field Committee could ban them from use of the field.

Frank Huddleston

Stonesfield Playing Field Committee

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### **Vacancy: Early Years Pre School Practitioner (permanent position)**

We are looking for an enthusiastic, nurturing, creative and dynamic person to join our team. We are a thriving and friendly setting, providing fantastic pre school care at the heart of our lovely village community. Currently rated "good" by OFSTED, we are working rapidly towards "outstanding" and are looking for someone to join our team who will partner us in achieving the best for our children and families. We work closely with the village primary school and provide Breakfast Club and After School Club for families requiring wrap around care.

At present the vacancy is for 10 -12 hours per week.

Working hours would be anytime between 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, term time only. Also, we may run holiday clubs during school holidays and prefer our staff to be able to work some days during this period.

Qualifications required:

- Early Years Practitioner Level 3 or above
- Paediatric First Aid (preferable but not necessary)
- Previous experience in Early Years Settings

For more information or to request an application form please contact our Administrator Mrs Zena Rozee: stonesfieldpsad@outlook.com or 01993 898012.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Preferred candidates will be required to undertake a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.

Closing Date: 4 October 2021

Zena Rozee (898012)

**Delicious Stonesfield raw / organic honey for sale**

**£6 per jar**

**Pete Bareham  
8 Combe Road**

**01993 891691**

**Can collect or deliver**

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## **Advance notice: Remembrance Day 2021**

As is our usual custom, there will be a short service of Remembrance at the War Memorial on Thursday 11 November at about 10.45am. It will follow the normal format led by our Rector Ralph. It will be special in so far as Frank Hall will make the journey back to Stonesfield to give his exhortation after the Roll Call of villagers who died in the two World Wars.

Richard Bishop (891414)

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## **Bridewell Gardens Open Day Success**

The weather was kind to Bridewell on Sunday 12 Sept as our neighbours, friends and the curious came in numbers to Bridewell's final Open Day of the year. We were delighted to welcome over 500 visitors to Bridewell and were bowled over by the support and encouragement of Bridewell's work, supporting people in our communities whose lives have been affected by serious mental ill health.



It was wonderful to share Bridewell's work with people of all generations, with service users and their families relaxing and spending time together in the garden and exploring the vineyard.

Bridewell's mission of mental health recovery through purposeful and meaningful activity, using gardening and land-based activities such as willow weaving or working in the forge resonated with many visitors. Bridewell staff and volunteers talked with guests who shared their own experiences of mental health, in particular the challenge of finding appropriate support for people experiencing serious mental health problems. Thank you from the Bridewell team to everyone who joined us, we hope to see you again in 2022.

If you'd like to help at one of our Open Days please visit our volunteer page [www.bridewellgardens.co.uk/support-us/volunteer/](http://www.bridewellgardens.co.uk/support-us/volunteer/) for more information. Details of future Bridewell Open Days will be displayed on our website and published in the Slate.

Rachel Green (259058)

[rachel@bridewellgardens.org](mailto:rachel@bridewellgardens.org)

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## **Singing Sessions for all**

We are very happy to be starting our singing sessions at Woodstock Social Club again after a gap of 17 months. These are on the second Friday of every month at 2pm, so the next session will be Friday 8 October, and after that Friday 12 November. The Social Club is on the A44, opposite the King's Arms.

Everyone is welcome, no one minds if you have a good voice or not. There's no charge and tea and coffee are kindly provided by the Club. We have our own large print songbooks with the words to our collection of great songs. These range from folk and traditional songs to songs from films and musicals and pop songs.



We already have a lovely group of regulars coming from Stonesfield so do come and sing some favourite songs with us – it's free, fun, and friendly.

With regards to Covid precautions: luckily the hall, is big so chairs can be well spaced and it's easy to maintain social distancing. The back door will be left open for ventilation so please bring a jacket. Masks aren't required but you are welcome to wear one if you want.

Tessa Hall and Paul Ralph  
tassafhall@gmail.com

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## **Celebrate All Things Autumnal**

Blenheim Palace is hosting a brand-new Autumn Festival on 24 – 26 September and 1 – 3 October.

Based around the historic Walled Garden, the event features street food, live music and theatre, family harvest games, haybale sports, a sculpture trail featuring stunning pieces from the Oxford Sculptors Group, competitions, market stalls as well as a Dragon Maze and a 22ft long Wishing Dragon.



The best of Oxfordshire's local breweries, distilleries, cider and juice makers will be available in the Blenheim Orange Bar in

the beautiful festival tent and the Fairie Orchard Cider bar.

Visitors will also be able to take part in a packed programme of talks, demonstrations, classes, walks and workshops plus there's a vegan market and over 25 stalls from Independent Oxford retailers, charities and community groups.

A further 60 market traders from across Oxfordshire and border counties will come together to form the Michaelmas Market, selling locally produced food and drink, crafts, eco homewares and gifts alongside street food specialists Feast Street.

Younger visitors can join in a series of fun games including bungee and bouncy castles as well as Michaelmas-inspired wacky races and Blenheim's famous Marlborough Maze which will become the home of dragons. Enter at your peril!

Sunningwell School of Art will host a series of harvest art workshops, there's the FarmAbility Pumpkin Patch and The Big One, a four-mile walk across the estate, will be conducted by BreathingSpace Iconic Walking Events on Saturday mornings.

On Saturday, 3 October they will be joined by a dedicated vegan and eco products market alongside special tasting and demonstrations to celebrate Apple Day, next to the estate's own orchard of Blenheim Orange apple trees.

The new festival is free to enter as part of general admission to Blenheim. For more details and to pre-book online visit [www.blenheimpalace.com](http://www.blenheimpalace.com)

# Politics & local affairs

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## **Stonesfield Parish Council**

### **From the meeting held on 1 September:**

It was noted that the posts at Blacks Gate have been installed by Blenheim. We understand these were installed for safety reasons.

