



Issue No 526 July 2022

After the Jubilee



Acacia Smithson: Jubilee cake competition organised in aid of CJ's Mission

Last month we ate cake and drank toasts, enjoyed the Jubilee pageantry, the Scouts' beacon lighting and the music, the special parties for the young and not-so-young, the thanksgiving service and tea (more cake), the Community Café, the wonderful wedding dresses, the Stonesfield Players' marathon (I mean Actathon; more cake) and the equally wonderful open gardens.

The magnificent cakes above express the huge efforts made by Stonesfield people in many different ways, to mark the Jubilee. This issue of the Slate celebrates them all – so much time and energy invested, for everyone's enjoyment.

There are more summer events to come, in Stonesfield and nearby. But as things settle to a more normal pace, work is underway on other big projects; see inside.

The Neighbourhood Plan is involving dozens of volunteers right now, developing the survey which will go to everyone in the village in September. The Sustainability Groups are also busy, especially the Environmental Group which is getting to grips with our river's sad condition; see pages 23 - 24. Lots of people, still putting in lots of effort...

Do you want to send in an article but have no email?

Just call the editor (see below) who can arrange to collect your handwritten copy.

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Dates for your diary:

June

29	FoSL Open Meeting	SSSC	7.15–9pm
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July

1,8	Baby and Toddler Group	Village Hall	10am–12pm
2	Community Repair Café	Village Hall	9.30am–12.30pm
3	St James' Summer Party	Manor garden	3.30–5pm
4,7,11,14	Taekwondo	Village Hall	5.30–6.30pm
4,11,18	Monday Coffee	St James' Centre	8.45–11.30am
5	Village Hall Committee AGM	Village Hall	5.30–7pm
5,12,19	Zumba	Village Hall	7–8pm
5,12,19	Strong Nation HIIT Class	Village Hall	8.15–9.15pm
5,19	Carers' Café	Village Hall	10am–12noon
6,7,13,14	Hanna Bathe HIIT Class	Village Hall	7.15–8pm
6,13,20	West Oxon Community Choir	St James' Centre	7.30–9.30pm
6,13,20,27	Gatehouse Pilates	Village Hall	9.30–10.30am
6,13,20,27	Folk dancing	Village Hall	7.45–10pm
8	Parish Council meeting	St James' Centre	7pm
11	Gardening Club talk	St James' Centre	7.30pm
14	Stonesfield Players Audition	St James' Centre	7.30pm
16	Scouts' Duck Race	River	5pm
17	Birds, Bees, Bats and Badgers	Combe Mill	10.30am–5pm
18,21,25,28	Taekwondo	Village Hall	5.30–6.30pm
20,21,27,28	Hanna Bathe HIIT Class	Village Hall	7.15–8pm
23,24	North Leigh Mosaics Open Days	Roman Villa	11am–5pm
24	North Leigh Roman Villa guided walk	Start: Village Hall car park	2pm
25	Monday Coffee	St James' Centre	10–11.30am

Shares now available (See page 9)



Notices & news

Jennifer Mary Powell

We would like to thank all friends for their messages of love and remembrance of Jennifer. We also thank Revd Ralph Williamson for his support and advice. Also grateful thanks to Jerrams Brothers.

Roger, Simon, Jonathan and families

Jubilee News (more on centre pages)

Toddlers' Jubilee party

There were shouts of joy and jubilation at our Toddler and Baby Group Jubilee Party. Pre-school-aged children came from across the village wearing the traditional red, white and blue to mark the special occasion. With music, sensory play, pass-the-parcel, strawberries, scones and even the official Jubilee Trifle, fun was had by all. We even attempted a game of musical thrones, which was more like herding cats.

Thank you to all the wonderful mums and dads who have supported us since we reopened following lockdown. Don't be



mistaken into thinking that toddler group is only for the toddlers of the village – we're here for the parents too! We serve free hot drinks and cake, because we know that all parents need sugar at least once a week, if not more. Baby and Toddler Group meets every Friday from 10am-12pm term time, in Stonesfield Village Hall. To find out more please visit our Facebook page 'Stonesfield Baby and Toddler Group'. We look forward to seeing you soon and we can herd cats together.

