



Issue No 522 March 2022

Our Neighbourhood Plan

Would you like to have a hand in shaping the way Stonesfield develops over the coming years? Do you have opinions on the sort of housing the village needs (or doesn't need): where it should be, who for, and what it should look like? What about our green spaces and views: what are your favourites, and do you want to help protect them from inappropriate development? Are there adequate sports facilities? enough buses? And what about our pub!

You can make your voice heard with our Neighbourhood Plan. A steering group made up of members of the Parish Council and SUSTO are holding a **public meeting at 7.30pm on 28 March in the village hall**, to describe the point and scope of our plan, and to answer your questions. We'll be explaining how you can get involved and how

we'll put the plan together based on the evidence we gather from you.

This is a community project; it's your chance to say how you would like Stonesfield to grow and what you would like it to look and feel like in 15 years time. The plan is a powerful tool in shaping the way our village grows: if it is passed, it forms part of the statutory development plan for the area, alongside the WODC local plan. So we want you to take this opportunity to have your say.

It's important that everyone has the opportunity to get involved. We want everyone to be consulted and given the chance to speak up. That's why we're starting with this meeting. We'll follow that with an in-depth survey in the summer, asking you what you'd like to see in the way of our natural environment (green spaces, biodiversity, agriculture etc), housing, and sustainability (shops, pubs, transport, health, education, sport, employment, infrastructure etc). We will collate the evidence and draft the plan based on your views. Without your views, there is no plan.

To get things started we'd like as many people as possible to answer five questions, see form on **page 21**. Your answers will help us shape the questions in the full survey in the summer.

Please reply by 21 March

Caroline Friend
sustainable.stonesfield@gmail.com



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

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

All advertisements must be paid for in advance.

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MARCH 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



Dates for your diary

March

1	Pancake Party	St James' Centre	3-5pm
1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Zumba	Village Hall	7-8pm
1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Strong National HITT Class	Village Hall	8.15-9.15pm
2	Parish Council meeting	St James' Centre	7pm
2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Gatehouse Pilates	Village Hall	9.30-10.30am
2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Hanna Bathe HITT Class	Village Hall	7.15-9.15pm
2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Folk Dancing	Village Hall	7.45-10pm
3, 7, 10, 14, 17,	Taekwondo	Village Hall	5.30-6.30pm
3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Hanna Bathe HITT Class	Village Hall	7.15-8.15pm
3	Book Break 10 th Anniv Celebration	The Bird in Hand	12 noon
4, 11, 18, 25	Baby & Toddler Group	Village Hall	10-11.30am
5	Community Café and cake sale	Village Hall	9.30am-12.30pm
7, 14, 21, 28	Monday Coffee	St James' Centre	8.45-11.30am
10, 17, 24, 31	Book Break	Library	12.30-2pm
14	Gardening Club AGM and talk	St James' Centre	7pm
20	Steaming Sunday	Combe Mill	10am-4pm
21, 24, 28, 31	Taekwondo	Village Hall	5.30-6.30pm
23	Open meeting, FoSL	Sports & Social Club	7pm
26, 27	Talk and Workshop by Andy Barlow	Village Hall	10am-3pm
28	Neighbourhood Plan meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm

April

2	Afternoon Tea	Methodist Chapel	2-5pm
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Notices & news

Happy 90th birthday to Mike Fletcher!

On 4 March, Dad will be 90. All the family want to wish him a Happy Birthday and lots of love.

Jill, Julian, Jim the dog, and all the family

Monday Coffee

We have been serving real coffee, a range of teas and homemade biscuits in St James' Centre for many years. It began with the idea of providing the parents or carers of school-age children a welcome space to relax after the weekend and before the busy week began. It is a gift from the Church to the community and everything is provided free of charge. Refreshments are served by the volunteers.

Over time we have extended our opening hours so that other residents of the village can call in and our opening hours are 8.45-11.30am in term time and 10-11.30am in school holiday times.

Come and join us! We provide toys for small children in addition to suitable drinks/biscuits and you can be sure of a warm welcome.

Car parking is available at the Centre for anyone attending.

Bina and Margaret

Suriya Express

Some residents will be aware via social media that last month the village shop changed its Sunday opening hours in order to close at 7pm. This arrangement will run up to and including 26 March; thereafter, from 27 March, opening hours on Sundays will revert to 8am-8pm.

Community Café

Join us at the next Stonesfield Community Café in the Village Hall on Saturday 5 March, 9.30am-12.30pm. Enjoy a cuppa with friends or pop along for a takeaway cake!

March's Café will be to raise awareness of, and funds for, Stonesfield-based Chrissie's Owl and Stonesfield Owl Rescue. Chrissie's Owl and Stonesfield Owl Rescue is committed to the care and conservation of the UK's native species of owls, as well as the rescue and rehabilitation of injured owls and birds of prey. Opportunities for Chrissie to raise awareness of her work and the birds in her care, and therefore funds, have been severely restricted throughout the pandemic – and as the country opens up again restrictions continue due to the outbreak of avian influenza. Therefore, this is an opportunity to meet Chrissie, find out more about Chrissie's Owls and the rescue work, whilst enjoying a cup of tea or coffee with cake. (Takeaway cake will also be available.)

If you are able to support this event by baking or volunteering in the Village Hall

kitchen on the morning of the Café, please contact Jess Huband. To find out more about Chrissie's Owls, please visit www.chrissiesowls.com.

Jess Huband (07970 107805)
jesshuband@hotmail.co.uk

Stonesfield Pre-School & Day Care 100 Club

We are pleased to announce our 100 Club winners for the February draw:

1st prize of £25: no. 82 – Rachel Aldred

2nd prize of £10: no. 84 – Brian Clarke

Congratulations to you both.