**Parish maintenance:** Ian Hedges has started work on the fencing on the Common and he will look at fixing the kissing gates. Clive has also painted and repaired some of the benches.

**SAFER:** The parish council working group has enough funds to purchase the loaned SID and therefore further Parish Council funding is not needed. Contributions to funding have come from Stonesfield Garage, several residents as well as the County Councillor's priority fund.

**Grants:** Councillors agreed to approve a grant for the Playing Fields Association at £2,000.

**Planning:** The following planning applications were discussed:

Application 21/02751/HHD

Application 21/02788/HHD

Note: Please see the Parish Council Meeting Minutes 1 September 2021 for details on these applications.

**Neighbourhood Plan:** Councillors approved to move the Neighbourhood Plan forward. A team of the councillors will meet to discuss this further and a public meeting will be set for October or

November with details to be published on the Parish Council website.

**Date of next meeting:** The next full council meeting is 6 October 2021. Place and time to be confirmed. See [www.stonesfield.online](http://www.stonesfield.online) for details.

Karen East, Parish Clerk  
[clerk@stonesfieldpc.uk](mailto:clerk@stonesfieldpc.uk)  
[www.stonesfield.online](http://www.stonesfield.online)

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## **SAFER**

**Purchase of second SID:** Stonesfield residents have raised the £1,200 required to purchase the second Speed Indicator Device (SID), currently on loan. This included donations from David Miller of Stonesfield Garage and Cllr Andy Graham's priority fund, enabling the Parish Council to make the purchase of the SID.

The second SID has been on loan to SAFER from the supplier Morelock, a leading-edge traffic systems and signage company, since December 2020. The SAFER team regularly relocate both SID units, replenishing batteries and downloading speed data. This data forms part of a monthly report to the Parish Council. Securing the second SID unit, at a considerable discount, enables SAFER to continue providing feedback to drivers on their speed through the village and collect data on traffic volumes and excessive speeding.

The SAFER working group and Stonesfield Parish Council thank residents for their

generosity and support enabling the continuity of operating two SIDs and helping us reduce excessive speeding in the village.

### **Long Hanborough PC Chair Visit:**

Penelope Marcus, Chair of Long Hanborough Parish Council, met up with Mick Heduan and Paul Bates mid-August to find out about SAFER and Stonesfield's strategy to improve road safety in the village. Penelope has just taken over as Chair and wants to learn from the best practice achieved in Stonesfield. During her visit Penelope was given a demonstration of a SID and how they are used effectively to reduce speeding. Penelope is also planning to reduce the speed limit in Long Hanborough to 20mph and will be setting up speed surveys with OCC Highways to produce baseline data from which planning starts. SAFER will continue supporting Long Hanborough by sharing information and procedures as part of sharing road safety best practice in West Oxfordshire.



Penny Marcus and Mick Heduan

**Village Travel Network:** VTN project meetings resumed recently following a short break over the summer. During this period potential routes and track were identified by the original seven communities who are forming the network. I am pleased to announce that Fawler is

joining the VTN project with the aim of improving cycle safety for students who attend school in Stonesfield and Woodstock. The VTN website [www.vtn.org.uk](http://www.vtn.org.uk) has been launched and will contain maps of the agreed safe routes emerging from surveys and mapping work. If you know routes that could be used to link Stonesfield, Wootton, Glympton, Woodstock, Bladon, Long Hanborough, Combe and Fawler please send your suggestions to [m.heduan@stonesfieldpc.uk](mailto:m.heduan@stonesfieldpc.uk).

### **Community Speed Watch resumes**

**(CSW):** Thames Valley Police have announced that Community Speed Watch surveys can now resume operating within pre-pandemic procedures. SAFER is keen to get CSW off the ground again and are seeking volunteers to join our small team to run surveys in the village. We would normally run two to three surveys a month with each taking about ninety minutes. If you are interested in joining the CSW survey team, please contact Mick Heduan on [m.heduan@stonesfieldpc.uk](mailto:m.heduan@stonesfieldpc.uk).

**Winter Driving:** As the evenings get darker and colder, icy weather becomes the norm. It is wise to get yourself prepared for winter driving conditions. Advice on safe winter driving is available on the RoSPA website: [www.rospa.com/resources/hubs/winter](http://www.rospa.com/resources/hubs/winter)

Cllr Michael J Heduan MBE

SAFER (Stonesfield Parish Council Working Group)

[m.heduan@stonesfieldpc.uk](mailto:m.heduan@stonesfieldpc.uk)

[www.stonesfield.online/safer/](http://www.stonesfield.online/safer/)

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## **West Oxfordshire District Council**

### **From our District Councillor**

It has been a steep learning curve entering the District Council, but I feel confident I now have a reasonable understanding of it. This has been helped by an agreement with my colleague, Nathalie Chapple, the other District Councillor for Stonesfield and Tackley. We have decided to informally split the ward between us with Nathalie focusing on Tackley and Wootton and I, Stonesfield and Combe. By doing this we will hopefully have more time to support the Parish Councils of the respective wards.

As the summer holidays create a brief hiatus, there is little to report this month, however, I am hoping to hear more on the 20mph speed limit introduction date soon. Additionally, I intend to work with the Stonesfield Parish Council and our County Councillor to improve the safety of the narrow stretch of Pond Hill between the turnings to Pumbro and Longore for pedestrians and motorists alike.

Finally, I would encourage anyone with any queries, questions, ideas or concerns to contact me via email, I am here to support you.

