



Issue No 520 December 2021 / January 2022



In Our Defence

Real live theatre again, in our own Village Hall... it was a real treat. Radio plays (this was the third by David Lines and Becki Sherlaw-Johnson) are a comparatively simple way to tell a story, compared to a full-blown play: no set, minimal costumes (terrific use of hats, helmets and headscarves to evoke 1941 wartime Britain), live sound effects in full view (e.g. Jenny tromping in a box of gravel to denote characters walking home from the pub – very entertaining!). They particularly suit Covid times (hooray for Zoom); this play took almost a year to actually reach the stage.

In Our Defence was full of real events and fictional characters. Several of David's friends said afterwards that they'd heard him tell of those events, actually experienced by his father as a member of the Royal Artillery: cottage roofs being blown off in 'friendly fire', daily visits by a lone Messerschmidt that seemed to purposefully avoid hitting the town with his single dropped bomb, gunners

using new big guns but having no ammunition....

Several new faces were on stage, and all the actors were convincing characters, with well-practised regional accents. The specially-written incidental music between 'scenes', performed by Lines Up (a specially-formed band), evoked the period as well as the changing moods throughout the play. There was comedy, there was tension, there were explosions, there was grief. The believable plot-line was cleverly developed – and, despite Lady A's snobby disapproval, it ended with satisfied gunners and a very happy officer and female mechanic.

Though just listening *was* an option, watching the people on that stage really helped to bring the radio play alive. The entire cast and crew pulled off a great performance – they told, very effectively, a cracking good story!

Dale Morris

Disclaimer

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

Articles are solely the responsibility the writers and their opinions do not necessarily accord with those of the editors or publishers.

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

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

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

Do you want to advertise?

For boxed ads please email **slate-ads@stonesfield.online** for full details of availability, sizes, requirements and cost (which start at £3 per month).

Line ads: £2.00 per 30 words.

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

Line ads can also be delivered by hand to:

Diane & Paul Bates, Waterloo Barn, Laughton Hill, Stonesfield, OX29 8DY.

All advertisements must be paid for in advance.

Publishers

Diane & Paul Bates,
Waterloo Barn, Laughton Hill,
Stonesfield, OX29 8DY
(898841)
slate-pub@stonesfield.online

Editor for Feb issue

Dale Morris
(898210)
slate@stonesfield.online

Copy:

Deadline for next issue 15 Jan

Please email copy to
slate@stonesfield.online
or contact the Editor.

Editor

Dale Morris
(898210)
slate@stonesfield.online

Printer

Windrush Press, Witney

©TheStonesfieldSlate 2021

Advertising:

Deadline for next issue 10 Jan

Advertisements to
slate-ads@stonesfield.online

Current and past copies of the *Slate* are available at www.stonesfield.online

Dates for your diary

December

1,8,15	Gatehouse Pilates	Village Hall	9.30–10.30am
1	Parish Council meeting	St James' Centre	7pm
1,2,8,15,16,22,23	HIIT class	Village Hall	7.15–8.15pm
1,8,15	Folkdancing	Village Hall	8–10pm
2,9,16	Book Break	Stonesfield Library	12.30–2pm
2,6,9,13,16	Taekwondo	Village Hall	5.30–6.30pm
3,10,17	Baby & Toddler Group	Village Hall	10–11.30am
4	Christmas coffee & croissants	St James' Centre	9–11am
4	Community Café, Preschool	Village Hall	9–12noon
5	Christmas Market	Village Hall	12noon–5pm
7,14	Zumba	Village Hall	7–8pm
7,14	STRONG Nation HIIT class	Village Hall	8.15–9.15pm
11	Scout Car Wash	Stonesfield School	8am–12noon
11	Quiz!	SSSC	8pm
13	Gardening Club social/quiz	St James' Centre	7.30pm
14	Witney Round Table Santa Sleigh	from village shop	6pm
17	Scout Bingo	Village Hall	eyes down 6 for 7pm
21	Carers Café	St James' Centre	10am–12noon

January

3,6,10,13,17	Taekwondo	Village Hall	5.30–6.30pm
4,11,18,25	Zumba	Village Hall	7–8pm
4,11,18,25	STRONG Nation HIIT class	Village Hall	8.15–9.15pm
5	WOC Choir	St James' Centre	7.30–9.30pm
5,6,12,13,19	HIIT class	Village Hall	7.15–9.15pm
6,13,20,27	Book Break	Stonesfield Library	12.30–2pm
8	Community café, PWYF Lunch	Village Hall	12.30–2pm
16	Pop-up Tea & Christingle Service	St James's Church	4pm
20,24,27,31	Taekwondo	Village Hall	5.30–6.30pm
20,26,27	HIIT class	Village Hall	7.15–9.15pm

Season's Greetings from the Slate Team



The Ridings, January 2021

Notices & news

Season's Greetings

On behalf of my Dad, Ron Evins, I would like to wish all his friends in Stonesfield and those working for the NHS, Emergency Services and Care Homes, Peace, Love, Health and Happiness this Christmas and throughout the coming year as we all continue to live with Covid19.

Stay safe and well.

John Evins (Witney)

I would like to wish everyone Season's Greetings and a healthy, happy New Year. I will be sending a donation to Sobell House Hospice instead of sending Christmas cards.

Judy Oliver

Phil, Tina, Curt and Donna would like to wish all our family and friends a very peaceful, happy Christmas and healthy New Year 2022. Our thoughts are especially with those that have lost loved ones in this difficult year we have all had.

We will be making a donation to Sobell House Hospice Charity.

The Slatter family

Frank Hall

We would like to thank all the many people who have sent their condolences following Dad's death. The messages we received from everyone were so lovely and are helping to make this difficult time a little better.

Frank's family

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who so kindly sent messages, flowers, cards and phone calls on hearing the almost sudden death of Frank.

Frank was well known in Stonesfield and made great friends easily. The words of comfort and sympathy meant so much to me.

I would also like to say thanks to those who remember Mary (our sister) still living in Woodstock.

A wonderful family man, a much beloved brother sadly missed by many.

Marion

Pasada - A Mexican Christmas tradition

Booking now open!

Mary and Joseph (knitted by loving hands) plan to be travelling through Stonesfield with different families each day from 1 to 24 December. Will yours be one of the households to host them? Spaces still available. Please sign up at stableyardalison@gmail.com.

The idea is that Mary and Joseph arrive at teatime on 1 December with one family, and are handed to a different family at teatime the next day. During their day, each family takes Mary and Joseph along to any family activity and takes a photo to send (with permission) to the church via rector@scbenefice.org. The photos will be displayed in church. Each host family

repeats this pattern, until, and including, 24 December.

Everyone is invited to come to church for our special services at Christmas, and **especially our Crib Service at 3.30pm on Christmas Eve.**

Everyone, especially all the families who have taken part as hosting the Holy Family, will be invited to celebrate Mary and Joseph's village journey at a special Pop-up Tea and candlelit Christingle Celebration/Service on Sunday 16 January 2022 at 4pm. Any family who would like to make a small collection for the Children's Society will be invited to take a special box from church in readiness for the Christingle Celebration service.

Remembrance service at the Memorial Cross

Clive Sutton (below) photographed on his way to laying a poppy wreath at the Remembrance Service at the Memorial Cross on Sunday 14 November, as all of the Scouts, Brownies and Beavers look on. The late Frank Hall was missed by everybody – God rest his soul.

Paul Albért (891733)



Christmas Coffee and Croissants

Saturday 4 December 9–11am

Do come to the St James' Centre for coffee and croissants (or mince pies if you prefer) on Saturday 4 December, from 9 to 11am. There will be cake and gift stalls, and plenty of festive spirit!

Organised by the Parish Church, all the money raised will be given to Cecily's Fund (our own local charity which makes education possible for orphaned and vulnerable Zambian children).

Reverse Advent Calendar

It's not too late to get involved in this year's reverse advent calendar. It's really simple - download our reverse advent calendar guide (www.backthewhitehorse.com/news/reverse-advent-calendar), wrap an empty box in festive paper and from the last week in November add the daily suggestion on the calendar to the box. You can mix it up, include something you like to eat at Christmas, but please don't add perishables and avoid products with nuts/ alcohol.

If you let us know you're taking part (susan@backthewhitehorse.com) we'll arrange to collect your box at the beginning of w/c 20 December so that Stonesfield Mutual Aid (www.stonesfield.online/covid-19-information/) can deliver them with their usual discretion to those in need in and around the village by Christmas Eve.

An Appeal to Neighbours

For a medium-sized village, Stonesfield has a lot of dogs. We are happy to take advantage of the good dog-walking all around. But many dogs (and other animals) are severely affected by fireworks. I wonder if it would be possible for anyone planning a fireworks party (no matter how brief) to post a prior warning of time and place on the Stonesfield Nextdoor website? This would allow those of us with terrified animals to take timely precautions.

Beth Fisher, Peaks Lane (891735)

New Stonesfield diary

The village website now has a 'long term' diary of events, accessible from the village website home page www.stonesfield.online

Whilst the monthly 'Dates for your Diary' schedule is published in *The Slate*, this diary allows everyone to see what is proposed/confirmed months in advance. This is the online equivalent of the old paper diary that used to be kept in the village shop. It is hoped clubs and societies can check before setting a date for an event, to help avoid clashes and to aid collaboration/planning.

This calendar is open to all Stonesfield clubs and societies to record their events or activities in Stonesfield. If your club / society wishes to be able to show its events or activities, then please contact webeditor@stonesfield.online. You will then be given a link so you can update the diary yourself.

Charlbury Christmas Trees

We will be opening this year to sell Christmas Trees as follows:

Open 2 weekends only – December 4th & 5th & December 11th & 12th
Opening hours 9.30 – 4.00pm

Trees up to and including 6/7 foot – this year we can only offer pre-cut trees which we have had to buy in. We do have lots of our own young trees growing, but not yet in sufficient numbers at these heights to be cut for you.

Trees 7/8 foot and above – you can choose a growing tree and have it cut and take away on the day.