Cassandra Jane (07413 396401)

Wedding dresses at St James's Church

I heard of the idea of a display of wedding dresses on a radio programme around the time of Prince Harry's wedding. A village in Yorkshire had decided to organise a display to celebrate. I thought: what a great idea, and I must remember it for an appropriate occasion.

It was perfect that St James's Church agreed to host the event. Lindsey Sellar put in a lot of time organising and rearranging the Church to fit the display. I was amazed how many people got in touch. We had 33 dresses (I think). It was wonderful that people were so keen to show their dresses and share stories.

For the setting up, I had a huge amount of help from Margaret Gwilym, Jess Huband and of course the wonderfully talented Brigitte Rak, who kindly lent lots of props and made the display look stunning.

We had a crocheted dress made by Lynn Stevenson's mother and future father-in-law. Charlotte Oakeshott brought three dresses: hers, her daughter's and granddaughter's, together with a photograph of her mother walking from the Manor to St James's on a red carpet! Rachel Sofroniou's beautiful dress had two sashes, so she could choose which suited how she felt on the day! So many other wonderful stories.



David & Lynn Stevenson and her wedding dress

It seemed such a happy event, that brought many memories that were shared across so many age groups. Although we didn't keep a track of visitors, we think possibly 200 people visited over the two days.

Sarah Plumridge

Lunch Club's Jubilee Lunch

At 10am on the morning of 1 June, seven Lunch Club volunteers arrived at St James' Centre, bringing all the goodies needed to give the members a day to remember.

Tables and both rooms were soon decorated with streamers, flowers and balloons and the cooks retreated to the kitchen to prepare the food. Some of the Lunch Club members walk or drive themselves, while others take advantage of transport provided by our drivers. Everyone looked magnificent in their outfits of red, white and blue, and quickly settled down to their morning coffee or tea.

At about 11.30 we began our Jubilee singing. I had made booklets of songs from the four nations of the UK, plus a selection of patriotic songs. Everyone sang along with some gusto and waved their Union Jack flags. We finished with the national anthem and 'For She's a Jolly Good Fellow', and three cheers for Her Majesty.

Then we all enjoyed a pre-lunch sherry and went in to eat.

Our cooks had provided Coronation chicken with new potatoes and salad, followed by a lovely red and blue berry lemon tart, and a glass (or two in some cases) of Prosecco. The loyal toast was proposed, and a vote of thanks given for



Margaret Hill: Lunch Club's Jubilee lunch party

the cooks and their beautifully presented and delicious lunch.

After lunch the members were offered tea and a very fancy Jubilee cupcake, which they all elected to take home for later—happy after a day of fun, laughter and good company.

Lunch Club has provided a source of company and stimulation along with good, home-cooked food for many years for Stonesfield residents; some of whom spend a lot of time alone. However, it is becoming more and more difficult to find volunteers to keep it going. Personally, I have volunteered since arriving in the village 11 years ago and have not only formed treasured friendships, but have been privileged to meet the families of our members and have heard so many stories of village life of years gone by. I have found it to be very worthwhile and would suggest you may too. Why not come along and find out for yourself? You know what they say: ‘if you don’t use it, you lose it’, and we certainly don’t want to lose such a wonderful part of our village life.

Margaret Hill (898823)

Lunch Club Day Organiser

Village Hall News

After all the excitement last month, we have a much calmer July planned.

Thank you so much to everyone who turned out in support of June’s Community Café. It was a fabulous day and everything looked absolutely amazing. The group raised an incredible £500, which is a huge help to all at CJ’s Mission. Every extra £ means that they can provide breakfast or a hot drink to a parent with a child living in hospital.

Just in case you missed it, the winners of the cake competition were as follows:

- Best decorated: Priscilla for her Royal Corgi themed two-tier cake.
- First to sell out: Sarah for her delicious piped British buttercream cake.
- Highest fundraiser from a single event: Susanna with her white chocolate crown tray bake.

Well done to everyone involved, and to our supportive community: your spirit was very apparent at all the jubilee events and is very much appreciated.