Mathew Parkinson

[Mathew.parkinson@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:Mathew.parkinson@westoxon.gov.uk)

### **From our MP**

Visit to Cotswold House: I recently got the opportunity to visit the award-winning Cotswold House eating disorder in-patient unit at the Warneford Hospital. Before my visit I had already received several reports from constituents regarding the high quality, compassionate care they deliver,

and it was great for me to witness this myself.

It is a truly extraordinary care facility and my gratitude goes to all the staff and carers at Cotswold House, we are indeed very lucky to have this facility here in West Oxfordshire.

Robert Courts MP

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

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## **More news from West Oxfordshire**

### **Afghan refugee resettlement**

Councillor Michele Mead, Leader of the Council, said; "The recent events in Afghanistan, and the suffering experienced by people fleeing the country under threat of violence, make us feel thankful we live in a free, democratic society. At West Oxfordshire District Council we are committed to playing our part to support those fleeing persecution, especially when many of those Afghan families currently entering the country have supported our military over recent years. We have been working closely with partners for months to prepare for the current refugees entering the country."

Councillor Marilyn Davies, Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing, said; "We are currently working hard to identify our share of homes in the district which will work both for the families coming into our area and our local communities. The Syrian refugee programme over recent years showed how supportive and welcoming our communities are with many local groups set up to help the families looking to start a new life. To help our current effort we are looking for private landlords to come forward with 3-4 bed homes in the local

area we could use. If you think you have a house that could be used visit our website for more information at [www.westoxon.gov.uk/refugeesupport](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/refugeesupport)"

## Oxfordshire news

### Thames Valley Police - changes to front counter provision

Thames Valley Police have made changes which affect front counter services across Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire.

Thames Valley Police is working to adapt to the different ways in which people contact the police, to meet the changing needs of the diverse communities we serve and to make necessary savings. There will continue to be good geographic coverage of front counters across the Thames Valley if you need to access one.

The force is retaining front counters at Milton Keynes, Oxford, Reading, Slough, Aylesbury, High Wycombe, Abingdon, Banbury, Newbury, Loddon Valley and Maidenhead. There will be some changes to opening hours.

Front counters at Amersham, Bicester, Bracknell, HQ South in Kidlington, and Witney have now closed. These counters had been temporarily closed since March 2020 due to the global Covid-19 pandemic. If you usually attend one of these front counters, you will need to seek alternative

ways of contacting us either online or by phone. You can access several of our services on [www.thamesvalley.police.uk/](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/).

Our non-emergency number is 101. In an emergency always dial 999.

### Public Consultation

As advertised in the Oxford Times newspaper on Thursday 9 September 2021, Oxfordshire County Council is seeking your views on the proposal to introduce a 20mph speed limit throughout Stonesfield village, replacing the existing 30mph speed limit in its entirety.

The proposals are being put forward following road safety concerns raised by local residents and the Parish Council, with extensive local engagement carried out and traffic speed surveys undertaken at key points on the highway network in the area.

Details are available to view on the Council's new consultation portal [www.letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/stonesfield20mph2021](http://www.letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/stonesfield20mph2021) at County Hall, New Road, Oxford, OX1 1ND between 9am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

As stated on the notice, any objections or other representations on the proposal should be submitted in writing by **Friday 8 October 2021** to Traffic Regulation Team (Ref: CM/12.6.370) for the Corporate Director for Environment & Place, Oxfordshire County Council, County Hall, New Road, Oxford, OX1 1ND.

### STONESFIELD VOLUNTARY TRANSPORT SCHEME

Volunteer drivers are available to take you for local medical appointments, vaccinations and to the hospitals in Oxford and Banbury.

We can usually provide a lift at short notice (for an appointment the same day) but this cannot be guaranteed.

Full COVID-19 precautions are in place to ensure your safety.

There is no charge but we do welcome a donation for expenses  
**except for vaccination trips, which are free.**

Please call Viv Kendall (01993 891803) or Amanda Peters (01993 891947) to book a lift in October.

## Neighbourhood Watch

We are delighted to bring your attention to the September OUR NEWS, a monthly newsletter for all Neighbourhood Watch supporters across England and Wales. The Take Five initiative is a national campaign that offers straightforward and impartial advice to help everyone protect themselves from preventable financial fraud. This includes email deception and phone-based scams as well as online fraud – particularly where criminals impersonate trusted organisations.

Fraud poses a major threat to the UK. It's a crime that the finance industry is committed to tackling, but it's also one that requires the combined efforts of every sector, both public and private, to overcome.

**IT PAYS TO STOP AND THINK**

- 1 Never disclose security details
- 2 Don't assume an email, text or phone call is genuine
- 3 Don't be rushed
- 4 Listen to your instincts
- 5 Stay in control

TO STOP FRAUD

Details are in the Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter and online at [www.takefive-stopfraud.org.uk/](http://www.takefive-stopfraud.org.uk/)

Neighbourhood Watch Network, Central Support Team

## 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)

# Education, culture & more

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## **Stonesfield Pre School**

By the time you read this edition, the Pre School will have been open for a few weeks. Our main aim has been to settle the children into Pre School with fun activities and we now follow an 'In the Moment Planning' approach based around the individual child's interests.

This term we welcome back the families that already know us so well and a very special welcome to eight new families who have joined us this new school year.

We would also like to announce that Lizzie has returned to Pre School this term, she now joins our dedicated staff working alongside the children, which is what she really loves. Lizzie has been a very big part of Pre School life for over 20 years and has been greatly missed by children, parents and staff. Welcome back Lizzie.

If you are interested in your child attending our Pre School please contact Zena, our administrator.

Zena Rozee (898012)

stonesfieldpsad@outlook.com

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## **Stonesfield Primary School**

I am delighted to say that the new school year has started fantastically, exceeding my hopes for a return to normality. The most significant change in the updated government coronavirus guidance is that 'bubbles' are no more [they remain part of our contingency plans]. Children can mix freely: eating together, playing together

and learning together. We are one family once again. For the first time in two years our older children can buddy with our new starters in reception: helping them settle in, showing them around and initiating games at lunchtimes. Our older children love this responsibility and it makes me proud to see them developing into young leaders themselves.