Please check for updates on: www.charlbury.info



Halcyon Honey Farm
Woodstock Road, Charlbury, OX7 3ET
Tel: 01608 810260



Village Hall News

We want to say a big Thank You to our lovely community for supporting our events. In November we hosted the Craft Fayre, the Scouts Community Cafe, as well as the Stonesfield Players production 'In Our Defence', which could never have gone ahead without the help and attendance of our locals and those further afield.

The Pottery Place will be joining Stonesfield Baby & Toddlers on Friday 3 Dec at 10am. There will be a variety of items to choose from including mugs, plates and baubles. If you would like to do some printing on pottery then please email them directly on stonesfieldbabyandtoddlers@gmail.com and they can send you an order form!

I am so pleased to say that the community cafe has had a good take up, with upcoming cafes being Stonesfield Preschool running on 4 December 9–12, and Stonesfield Mutual Aid on 8 January 2022! The next available spot for the Community Cafe is April so if you are a local group in need of fundraising that would like to use our facilities, please do get in contact!

If you are a local artist and would like to display some of your artwork with your contact details for interested buyers, we would love to offer space in our hall and increase the reach of your work.

Our Xmas Market Event this year falls on Sunday 5 December 12–5pm, so please join us for a wintery festive shopping experience with lots of beautiful gift ideas for your loved ones.

As a location for a village defibrillator, we are keen to run another Defibrillator Training Session to make sure that should

it need to be used, it is done properly by someone who knows how to use it. If you are a group organiser, first aider, carer or just want to be prepared please do let us know so that we can organise training for you.

With the New Year looming, many of us are thinking about how we can make next year better than this one, and what New Years Resolutions we need to make. If fitness is your thing, do think about the fitness classes held at the hall. We have Taekwondo, Zumba, HIIT, Pilates and Folk Dancing running regularly so that should be a good kick start to the new year!

If you have skills in DIY, we are also looking to put together a Volunteer Maintenance Team, to help us make the Village Hall look more modern and beautiful. If you think you are up to the challenge, and have some free time available to help with a community project please do get in touch.

Jacqueline Carthew (898919)

Secretary & Booking Clerk, Village Hall
stonesfieldvh@gmail.com
facebook.com/stonesfieldvillagehall

Small Business Saturday

4 December 2021

'Small Business Saturday UK is a grassroots, non-commercial campaign, which highlights small business success and encourages consumers to 'shop local' and support small businesses in their communities.' (Small Business Saturday website.)

Not only does shopping locally help individuals within our community, and therefore our local economy, to thrive, there's also an important environmental

benefit. Shopping locally for locally produced work, or goods, means we each contribute to the reduction of emissions generated when goods are produced, transported and delivered from further afield.

When I had the idea for submitting this piece to *The Slate* (unfortunately, only a few days before the copy deadline), I hoped to include a local artist, producer, and small business listing... But, as we have so many fantastic local shopping opportunities, I didn't have time to pull such an extensive list together (and check it with all included) for publication in print. Next year, I'll start working on it in September!

Instead, please do revisit the listing produced for the October 2020 Slate (still available online on the Stonesfield website, www.stonesfield.online), pop up to the Christmas Fayre being held in the Village Hall on Sunday 5 December, and browse the adverts at the back of this edition, and previous editions, of *The Slate*.

Also, for those of you on facebook who follow the "Stonesfield" page (www.facebook.com/Stonesfield) and/or those who follow the Stonesfield community posts on NextDoor (www.nextdoor.co.uk), on Saturday 4 December I will publish a list (with links) to as many Stonesfield artists, producers and small businesses as I can find! (If I miss any, please do add them in the comments.)

Happy small business Christmas shopping!

Jess Huband

Pay-What-You-Feel Light Lunch

On Saturday 8 January, 12.30–2pm, we'll be offering a homemade seasonal soup with bread on the side, plus a sweet treat. We won't have a price list. Instead, we'll be running on the 'pay-what-you-feel principle'. That means you choose how much you pay for your lunch based on how you feel—it's entirely up to you to decide what that means. The Village Hall is kindly sponsoring the space for this event and any profits we do make will be donated to Stonesfield Mutual Aid to support their ongoing work.

Our aim is to create an event for all to enjoy, regardless of their experiences, circumstances, or background. We're hoping to provide a communal and warm space where anyone can meet over simple, nutritious, food. It would help enormously if you could let us know you're coming so we can estimate numbers to avoid running out!

susan@backthewhitehorse.com

Five easy actions for wildlife & the climate

It's clear that the climate and ecological crises are intimately linked. Thriving habitats rich in wildlife and nature capture carbon, while degraded habitats are much less able to absorb and store greenhouse gases. To find solutions to the climate crisis, we need to see them as a single issue.

Happily, even seemingly small actions can have a cumulative, positive benefit for our local environment. Here are five things we can all consider doing to make our natural

environment a better place, helping wildlife thrive and capturing carbon too.

Leave some space for nature to run wild. Leaving an area of a farm, a village green space, or a garden unmanaged and ‘untidy’ can help a surprising variety of wildlife to thrive. ‘Weeds’ like thistles provide a bountiful source of nectar for insects and seeds for finches, and nettles are a favoured food plant for numerous butterflies including the peacock, red admiral and comma. Long, rank grass will provide cover for small mammals like voles and shrews, which in turn might attract the attention of weasels and kestrels. Research has shown that mown grass absorbs a negligible amount of CO₂ compared with wilder, thriving grasslands. So by letting nature run a little wilder, you are not only helping our wildlife, you are also helping capture that bit more carbon dioxide too.

Dig ponds. Large or small, they all provide vital habitat for aquatic insects, plants and amphibians. It can be very surprising to find even the smallest of ponds supporting dragonflies and spawning frogs. Over the course of the 20th century, the intensification of land use resulted in the loss of a huge number of ponds across the British landscape, falling from an estimated 800,000 to just 200,000.

As well as providing habitat for wildlife, recent research has shown that newly created, maturing ponds capture up to 30 times the carbon of many other habitats, including woodlands. Imagine the climate change benefits of replacing all those lost ponds.

Provide some dead wood in your local environment. In the modern world

we are trained to tidy up our woodlands and parks. But fallen trees are actually valuable parts of our ecosystem. They take a long time to decompose and provide a very valuable and sustained food source for the vast communities of so-called saproxylic invertebrates that feed on decaying wood.

So before you reach for the chainsaw, why not think a little creatively? If you have to fell a tree, could you leave some or all of it safely where it falls? In a garden you could make a ‘loggery’ by partially burying a group of cut hardwood logs in a quiet corner. You just might attract stag beetles, whose larvae feed on the wood for up to seven years before emerging as magnificent adults.

Make a compost heap if you don’t already have one. Even if you’re not an avid gardener, a compost heap is a sustainable way to deal with any green waste, and slowly decomposing vegetation is perfect habitat for the tiny detritivores that are the building blocks of any food chain. If you are really lucky, the warmth of your compost heap might also attract slow worms or even egg-laying grass snakes.

Compost heaps have come under fire in the past for producing CO₂. And it is true that as microbes break down compost on your compost heap, they do release carbon dioxide. But if you look at the issue in the round, compost heaps in your garden may actually be helping rather than hurting the climate. Ultimately, your organic waste has to go somewhere, and when you factor in the carbon footprint of transporting and processing it, composting in your garden starts to look like the more climate-friendly option. This is compounded if you use your compost as fertilizer, rather than buying

manufactured fertilizer with its own carbon footprint.

We all need to cut down on organic waste: around a third of all food produced is wasted, for example, with a staggering carbon footprint to match. But composting the organic waste we do produce and reusing it as fertiliser is a wildlife-friendly, climate-friendly solution.

And use your vote and your voice to make a difference to local wildlife.

Neil Clennell, CEO, Wychwood Forest Trust
www.wychwoodforesttrust.co.uk

Keep your house secure as evenings draw in

Many of us will now be returning home from work or school in the dark. Darker evenings can give burglars an opportunity to easily see which houses are unoccupied. Here are a few things you might consider to lessen the chance of your house being targeted:

- Invest in a timer light switch and vary the time it comes on each day to make it look more natural. It can also be used with a radio or TV to give the impression that someone's home.
- Purchase a fake/simulated TV device which lights up a room like a real TV.

- Keep valuables out of sight. Mark them with your house number and postcode using a UV pen, or consider buying a forensic property marking system.
- Register your valuables via www.immobilise.com and keep an inventory list. It's free and takes just a few minutes.
- If you have jewellery at home, photograph it for insurance purposes and consider storing it in a suitable safe.
- Lock your doors and windows. If you have a UPVC door make sure that you have double locked it by lifting the handle and locking it with the key. Make sure the key is removed from the lock and out of reach.
- If you are going away on holiday, remember not to post details of your holiday on social networking websites; cancel any milk or newspaper deliveries; if you have a burglar alarm, make sure it is set before your leave.
- Look out for your neighbours' houses, especially when they're not at home and call the police if you see anything suspicious on 101 or 999 in an emergency.

For further crime reduction advice, visit the Thames Valley Police website.

steve@backthewhitehorse.com

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.

We welcome a donation for expenses **except for COVID vaccination trips, which are free.**

Please call Viv Kendall (01993 891803) to book a lift in December or January.

HELP US BUILD A FUTURE



BUY A MESSAGE BRICK FOR OUR NEW SCOUT HUT



Write your name into Stonesfield history!
Your brick will help us build a woodland base
for our Scouts to benefit from learning, inclusion
and adventure for generations to come.

**Buy a brick online at
stonesfield-scouts.org.uk**

**LOOK OUT
FOR OUR
LEAFLET!**

Politics & local affairs

Neighbourhood Planning

The Parish Council and Sustainable Stonesfield are starting the process of developing a Neighbourhood Plan (NP). The Clerk has already taken the first formal step by applying to WODC to have the whole Parish designated as the 'neighbourhood area'.

Creating an NP will involve the whole village. We will be holding public meetings in the New Year to explain what an NP is, and seeking volunteers to help in the many aspects of creating the Plan.

In the meantime, **what is a Neighbourhood Plan?** Neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their community. They are able to choose where they want new homes, and other buildings to be built, have their say on what those new buildings should look like and what infrastructure should be provided. Neighbourhood planning, at its best, provides a powerful set of tools for local people to plan for the types of development to meet their community's needs and where the ambition of the neighbourhood is aligned with the strategic needs and priorities of the wider local area.