The Community Café runs on the first Saturday of each month. The next one is scheduled for Saturday 2 July at 9.30am - 12.30pm, and is The Repair Café! If you have something that doesn't work or needs fixing, don't throw it away. Bring it in on the day, and let the guys see if they can fix it for you. You can have a coffee and cake while you wait, and there’s also the opportunity to learn how to mend things too.

We don’t currently have anyone booked for the Community Café in August or September, so if you want to take advantage of the free space and raise some money for a charity close to your heart, or just run one alongside another event that you have in mind, please do get in touch and let us know!

Thank you to everyone for your continued support.

Jacqueline Carthew (898919)

Secretary & Booking Clerk for Stonesfield Village Hall

stonesfieldvh@gmail.com

facebook.com/stonesfieldvillagehall

Stonesfield Pre-School

We cannot believe that we are well into Term 6, the final term of the school year. Over this school year we have battled through plenty of staff and child illnesses and absence and quite a few COVID-19 cases, which unfortunately caused us to close for a few days. We usually experience nasty seasonal coughs, colds and bugs and we can usually set the calendar around these, but this year has been very different. There has been a noticeable rise in childhood illnesses such as chickenpox and scarlet fever, very high temperatures and tonsillitis.

However, we are troupers here and we have managed to 'keep calm and carry on' and fill all of the past terms with plenty of fun and enjoyment. We have welcomed new families and for that reason we are beginning to thrive. When we return in September 2022, we will have 6 more children on the register than September 2021, we really look forward to meeting these new children and their families.

During Term 6 our older children, who will be starting primary school in September, will have visited it to experience school life. We are so lucky that the Pre-School is so close to the school and we have a wonderful relationship. By the time these children start school they are familiar with the teachers and are ready to settle. Some of the children are so keen to start school that they start to wear their very smart school uniforms while still with us!

Another reason why we are so lucky to be situated in Stonesfield is because our children have a wonderful surrounding environment. We have taken short walks to experience the countryside, buy eggs from Brook Lane and return to bake cakes. Our

children love to walk through the churchyard, listen to the birds and watch the squirrels. They enter into the amazingly peaceful world of the church, they are always fascinated by the organ, admire the artifacts and wonder where the bell is hidden. We learn so much as the clock chimes, counting, knowing when it is snack time, lunch time and home time!

Louise John, Pre-School Manager

stonesfieldps@outlook.com

Zena Rozee, Pre-School administrator

stonesfieldpsad@outlook.com

Try out the new Stonesfield Outdoor Gym!

The new Outdoor Gym is installed and ready for community use. Situated at the rear of the Village Hall and Social Club, it fits perfectly in a space that was being underused. While there are still some cosmetic upgrades to be completed (the grass needs to grow through the eco-grid flooring) the new equipment is top-notch and ready to go. As promised, there is a selection of cardio and conditioning machines that use your own body weight as resistance. These can be used by any ability and by any age group over 12, and there is a fitness machine for wheelchair users.

For the little ones, a children's double skier machine has been installed within the play area and is already being well used. Equipment is to be used at your own risk, so for those like me with creaky joints, it is always worth taking medical advice before commencing any exercise – especially if you have not done much in a while!

The Stonesfield Playing Field Committee would like to thank all the contributors who have helped to make this project a

reality. The fundraising expertise of Andrew Tacon really helped to drive the project to success, and the Committee received £2,000 from the Parish Council and £140 from the Masons. He secured a further £5,000 from Blenheim, £5,000 from the Community Trust and 25% of the total cost, capped at £6,250 from WODC. That meant we could commit to a £20k installation. Sunshine Fitness have provided us with a multi-ability and multi-generational outdoor gymnasium that the whole community of Stonesfield can benefit from. Go and have a go and enjoy yourselves!

Fiona Dangerfield

Secretary

Stonesfield Playing Field Committee

The Evenlode Waterblitz

(also see page 23)

The Evenlode needs us! Help us to find out what is really happening to the water quality of our precious River Evenlode – let's make the invisible, visible through citizen science.

The Evenlode WaterBlitz event will be happening from 1-4 July. We will be asking people to collect water samples and take quality measurements along the Evenlode, and report the results. Join us and sign up today by visiting our Events page www.freshwaterwatch.org/pages/events.