We've all been inspired this month by the exploits of Emma Raducanu at the US Open – a true champion exhibiting the values we hold dear. At Stonesfield we give children a wide range of opportunities in the hope that a fuse will spark, igniting a passion that will last a lifetime. A typical week starts with pupils being wowed in our new oversubscribed science club, our young children enjoying French lessons, our year Five pupils learning the ukulele with Oxfordshire Music Service, individual guitar lessons ... and that's only Monday!

If your child is starting school next September and you are starting to think about a primary place for your child, please get in touch with our school office – we would love to show you around. Similarly, if you are new to the village, or have been home schooling your child and considering mainstream education, please come and see for yourself what our wonderful school has to offer.

Ben Treveil, Headteacher (891687)  
office.2353@stonesfield.oxon.sch.uk

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## **Stonesfield Library**

Stonesfield Library is gently returning to normal. It is now open on Mondays from 2.30-7pm and Wednesday and Thursdays from 10am-12noon. From Monday 11 October the library will return to its normal opening times, which are:

Monday	2.30-7pm
Wednesday	10am-12noon
Thursday	2.30-5pm
Saturday	10am-12noon

We look forward to seeing all our customers soon and if anyone is interested in joining the volunteers who help to run the library then please give me a call, you would be most welcome.

Mike Pollitt (891856)

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## **North Leigh History Society**

At our 5 October meeting Dr Tom Crook will be telling us the story of 'The Great Stink of 1858', when the stench from the Thames became so unbearable that it brought about new legislation to control our rivers and waterways, and raised to eminence an unlikely hero, Joseph Bazalgette. The nineteenth century was a time of great innovations and advances in public health which we still benefit from today.

On 2 November we have a talk by Frank Ledwidge about 'Enstone's Black Lancasters - Myth, Mystery or State Secret'. Are we about to discover the truth about UFOs? No more information available at present. Come and find out more at our meeting.

All meetings are currently held at 7.30pm at North Leigh Memorial Hall (OX29 6SA)

as this allows easier social distancing and greater spacing between chairs.

Members free, visitors £4. Further details are available from Diana Power (882301) or Robert Kyte at kyterobert@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Angela Kyte

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## **Combe Mill**

We will be open and in steam on Sunday 17 October, 10.00am until 5.00pm with the theme of Wood Crafts. No advanced booking is necessary, just pay on arrival.

In addition to our beam engine, small industrial engines, and collections of artefacts we have demonstrations by crafters and Mill volunteers. Blacksmiths will be working in the forge and visitors can have a go. Visitors can admire a small collection of turret clocks and many artefacts from the Victorian era. The Millie the Mill Cat trail is available to entertain younger visitors.

Takeaway light refreshments together with hot and cold drinks can be purchased from our tearoom to be enjoyed in the picnic area beside the River Evenlode. The BBQ will be in operation. Combe Mill publications, hand crafted items and ice creams are on sale from the gift shop. Visitors can try their luck on the tombola and browse a small selection of market stalls selling handcrafted items.

Check out the website for all other opening dates and information regarding the Mill [www.combemill.org](http://www.combemill.org). This is the last steaming event of the year, in what has been a very difficult time, it would be lovely to see you at the Mill

Tony Simmons



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## Nature Notes: Scattered gold

*'Thou humble flower with tattered leaves I love to see thee come and scatter gold.'*

John Clare 1832

The path into the garden is changing, our native flowers have been encouraged to grow. The unexpected stars have been a teasel, birds foot trefoil, an almost white meadow clary and a clump of flowers now about five-foot-tall partially blocking the way in. Initially getting past was easy, then the golden flowers came out attracting a myriad of insects from the neighbourhood both day and night.

The plant has been a native following the last ice age and is the national flower of the Isle of Man. Seven species of beetle, twelve species of fly, one macro moth and seven micro moths feed exclusively on ragwort.



Ragwort is a major source of nectar and pollen into the early autumn for thirty species of solitary bee, eighteen species of solitary wasp and thirty insect parasites. In all 177 species of insect visit ragwort for nectar and pollen. The problem is that ragwort can be poisonous if enough is eaten by grazing animals; for a horse to be

fatally poisoned it has to eat between 5 and 25 % of body weight. Living plants are very rarely eaten, it is the ragwort that gets into hay and forage that can be a problem. The seeds of ragwort are heavy and drop almost entirely around the plant. You can have ragwort plants on your land/garden but must take action if 'it poses a threat to the health and welfare of grazing animals and the production of feed and forage'

The project at Knepp estate, rewilding over 3500 acres for more than 15 years, has agreed with DEFRA to control ragwort on the fifty metres of land on its borders. They leave the ragwort to grow on the rest of the estate and the free ranging horses, cows, pigs and deer have had no cases of poisoning - check it out [www.knepp.co.uk/home](http://www.knepp.co.uk/home)

We need to be mindful and careful with ragwort so it can scatter gold without harm.

John Sampson

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## Hot stuff

Chutney (*chatni* in Hindi) originated in India and can be traced back to around 500BCE, the word *chatni* meaning 'to lick'. During the period the British were in India, they brought the concept of chutney and curry back home and over time mango chutney came to be regarded as the 'standard British chutney'. However, it seems that the British may have been rather late in appreciating the delights of chutney - this method of preserving fruits and spices was adopted by the Romans so perhaps chutney was once a traditional element of Stonesfield cuisine!

Here are two alternatives to the 'standard' from 'Edible Gifts', a useful book by two

New Yorkers, Claire Clifton and Martina Nicholls, which was published in 1982.