An NP is a statutory planning document. As long as it aligns with national planning policy and most importantly WODC's Local Plan 2031, it must be considered in all planning applications.

Stonesfield is in the Cotswolds AONB. The village is surrounded by beautiful countryside, some of it designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Green spaces will be a key aspect of Stonesfield's NP. Local green spaces are a specific kind of land designation which can protect these assets from development.

Stonesfield needs an NP to be approved and registered before the end of the current Local Plan 2031. Village voices need to be properly heard to ensure we get the houses we need. Currently we have the example of Farley Lane where a light industrial building is being converted into six tiny one-bedroom flats (one of the flats doesn't even have a window in the bedroom) and 200m up the Lane executive four-bedroom houses have just been built and are on the market for £1,450,000 and £1,350,000 respectively. We feel sure that most villagers think neither of these developments meets the needs of the village. This is an abject failure of the planning process.

We will be arranging a public meeting in the New Year, but if you'd like to know more about neighbourhood planning see www.neighbourhoodplanning.org/toolkits-and-guidance/

If you know you want to get involved with helping create an NP now, please contact either

Wendy Gould, Stonesfield Parish Council,
w.gould@stonesfieldpc.uk

Richard Morris,
sustainable.stonesfield@gmail.com

Stonesfield Parish Council

From the meeting held on 3 Nov:

Councillors are meeting to discuss the budget and precept for next year.

Roads: If anyone notices any areas that need repair / drains that need clearing / potholes etc we encourage members of the parish to report these via Fix my Street as this helps to get work prioritised www.fixmystreet.com/

Hedgerows: The clerk has booked WODC to cut the hedge at the overspill on the Village Hall car park. The remaining hedgerow in the Village Hall car park is not Parish Council property.

Street lighting: At this time the Parish Council is not in support of having street lighting in the village.

Old Lock Up: It is a listed building. There is still no definitive paperwork confirming who owns it.

Christmas bin collection: Check the calendar www.westoxon.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/check-your-collection-day/ - Waste and Recycling Crews will be out collecting Monday to Friday as normal in our District, including on the three bank holidays (Monday 27 Dec, Tuesday 28 Dec and Monday 3 Jan) to keep disruption minimal but Garden waste collections will be suspended between Monday 27 Dec and Friday 7 Jan, inclusive. Service resumes on Monday 10 Jan.

Planning Applications:

No objection to application 21/03457/FUL – Erection of scout hut.

No objection to application 21/03248/HHD – Construction of detached garden office building.

Objected to application 21/03528/FUL Land south of Davis Close (policy H4 suggests type and mix of new homes, local plan to put a mixture of smaller properties, 2 and 3 bedroom needed mostly). These 4 bedrooms are not a requirement for villagers.

Objected to application 21/03290/FUL – Erection of replacement two storey dwelling. It is overbearing with other bungalows on the same side of the road (St James Close, Stonesfield).

Neighbourhood plan: The NP group met Peter Kendrick and Tony Merry of Charlbury. The team will set a meeting up in Hailey to get their views too. Next step is to get a steering group together. Council will reach out to the parish to provide more detailed information in Spring.

Next meeting: The date of the next full council meeting is 1 Dec 2021, 7pm, St James' Centre. Members of the public are welcome as usual.

Karen East, Parish Clerk
clerk@stonesfieldpc.uk
www.stonesfield.online

News from West Oxfordshire

Gigaclear: An innovative project to provide broadband to West Oxon has been completed, meaning 99% of households and businesses can now access superfast broadband, years ahead of the standard national rollout.

WODC teamed up with Oxfordshire-based specialist rural broadband provider Gigaclear and the Government's broadband agency, BDUK, to connect 4,788 properties to a new fibre network enabling speeds of up to 1000 Megabytes per second. As part of the scheme, 22

community facilities also received free ultrafast broadband connections, after being nominated by their residents.

Land management: WODC has published plans for managing its land areas to ‘build back greener’ following the Covid pandemic, and deliver on its climate-change strategy commitment to protect and restore the district’s natural eco-systems and wildlife habitats. The plans focus on 12 key sites selected for the existing and potential wildlife value. The nearest to Stonesfield is North Leigh Common; there are several more in Witney.

WODC has identified where improvements can be made by modifying its maintenance schedule, establishing more wildflower and grass meadows by leaving some areas untouched, creating other new wildlife habitats; using the natural landscape to help mitigate some impacts of a changing climate, e.g. restoring floodplain meadows; increasing biodiversity by adding to its programme of works.

The public is encouraged to look at the proposals (downloadable from www.westoxon.gov.uk/environment/climate-action/enhancing-our-natural-capital/) and respond. Comments should be made by Friday 10 December and emailed to climate.action@westoxon.gov.uk

Grant allocated to 1st Stonesfield

Scouts: See separate piece on page 22.

More grants available: Funding is being allocated to support three groups: individual help towards costs of food, fuel and other household costs, through Citizens Advice West Oxfordshire; support for those in temporary accommodation,

through housing services; support for community food projects and voluntary sector groups working directly with residents in need.

From our County Councillor

Having visited Stonesfield on a few occasions in recent months, residents have raised serious concerns over the increase of developments particularly in the Farley Lane/Davis Close area where building of mainly 4-bedroom properties seems to steadily increase.

What is important in sustaining our community is that we build the appropriate sized properties which meet the needs of our community, whether downsizing or trying to get on the ladder of a first-time home.

I now have been appointed to sit on the Cotswold Landscape Area of Natural Beauty board as the county representative and I am determined to ensure our landscape and precious environment is not scarred by unneeded building development. Homes are important but houses are not. I and my colleagues are meeting with the planning department at West Oxfordshire District Council for a fuller explanation on delegated decisions by officers and the need to have decisions taken by committee to avoid the risk of development by stealth which could result in a sprawl effect.

Safer roads by reducing speed from 30mph to 20mph was approved by Oxfordshire County Council. The great efforts made by the SAFER group in Stonesfield is a credit to the village and the key people involved. My thanks and praise go to them and a scheme which is one of the first in the county and a great model for others. I am

pleased to have supported this scheme in the final stages with use of my priority fund.

Please feel free to contact me on issues that are important to you and I will do my best to assist.

Cllr Andy Graham
Your Oxfordshire County Councillor
andy.graham@oxfordshire.gov.uk
.....

More news from Oxfordshire

On 19 October Oxfordshire County Council’s Cabinet voted to endorse proposals to make it simpler, quicker and less cost prohibitive to lower speeds to 20mph on most urban areas and village streets in places where it is both suitable and supported by residents. The policy has been widely welcomed by campaign groups, parishes, and residents.

Councillor Tim Bearder, Oxfordshire County Council’s Cabinet Member for Highways Management, said: “There is a huge appetite for this 20mph policy and new approach around the county as towns, villages and parishes look to make their roads more pleasant and safer for pedestrians and cyclists. We are certain that it will save lives.”

“Drivers have a responsibility to adhere to speed limits – whether that is 20mph or 30mph. If they don’t, then they are breaking the law. We are expecting the new approach to have a positive impact on road safety. I believe it will become socially unacceptable to exceed 20mph in a built-up area, just as it is to smoke on a bus.”

Matthew Barber, Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley, said: “Speeding is a concern raised by many communities across Oxfordshire, and

indeed across Thames Valley. The setting of speed limits is a matter for local authorities and Thames Valley Police will continue to enforce in line with the speed limits that are in force.”

At the Cabinet Member for Highways Management Delegated Decisions meeting at County Hall on 18 November, the move to 20mph in Wallingford, Kidmore End & Mapledurham, Ewelme, Long Wittenham and Stonesfield were given the go ahead. Councillor Tim Bearder praised the work of Stonesfield Parish Council and their working group, SAFER, in leading the move to 20mph.

Final details of updated Stonesfield signage are being established and the work to make the changeover will take place in early 2022.

.....
From our MP: Robert Courts
(extracts from his online newsletter)

COP26: The outcomes of COP26 reflect a long-overdue change in the architecture for climate policy. The climate emergency is now acknowledged, and a path laid out for keeping 1.5C alive. Promising agreements have been made on coal, deforestation, methane, and climate aid. The Paris Rulebook, completed after six years of discussions, will ensure that by 2024 everyone can assess what other countries are doing.

The UK has already made tremendous strides in recent years in tackling the issue of climate change. This includes successfully reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 28%; quadrupling renewable energy capacity since 2010 (the proportion of UK electricity from low-carbon sources increased from 19% in 2010 to almost 53% in 2018); supporting and expanding

offshore wind; making the historic commitment to close all coal-fired power stations by 2025.

Sewage overflows & river pollution:

The Government tabled an amendment to the Environment Bill to place a new direct legal duty on water companies to reduce the adverse impact of storm overflows. That means they must reduce the operation of storm overflows, categorically reducing the amount of untreated sewage in our waters.

I want to be clear that this amendment goes further than that put forward in the House of Lords. It integrates this new duty into the enforcement mechanism provided for in the Water Industry Act 1991. Water companies can be held to account in meeting their statutory duties, as can the Environment Agency, by the new Office of Environmental Protection, also being established through the bill.

It further dovetails with the existing provisions in the Environment Bill for each water company to produce a statutory Drainage and Sewerage Management Plan every five years, which will set out how such reduction in sewage discharges will be achieved and funded. There is also a power for government to direct water companies in relation to actions in those plans if they are not good enough. It undoubtedly further strengthens the Environment Bill, which already as drafted puts in place more protections against water pollution than ever before.

If there is anything at all I can do to help, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Robert Courts MP

robert@robertcourts.co.uk

Neighbourhood Watch

Antisocial behaviour (ASB) incidents have increased over the last three years. Police forces, councils and housing associations are reporting significant spikes in ASB cases – and these are not minor incidents. They are complex and serious cases causing real harm to many people. Recognising what ASB is and what ASB *isn't* can be difficult. ASB is a wide range of unacceptable behaviours that can cause nuisance and annoyance or harm and distress to a person in their home, neighbourhood or community. Have a look at our guides to help you identify ASB – it might be noise nuisance; household disputes including shouting, swearing and fighting; harassment and intimidation; environmental antisocial behaviour including dumping rubbish, animal nuisance, vandalism etc.