Taking part in the survey is free, easy to do and will help the work of the Earthwatch and the Evenlode Catchment Partnership. Free kits will be offered on a first come, first served basis. The survey will help us to protect the river better, both now and into the future.

Rivers, streams, lakes and ponds provide numerous important benefits including wildlife habitats and for recreation. However, these water bodies face increasing threats from development, as well as from human waste pollution and fertilisers applied to fields; all of which can contribute to increased levels of unwanted nutrients in watercourses such as nitrates and phosphates.

You have seen how our river is in a sad state and not at all what it used to be. Join in and help to make a difference!

Charlotte Henderson

Earthwatch – ECP Partnership

chenderson@earthwatch.org.uk

Stonesfield Players are auditioning...

Stonesfield Players will be holding auditions at St James' Centre, 14 July at 7.30pm, for parts in Neil Simon's fabulous play '*Plaza Suite*'. Hilarity abounds in this portrait of three couples successively occupying a suite at the Plaza Hotel in central New York. Performances will take place in mid-November, with rehearsals starting in late August to fit in with summer holidays.

Please come along for what will be a fun evening. Newcomers will be particularly welcome, whether you wish to tread the boards or to help in any other way. If you are interested but unable to make 14 July, please contact me.

David Stevenson

stevenson342@btinternet.com

St James's Party for our village

At last after Coronavirus, come and enjoy the Manor gardens and teas, thanks to St James's, on Sunday 3 July, from 3.30-5pm. The gardens have been shut behind the high wall for far too long! There's plenty of space for wandering over the big lawn or in the gardens behind the house. It's not all neat, but it's certainly romantic.

Bring the family and friends. You can watch Chrissie's owls and there's a bouncy castle for the youngsters and of course a ball to kick around. The big tea tent will keep us dry if the heavens open. If it's fine, bring a rug and relax.

The door in the wall will be open. Disabled access with the car is on the unmade road behind the war memorial on the Woodstock / Combe junction. Between the beech trees, this becomes the Manor Drive. We look forward to welcoming the community and visitors.

Charlotte Oakeshott (891222)

Shares now available

The owner of our village pub intends to sell, rather than reopen. We invite you to invest in our campaign to enable us to bid again for community ownership. We hope our bid will be successful, but even if it is not, your support will be crucial in our ongoing efforts to safeguard the pub against future redevelopment and save it for the benefit of the community.

www.backthewhitehorse.com/shares

Charity bike day: Coming soon

This motorbike event is being held on 13 August at Stonesfield Playing Field, in

support of the British Heart Foundation, Cancer Research and several local charities. At the same time an Auto Jumble and Carboot will be running.

The event is open from noon until 11.30pm, with various local bands playing throughout the day and evening. Food will be supplied by the popular Copperpot Catering, supplying a selection of burgers, rice dishes and vegetarian options, and a separate marquee selling tea, coffee and snacks. There will also be a bar on site.

If you would like to have a boot / table or stall, please contact

Roger Evins (891715) or Andy Gillam (898123 or 07443 596324).

The Beacon – and the Duck Race

It was a great honour to start the Jubilee with our Beacon. The service may have been a bit shorter than billed, but it was amazing to see so many people from the village out in support.

One small reminder – on 16 July at 5pm the Duck Race and BBQ are back again! This is our largest annual fundraising event to support the building of the hut and the delivery of the scouting sessions. Come down to the river, have a drink and a burger, and cheer your ducks on to victory! Ducks will be available from the shop and from your local Beaver, Cub or Scout in the weeks before the race. Come down and support a great cause, in a great place, with a great event. (For more on the Scouts, see page 25.)

Ben Whitworth (Chair)

1st Stonesfield Scouts

chair@stonesfieldscouts.org.uk



Community Speedwatch restarts

In June, SAFER's Community Speedwatch (CSW) volunteers carried out their first sessions of 2022 at Thames Valley Police-approved sites throughout the village. As usual, the sight of the high-vis jackets acted as a deterrent for almost all of the drivers.