**Orange Chutney:** This goes particularly well with soft white cheese and ‘country’ bread, and with cold roast chicken or other poultry.

4 large oranges; the juice of an orange; 2 large cooking apples; 4oz stem ginger in syrup; 4 tabs currants; 1 fresh chilli, chopped; 1oz salt; freshly ground black pepper; 12oz soft brown sugar; half a teacup of honey; white wine vinegar or cider vinegar to cover.

Peel the oranges, remove the pith and pips, slice the flesh and finely chop the peel. Core and chop the apples. Drain and chop the ginger. Put the oranges, apples, orange juice, ginger, currants, chilli, salt and pepper into a saucepan. Cover and simmer until the oranges are tender. Add a little more orange juice if the mixture seems to be drying out. Add the sugar and honey and sufficient vinegar to cover the fruit. Mix well and boil gently, stirring from time to time until the mixture thickens which should take about an hour. Ladle into sterilised jars and cap with plastic lined lids.



Filling the store cupboard

**Yvonne’s Hot Apple Chutney:** This recipe was provided by someone called Yvonne(!) who grew up in South India. It is very hot and an ideal accompaniment for curries.

2lbs of Bramley or other cooking apples; 2 tabs salt; 1 whole head of garlic, peeled; a 1-inch piece of fresh ginger, peeled; 5froz vegetable oil; 2 tabs mustard seeds; 1 tsp fenugreek seeds; 15 peppercorns; 2 tsps cumin; 1 tsp chilli powder; 1 tsp turmeric; 3 or 4 fresh green chillies, seeded and chopped; 5froz vinegar; 16oz sugar.

Peel, core and slice the apples, sprinkle them with salt and set aside. Finely grate half the garlic and ginger and then finely slice the remainder. Heat the oil, put in all the ginger and garlic and fry until the garlic just starts to brown. Add the mustard and fenugreek seeds, peppercorns, cumin, chilli, turmeric and chillies. Fry gently for a few minutes and then add the apples, vinegar and sugar. Stir well and cook on a low heat for about 30 minutes. Cool and bottle.

Provided they are bottled and stored appropriately, chutneys will keep for several weeks so they are a good solution for surplus fruit and will be welcome gifts for ‘foodie’ friends.

Trisha Williams

# Clubs, societies & sport

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## **An Outdoor Gym for All**

We are very lucky in Stonesfield to have access to such a beautiful green space and facilities for football, cricket, tennis, and not forgetting the play park for the Under 12s. Coupled with the regular activities at the Sports and Social Club, it makes the playing fields a well-used and vital community hub. The Playing Field Committee drives to make improvements that benefit our whole community.

One of our committee members put forward a proposal that would benefit the health and fitness of all our residents; the provision of a 'free to use' outdoor gymnasium. A plan was hatched to start looking at equipment and funding options for the provision of an all-weather, multi-generational and multi-ability outdoor gymnasium for the 1,700 residents of Stonesfield, to be sited on the Playing Fields with open access for all residents

including children, older residents and those with additional needs.

**Local Community Impact:** Stonesfield residents have no immediate access to a gymnasium. Outdoor gymnasiums are hugely popular worldwide, they promote good fitness and well-being for the whole community. Not only do they improve fitness, they can reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and strengthen community links through activity. Outdoor fitness equipment is perfect for parks and green spaces. There are 3 core exercise types vital to the health of the community: cardiovascular, strength training, stretching / flexibility. It provides so much more than just a 'free to use' fitness solution.

Park gym equipment can be used free by young people, adults, seniors, people with disabilities, personal trainers and bootcamps. It offers a full body workout

Example of park gym equipment



with a range of equipment to get the heart rate up and your muscles working.

Teams benefit from access to an outdoor gym near playing fields. They can warm up or cool down before a football match or as part of an enhanced fitness training programme. The Strikers have already expressed keen interest in using such a facility. Young people can get outdoors and challenge themselves on the gym, using equipment that allows you to set the level of difficulty and resistance. Finally, where a gym is located adjacent to a playpark, parents can exercise whilst supervising their children.

**The Way Forward:** Once established the gym will be maintained by the Playing Fields Committee, with equipment and installation provided by a specialist company. The vital task now is fundraising, we have been quoted £25,000 for the provision and installation of the range of equipment we would like. The committee is working hard to source funding from local organisations such as West Oxon District Council. We have just successfully secured a grant of £5,000 from Blenheim Bursary so we are on our way to making this happen. Over the next few weeks, we will drive forward with our fundraising by creating a crowdfunding page, and we hope the local community gets behind us. An Outdoor Gym for All is the goal and together we can make it happen. Look out for updates in The Slate and on the Stonesfield Facebook and Nextdoor pages on how you can contribute and make a difference that benefits all Stonesfield residents.

Fiona Dangerfield  
Stonesfield Playing Field Committee  
fionadangerfield204@gmail.com

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## 1<sup>st</sup> Stonesfield Scout Group

After the summer break, Scouting has restarted in Stonesfield. The 1st Stonesfield Scout Group has been meeting throughout September at the site of the new scout hut. There are three thriving groups with around 100 young people getting involved with the outside activities, including jam making, river clearing, and team building exercises. The scouts have been on camp, and it was great to be back seeing them cooking and running their own camp at Youlbury.



More recently, the Duck Race was a big success, helping fund the day to day running of the group, replacing old equipment and going towards the building of our new hut. On this note, huge congratulations to Lyra, Chloe, Gabi and Jasmine for their stunning designs for the hoarding boards around the building site on the Scout Land in the woods.

Whilst we have your attention, can you help build a base for 1st Stonesfield Scout Group?