ASB can ruin lives and devastate communities. Reporting it early on is important to prevent it from escalating. The Local Authority, social housing landlords and the police all have powers to deal with ASB. When reporting it, it's important that you detail the impact it is having on your health and wellbeing. If the ASB is serious, criminal, or causing a risk to somebody, report it to the police in the first instance, then your Local Authority and/or landlord. (For the full article, see www.ourwatch.org.uk/asb)

Deanna Asplundh,
Stonesfield Neighbourhood Watch
Co-ordinator

CPRE Oxfordshire

Flooding and Pollution Report – a survey of Oxfordshire’s Town & Parish Councils, 2021

Findings show that at least 17% of towns & parishes in Oxfordshire experience flooding problems and at least 20% of towns & parishes experience issues with sewage/sewerage infrastructure.

CPRE Oxfordshire wants to see:

- Thames Water setting out clear measures to address the issues raised in this report, including targets and investment commitments.
- Local MPs supporting the Sewage (Inland Waters) Bill and the Environment Bill to ensure water companies are legally bound to stop discharging raw sewage into the ocean and rivers.
- Oxfordshire Plan 2050 to ensure all new developments demonstrate that their associated infrastructure will either maintain or improve water quality, not add to the risk of flooding, and be in place before the site is occupied.
- The river Thames to achieve Bathing Water designation.

CPRE Oxfordshire has produced an interactive map highlighting where the issues are. View the map and download the

report from our website:

www.cpreoxon.org.uk

Did your Town or Parish Council respond? If not, you can let us know what flooding and/or sewage issues your neighbourhood is facing: campaign@cpreoxon.org.uk

Vacancy: CPRE Oxfordshire Planning Coordinator

Could you help strengthen countryside voices in planning? Countryside charity CPRE Oxfordshire is looking for a part-time Planning Co-ordinator. Could that be you? £25k pro rata, 15 hrs a week, two year contract. Based from home or our Branch Office in Watlington. Apply by CV & covering letter to: administrator@cpreoxon.org.uk

Alternatively call 01491 612079 For more info see our website: www.cpreoxon.org.uk

FoSL: Friends of Stonesfield Library

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

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

Education, culture & more

West Oxfordshire Community Choir

After a long 18 months, WOC Choir is finally back!

West Oxfordshire Community Choir is a local group open to all West Oxon residents of all singing abilities. We sing a variety of musical genres from pop to rock, musical theatre to Motown. Music reading experience is not required as we don't sing from sheet music. The choir is focused on singing to improve vocal technique and confidence as well as building friendships and giving members the opportunity to belt their hearts out each week!

The choir meets on a Wednesday evening from 7:30–9:30pm at St James' Centre, High Street, Stonesfield and membership is charged at £5 per week.

If you're looking for a fun vocal group to join or a new hobby, why not come along to our launch night on Weds 5 January at 7:30pm? The launch night is free for all new members and will include refreshments and sweet treats at half time.

We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to the group. Happy Christmas, Happy New Year & Happy Harmonising to all.

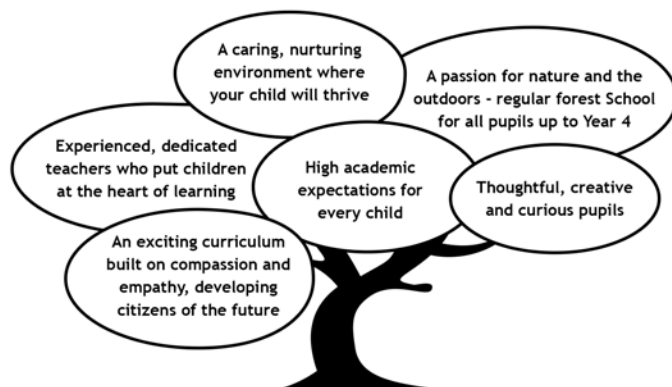
Laura Rudge - WOC Choir director

Stonesfield Primary School

Learning together to achieve our best.



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



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

Tel: 01993 891687

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

Ten years of Book Break

Book Break is celebrating its tenth year in February 2022. Book Break is a book group with a difference. We meet on a weekly basis for a shared reading aloud and discussion of our chosen book. Because the book is only read and discussed during the meetings, shared insights are rich and varied and often give a new and startling perspective from when the book is simply read in private to oneself. We conclude our meetings with a poem that resonates with the book.

We are grateful for the use of Stonesfield Library as our venue and whilst this does, inevitably, limit our group size, it also ensures we have an appropriate number for discussion.

For further information, please get in touch.

Wendy Lynch (891107)

Stonesfield Library

The library has returned to its usual opening hours

Monday 2.30-7pm

Wednesday 10-12 noon

Thursday 2.30-5pm

Saturday 10-12 noon

The library is closed from 24 Dec to 2 Jan inclusive.

Stonesfield Library (898187)



Making the most of each and every moment

We have a fully extended childcare provision running from Pre-School.

Here is what is currently available:

Breakfast Club

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday; 7.30 – 8.50am
(£6.00 per session) Cereal, toast and fruit juice included

Pre-School Sessions

9am – 3pm daily for children aged 2–4 years (£17.00 per session)

After School Club

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday; 3.15 – 6pm
(£16.00 per session)

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

Witney Music Society

The next concert in Witney Music Society's 2021-22 season is at 7.30pm on Friday 10 December at High Street Methodist Church, Witney. Mathilde Milwidsky (violin) and Joseph Havlat (piano) will be performing works by Beethoven, Fauré, Pärt and Richard Strauss.

In January, the Leonore Piano Trio will make a welcome return visit to Witney with a concert of works by Mozart, Dvořák and Schubert. The concert is at 7.30pm on Friday 14 January.

Tickets are £14 and should, where possible, be purchased in advance because of restrictions on ticket sales at the door. Please see our website www.witneymusicsociety.org.uk or phone 01993 898020 for payment details and for more information about the concert.

Woodstock Music Society Winter Concert

‘Gloria in Excelsis!’ J.S.Bach's The Christmas Oratorio (selection); Beethoven's Finale of Symphony No.5 and Romance in F for violin and orchestra; Berlioz's The Shepherd's Farewell and Carols

Friday 10 Dec and Saturday 11 Dec, 7.30pm, St Mary Magdalene Church, Woodstock. Please wear a mask. There will be no interval.

Tickets: £14 in advance or £15 at the door; full-time students £5, accompanied children under 16 free – from The Woodstock Bookshop (01993 812760) or email: concerts@woodstockmusic.info

North Leigh History Society

Our 7 December meeting is taking place in St Mary's Church, in Church Road, North Leigh OX29 6TX. We have invited the Launton Handbell Ringers to get us into the Christmas spirit, and we hope you will join us to get the season off to a joyful start. We meet at 7.30pm as usual. Members free, visitors £4. We do not meet in January and our first meeting in 2022 will be on 1 February at the Memorial Hall North Leigh when Liz Woolley will be talking about *Beer, Bangers and Marmalade*.

Further details are available from Diana Power (01993 882301) or Robert Kyte at kyterobert@gmail.com We look forward to seeing you soon.

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum

Skippers War: Dragon School, Oxford and the Great War

A short film streaming at 7pm on Tuesday 7 December, followed by a live Q&A session. It will feature readings from actors Tom Hollander, Hugh Dancy, Paul Chahidi, and Sebastian Croft, telling the First World War stories of prominent Dragon School students. The live event will be free to view on the SOFO Museum website, no registration required, but donations welcomed to support the museum. www.sofo.org.uk/whats-on/skipperswar/

Clubs, societies & sport

Stonesfield Sew & Chat

Having successfully run once a month for 9 years, we have decided to cancel the sew and chat meetings for the foreseeable future. If you are interested in textiles of any form, including mixed media, there is another group that meets for a whole day once a month. If you might be interested in joining us please contact me to find out more.

Ann Lowe (898837)
annjlowe@aol.com

1st Stonesfield Scouts Group

Update from the fundraising team:

November has been a fantastic month! After weeks of nervous anticipation we learned we were successful in securing two grants.

We are delighted to announce that West Oxfordshire District Council has selected to support Stonesfield Scouts Group to rebuild our hut, which will also provide space for local groups. The funding amount allocated is £36,750, which puts us on a great footing in our fundraising campaign. Many congratulations also go to the Stonesfield Playing Field Association for securing their requested funding. (Go Stonesfield!) The press release can be found here: www.news.westoxon.gov.uk/news/over-gbp-134-000-given-to-local-community-projects

We are also delighted to announce that the Stonesfield Parish Council has allocated funding of £1,000 to us for this year. We,

as a team, greatly appreciated the accompanying message of support and belief in our campaign. Thank you Stonesfield PC – it means a lot!

We would also like to thank Stonesfield Village Hall for inviting the Scouts to get involved with their monthly village coffee mornings. We had a great time. Many thanks to all the bakers and eaters of cake. We can't wait for next month when we will be back – but on the other side of the counter!

Buy a Brick:

If you want to get involved and support the new hut, why not Buy a Brick? Thanks to the Prickett, Phillips, Hughes, Smith, Clifford, Lacey, Rowles, Betterton and Sutton families for being our most recent joiners to the 'Buy a Brick' family. And last but not least, a huge thank you to Mark Saville for designing our Buy a Brick full page spread and the Slate for making it happen.

If you would like to buy a brick online please go to www.stonesfield-scouts.org.uk/build-the-scout-hut/buy-a-brick/ or look out for a paper form that will be posted through your door shortly.

From the Stonesfield Scouts fundraising team (Sophie Gwilym, Simon Lacey, John Hounsell, Rhian Griffiths)

Section Updates:

The 1st Stonesfield Scout Group has been very busy in all Sections recently and have had a busy November, and plenty of events

and activities to come in December. The Group has also been able to invite a few new members to the Beavers and Scouts Sections.

The Scouts have been practising many scouting skills such as cooking on open fires (including foraged food and making pizza ovens), signals, first aid and singing campfire songs. The Scouts have welcomed five new Scouts this term.

The Cubs have been blackberry picking and jamming, making bread, collecting conkers and doing knots, gone on a bat walk and visited Woodstock fire station, as well as climbing and bouldering.