Further sessions are planned throughout the summer involving all the current CSW volunteers. Additionally, Thames Valley Police are giving a second speed gun to SAFER, on loan for 6 months, so that sessions can be more easily organised.

Some questions have been asked about why Stonesfield has a 20mph limit, and on Thames Valley Police's actions on receiving the data on vehicles exceeding the limit. Information on all this can be found on the village website at www.stonesfield.online/category/safer/.

SAFER is also looking for more volunteers to help with CSW. Volunteers are asked to be available for at least one hour per month and will always work with at least two other volunteers. With the current number of volunteers, SAFER can run four to five sessions per month, but would like to increase that to two per week. Contact me for more details, or go to www.stonesfield.online/safer/

Cllr Michael Heduan MBE,
Chair, SAFER: A Parish Council Working Group
m.heduan@stonesfieldpc.uk



Combe Mill steaming event: Birds, bees, bats and badgers

A celebration of British wildlife is coming to the Mill on Sunday 17 July. Enjoy a fantastic day out by the River Evenlode and learn about the wildlife on our doorstep. We will have some very passionate exhibitors ready to share their knowledge about lots of creatures that live in or by the river, and those that live underground or fly in, day and night.

You will be able to meet Chrissie's Owls up close, the beekeepers will be buzzing with their bees, pond dips will share aquatic wonders and all our exhibitors will have activities for you to enjoy through the day. Many of them are representing various charities, so may well appreciate your spare cash to help support their work.

There will be a mini market, with many of the small local businesses that came to our fabulous Christmas market coming back to sell their summer goodies, and Liz Cowley will be running some drawing sessions for our younger visitors at different times in the day. Most of these small businesses will be able to take payment by card.

All this will be running alongside our wonderful Mill exhibits in steam, the gift shop, tombola and our delicious offerings in the tea room and BBQ.

It will be a day out to delight one and all. Remember that on arrival at the box office, you can buy tickets for the day or convert them to be valid for an annual pass.

Next steaming days:

21 August: Models and Collections

18 September: Crafts and Skills

Tony Simmons (891851)

North Leigh Roman Villa

The mosaics will open 11am - 5pm on
Saturday 23 July and Sunday 24 July.

On 24 July, Cotswold voluntary wardens Linda Shelley and Angie Dean will lead a guided walk to North Leigh Roman Villa, to explore the villa site and visit the mosaic room. The return will include a meander along the Evenlode and across the river valley.

The 5.5-mile walk, which takes three and a half hours, will start from Stonesfield Village Hall car park (OX29 8EF) at 2pm. It is described as moderate difficulty, meaning that includes some hills and rough ground. Remember to wear appropriate footwear; dogs are not allowed on guided walks except assistance dogs.

The guided walk will be repeated on 21 August, again starting at 2pm.

For more details about openings and access to the site (which can be arduous if you have mobility issues), please visit www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/north-leigh-roman-villa/.

Matthew Lee

North Leigh Roman Villa Volunteer

Local heroes' avenue of trees at Blenheim

Blenheim Estate is inviting people to nominate their local heroes, to be recognised in an avenue of trees being created to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Nominations will be accepted until mid-July.

The avenue of 140 native sweet chestnut and rowan trees will include 70 planted in honour of individuals who have had a positive impact on their local communities.

Their names will be displayed on a board beside the Jubilee Avenue, which will be planted along the entry road from Gorrel Doors into the heart of the Park, to the north west of the Column of Victory.

"The Queen's Jubilee is a momentous occasion and we wanted to create something that will eventually become part of Blenheim's history to celebrate," said Rachel Furness-Smith, Head of Estates. "We also felt it was important it should be directly linked to our communities and recognise the amazing things being done every day by unsung local heroes to help improve other people's lives. The Avenue will become a place to re-visit and watch grow over the years and will stand as a lasting legacy to those amazing individuals who are too often overlooked."

The avenue of trees will be planted later this year by Blenheim's own rural team. If you would like to nominate someone, go to www.blenheimestate.com/land/nominate-local-hero/.

Could you help us make sure the Countryside adds up?

The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) is looking for a Treasurer for its West Oxfordshire District. Could you help?