We have a target of £175,000 to rebuild our scout hut for the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, as well as local community groups. This is the big project for the foreseeable future, and one we hope the whole community can be involved with. Grant



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## **The Stonesfield Players – new production**

It seems an awfully long time since our last public performance, which was the pantomime we staged in February 2020, but we haven't been idle over the last 18 months and now have plans for a production to be staged in November.

**In our Defence** has been co-written by David Lines and Becki Sherlaw-Johnson and is loosely based on David's father's experiences in the Royal Artillery on the home front during the second world war. Combining military action, romance and comedy, and with music especially composed for this production, it should offer something for everyone.

The performance will take the form of a Radio Play broadcast (those of you who came to see *Shadow of the Desert* will be familiar with the format) and will be performed in the Village Hall to a limited audience to ensure adequate social distancing can be maintained.

Production dates: Friday 12 and Saturday 13 November

Curtain up 7.30pm

Entrance will only be by pre-booked tickets (£10) available through our box office so if you'd like to book please contact Andrew Tacon:

Hope to see you in November.

Andrew Tacon (891217)

The Stonesfield Players

Andrew.tacon@outlook.com

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## **Stonesfield Cricket Club**

The 2021 cricket season came to an end recently with success for both Stonesfield teams.



Moon over cricket pitch

Despite the early season rain the first XI were in contention for the league midway through, eventually finishing a respectable third for their first season in the Cherwell league division 5. The second XI went one better gaining promotion with a second-place finish in division 8.

The club also successfully hosted the Andrew Crawford cup during the season, a Friday night competition in memory of former player, groundsman and chairman. Well done to all involved and congratulations to winners Oxford and Bletchingdon Nondescripts CC.

Dates for the club AGM will be advertised in the social club very soon and moving into season 2022 the club is always on the lookout for new players, committee members and volunteers to help with ground maintenance and coaching.

George Rednap

gredknap@hotmail.co.uk

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## Sports & Social Club

It has been a busy few months at the Sports and Social Club (SSC) and we want to thank everyone for their support over the summer.

During lockdown Ben and Sam were busy renovating the interior of the club and we've managed to incorporate some lovely pieces of Stonesfield history including the bar bell from the Black Head.

We certainly hit the ground running after lockdown. We showed the Euros and England getting to the final and then regular Friday evening cricket with BBQ's which were all very well attended. We are now hosting a regular quiz and crib, darts, and pool are starting up again.

Over the summer we held several large events. These included the Village Idiots fundraiser in aid of Cancer Research that was attended by over 300 people and a charity cricket match in aid of Sobell

30 Aug 2021: Bike event at SSC



Photo: Colin Morris  
Morrisphotos.co.uk

House. Following these events SSC has made donations to both these charities and we hope the events can be repeated in the future.

Now that the summer is a distant memory and Christmas is less than 100 days away (sorry!) we have turned our attention to making some improvements outside. Over the next few months, we will be building a new patio and renovating the existing outside space with new fencing and lighting so that we are ready for the spring.

If you're interested in joining SSC it is only £7.50 a year. Just pop in and see Ben or Sam and follow us on Facebook for information about events.

Stonesfield Sports and Social Club

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## Stonesfield Football Club

So, here we go again! The football season for 2021-22 has just got underway and every month this report will detail the trials and tribulations of life within the football club, including scores, gossip, rumours, transfers and the much sought after but always fully deserved Fredo Award, as our lads do their level best to bring silverware to our beloved village. Both our teams play in the Witney and District FA, with the Firsts in the Premiership and the Reserves in Division 4. At the time of writing, the Firsts have yet to start their games so their dreams of going into the season unbeaten are still very much intact.

Unfortunately, the same can't be said of our Reserves! They've played their first match and suffered an utter humiliation at the hands of one of the new teams in the league, Hatherop Res from Gloucestershire. Now, I know ANY team

can lose 6-0 but to do it at home in the first league game of the season, with the massed ranks of the Stonesfield support watching, against the new boys in the league, is not a good look. My guess is that they simply suffered from stage fright, so maybe all that can be said is “the only way is up” from this point onwards (mmmm ..... hopefully).

Fredo awards are never handed out for failure and this month is no exception.

The teams train every Wednesday evening at the playing field so if you are keen to join in then I’m sure the lads will give you a warm welcome. You never know, YOU could become a village hero and win one of our monthly Fredo Awards!

Tom Flanigan (891979)

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## **Stonesfield Tennis Club**

As the main summer tennis season draws to a close, I am pleased to report that Stonesfield managed to pick up a bit of silverware by winning the Wychwood League. This is a competition between 6 local clubs (Ramsden, Charlbury, Moreton in Marsh, Bourton on the Water, Chipping Campden and Stonesfield) that takes place over the course of the Summer and has been running for over 20 years. It never happened in 2020 and this season the clubs were split into two groups to reduce the number of fixtures and make travelling easier in these Covid times. This seemed to suit Stonesfield who finished with the most points from the games played.

This league competition rounds off with a one-day cup tournament, which Stonesfield hosted this year on possibly the best day of the Summer in early September with all three courts in action. In a closely

fought battle Charlbury just edged out Chipping Campden to take the trophy. We also organised an intra-club doubles competition over the course of the Summer which saw 10 pairs competing for the trophy. The final has yet to be played.



More generally the tennis club is on the up with great playing facilities generating membership at a level not seen for many years; but there’s plenty of room for more members. We are also pleased to have secured the services of a coach who has now been with us for two seasons so if there’s anybody out there who fancies giving tennis a go for the first time, or is picking up a very rusty racquet and would like to organise some coaching please give me a shout.

Although Summer is coming to an end the courts remain open all year round and are usable in most weather conditions so there’s really no need to hang up the racquet until next Spring.

Hope to see you on the courts some time.