Zena Rozee, Pre-School Administrator
stonesfieldpsad@outlook.com

ST JAMES THE GREAT, STONESFIELD

Pancake Party for children and adults

at the **St James' Centre**

Shrove Tuesday
1st March 3pm to 5pm

Pancakes and drinks
all free of charge

Come and join us!

More information:
stonesfield@stonesfieldparishchurch.org

Stonesfield Repair Café

Are you a fixer? Thank you to those who responded last month. If you like fixing and mending things, please get in touch. The Repair Café will be a place where one can bring items – electrical, mechanical and IT which don't work and would otherwise go to landfill - to be fixed, thus saving money on their replacement as well as helping the environment.

We are currently gathering a team together, getting the admin in place and applying for funds to cover insurance, and we aim to hold the first café event by the early summer. If you are interested and would like to help, please contact Mike Sofroniou at: mikesofroniou@gmail.com.

Don't forget: Litter pickers are available to borrow/use!

Unfortunately, the litter in and around the village (and on the roadside verges leading in and out of the village) appears to have proliferated again...

If you fancy litter-picking whilst out walking (or if you already litter-pick but would like to use a litter picker to make it easier and safer), we have 15 village litter-pickers provided by Stonesfield Parish Council which are available to borrow. Simply message Jess Huband (contact details below) with the date/time you would like to borrow one/some and the equipment will be left out for you to collect. (The location will be confirmed in the reply message.)

We hope to have another village-wide Stonesfield Spring Clean day but in the meantime the litter pickers (and bags) are available for all to use at any time.

If litter picking near a road, please wear a hi-vis vest – we have a couple which may be borrowed with the litter pickers if needed. And please report unsafe or large items for WODC to collect via fixmystreet.com/ (Potholes etc. may also be reported here.)

As we don't have a village recycling facility any more, all litter collected must be sorted and disposed of via our own household bins. (If/when we have a Spring Clean day, a special collection from a central point is organised with WODC/Ubico.)

Any questions, please ask! And thank you.

Jess Huband (07970 107805)

jesshuband@hotmail.co.uk

Local photographs wanted

The Stonesfield Village website is looking for more photographs to show in its gallery at www.stonesfield.online/views/ These photographs should be taken in or around Stonesfield, can be new or historic, colour or black and white.

From the gallery, one 'seasonal' (landscape format) photograph is selected to appear on the website home page each month.

If you have photographs that you would like to appear, please send them to the website editor together with a title for the image and your name (if you wish to be credited). If people are shown in the photographs, you must also confirm that you have their permission to publish.

Parish Council website

webeditor@stonesfield.online

Friends of Stonesfield Library

If you have recently arrived in the village, welcome to the Library! You will find us attached to the Village Hall, on the far-left side as you face the building. We may be small but we pack a mighty punch!

For the last ten years or so volunteers have shared half of the Library's opening hours with the professional manager. In that way we can keep it open for eleven hours per week. The Library's usual opening hours are as follows: Monday 2.30-7pm, Wednesday 10am-12 noon, Thursday 2.30-5pm and Saturday 10am-12 noon. (Telephone 01993 898187)

The Friends of Stonesfield Library (FoSL) are holding an open meeting at the Sports & Social Club on Wednesday 23 March at 7pm. There are 16 of us at present and we each do one, and sometimes two, sessions per month. If you want to find out more, please come to the meeting. There is no obligation to join us but of course we would love to expand our numbers. We work in pairs; the work is not at all arduous and the short training is done 'in house' by our manager.

Val Phillips (891455)

Afternoon Tea at the Methodist Chapel

... with Easter in mind! Do come and enjoy cakes, cream teas and beverages on Saturday 2 April, 2-5pm. There will be assorted stalls and produce too, and a very warm welcome indeed! If you have any unwanted items to donate to the stalls, they would be greatly appreciated, and if you need help with transport on the day, just get in touch.

Kathleen Albért (891733)

Stonesfield diary – a reminder

A reminder that the village website now has a diary of events, accessible from the village website home page (www.stonesfield.online), which allows everyone to see what is proposed / confirmed months in advance.

This calendar is open to all Stonesfield clubs and societies to record their events or activities in Stonesfield. So far very few have taken up the opportunity. As an inaccurate diary is worse than none, if take-up remains poor the diary will have to be removed.

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 always update the diary yourself.

Parish Council website
webeditor@stonesfield.online

Voluntary Transport Scheme is starting again

We are happy to let you know that our volunteer drivers are available again from the beginning of March to take you to local medical appointments or to the hospitals in Oxford and Banbury. Full COVID safety precautions are still in place and we will ask you to take a lateral flow test before your journey; your driver will do the same. There is no charge but we welcome a donation towards expenses.

Please call Viv Kendall on 01993 891803 to book a lift.

Pianist wanted

Hanborough's choir, *Village Voices*, is urgently looking for a pianist to accompany the choir for rehearsals and concerts. If you can help, please contact Nigel on 01993 881711.

Campaign to Protect Rural England: call for Trustees

Do you care about your local countryside? Want to make a difference?

CPRE Oxfordshire is the voice of the countryside in Oxfordshire. Due to the retirement of current members, we are looking for new trustees to join our team. This is an excellent opportunity to play an influential role in a respected and long-standing environmental charity, applying your experience to make a real difference and to be part of a friendly group that is passionate about the Oxfordshire countryside.

The application deadline is 31 March 2022 in the first instance, but we are happy to receive expressions of interest on an ongoing basis. For further information, please contact our Branch Secretary, Dorian Grier, at dorian.cpre@gmail.com or telephone 01491 612079. More information is also available at www.cpreoxon.org.uk

Julia Benning, Communications Manager, CPRE

Helping older people to use the internet

Almost half of people in the UK who have never used the internet are over 75, even though they make up less than 8% of the population.

Older people can face greater barriers to getting online – the whole idea can be a bit daunting but there are huge benefits to learning a step at a time, including access to information, making and maintaining regular contact with family and friends, entertainment and better access to health information and services.