Beavers have been building dens, exploring the woods, lighting fires and eating marshmallows, as well as bouldering and climbing at Far Peak. Beavers are now indoors for the winter and will be working on, amongst other things, the disability awareness badge and air activity badge.

Christmas Card Post Box:

Post boxes for senior citizens' Christmas cards will be available from 1 December at the village shop and the Lunch Club, for delivery within Stonesfield. *Please ensure that cards are fully addressed with house names and roads.* All cards need to be in the boxes by 14 December to give the Scouts time to collect, sort and distribute them.

Finally, see *Dates for your Diary* on page 3 for our December activities: car wash at the primary school on 11 Dec; Santa's Sleigh on 14 Dec from 6pm; Bingo on 17 Dec – all welcome; a great evening and some great prizes to be won!

Oxfordshire Freemasons Charity Event

In January of this year, I circulated, via *Next-Door Stonesfield*, an invitation to local charities to apply for grants from the Alfred Lodge (Oxfordshire Freemasons) in Woodstock. Four charities responded and were each given a substantial cash donation. The money was donated entirely by Brethren of the Lodge.

Subsequently, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Oxfordshire organised a charity social evening at Cardinal House, Marsh Baldon, the Masonic centre for Oxfordshire. The event was held on 2 November and 16 of the many Oxfordshire charities who had received an initial donation from Oxfordshire Lodges were chosen to attend. The charities were, in the main, small, local affairs representing the wonderful work volunteers undertake in our communities. Included in the guests were Chrissie Harper and Phil Gaines from *Chrissie's Owls* in Stonesfield. Chrissie gave a demonstration with an absolutely beautiful white owl. I had never been that close to such a fascinating bird; it was quite an experience!



Right Worshipful James Hitditch, Chrissie Harper, Phil Gaines & Patrick Wilmore

The 16 charities were then each presented with a further substantial cheque to enable them to continue their work.

We hope to repeat our offer of donations to local charities again in 2022. I should be grateful if any potential applicants could contact me via email by 1 January 2022 with a contact telephone number in order that we can discuss the application.

If there are any men who would like to know about Freemasonry in general, and the Alfred Lodge in particular, please contact me. There is also a women's Lodge in Witney, and I should be pleased to offer advice.

Patrick Wilmore

Pat_wilmore@btinternet.com

.....

Climate Emergency Group

Our first physical meeting since lockdown last year was really encouraging. Lots of people came forward with ideas and suggestions and offers of help. It seems there is a real appetite in Stonesfield for community action to reduce waste, cut consumption, recycle and re-use, and to re-double our efforts to reduce our carbon footprints.

We are going to continue with educational talks on hot topics from local experts. Our first talk, on ethical finance (banking, pensions), will probably be in January, on Zoom. Details will appear in NDS. Maybe you have an idea for a topic? Drop me a line.

As for the more practical projects: we are investigating a recurring garage sale to encourage the recycling of toys and clothes; a repair café; and a library of things. Some people are keen to organise lobbying the government. Others are

interested in rivers, sustainable food and land use, and we are keen to get young people in the village on board. We are networking like mad on all these projects to get them up and running. Please drop me a line if you want to help with any of them.

Finally, we are considering a re-brand: we want to find a title that better reflects our concerns and activities so that more people will join in. Watch this space.

If you want to join our group – which is all about sustainable living in our community – please write to me. The more people we have on board, the more we can achieve.

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

Caroline Friend

caroline.v.friend@gmail.com

.....

Stonesfield Gardening Club

Our November meeting featured a talk from Neil Clennell, the CEO of the Wychwood Forest Trust. This was a thought-provoking talk about how we see our surroundings and what we should be doing with our landscape to make it more viable for the natural world.

The WFT has eight reserves of its own and rents others, as well as liaising with landowners to encourage wildlife-friendly stewardship. Sites that are easily accessible for us here in Stonesfield are Foxburrow Wood the other side of Hailey, Wigwell Nature Reserve in Charlbury and Singe Wood also in Hailey. They also hold work parties and courses and are always looking for new members. All details can be found on their website www.wychwoodforesttrust.co.uk.

As well as an opportunity to pay 2022 membership fees, our December meeting will be our usual social evening featuring a devilish quiz, raffle and mulled wine and mince pies – do join us.

There will be no meeting in January and our AGM is on 7 February.

Diane Bates, Secretary

diane@bateshome.co.uk

www.stonesfieldgardening.info

Allotment Gathering

Thanks to all who attended the end of season gathering at the Churchfields Allotments on Sunday, 7 November.



It was so good to finally meet so many familiar faces. Hopefully there will be even more reason to stop and compare notes now that we've been introduced. Not suggesting for a moment of course that we were ever short of an opinion or two.

Thanks in particular to Lucy and Jon for their hosting and to everybody who contributed in any way. All the efforts were much appreciated.

While the allotments now have their winter rest, I look forward to returning in the spring, having forgotten the failures and celebrated a few small horticultural successes and to seeing you all again. I can

honestly now say I really like my neighbours.

Next year I will have carrots that you can see with the naked eye. Just you wait!

Deanna Asplundh

Stonesfield Football Club

What a fabulous month it's been for our Firsts, 5 games and 5 straight wins, making a total of 7 wins in a row! It all started at home to Spartans with a tough 2-1 win in the league, followed by a storming 7-3 win against Minster Lovell. Then old foes Milton-U-W came calling, and in a pulsating encounter our boys won it at the death in a 3-2 thriller! They were at home again in the next match in The Oxon Junior Shield, hosting Sporting Headington Accies and went through winning 3-0. Finally, and just to prove that they could win away too, they plundered all 3 league points in a bruising encounter with Carterton FC winning 2-1. I just hope that they can keep this rich vein of form running through the festive period!

Wins for The Ressies have been as rare as hen's teeth, but no sooner do they get one than another arrives like local buses! Their first win was at Carterton Town where they put in a fabulous performance winning 5-1. Next, they visited Spartans and showed true grit by holding out for a narrow win in a 7 goal thriller. They then took the arduous trip to Faringdon Town B and were worthy of a point in a battling 2-2 draw. Now, you might be thinking that it's all rosy in the Ressie garden, but they came tumbling back to earth and were dumped out of the Jack Busby, after being thumped at home by Witney Royals (5-0). I think the lessons are clear for our boys, losing goals like water through a sieve That defence

needs strengthening at the next transfer window ... I can see the Peter Pan of the village (Dave Holloway) stepping in as a steady influence at centre-back before the year is out!

Fredo Awards have often hung in the balance but never been won in a battle of the big toes, until now! Raffy Rice made his comeback against Milton by fixing his broken toenail with a thin line of super glu (NOT recommended) and promptly scored two goals in the 3-2 thriller. In the same game Jordan Newman was the hero of the day as he popped up in the final minute to win it for the boys with a toe poke from two yards out which sent the massed ranks of the Stonesfield support wild with delight. Yes, you've guessed it, Jordan's big toe makes history by being the first body-part to win the Fredo!

On behalf of the football club, I'd like to wish everyone in the village a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year when it arrives, and I hope Santa Claus is good to each and every one of you.

Tom Flanigan (891979)



Photo: krakenimages on Unsplash

Stonesfield Sports & Social Club

We have made great progress with the work renovating the outside space at the club, the new patios and fencing are complete and we will be installing some lighting so that we are ready for the spring. Many of our regular clubs are now operating, including pool and darts, and every Tuesday we have a quiz.

Here are some dates for your diary in the lead up to Christmas, and our opening times over the festive season.

Band night with Biteback	27 Nov at 9pm
Christmas Bingo	9 Dec at 7:30pm
Christmas Quiz	11 Dec at 8pm
Christmas Draw	19 Dec at 8pm
New Year's Eve Disco	31 Dec at 9pm
Christmas opening hours (subject to change before or on the day):	
Christmas Eve	4-11pm
Christmas Day	11am-2pm
Boxing Day	12-6pm
27 Dec	12noon-11pm
28 Dec	12noon-11pm
New Year's Eve	12noon-2am
New Year's Day	12noon-10pm

If you're interested in joining the club it's only £7.50 a year, just pop in and see Ben, Sam or Aimee and follow us on Facebook for information about events.

On behalf of the Committee, Staff, and Members, thank you for your support in 2021, we hope you have a merry Christmas and want to wish everyone a peaceful, healthy New Year.

Church news

Church of England Worship at St James the Great, Stonesfield

(Benefice of Stonesfield with Combe Longa)

www.stonesfieldparishchurch.org

Rector: Rev Ralph Williamson,
rector@scbenefice.org, 01993 891872

Churchwardens: Lindsey Sellar and Rachel Severn
stonesfield@stonesfieldparishchurch.org

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

From the Rector: What are we waiting for?

As a student, and while training for priesthood, I had a range of temporary jobs. I electroplated battery cases, entered purchase invoices in a ledger, and swept the floor in a factory which made windows. I washed up huge burnt pots on the night shift at a Gatwick hotel. I worked as a carer too, in homes for people with disabilities and with the elderly. Winching people into the bath and clearing up when someone mistook the laundry cupboard for another small room helped me think about my own frail humanity. One day, the woman at the employment agency rang and said, 'Can you cook?' I have always liked cooking but my overconfident young self was momentarily taken aback. She explained that a care home for the elderly, with twenty residents, needed a cook for two weeks - could I do it? They were desperate. So I said, 'Yes', and had visions of cooking

spaghetti bolognese and fish pie for the hungry residents of the home, which was somewhere near Orpington. The agency manager was very grateful, while no doubt crossing all her fingers and hoping I would not poison anyone. When I arrived there on Monday morning I was delighted to meet the lovely residents, who looked forward to their hot lunch, and enjoyed a bit of banter and chat as their breakfasts were delivered. What was not so good, however, was the kitchen, where I discovered that everything they were to eat came out of a packet or a freezer bag. The menu was fixed already and was predictably bland, but the ingredients were all instant. Instant mash, instant sponge, instant cheese sauce, instant pastry, instant fruit mix. My heart sank at the lack of fresh ingredients, and the lack of opportunity it offered for inventive cooking. The store room was filled with row upon row of packets, and boxes of 'mix' to make various sorts of mush.