Andrew Tacon

[andrew.tacon@outlook.com](mailto:andrew.tacon@outlook.com)



# 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)

**Rector:** Rev Ralph Williamson,  
[rector@scbenefice.org](mailto:rector@scbenefice.org), 01993 891872

**Churchwardens:** Lindsey Sellar and Rachel Severn  
[stonesfield@stonesfieldparishchurch.org](mailto:stonesfield@stonesfieldparishchurch.org)

For any enquiries or help, including pastoral support, please do contact us.

### **From the Rector:**

In October, the life of parish churches up and down the land is dominated by the wonderful experience of Harvest Festival celebrations. There can be few occasions which are so warmly evocative of the life of the church in popular culture and imagination as these services and events, in which the golden memory of our (or other people's) childhood experience is blended with Vicar of Dibley images of children heaping vegetables around the altar, the harvest loaf lovingly positioned in pride of place, and women and men, fresh faced from work on the farm or the allotment, singing the joyful harvest hymns we have always known. Amazingly, much of this charming scene is still true in Britain, and is, for many people, their experience of the Parish Church at its very best. Harvest Festival is part of our cultural heritage, and one of the points in the year where less regular churchgoers might come

into church too, especially with their children or grandchildren. In rural churches and also in urban ones, and in services in schools and halls, toddler groups, school children and regular churchgoers sing "Cauliflowers Fluffy", "All good gifts around us" and "We plough the fields and scatter," while bringing their gifts for a good cause - food for sharing at the local foodbank or homeless shelter, or monetary donations to feed hungry people we will never meet, as an expression of our gratitude for what we have been given.

The last time I was a priest in a rural community at Harvest time was twenty-four years ago in Herefordshire, when I remember celebrating the harvest in one of our parish pubs, and also a Harvest Supper where one of the women serving the meal delighted in shouting out, "The Vicar wants stuffing!" to the amusement of everyone in the hall. I have greatly enjoyed riding and walking beside combine harvesters in recent weeks, and have greatly enjoyed the generous produce of local allotments, neighbours' gardens, and hedgerows, and I am looking forward to this year's celebrations very much - the All Age Worship Harvest Celebration in Stonesfield on 3 October and the Harvest Festival Service and Lunch at Combe on the 10th.

Thanksgiving for the bounty of nature, and the productivity of human skill and labour on farms, as well as in the fishing industry, is an ancient feature of religious celebrations. In Judaism, temple worship

used offerings of grain and oil as well as animal sacrifice, and these elements are still included symbolically in our weekly worship in church, where we share bread and wine as tokens of the life of Jesus who is called both 'Bread of Life' and 'Lamb of God.' Thankfulness for our daily bread, and for so much more, is at the very heart of our worship, and our gospels are full of the beautiful images which Jesus drew from the farming and fishing communities around him, such as the Parable of the Sower. But not far below the surface, both in our scripture, and in worship, are the powerful Christian themes of Justice and of Love, and it is these which lie at the heart of our Harvest celebrations too. Thanksgiving for what we have received cannot be separated from the call for justice in our world today, where many still go hungry while the insatiable appetites of richer nations like ours drives the destruction of forests, and pollution of sea and land, to produce meat or palm oil, and to transport exotic foods from poor communities to our supermarket shelves. Thanksgiving for what we have received also inspires us to reach out in love to people who are less fortunate than ourselves, and whether we give a tin of baked beans or a large donation to charity, Harvest Festival allows us to express our gratitude both to God and to other women and men for enabling us to enjoy food security and such overwhelming bounty. I wish you all a very happy Harvest time.

Rev Ralph Williamson, Rector

### Services in October/November

For the latest information please go to [www.stonesfieldparishchurch.org](http://www.stonesfieldparishchurch.org)

### Sunday 3 October [Trinity 18]

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

### Sunday 10 October [Trinity 19]

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [BCP/said]
11am	Combe	Harvest Festival (Parish Communion)
11am	Stonesfield	Morning Prayer

### Sunday 17 October [Trinity 20]

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

### Sunday 24 October [Last Sunday after Trinity]

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

### Sunday 31 October [All Saints]

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

### Wednesdays

9.30am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion (every week)
11am	Combe	Morning Prayer (13th and 27th October)

### Thursdays

7.30pm-9pm Housegroup. All welcome – for details please contact Linda Soderberg at [churchwarden@combeparishchurch.org](mailto:churchwarden@combeparishchurch.org)

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## Stonesfield Methodist Church

### Services for October

- 3 Oct 11am Mr Eddie Fowler  
10 Oct 11am The Reverend Richard Donoghue  
Holy Communion Service  
17 Oct 10.30am United Service at Charlbury Methodist Church (No Service at Stonesfield)  
24 Oct 11am Mr Andrew Maisey  
31 Oct 11am Mrs Margaret Broadberry

### The World Day of Prayer

The Service will be held here at the Methodist Church on Friday 1 October at 2pm. Do come and hear about the Islands of Vanuatu and its courageous people. Everyone is very welcome.

### Autumn Glory

Recently, on a warm and sunny day, I had the good fortune to visit Highclere Castle, the fictional home of TV's Downton Abbey. Inside there was a good deal to admire and enjoy, but the real splendour for me came later when I wandered through the beautiful gardens. One wild area named 'The wood of goodwill' was just my heaven, with its winding pathways, rays of every colour, bees, butterflies and plenty of peace!

*'On the glorious splendour of Your majesty and on Your wondrous works, I will meditate.'* (Psalm 145: 5)

Kathleen Albért (891733)



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## Roman Catholic Worship

### Thank God

Autumn is the traditional season in the West to give thanks for the harvest safely gathered in; celebrated in festivities, fairs and feasts. The giving of thanks reflects our fear about the uncertainties of life, with unknown and uncertain circumstances over which we have little or no control. We see in both the Old and New Testaments much giving of thanks for disasters averted, wishes granted and hopes fulfilled. We tend to live now more in a world of entitlement, where we have control over much of our lives, although the pandemic has reminded us of the limits of our control. We are forgetting, despite our material achievements, it is gratitude for and to Christ for his endless gift of our salvation that needs our thanks.