A great guide to helping and supporting an older person to use the internet for the first time or to help improve their skills is produced by the Online Centres Network, which runs online centres in libraries and community centres and also offers much supporting advice. If you use the internet yourself, you know enough to do it – you can download the guide and others here: www.onlinecentresnetwork.org/resources/older-people.

Vivienne Kendall

Village Hall news

Thank you to everyone for supporting the Community Cafés on the first Saturday of each month. We have another one in aid of Chrissie's Owls on Saturday 5 March, so please do come along and support them. On Saturday 26 and Sunday 27, running between 10am and 3pm each day, there will be a talk and workshop by Andy Barlow on self-empowerment, personal sovereignty and understanding common law. The cost is £15 which includes a light lunch and refreshments. For further information, please contact sarahfortes@hotmail.co.uk

Looking forward to June, we are really keen to help make the Platinum Jubilee celebrations an amazing experience in which the whole community can participate by putting together a full month of events and making it a time for everyone

to remember. We have already met with a number of interested groups, had a meeting to discuss ideas and have applied for funding to get this off the ground. There are plenty of events planned which we will let you know about next month but for now we would like everyone to think about:

- **planters, hanging baskets and tubs** to have a red, blue and white theme; it would make the whole village look great – whether small or large, why not decorate your garden?
- Following on from 2020's successful **garage sale**, please start sorting your items for the next sale (date to be arranged).
- **Photographs of Stonesfield:** We will hold an exhibition of old photographs and will be running a photographic competition with various age and theme categories for new photos of Stonesfield, so do get snapping!
- Calling all **artists:** We have a number of ideas planned in this field so, if you would like to help in any capacity, please let us know your artistic skill set.
- There is much enthusiasm for **street parties**. Please let us know if you would like to do this, and if you would like to assist or participate.

There will be much more information in the next issue of the *Slate*, along with the SVH Facebook site and on Nextdoor. There is still plenty to do! If you are interested in helping or have an idea for something that you/your group would like to do to celebrate, do please contact us.

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

Politics & local affairs

Stonesfield Parish Council (SPC)

We hope that everyone is well and we look forward to what we hope is a better year in 2022 with regards to Covid.

Bench: The Parish Council is hoping to have the new bench (which has been commissioned using S106 monies from the art project) installed before Easter in the village, exact location to be determined but either near the Common or on Brook Lane. This is later than originally planned but will be just in time for the (hopefully good) spring weather.

OCC Budget: Oxfordshire County Council reported that the OCC budget has been set with an emphasis on investment in adult and social care. Climate change is also a major part of the programme. OCC reported that OCC and Cherwell District Council are separating due to the differing demands of officers. The partnership commenced three years ago but has now entered the separation process. It should not impact on Council budgets this year.

Youth support: OCC reported that there will be four youth workers in the District. Cllr Andy Graham would like to know if anyone can identify areas for youth that may need support. The Clerk noted that there is a purpose-built and little-used youth building in Woodstock which needs utilising and shuttle buses between villages are being considered. If anyone in the village has any suggestions, please get in

touch with Cllr Andy Graham or the Parish Clerk who will pass on information.

Bus services: There is an OCC consultation document regarding bus services on 'Let's Talk Oxfordshire'. It is important to try and retain our bus services; rural areas may be cut first so residents are encouraged to take a look and comment.

20mph speed limit: The Council looks forward to seeing the roll-out of the 20mph speed limit for Stonesfield which is the first village in the division to take up this scheme. This is a great initiative on which SAFER (a Stonesfield Parish Council working group) has worked very hard to achieve and which should benefit the village as a whole.

Planning applications: There was no objection to application 21/04033/HHD (Replacement of existing rear dormer) Home Close, Simon Warr.

Neighbourhood Plan update: At its January meeting the Council voted unanimously in favour of appointing the SUSTO steering group as a formal advisory sub-committee of the Parish Council in order to conform with Section 122 of the Local Government Act 1972. We envisage further members of the community becoming involved in this. It should be noted that finance for the Neighbourhood Plan will be held by the Clerk of the Parish Council with the budget being set by the Parish Council as a whole. Please watch the

Slate for regular updates from the group on behalf of the Parish Council.

The Common: At its February meeting the Council approved the purchase of alder trees to plant along the riverbank on the cricket pitch.

Wildlife: People are encouraged to create holes in their hedges and fences etc. in order to encourage hedgehogs. More information on West Oxfordshire's Hedgehog Highway Campaign can be found at www.westoxon.gov.uk/hedgehoghighway.

Frank Hall: The Parish Council has approved the installation of a brass plaque on the war memorial in recognition of Frank Hall who looked after the war memorial for over 40 years and ran the Poppy Appeal for the village.

Queen's Jubilee: Councillors discussed options for marking the Queen's Jubilee and the Queen's Green Canopy (tree planting initiative) in the village. The Village Hall may coordinate an event and/or various celebrations and many ideas are being discussed. Stonesfield Open Gardens will take place during June. Oxfordshire Community Foundation is championing arts funding for the Jubilee with a focus on arts-based initiatives such as theatre, visual arts, library and museum activities. If groups can suggest ideas that the village might like to support, they should contact the Village Hall Committee as soon as possible. The Council is considering options to mark the occasion and is looking into the possibility of producing an aerial photograph of the village which would be on display in the village as well as being available for purchase.

Next meeting: The date of the next full Parish Council meeting is 2 March at 7pm in the St James' Centre.

Karen East, Parish Clerk
clerk@stonesfieldpc.uk

Notice of vacancy in office of Councillor, Parish Council of Stonesfield

Notice is hereby given pursuant to section 87(2) of the Local Government Act 1972 that David Baldwin, formerly a Member of the above-named Parish Council, has ceased to be a Member of the Parish Council and that a vacancy now exists in the office of Councillor for the Parish.