I got through the two weeks without major disaster (apart from an appalling toad in the hole), and learnt how to add the right amount of water to the packets of powder. I had great fun chatting to the lovely men and women who lived there, and to the dedicated staff, while I brought the breakfast trolley around, and I greatly improved my washing up skills. But the experience made me long for 'slow' cooking, for the chance to make something from scratch, for the methodical, laborious, meditative, step by step kitchen creativity which I had learned from my mother.

Really good food cannot be rushed, and time spent preparing a meal is never wasted.

Since my fortnight as a cook over thirty years ago, our culture has been speeding up steadily. Now we can answer emails and complete deals while on the beach, find out anything at any time from our phones, and are coming to expect instant solutions, instant gratification, instant fixes and instant results. Yet the best things in life move more slowly. A forest takes hundreds of years to re-grow, a garden is planted to give pleasure in five, ten or twenty years. A good wine or whiskey may take a decade to mature. Autumn slowly turns to winter, and spring must wait until the cold and darkness have done their essential work. Human love must deepen and grow slowly through experiences of many kinds. We take time to grow in our understanding of ourselves and of one another. No experience is wasted, and our slow and gentle learning is part of the process of becoming more completely ourselves, the people God loves.

The Christian season of Advent begins on 5 December, and is also a time of waiting. Christmas is not instant, not a quick fix, but something which God has prepared from the beginning of time. Our waiting during Advent should not be kicking our heels or anxiously pacing, trying to make Christmas come more quickly by an act of will, but waiting meaningfully. The birth of Christ, God present in our world, in our life, changes everything. As we wait for the celebration of that transforming power, we remember the year which has passed, and look for evidence of God's work in our lives during that time, whether our experience was joyful or challenging. We offer to God the lives we have lived, and we ask to be

changed by the presence of Immanuel, 'God with us', as we wait to celebrate the coming of Christ once more. This is slow work, but important work, as we slowly turn our lives towards the light.

This Advent, we will again be offering a series of evening reflections at Combe Church, open to residents of both Stonesfield and Combe, to inspire and to encourage us on our Advent journey. Please see the separate notice about these ADVENTures, which will be held on the first three Thursdays in December (2, 9 and 16) at 8pm, and are open to all. Please join us, and may God grant you time to know his presence in your life this Advent.

Rev Ralph Williamson

ADVENTures 2021 – Advent reflections in Combe Church at 8pm

These evenings offer a few moments of calm and inspiration for our personal Advent journey.

2 Dec: Fling wide the door – Advent music

9 Dec: Light readings for Advent

16 Dec: Anglo-Saxon adventure – Biblical art and poetry.



Church services:

Sunday 5 [Second Sunday of Advent]

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

Sunday 12 [Third Sunday of Advent]

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

Sunday 19 [Fourth Sunday of Advent]

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [BCP/said]
9.30am	Combe	Parish Communion
11am	Stonesfield	Parish Communion
3pm	Combe	Carol Service
6pm	Stonesfield	Carol Service

Christmas Eve 24 December

3.30pm	Stonesfield	Crib Service - for all the family
9pm	Stonesfield	Christmas Communion
10.30pm	Combe	Christmas Communion

Christmas Day 25 December

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

Sunday 26 December [First Sunday of Christmas]

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

Sunday 2 Jan [Epiphany]

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

Sunday 9 Jan [Baptism of Christ]

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

Sunday 16 Jan [Epiphany 2]

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [BCP/said]
9.30am	Combe	Parish Communion
11am	Stonesfield	Parish Communion
4pm	Stonesfield	Christingle Service

Sunday 23 Jan [Epiphany 3]

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

Sunday 30 Jan [Candlemas]

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

Mondays

8.45–11.30am	Monday Coffee in St James' Centre
--------------	--------------------------------------

Tuesdays

8.45–10am	Coffee and biscuits in the Reading Room, Combe
-----------	---

Wednesdays

9.30am	Stonesfield Holy Communion (every week)
11am	Combe Morning Prayer (8 & 22 Dec, 12 & 26 Jan)

New Church thought

For this issue, I quote from an article 'Silver linings in Covid 19' by a fellow New Church woman, Margaret Heldon, from Sydney, Australia. It struck a cord with me because COP26 is happening as I write. And she mentions hope at the end – a seasonal theme.

I preface it with this verse from Jeremiah 29:11: *For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

'Why is Covid-19 in the world? If you believe that good comes out of all situations then what is happening here? One of Swedenborg's books says "When the Lord is with anyone, He leads them, and provides that all things which happen, whether sad or joyful, befall them for good: this is the Divine providence." Is this a wake-up call for humanity? Is there an imbalance in nature? Are we abusing God's creation by taking and not giving back? The planet is warming at an alarming rate since preindustrial times. It is becoming more and more polluted; animal habitats are being destroyed pushing many into extinction, and now a virus is affecting every human being on the planet in one way or another. It makes sense to me that we all need to reflect on the way we live. The natural and the spiritual worlds are connected. Delta hasn't finished with us yet. The silver lining here is more a hope, and a wish that change will come to bring more clarity to how the Lord's kingdom will be "*as it is in heaven, so upon the earth.*"

Dale Morris (898210)

Stonesfield Methodist Church

December 2021

5	11am	Mr Peter Allen
12	11am	Mrs Dawn Haley
19	3pm	Carol Service; Reverend Rose Westwood
26	No Service at Stonesfield Please check the West Oxfordshire Circuit website for local Services	

January 2022

2	11am	Mrs Jenny Bywater
9	11am	Mr Tony Gibson
16	11am	Covenant Service; Reverend Rose Westwood
23	11am	Reverend Charles Harris
30	11am	Mr Keith Crawford

Thanks

At the recent Afternoon Tea event, many visitors were welcomed and fed! and gifts bought. A huge thank you to everyone who came and supported, helped and donated. It was a very joyous occasion and we couldn't have done it without you!

The same warm welcome awaits anyone wishing to join a Sunday Service at 11am, or the Carol Service at 3pm on 19 December. We would very much like to see you.

The Christmas season is upon us. It brings stirring thoughts of the tiny baby, born in desolate and fearsome surroundings and yet, firmly wrapped in God's perfect love. What greater message can there be!

God bless your Christmas time.

Kathleen Alb  rt (891733)

Roman Catholic Worship

Christmas – what's it all about?

Luke tells us (Luke 2,6:14): *'Now it happened that, while they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the living-space. In the countryside close by there were shepherds out in the fields keeping guard over their sheep during the watches of the night. An angel of the Lord stood over them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Look, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.'* And all at once with the angel there was a great throng of the hosts of heaven, praising God with the words: *Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace for those he favours.'*

That longish quote from St. Luke answers our question – Christmas, what's it all about? A Saviour has been born to all of us for now and for ever. And the Saviour's purpose? To save us from ourselves and our sin, thus allowing us to live in heaven eternally as unblemished souls.

That Saviour, Jesus Christ, by his life and death, gave us the means of how to lead lives that focus on the nature of God, rather than on the selfishness of ourselves as a means of the path towards our salvation. The images of the Nativity – of a new born and helpless child in very humble

surroundings – provide us with a metaphor about our own rebirth and of Jesus as our Saviour who is the gift from God to us.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible.

Colossians 1:15–16

Holy Mass

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

Weekday Mass

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)

Confession by arrangement with Fr. Clive as below.

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.

Christmas service times at St Teresa's

24 Dec 8.30pm Mass of Christmas Night with carols

25 Dec 9.15am Mass of Christmas Day

For times of confession, see www.stteresaschurch-charlbury.com

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

Aid to the church in need: Suze Mathews is selling Xmas cards to support ACN and their work supporting persecuted Christians worldwide.

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

A blessed and hopeful Christmas.

Roman Catholic Community in Stonesfield



Photo: Mick Haupt on Unsplash

Thank you to all our advertisers



The Common, January 2021

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

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

Mindful, Calming and Relaxation Class

at
St. James' Centre, Stonesfield
on
Friday 17th December
and Friday 21st January
from
11am until 12 noon
£10 payable on the day

Please join me for an hour of wonderful guided relaxation from the comfort of a chair

Contact Jo for more information and **TO BOOK** at
joanna@mindyourcalm.co.uk or
telephone me on 07890 583947



www.cotswoldteacuptours.com
(Victoria) 07734 218234

COTSWOLD *Teacup* TOURS

We offer scenic half day and full day
tours of the Cotswolds.

Based in Long Hanborough.

Private Group Tours for 2 - 6 People
Luxury Travel

Scenic Cotswold Tours
Cotswold Shopping Tours
Cotswold Garden Tours

Christmas Gift Vouchers Available!



COTSWOLD GARDEN DESIGNER

- Looking to improve your outside space but stuck for ideas on how to make the most of it?
- Want somewhere to entertain?
- A space for your children to play?
- Or maybe you just need a quiet place to relax, a calming, scented corner, just for you?



I can provide a full garden design, planting plans or a simple garden report - some ideas of how you could best use your outdoor space and the types of plants that you like and would suit the environment.



CONTACT LORRAINE:

lorraine@cotswoldgardendesigner.co.uk
07516262560
www.cotswoldgardendesigner.co.uk

JUNIOR TAE KWON-DO

The Korean art of Self-Defence

Develop your children's self-confidence, concentration and help them to learn respect for themselves and others.

New lessons developed to be fun and informative for ages 5-17.