*‘And on that day you will say, "I will give thanks to thee O Lord, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, and you did comfort me’* (Isaiah 12:4-5)

*‘Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.’* (James 1:17)

St Paul in particular encourages, in his letters to the various struggling Christian communities, to give thanks and to celebrate the great gift from Christ of redemption:

*‘And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts because it is for this that you were called together in one body. Always be thankful. Let the Word of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts*

*sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God and whatever you say or do, let it be in the name of the Lord Jesus, in thanksgiving to God the Father through him.’* (Colossians 3:15-17)

*‘Sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs among yourselves, singing and chanting to the Lord in your hearts, always and everywhere giving thanks to God who is our Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.’* (Ephesians 5:19-20)

*‘Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, his mercy endures forever.’* (Psalm 118)

Let’s count our blessings and thank God.

### Holy Mass

**Sunday Mass** at 9.15am. No need to book, but please wear a mask if you can.

### Weekday Mass times

Monday/Tuesday: 9.30am

Wednesday: 7pm (followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament)

Thursday: 9.30am

Friday: 9.30am (followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament)

### 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.

Confession by arrangement with Fr. Clive as below

Fr Tony Joyce can be contacted  
on: holytrinityrchippy@gmail.com or

Telephone: 01608 642703

For parish updates, any further  
information and further support,  
www.stteresaschurch-charlbury.com/ or  
contact Fr. Clive Dytor:  
chair.stteresaschurchcharlbury@  
gmail.com

Roman Catholic Community in Stonesfield  
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## **New Church thought**

As the UK moves tentatively back towards  
normal life after 18 months of decidedly  
un-normal life, I hope we've learned some  
things that will help 'normal' be better.

My own appreciation for humankind has  
grown by seeing the hugely varied groups  
and individuals who've given so much time  
and care to support other people. It is  
humbling, and inspiring.

'We are born for no purpose but to be  
useful to the community we live in and to  
our neighbour as long as we are alive in the  
world, and to serve at the Lord's good  
pleasure in the [next] world.' E.  
Swedenborg, Secrets of Heaven

Dale Morris (898210)

## **Items for Sale**

### **Chesterfield sofa**

6 foot Deep buttoned 3 cushioned dark Brown leather classic Chesterfield in excellent condition (removable feet) £120

Tel: 07846 169641 / 07815 805118

# Memories of summer



If you have photographs of Stonefield that you would like to see published then please do send them in to [Slate-Pub@stonesfield.online](mailto:Slate-Pub@stonesfield.online). We will do our best to include them.

Please ensure you include your name, photo title and a description.



# SAMSWEET

**SPORTS MASSAGE  
STRENGTH & CONDITIONING**

## Sam Sweet

BSc (Hons), ITEC Level 5,  
Member of Sports Massage  
Association

**For an appointment  
please contact:**

**m: 07818 575957**

**e: [ss.sportsmassage@outlook.com](mailto:ss.sportsmassage@outlook.com)**

## Andy Gillam Ironworks

**Mobile Welder and Blacksmith**



Mobile: 07443596324  
Home: 01993898123  
Email: [andygillam27@outlook.com](mailto:andygillam27@outlook.com)  
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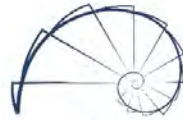
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---

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---

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- Halloween at Blenheim Palace . . . . . 22nd - 31st October
- The Christmas Market . . . . . 19th November - 19th December 2021
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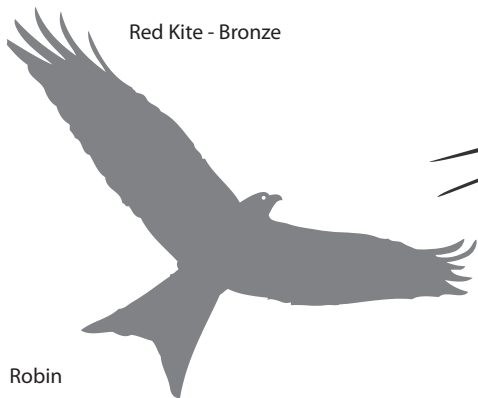
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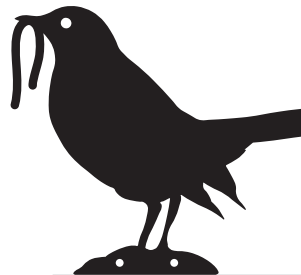
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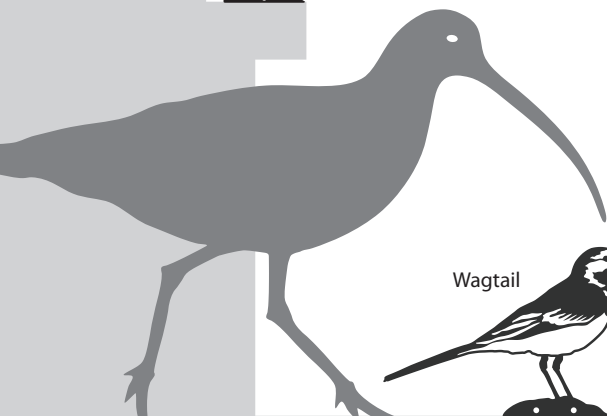
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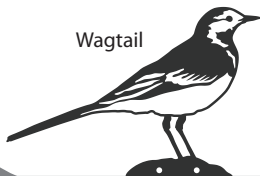
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