If, within 14 days after the date of this notice (ie. no later than Monday 7 March 2022), a request for an election to fill the vacancy is made to the Head of the Paid Service, West Oxfordshire District Council, Woodgreen, Witney, Oxfordshire OX28 1NB by ten electors for the Parish, an election will be held to fill the vacancy; otherwise, the vacancy will be filled by co-option. If there is an election, it will take place no later than Thursday 12 May 2022.

Dated: Tuesday 15 February 2022

Ms Karen East

Clerk to Stonesfield Parish Council

Signs of a safer Stonesfield take shape

On 17 February 2022, works started to replace all the speed limit signage in the village, reducing the limit from 30mph to 20mph.

In November 2018 a community-based survey was launched in the village to deal with the concerns of residents worried

about an increase in excessive speeding in Stonesfield. The outcome of that survey was that the majority of respondents (70%) wanted to see changes in the village to improve road safety, with a clear majority wanting to see the speed limit reduced from 30mph to 20mph.

The Parish Council Working Group known as SAFER was established in the Spring of 2019 and developed a strategy to work with OCC Highway to make Stonesfield safer by reducing the speed across the whole village to 20mph. Moving to 20mph has taken over three years in the planning and lots of supplementary improvements in the village have been implemented along the way.

The new signage will take a few days to complete and the SID devices will be reprogrammed to cover the changes. Thank you for your patience on this journey and the continuous support for the SAFER team who have worked very hard to make this happen.

Finally, OCC has a plan to reduce the speed within all villages in West Oxfordshire to 20mph should they desire it. To achieve this, the SAFER team is sharing its best practice with neighbouring communities to avoid them having to 'reinvent the wheel.'

Cllr Michael Heduan MBE, Chair
SAFER: A Parish Council Working Group

News from West Oxfordshire

Kerbside recycling collections: WODC advise that, due to more people working from home over the last couple of years, kerbside collection services are under greater pressure and it is necessary to introduce some minor changes.

- Due to extremely low demand, kerbside collections of engine oil and car batteries will cease.
- With regard to cooking oil which hitherto has been left in bottles on the kerbside, residents are now being asked to add small amounts of this to their food caddies in order that crews can focus on emptying recycling bins, boxes and caddies.

Residents will still be able to take car batteries, engine oil and excess cooking oil to the household recycling centre at Dix Pit for disposal. Additionally, garages and other outlets which sell car batteries are usually willing to accept old batteries.

VOLUNTARY TRANSPORT SCHEME - STARTING AGAIN

We are happy to let you know that our volunteer drivers are available again from the beginning of March, to take you to local medical appointments or to the hospitals in Oxford and Banbury.

Full COVID safety precautions are still in place.

Please call Viv Kendall on 01993 891803 to book transport in March.

Neighbourhood Watch

E-scooters: E-scooters are growing in popularity and their sale is being actively promoted by major high street and online retailers. Neighbourhood Watch has been advised by the police neighbourhood team that privately owned e-scooters are restricted for use solely on private land and with the permission of the landowner. It is illegal to use a privately-owned e-scooter on pavements, cycle paths or roads at present unless the correct MOT, tax and insurance has been obtained. Under current UK law, e-scooters are treated in the same way as motor vehicles so pavements and cycle paths are strictly off limits; in turn, for road use, they must meet the same requirements as cars and motorbikes. Trials are taking place in several parts of the UK, including Oxford, where members of the public are able to hire and ride a rented e-scooter. Further information on this may be found at www.gov.uk/guidance/e-scooter-trials-guidance-for-users.

Anti-Social Behaviour: What is anti-social behaviour? This includes:

- Acting in a manner that causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress
- When someone does something that most people would say is unreasonable
- Something causing a nuisance or annoyance
- A harm-centred approach

More information can be found at: www.ourwatch.org.uk/asb

The Neighbourhood Watch newsletter can be found at: www.ourwatch.org.uk/sites/

<default/files/documents.2022-02/Feb%202022%20OUR%20NEWS.pdf>

Residents who have concerns about anti-social behaviour should report incidents to Stonesfield's Police Community Support Officer, Ben Hallam (PCSO 9608), by telephoning 101.

Anyone interested in joining the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme may find details and register at: www.ourwatch.org.uk/join. Clicking on 'Join a scheme' and selecting 'Stonesfield' will complete the request.

Deanna Asplundh, Stonesfield Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator



Education, culture & more

Stonesfield Pre-School

As you read this issue of the *Slate*, Stonesfield Pre-School will be about to start Term 4. During this term we will be thinking about spring and new growth and looking at different life cycles, such as frogs and butterflies. We usually have a delivery of four very tiny caterpillars and the children always have pleasure in watching our very hungry caterpillars grow and turn into cocoons and then into Painted Lady butterflies which are released into the wild to start the cycle all over again!

During this term we will continue to use the Forest School area at the Primary School. This is a one-week opportunity for the children to have hands-on enjoyment

of the outside environment. There is always something of great interest for the children to investigate and explore: new leaves popping open, bugs and insects to hunt for, and a cheeping robin playing hide and seek in the branches of a tree whose trunk is so big that four children have to hold hands around it to give it a hug!

Stonesfield Pre-School would also like to welcome all the new children and their families who have joined us recently and we look forward to meeting new families in the future.

Louise John, Pre-School Manager
stonesfieldps@outlook.com
www.stonesfieldpreschool.com



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)

Stonesfield Primary School

2022 has certainly started with a bang. Having escaped fairly lightly with COVID-19 as a school community (apart from a peak coinciding with the European football championships), the trickle of cases became a flood in January. Over 60 pupils and a number of staff testing positive resulted in a challenging month for us all. But we're through it now, stronger and more resilient than ever. Speaking of resilience ...