Stonesfield Village Hall
Mon and Thur: 5.30-6.30pm

****Come and try a complimentary session****

ITF registered international instructor
James Kumar CRB vetted

Further information, contact James
01865 772883 07788 583 965
Jameskumar@hotmail.co.uk

Cotswold Glow and Lift

Introducing Hydra-6 Facial Treatments
6 Elements in 1 Incredible Facial

Hydro-Dermabrasion, Deeper Exfoliation using vibration technology, Radio Frequency Lifting, Ultrasound Mesotherapy (deep infusion of skin nourishing vitamins), Cryo, Oxygen
Enjoy all 6 or a combination of treatments to suit your particular skin concerns/goals

All 6 Elements: Usual Price £60 (with discount £48)
Please contact me for further details on treatment combinations and prices
paulajsampsonecloud.com
07793-223303

Home Clinic in Stonesfield, Oxfordshire (Nr. Woodstock)

Find out more at: www.cotswoldglowandlift.co.uk
Instagram: Cotswold Glow and Lift

INTRODUCTORY OFFER 20% DISCOUNT

best-one 

Suriya Express & Post Office

1 Pendle Court, Pond Hill, Stonesfield
Tel/Fax 01993 898379

—
Bread & Pastries
Fine range of Groceries
Fruit & Vegetables
Beers, Wines & Spirits
New range of Organic Products
Dry Cleaning

—
Opening hours:
Monday to Friday 7am-8pm
Saturday and Sunday 8am-8pm*
Bank Holidays 8am-8pm*

**P.O. closed on Sundays & on Bank Holidays*



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



**Test & Inspections • Landlord Certificates
Full & Partial Rewires • New Builds & Extensions
Fault Finding • Security Lighting
New Consumer Units • Additions & Alterations**

Call: 07766 252548 or 01993 222444

Email: quotes@oxelec.co.uk

Web: www.OxElec.co.uk



Woodstock Solicitors

WILLS ~ PROBATE ~ POWERS OF ATTORNEY

INHERITANCE TAX PLANNING

Tel. 01993 811 792

Email info@woodstocklaw.co.uk

Woodstock Solicitors - 1st Floor - 32 New Road - Woodstock - OX20 1PB

Andrew Booth

electrician

- Extra lights, sockets
- Replacement fuseboxes fitted
- Full or part rewire, extensions
- Landlord & homebuyers inspections
- Friendly, local and reliable
- Quick response, free quotes & fully insured

www.andrewboothelectrician.co.uk

ELEC SA

Approved Contractor
www.elec.sa.co.uk

TEL 01993 883880

MOB 07795 957988

Sewing & Alterations

... to make that garment fit you!

Fittings, hem levels, and a varied range of alteration and sewing work carried out.

Dresses, Skirts, Tops, Shirts, Jackets, Trousers, Curtains, Cushions and beyond!

Louise Everett-Brown

lou.smiley1@btinternet.com

01993 813873

Dog-walking service

Do you work long hours and feel that your dog is not getting the attention and exercise that it needs? I run a dog-walking service for Stonesfield and surrounding areas. I have public liability insurance for peace of mind. Please feel free to call for a quote.

Katrina 01993 891131 / 07824357690

katrinamoss1979@icloud.com

D S JONES

BUILDING &
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

For all enquiries/ free quotations just call or email
07496149990

dsjmaintenance@hotmail.com



BLINDS AND CURTAINS *by*

WINDOW DESIGN

01993 870606

**Made to Measure
blinds and curtains**

**Complete home service
from measure to fitting**

Huge range of fabrics

**Fabric showroom open
by appointment**

WWW.WINDOWDESIGN.CO

M J Fyson BA BA VetMB MRCVS
 The Coach House Veterinary Clinic Ltd
 Wroslyn Road
 Freeland
 Nr. Witney
 Oxon OX29 8AQ
 E-mail: coachhousevet@outlook.com



We are a traditional independent small animal
Veterinary Clinic

- Opening hours: Mon-Fri 08:00-18:30, Sat 09:00-12:00
- Consultations by appointment only, please phone 01993 880551
- Friendly personal service for dogs, cats and small furries
- Stockists of Symply and Canagan pet foods
- Follow us on Facebook: Coach House Veterinary Clinic

01993 880551

www.coachhousevetclinic.co.uk



New Miss Molly products in stock

Please note new shop hours now open 10am -3pm*
 All picture framing by appointment only.

*Closed Tuesdays & Sundays

Cotswold Frames ~ Market St ~ Charlbury ~ OX7 3PL
 01608 811805
www.cotswoldframes.co.uk
info@cotswoldframes.co.uk



Stan Johnston Painter and Decorator

With over 35 years experience in the trade.

✉ sjohnstonpaint@outlook.com

☎ 07968 865251 or 01993 898730

Roberts Garden Machinery Ltd



- Professional servicing and repairs of most makes of garden machinery
- New & second-hand machinery supplied
- Collection & delivery by arrangement

18 years' experience with LAWNMOWER SALES & SERVICE

Open 8-5 Monday-Friday, 8-12 Saturday

Unit H5, New Yatt Business Centre, New Yatt, OX29 6TJ

Tel: 01993 881320 or email: robert.milloini@btinternet.com



Salon Copenhagen

3 Pendle Court, Pond Hill, Stonesfield, Oxon, OX29 8PZ
Tel. 01993 891101

Unisex hairdressing salon for ladies, gentlemen and children.

All aspects of hairdressing undertaken by our professionally trained stylists.

We also offer earpiercing.

Open Tuesday to Saturday.

Find us on Facebook.

A. L. SOLE & SON

Funeral Directors

Bidston Close, Over Norton,
Chipping Norton, OX7 5PP

A professionally qualified
Funeral Director providing
a dignified and personal
service at any hour.

Private Chapels of Rest
in a peaceful garden setting.

Tel. 01608 644112

PELLMANS

Solicitors

- **Business, Agricultural and Employment Law**
Contracts, Legal Compliance & Disputes
- **Property**
Buying & Selling Homes, Commercial & Agricultural
- **Wills, Probate and Trusts**
Tax Planning, Lasting Powers of Attorney & Elderly Client Advice

01865 884400

www.pellmans.co.uk

1 Abbey Street, Eynsham, Oxford OX29 4TB

Home visits and evening appointments available

Reliable Repairs

Domestic Appliance Repairs

WASHING MACHINES
REFRIGERATION
ELECTRIC COOKERS
TUMBLE DRYERS
DISHWASHERS

**Professional
Descaler Available**

Call Andrew

**01993
891339**

or
Mobile
07989 945971

Fixed priced repairs to
include electrical
safety test

Electric cooker
connections both
freestanding
and built-in

BS7671 accredited

Full public liability cover

Same day, evening &
weekend appointments
normally available

Andrew A. Adams FCCA

Chartered Certified Accountant

Quality personal service for your
Accounting, Taxation and Business needs

Competitive fees agreed in advance

Free initial meeting

Telephone: 07790 854574

01993 891280

Email: aaadams@TalkTalk.net

Foot Health Professional

Joanna Attridge
MCFHP MAFHP



Foot problems?
I will visit you in
the comfort of
your own home

Based in Combe
Fully qualified and insured

07961 620 292

joannafoothealth@gmail.com
www.joannafoothealth.co.uk

onevillage.com

**One place to go
for interiors**

**Online & On the A44
in Woodstock**

The social choice
WORKING WITH
CRAFTMAKERS' CO-OPS
IN ASIA & AFRICA
SINCE 1979

COMPUTER HELP

**Broadband and Wireless. Installation and Training.
Problem solving. Jargon-free advice. Upgrades.
Digital Photos. Virus Protection and Removal.**

Call or email me, *Len Kehoe*

*- Computer Science graduate
with over 30 years experience*

phone: 01993 810125

mobile: 07944 877437

email: thepcbuddy@gmail.com

web: www.thepcbuddy.co.uk

WOODSTOCK TAXI SERVICE

07766 743081



TOWNHOUSE

—● EXECUTIVE TRAVEL ●—

- Airports & Stations
- Hospitals & Schools
- Theatres & Restaurants
- Day trips & tours
- Weddings & Proms
- Shopping trips

Our friendly team includes female drivers

www.townhousewoodstock.co.uk



Stonesfield massage

grounding . stability . strength

**A beautiful, female only, massage
therapy treatment room in the village**

For appointments call Kate
07473272503

Have a look at the treatments menu
www.stonesfieldmassage.com

ACE

Car Repairs and Servicing
01993 700041

SERVICING, BRAKES, CLUTCHES, AIR CONDITIONING, EXHAUSTS,
DIAGNOSTICS, MOT'S PREPARED AND ARRANGED

Alan Claridge Engineering is a garage in Witney that has been repairing cars for over 30 years. I now live in Stonesfield and will collect your car from your house and deliver it back free of charge. I service and repair all makes of car so please call me to arrange an appointment.



**mike
chambers**

painting & decorating
interior & exterior
general
property maintenance

friendly service,
fully insured
your DIY done for you!

07973 624797

email:mike@michael-chambers.co.uk
www.michael-chambers.co.uk

Tracey Keeling



Personal Trainer

The Older Adult Training Specialist

Any age is the right age to exercise.
(Face to face or on-line)

07977 228756

www.hardenhealthandfitness.co.uk

DIRTY CARPETS, UPHOLSTERY, RUGS



Most carpets dry within the hour

Unbeatable results, removes almost all spots & stains


call

GRIMEBUSTERS

01993 868924 01865 726983

www.grimebusters.co.uk

We care, when it matters most.



An award-winning local family business
trusted by families for over 60 years
with a first class reputation for quality,
value and service.

“Invaluable support”
“Seamless arrangements”
“Nothing was too much”
“Sympathetic and professional”

Above are just some of the many touching
comments we have received about our service.

Learn more about us at

www.jerramsbrothers.co.uk or call us at any time.

Jerrams Brothers

Funerals Funeral planning Memorials Support Est. 1949

33 High Street Woodstock OX20 1TE 01993 811491
18 The Kidlington Centre, Kidlington OX5 2DL 01865 374444



VEHICLE TECH

*Mobile mechanic servicing, repairs, diagnostics
& MOTs prepared and arranged
for all makes & models*

*Friendly & reliable service at competitive rates,
19 years experience & based in Stonesfield*

Call Rob on 01608 646100 or 07791 755771

Email: vehicletech3@gmail.com



Maeve O'Donnell
Acupuncture

**Acupuncture for stress reduction,
pain relief, arthritis, migraine, fatigue,
hormone imbalance, and more.**

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

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

maeve@maeveodonnellacupuncture.co.uk

or visit

www.maeveodonnellacupuncture.co.uk

 @maeveodonnellacupuncture



Plumbing & Heating
Domestic & Commercial
Gas Specialist

John Harvey
07515 284286

jh.plumbing@hotmail.co.uk



Rob Atkinson

Member of the
Chartered Institute of Building

General property
maintenance and
high quality DIY



General repairs
All carpentry - Decorating
Minor plumbing

Prompt, reliable and
recommended service
No job too small

Tel: 07876-275300

robatkinson.ajdw@gmail.com

"A job done well"



All aspects of roof work undertaken

Slates • Tiles • Flat roofs

Chimneys • Valleys • Leadwork

Moss clearance

UPVC fascias • Soffits • Gutters

Advice and estimates free

Freephone
0800 955 5063

Mobile
07817 792194



Hypnotherapy

For help with anxiety, stress, pain control, insomnia, phobias, unwanted habits, confidence and self-esteem, exam and interview nerves.