I had the pleasure of accompanying our Year 5 and 6 pupils on their recent residential trip to Kilvrough Manor in South Wales earlier in the month. Over the last two years our children have missed out on so much: trips, visits, experiences, rites of passage - the sheer pleasure of jumping on a coach and going somewhere exciting. Having postponed a residential trip back in

November with less than 48 hours' notice, I am sure that a lot of fingers and toes were crossed in the week leading to it. Congregating on a cold Monday morning, there were butterflies and nervous goodbyes combined with a sense of adventure and opportunity.

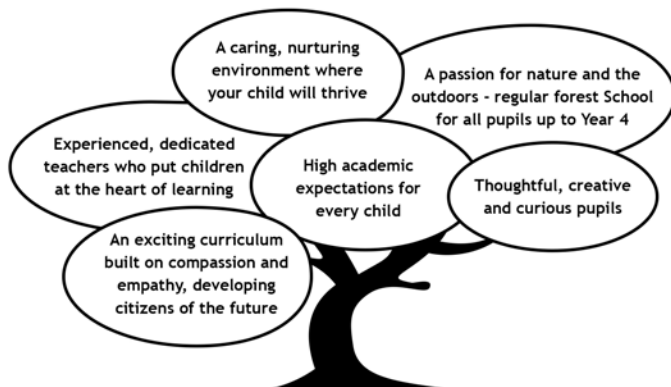
Needless to say, it was a wonderful week. Our children (and staff!) threw themselves (literally in the case of two boys while canoeing) into an exciting range of activities: canoeing, caving, climbing, abseiling, night hike. The instructors were excellent at encouraging and cajoling, while challenging the children out of their comfort zones. At school we talk about learning being at its most rewarding when we are stretched but not to the point of panic. Here, every moment was an opportunity to test our limits. I was so proud to see our children embrace these

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

new experiences, drawing deep on courage and resilience. Teamwork was required; leadership and communication skills valued and integral to the success and enjoyment of each task.

Personally, being away from school for the week gave me an opportunity to recharge and enjoy the company of our wonderful children outside the classroom. As a school we've worked tirelessly to improve academic standards but primary school is also about making memories. I have no doubt our Kilvrough memories will last a lifetime, long after SATs results are forgotten.

Ben Trevail, Headteacher

Date for your diary

FoSS (Friends of Stonesfield School) are planning our School Fete on Saturday 21 May. We'd love you to be involved. Please get in touch with our chair, Caspar Morris, if you can help in any way: fosschair@hotmail.com

Nature notes: Friends who lurk in the damp and dark

Forking the overwintering green manure into the soil, it was a surprise to find three 'brown centipedes' together in February (one of our commoner centipedes) just four inches below the surface. A gentle fork and the reason was clear: the remains of a slug. Centipedes are most active at night and with venomous front claws hunt slugs, so are most welcome as long as they don't harm the leopard slugs (another friend in the organic garden).

Nearing the stone path, two 'common rough woodlice' scurry into the dark of a stone crevice. Another friend in the organic

garden, their role is feeding off decomposing plant material, particularly wood, and recycling it back into the soil.

Centipedes and woodlice are both terrestrial isopods and don't have a waxy cuticle so are prone to drying out.

If you have a woodpile or outdoor plant pots there will be woodlice that scurry out of the light and into the dark. The female breeds up to three times a year hatching the eggs into a marsupial pouch; then the young stay with the mother for a couple of months.



One of the vernacular names for woodlice is 'stinky pigs'. If you get close enough to a colony you might catch the scent of rotting fish and - here's the crazy thing - they don't urinate and do excrete waste through their exoskeleton in the form of ammonia gas. They can roll into a tight ball or can roll onto their backs and play dead. Once the danger has gone, the 14 legs get to work flipping themselves back over onto their legs and hurrying away into the damp shadows.

John Sampson

Hare Coursing

I'm prompted to write about this after several comments posted on Nextdoor concerning dead hares seen locally and cases of suspected hare coursing, so here is a little history and some background.

Soon after the Norman Conquest, the Forest Laws were introduced to protect the beasts of the chase, banning taking wild animals for food, or wood for fuel and housing, or enclosing land as that would inhibit the hunt for the nobility. This was extremely unpopular as it meant the local population could not continue with their previous way of life, although later Common Rights were enshrined in to law.

One of the other parts of the law stated only nobles could own greyhounds. This would ensure that the sport of hare coursing remained in the hands of nobility. To get round this, men cross-bred greyhounds with other sight-hounds to introduce lurchers, known as 'poacher's dogs'.

By the end of the nineteenth century hare coursing was at its peak as a working man's sport until it was superseded by greyhound racing in the 1920s. However, it continued to have a high profile in some areas with, for instance, the Waterloo Cup, competed for over three days in Lancashire right up until 2005, when the 2004 Hunting Act came in to force. This made hunting with dogs illegal.

There are three types of hunting for hares:

- Hare hunting uses packs of beagles, harriers or basset hounds, followed usually on foot. There are 71 hare hunts in existence, which continue through the practice of trail hunting, in much the same way as fox hunts.

- Hare poaching is trespassing on private land to catch hares for food or 'fun' and uses dogs in the same way as hare coursers.
- Hare coursing is where a pair of dogs are set to compete against each other to see which can turn and catch a hare the quickest. Coursing will often now involve single dogs with the winner being the one with most kills, with gambling on the results.

The 2004 Hunting Act drove coursing underground and has become the cause of much criminal damage in the countryside, as well as inflicting grave damage on the hare population. A recent survey in Yorkshire reported repeat offences on farms of damage to crops, fencing and hedges and livestock. Farmers also report being physically and verbally abused by the gangs responsible.



New laws have now been set out by the government to update the 1828 Night Poaching Act and the 1831 Game Act which both banned trespassing in pursuit of game. They will be amended to introduce unlimited fines and up to six months' imprisonment. New offences will be introduced – trespass with the intention, or going equipped to trespass with the intention, of using a dog to pursue a hare. On conviction, the court will have the

power to regain costs for the police of kennelling seized dogs, as well as disqualifying the owner from owning or keeping dogs.

The National Farmers Union is pleased that after years of campaigning there may at last be a real crackdown. The RSPCA says that as well as being cruel to hares, the dogs are often badly treated and are abandoned as soon as they are no longer of use.

It has been estimated that there are fewer than half a million brown hares in England and they are now listed as a priority in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. It is to be hoped that the new law will go some way towards protecting them.

Diane Bates

slate-pub@stonesfield.online

Steaming Sunday at Combe Mill

At last things seem to be getting back to normal and for Combe Mill that includes our first Steaming Sunday on 20 March. Volunteers have worked hard all winter on various projects to ensure that the visitor experience can be the best possible.



Combe Mill, Thomas Bradford Horizontal Steam Engine (late C19)

Last summer we welcomed anyone who was thinking they might like to volunteer at the Mill, to see how their skill set might make them feel at home. I am pleased to say that after some successful visits, training and Wednesday hard work, we had some really good people added to our team. We always have room for more



Combe Mill Foreman's Office

though! Come and have an informal chat, enjoy the Mill in steam and see what you can both gain and add as a volunteer.

We have a fabulous programme lined up this year for our steaming events, some old favourites and some brand-new ones are being planned. In April, we are aiming to increase everyone's knowledge of STEM activities – plenty for our young visitors to interact with. We will have an Easter Egg Trail and a children's quiz, both with good prizes to be won. Dogs are always welcome.

Our Tea Room is also open on Wednesdays so why not come and enjoy sitting by the river, whilst tucking in to the varied tasty offerings.

Tony Simmons (891851)

Clubs, societies & sport

The Library of Things

So far, people have offered a garden shredder, a preserving pan with long-handled spoon and funnel, a pruning/bow saw, an Ikea child's cot including mattress, cover, sheets and cat net, a push lawnmower, extendable plant loppers and 15 litter pickers (owned by the Parish Council). Do you have anything you'd be happy to lend, something you'd like to see used more often than you can use it yourself? Have a look through your home; we're into sharing resources instead of buying new.

Dale Morris, Librarian of Things

dale.morris@zen.co.uk

Stonesfield Football Club

To describe the past month as bitterly disappointing for The Firsts would be an understatement. They crashed out of The Fred Ford Trophy at home to Hailey in a tense match that ended 1-1 after extra time, with the visitors just edging it in the dreaded penalty shoot-out (5-4). The following week Hailey came visiting again, this time in The Oxon Junior Shield: once again a very close match ended with our boys being knocked out in another tense encounter (1-0). The gloom doesn't stop there as our boys' hopes of salvaging league success took a dent as they could only manage a draw (1-1) at home with Carterton FCR. Their league hopes hang by a proverbial thread and their chances lie in taking maximum points from table-toppers Hailey who they must play twice. There's

not much between the two teams but I wouldn't be surprised to see Hailey crowned champions and our boys runners-up in May.

As far as The Reserves are concerned it's not all been gloom and doom, but it hasn't been a bed of roses either. The month started well with a great win (5-2) at Sherborne Harriers, followed by a narrow defeat at Witney Royals (3-2). Then they visited runaway leaders Hatherop who were utterly ruthless in inflicting our worst defeat in a long, long time (11-1: *not* a misprint!). The Reserves are mainly a young team and would benefit from having some old heads to help them get over that thumping defeat. They were then awarded all three points against Spartan FCR'A' who failed to raise a side. Nice to see our lads get the points but I'm sure they'd rather have played the match: win, lose or draw!

So, to The Fredo Award. The reader will be aware that Fredos are not handed out for mediocrity, or just sheer effort. The Fredo Committee considered the efforts of both our teams and thought it fair and in the interests of sporting integrity, to withhold the much sought-after award for this month. Come on lads, both our teams, you can do better!

Tom Flanigan (891979)

Stonesfield Scouts

Scout Hut update! The Scouts, Cubs and Beavers are very pleased to have been awarded planning permission for the new hut. This is doubly great as not only does it mean we are allowed to build it and the community feel this is a good thing to be doing, but it also allows us to access a wider range of grants. Through years of duck races, BBQs and the buying of bricks and other fundraising activities, we are getting towards our target of £175,000 but there is still a long way to go. If you would like to support us, then there is a range of ways to help: you could buy a brick, raise money yourself and give through our JustGiving page, or donate your time to help with the fundraising efforts. All details can be found at Stonesfield-scouts.org.uk or by emailing Ben Whitworth at chair@stonesfield-scouts.org.uk

Summer events: All of the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts are looking forward to holding events to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the FOSS village fete and the 2022 duck race. Dates will be published soon – keep an eye out for posters – but we need some help setting up and running the days. Our amazing Leaders work flat out to run the weekly sessions and so if you are happy to help run an event, flip the odd burger or sell a few cakes, please get in touch: chair@stonesfield-scouts.org.uk

Claire Scudder

Stonesfield Gardening Club

We reluctantly cancelled our February meeting due to more Covid victims and continuing uncertainty but we definitely plan to go ahead in March when we will whistle through our belated AGM and welcome a returning guest speaker, Timothy Walker, to enlighten us on the intricacies of pruning – no doubt served up with a helping of fun.



Timothy Walker's 2020 Gardening Club talk

Do come along and let's get cracking on our belated joy of gardening; also, bring those seeds for swapping and we will provide that long-promised glass of vino.

Wendy Gould, Chair

www.stonesfieldgardening.info

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

Stonesfield Tennis Club

The Annual General Meeting of the Stonesfield Tennis Club was held on Tuesday February 15 at the Stonesfield village hall.