Contact: Linda Flanigan
Clinical Hypnotherapist
GHR Registered & Member (Lic.) of National Council for Hypnotherapy

Tel: 07866 360359

**Email: linda@lfhypnotherapy.co.uk
www.lfhypnotherapy.co.uk**

Imagine Life

if you had your own...

Gardener
Decorator
Babysitter
De-clutterer

I can help you clear your clutter,
weed out your wardrobe and find
new homes for your unwanted items.

Dog Walker
Spring Cleaner
Moving House Help
House & Pet Sitter...

all rolled into one!


For one-off events or regular help
please contact Lindsey
hatsoffstudios2@gmail.com or call
01993 898620 07941 561471



Going away and need
someone special to
care for your pets?

Let Paw Pals become your pet's
best friend whilst you're away



-  Cat home visits for feeding, cleaning and cuddles
-  Dog walking - am/pm, lunchtimes
-  Small animal boarding for bunnies, guinea pigs etc.
-  Insured & Police checked
-  Caring for your pets since 2011



07917 703468
07917 391520
westoxon@paw-pals.co.uk
www.paw-pals.co.uk/westoxon

MICHAEL PRICE & SON PLASTERING

58 Ticknell Piece Road
Charlbury, OX7 3TW

Tel 01608 811642
Mobile 07710 170049

GEOFF BOOTH

Landscaping • Paving • Walling
Driveways • Fencing • Brickwork
Building maintenance
Garden maintenance
Free quotations
Tel: 01993 891945
Mob: 07710 628248

Email: geoffboothlandscaping@hotmail.com



THAMES VALLEY TREE CARE LTD

**A Stonesfield based company
providing a professional and reliable
service in all aspects of tree surgery
and hedge management**

FREE no obligation quote

Tel: 01993 891381

Mob: 07971018279

Email: info@tvtreecare.co.uk

www.tvtreecare.co.uk



Witney Welding Ltd

**Architectural, Construction, Agricultural
& Equestrian Steel Fabrication
Services**

**We also provide a full welding service
in Steel, Stainless Steel, Aluminium &
Titanium, including repairs to Steel,
Aluminium and Iron castings**

**UNIT 4D
ENSTONE BUSINESS PARK
ENSTONE, OXFORDSHIRE
OX7 4NP**

TEL: 01608 678267

MOB: 07751 678412

WITNEYWELDING@OUTLOOK.COM

WWW.WITNEYWELDING.COM

COMPUTER PROBLEM?

DON'T WORRY — HELP IS AT HAND!

With a happy smile and definitely no jargon,
we've been helping users and their computers
for over thirty years. We have extensive
experience of the University system, and we
know all about Apple Macs TOO!

RING BOB ON: 01865 880600 / 07768 732123

**We come to you with same day service if possible.
We don't charge for the call-out or if we can't fix it.**



Lighting Your Way Into The Future

STEPHEN J. WILEY ELECTRICIAN

**Additions • Alterations • Rewiring
Surveys • Security Lighting
Cookers • Showers
Telephone Points**

NO JOB TOO SMALL

Tel (01993) 882778/881409

90 Main Road, Long Hanborough, Witney, OX29 8JY

Stephen.Wiley@btconnect.com

R S Services

**Aerial, Satellite & TV Installations
and repairs.**

**Qualified Engineer with over 40 years
experience.**

For a free quote

Call Shane Berry

01993 881353 / 01865 881313

07815 095704



DJR MILES

BATHROOM, PLUMBING & HEATING ENGINEERS LTD

www.djrmiles.co.uk

 BATHROOM & PLUMBING

 GAS & OIL HEATING SYSTEMS

 RENEWABLE HEATING SYSTEMS

t: 01993 891533 m: 07860 142230

e: [djrmpheltd@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:djrmbpheltd@yahoo.co.uk)



TOWN & COUNTRY
TREES LIMITED



A tree surgery company with
the integrity you can trust.

Tel: 0845 458 2980

Mobile: 07976 261850

Email: info@townandcountrytrees.co.uk

www.townandcountrytrees.co.uk



Luxury, natural artisan soap and
aromatherapy skincare products,
handmade in Stonesfield.
Speciality orders undertaken.

Tanya Bainbridge

West Winds, The Ridings,

Stonesfield

01993 891949

Visits by appointment

www.stonesfieldsoap.com

info@stonesfieldsoap.com



Specialist Private Client Lawyers & Tax Professionals

Trusted advisors to individuals and their families

“An outstanding niche private client firm...its practitioners are recommended as experts in their field, providing high-quality advice...its client service is second to none and every client is valued equally and treated with sensitivity and genuine compassion.”



We can assist you with specialist legal advice on Wills, inheritance tax planning, powers of attorney, helping with probate and generally protecting your assets. We also help protect the vulnerable or elderly.

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

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



Anna Burnside PARTNER
anna.burnside@theburnsidepartnership.com

Jacqui Birks TAX DIRECTOR
jacqui.birks@theburnsidepartnership.com

For further information, please contact:
info@theburnsidepartnership.com



The Carpenters' Workshop, Blenheim Palace Sawmills, Combe, Oxfordshire OX29 8ET
T 01865 987 781 E info@theburnsidepartnership.com W www.theburnsidepartnership.com

FOLLOW US ON:



JEM CHIMNEY SWEEPING

- NO FUSS •
 - NO MESS •
 - NO PROBLEM •
- Tel: 01865 772996

Enjoyable and friendly Art Courses

Email-based tuition and meetings – small groups – as COVID restrictions allow.

For more information contact Gabriele at gabrielekern31@gmail.com

PROBLEM FEET?

NAIL CUTTING • CORNS • CALLUS PROBLEM NAILS • FOOT MASSAGE

Treatment in the comfort of your own home

SHARON DAVIES MCFHP MAFHP
(01993) 891132 / (M) 07941843353

*Registered member of the British Association
of Foot Health Professionals*

Andy Gillam Ironworks

Mobile Welder and Blacksmith



Mobile: 07443596324
Home: 01993898123
Email: andygillam27@outlook.com
Website: andygillamironworks.co.uk

PJR Plumbing & Heating

- * Installation
- * Maintenance
- * Repair & Service
- * Gas Appliances & Safety Certificates

Tel: 01993 881069
MOB: 07515 733398



500807

A. K. P. DIXON

Home & Garden Maintenance
& General Handyman

For all those jobs you need doing
inside & outside – I'm your man!

Call Ade on 01993 813873

or 07825 631111

or email handymanade@btinternet.com

Bed and Breakfast at Combe

For details
please view

www.greenclose.net
or call 01993 891223

RuraScape

Landscaping & gardens

- Patios
- Turfing
- Fencing
- Lawns & grassland
- Hedge management
- Garden/scrubland clearance

Tel 01993 898733 or 07811 598958
Email rurascape@hotmail.com

DEE Mobile Hairdresser

Ladies Cut and Finish £30.00

Ladies Blow Dry Only £20.00

Ladies Precision Cutting Specialist
Worked in Oxford Hair Salons

A professional Service in the comfort
of your home

Fully Qualified
Fully Insured

☎ 07736 668681 for Appointments

🌐 www.deehairdresser.co.uk



BLENHEIM

Combatting Climate Change: Blenheim's Greatest Battle in 300 Years

In 2017, we made a five-year pledge to become a net generator of green energy. We are on track to hit this goal in March 2022 through significant energy savings by converting to electric cars, led lighting and insulating roofs across the estate. We have also focused efforts on green renewable energy projects including biomass, solar and hydro power...
but we are not stopping there.

This year, we are making a new climate pledge and revolutionising the way we operate as we join the global fight for the future of our planet.

We pledge that by 2027, we will become carbon neutral on scopes 1-3 of the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) protocol across all operations by 2027 and, beyond that, to remove 230,000 tonnes CO₂e from the atmosphere by 2050.

For us to make changes that matter, we needed to understand our own footprint. We've commissioned a report with Pilio, an environment and energy consultancy to calculate our emissions for 2019/2020.

Join the fight and combat climate change together!

Read our new green report and learn more at
blenheim.org/green



Great Experience Travel

After another traumatic 12 months for everyone, we would like to wish all our friends and



clients in Stonesfield and Combe a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous 2022.



We are hoping that the coming year will see taking holidays return closer to 'normal', so whatever your

travel requirements, please do call us or come in for a chat, and we'll help you find the right holiday for you whether in the UK or overseas.

Tel: 01993 627815

www.greatexperiencectravel.co.uk





A GARDEN
BELIEVE IN
TOMORROW
AUDREY
HEPBURN

IF YOU HAVE A
GARDEN AND A LIBRARY
YOU HAVE EVERYTHING
YOU NEED

CICERO

AND THE SECRET
GARDEN BLOOMED AND
BLOOMED AND EVERY
MORNING REVEALED
NEW MIRACLES

HODGSON
BURNETT

WHAT IS THIS LIFE
IF, FULL OF CARE,
WE HAVE NO TIME
TO STAND AND STARE.

W H DAVIES

THE LOVE OF
GARDENING IS A SEED
ONCE SOWN
THAT NEVER DIES

GERTRUDE
JEKYLL

20% STONESFIELD
DISCOUNT. ONLINE SHOP:
ABlackBirdsAng.com
OR CALL 01993 891030

I AM NOT AFRAID
OF STORMS,
FOR I AM LEARNING
HOW TO SAIL MY SHIP.

LITTLE
WOMEN

WHO LOVES
A GARDEN LOVES
A GREENHOUSE TOO

WILLIAM
COWPER



THE HOLLY
AND
THE IVY

A PEAR



CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS: LEAF QUOTES, MISTLETOE, CAROLS, I SAW THREE SHIPS,
HOLLY & IVY, PARTRIDGE & A PEAR AND SO MUCH MORE...