At the meeting, members adopted the club's new constitution, acknowledged our summer doubles winners and runners up, discussed the results of the recent survey results and elected our committee for the upcoming season.

The new committee consists of

Chairman: Andrew Tacon

Vice Chairman: Borut Razman

Secretary: Hugh Galliers

Treasurer: Rob Suriano

We are able to include more people on the committee (up to a maximum of seven) so if there are interested people who would like to be involved, then please contact us. However, for now, so long as we have at least three members on the management committee, the club satisfies the requirements for affiliation to the Lawn Tennis Association.

The committee will meet in March to further review the survey and commence planning for the remainder of the year. The club is seeking to improve member engagement (by increasing playing, coaching and social opportunities).

If you are interested in playing (or learning to play!!), membership is open to all at very competitive subscription rates. The two astro-turf tennis courts were re-laid in 2018 and are in excellent condition with plenty of court availability. In addition, club members receive automatic

membership of the adjacent Stonesfield Sports and Social Club.

Please contact us for further details or see details on our website or social media pages.

Andrew Tacon; Chairman (07795 441986)

stonesfieldtc@gmail.com

www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/StonesfieldTennisClub

Facebook: @stonesfieldtennisclub

Instagram: @stonesfieldtennis

Neighbourhood Plan Survey

The Initial Survey can also be accessed using the QR code below.



Here are the five questions we'd like as many people as possible to answer. Your reply is anonymous. Your answers will help us shape the questions in the full survey in the summer.



You can complete this form online by going to <https://stonesfield.online/initial-survey/> and clicking on the link to the Survey Monkey questionnaire. Or, fill in this paper form and drop it into the box in the shop.

Please reply by 21 March.

- 1 Where in Stonesfield do you live? Tick box
- Longore/Greenfield and roads off
 - Loughton Hill/Ridings/Pond Hill and roads off
 - Boot St/Peaks Lane/Church St/Churchfields/High St and roads off
 - Woodstock Rd/Combe Road and roads off

2 What do you like about Stonesfield?

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.....

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3 What or where do you want to protect and preserve in Stonesfield?

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.....

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4 What don't you like about Stonesfield?

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.....

.....

5 What changes would you like to see?

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Thank you in advance for responding – and we look forward to seeing you in the village hall at 7.30 on Monday 28 March.



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: Clear out!

In March last year, my wife and I were busy sorting out the contents of our London Vicarage flat in preparation for moving to Stonesfield. Although we had only been there for six years, we had accumulated plenty and we wanted to grasp the opportunity to let go of unused and unwanted things before it was all boxed up and brought to the Rectory here. Week after week we toiled in evenings and spare moments, filling bags and boxes for the charity shop, for friends or for the church dustbins. It felt like an appropriate way to spend Lent, the forty days of preparation before Easter, and in tune with our deeply rooted habit of spring cleaning.

I have often used the idea of a spring clean or clear out as a way of explaining Lent to children in schools. Clearing out a pencil case, a drawer, a cupboard, a bedroom, the loft or garage, are practical activities which

we can all understand, and recognise as satisfying or necessary. How pleasing it is to find what you need in a tidy garage, room or drawer, rather than searching hopelessly for it in an overflowing box room or dark attic. Some things which we clear out are dangerous and must be removed for that reason: leaking tins of paint or chemicals, out of date food or medicines, broken glass or other dangerous objects which need to be removed for everyone's good. But most of the things we might sort out are not bad – they may have a value or a purpose in the right time and to the right person but they are in the way, making it hard to find what we really need. They are simply unnecessary or misplaced. They can be reorganised, sold or donated.

Perhaps it is the same with our lives, as in Lent the Church encourages us to examine ourselves in preparation for Easter, the great feast of the resurrection of Christ from the dead. Sorting out our lives is easier said than done, of course, but the same principles apply. Is anything dangerous or harmful? These things should be carefully removed: habits and practices which cause hurt to others or to ourselves. Sometimes their removal can be difficult – we may need advice or guidance about how to be rid of them. Many other things may simply be cluttering up our attempt to live well – and these can be the hardest to deal with – things which are not bad in themselves but which prevent us from living life to the full, or from achieving the things we desire. Our work,

hobbies, friendships and habits can all be good, but they can also prevent us from achieving what we need or want if they are out of balance. The Church has always encouraged self-examination in Lent, looking carefully at our priorities so that we may do the right things, in the right proportions, for the right reasons. If we consider our lives honestly, what is preventing us from doing these things which should be our priority? How can we change this?

For those of us with faith, even a little faith, or a desire to explore faith, it is important that we can use this opportunity to re-establish or re-affirm the priority of prayer, worship and Christian study in our lives too, ring-fencing time on Sundays and at other times in the week, for our faith to flourish. I commend to you the opportunity to do this by attending our weekly Lent Groups on Thursday afternoons or evenings, and the morning worship we offer on Sundays, Wednesdays and during Holy Week and Easter.

Whatever you are sorting, spring cleaning or clearing out this month, I wish you a happy and life-changing Lent.

Revd Ralph Williamson, Rector

March Services

Shrove Tuesday 1 March

3-5pm Stonesfield Pancake Party in
St James' Centre

Ash Wednesday 2 March

9.30am Stonesfield Holy Communion
11am Combe Holy Communion

Sunday 6 March (First Sunday of Lent)

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

Sunday 13 March (Second Sunday of Lent)

8am Stonesfield Holy Communion
(BCP/said)
9.30am Combe Parish Communion
11am Stonesfield Parish Communion

Sunday 20 March (Third Sunday of Lent)

8am Stonesfield Holy Communion
(BCP/said)
9.30am Combe Parish Communion
11am Stonesfield Parish Communion

Sunday 27 March (Mothering Sunday)

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

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
(16 and 30 March)

Thursdays – Lent Groups (weekly from 10 March)

2pm Combe Reading Room (with refreshments)

4pm Stonesfield St James' Centre (with refreshments from 3.30pm)

7.30pm Stonesfield St James' Centre (with refreshments)

Theme: Exploring the Big Story of the Bible – with Bible Society video, discussion and prayer. Everyone is warmly invited – do come!

Stonesfield Methodist Church

Services in March

Sunday 6	11am	Peter Allen
Sunday 13	11am	Kath Skinner
Sunday 20	11am	Revd Rose Westwood Holy Communion Service
Sunday 27	11am	Jude Levermore

World Day of Prayer Service – Friday 4 March

This year's Service begins at 2.15pm. Women of many denominations have helped prepare the Service which will be heard by millions of people around the world during the 24 hours of the 4th. You are warmly invited to the Service here at the Methodist Church to join in this amazing World Wave of Prayer.

Kathleen Albért (891733)

Roman Catholic worship

Where are you going?

Where are you going? That's one of life's big questions. For some people the answer is very clear: get a job, manage my career, find my life's partner, maybe have children, be secure, and above all – be happy. The assumption is that the latter – be happy – is inevitably delivered by the former: job, partner, children, security, but, alas we know, all too well, that is often not the case. Partners leave, children grow up, the job or career changes and maybe life feels less secure. Thus, the question remains, where are you going?

Lent, which commences on Wednesday 2 March, helps us to begin to answer that question. Lent is that six-week period before Easter that helps ready us for that momentous change of Easter. Lent is a replication of Christ's 40 days of fasting in the desert before his three years of teaching.

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the desert to be put to the test by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was hungry, and the tester came and said to him, 'If you are Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says: Human beings live not on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' The devil then took him to the holy city and set him on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says: He has given his angels orders about you, and they will carry you in their arms in case you trip over a stone.' Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' Next, taking him to a very high mountain,

the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. And he said to him, 'I will give you all these, if you fall at my feet and do me homage. Then Jesus replied, 'Away with you, Satan! For scripture says: The Lord your God is the one to whom you must do homage, him alone you must serve.' Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels appeared and looked after him. Matthew 4, 1:11

Lent offers us an opportunity of reflection on the past and to re-think our real future. That's not a future focused on material things, no matter how important they might be to us, but on that other future. That other future is more to do with our spiritual destination and our relationship with God.

But he replied, 'Scripture says: Human beings live not on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' This gives us the answer to that question 'Where are you going?' We are going to God, and Jesus will take us there.

Holy Mass

Sunday Mass at 9.15am. There is no need to book but please wear a mask if you can.

Weekday Mass times:

Monday and Tuesday at 9.30am

Wednesday at 7pm followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday at 9.30am

Friday at 9.30am followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

For times of confession, see the weekly newsletter on: stteresaschurch-charlbury.com

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.

The Synodal Pathway

The Holy Father has called for the Synodal Process to begin in the Dioceses of the world on 17 October 2021. The Holy Father highlights the importance of 'mutual listening' and that this will be at the heart of the synodal process throughout the Church and beyond the boundaries of the Church.

For further information about the Synodal Pathway and how St Teresa's is approaching this, please visit our website (see below)

Fr. Tony Joyce may be contacted on holytrinityrcchippy@gmail.com or 01608 642703

For Parish updates, any further information and further support, please visit: www.stteresaschurch-charlbury.com/ or contact Fr. Clive Dytar at: chair.stteresaschurchcharlbury@gmail.com

Roman Catholic Community in Stonesfield

Stonesfield Tennis Club

The club was established over 50 years ago with membership open to all at very competitive subscription rates. The two astro-turf tennis courts were re-laid in 2018 and are in excellent condition with plenty of court availability.

Phone: 07795 441986
(Andrew Tacon; Chairman)

Website:
[https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/
StonesfieldTennisClub](https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/StonesfieldTennisClub)

Email: stonesfieldtc@gmail.com
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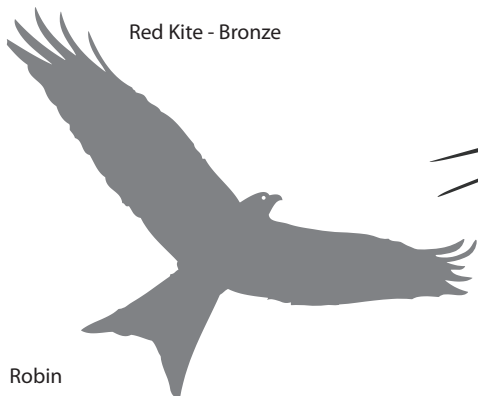
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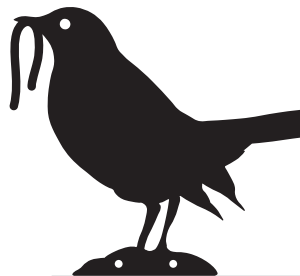
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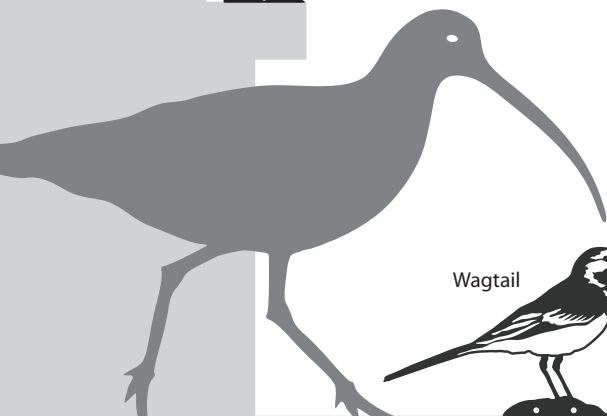
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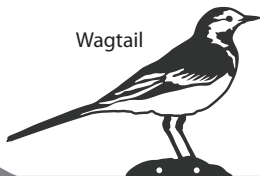
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