Our local committee of volunteers works to speak up for the environment, villages and market towns of rural West Oxfordshire. From challenging inappropriate planning applications to planting hedges, we help to ensure that our countryside is protected and enhanced for future generations.

Although the sums involved may be small, we still need a Treasurer to help us count our pennies and make them work hard for

us. If you can keep basic financial records and manage a bank account, have an interest in countryside matters and can spare just an hour or two a month, we'd really love to hear from you! Closing date is the end of August (but flexible).

Please see www.cpreoxon.org.uk/ or contact the Oxfordshire Branch Office: administrator@cpreoxon.org.uk or 01491 612079

Helen Marshall
CPRE Branch Director

Woodstock Music Society's summer concert

This year's summer concert from Woodstock Music Society includes a selection from Grieg's Peer Gynt, plus his Holberg Suite, and also Dreamweaver and Northern Lights from another Norwegian composer, Ola Gjeilo.

The concert, with Woodstock Music Society Choir and Chamber Orchestra conducted by Paul Ingram, features Katherine Walker, soprano.

It will be performed on 8 and 9 July in St Mary Magdalene Church, Woodstock, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets are £14 in advance from The Woodstock Bookshop (01993 812760), or £15 at the door, or concerts@woodstockmusic.info. Tickets for full-time students are £5 and accompanied children under 16 are free.

And I'll blow your house down

Georgie Steele – actor, story-teller, Stonesfield mum – was given a devastating diagnosis for her two young sons. Have you ever wondered, but never dared ask, what it was like to receive the news? How she was - or wasn't - supported by the professionals? How she copes? In her compelling new show *And I'll blow your house down*, Georgie has bared all – but has wrapped up the anguish in such a witty, self-deprecating, hilarious way that hearing the answers doesn't hurt; at least, not much.

They say that fairy tales appeal to children because they introduce them to things that are scary in a safe way. It's only a story! Well, that familiar tale about the three little pigs and the Big Bad Wolf is Georgie's way of taking us to the brink - to the place where the BBW has apparently leapt off the page and savaged her family. Can we bear it? In her riveting presentation that combines storytelling with physical drama, fiction and reality intertwine. Yes, it's heart-breaking, but it's also illuminating and deeply inspirational. She despairs, she rages – but we also see her hold her house together no matter what.

This one-woman show is original, unique, brilliant. It's definitely not a misery memoir: It's fast, funny, moving and ridiculous. You have to see it. No huffing, no puffing: just go.

Georgie will be performing *And I'll Blow Your House Down* as part of the Offbeat Festival of Arts at the Old Fire Station, Oxford, Tuesday 12 July, 8pm, live and online. Tickets are £10 from offbeatoxford.co.uk, 01865 263990. Suitable for age 12+.

Caroline Friend

Protecting your mobile phone bill

A malware strain called SMSFactory infiltrates Android mobile phones and hides so the owner is unaware. The malware sends premium SMS messages and makes calls to premium-rate phone numbers, undetected. One version is also able to extract the phone owner's contact list, spreading the malware further.

This kind of malware is being spread through malvertising, which uses adverts to send people to websites hosting malware; also through links on sites offering game hacks, adult content, or free video streaming sites. The malware is disguised as an app which people can download, but the app removes its icon from the home screen. It depends on people forgetting about the app on their

phone, until they receive their unexpectedly large phone bill.

- Tips to avoid malware:
- Only use official app stores – others are not blocked by an authority e.g. Google
- Install an antivirus on your phone
- Be cautious when downloading new apps
- Disable or limit premium SMS with your carrier – especially for children's phones.

Deanna Asplundh

Neighbourhood Watch

Police and community support

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



at
**THE OLD FIRE
STATION,
OXFORD**

Tuesday 12th July 8pm
Live & online | £10

offbeatoxford.co.uk
01865 263990

Politics & local affairs

Stonesfield Parish Council

Meeting of 18 May

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

At the full Parish Council meeting on 18 May, Councillors elected Cllr Phil McArdell as Chairman and Cllr David Brown as Vice Chairman.

Parish Matters

Bins installed at William Buckland Way have been moved and reinstalled in a new location on PC land. A complaint was received from a member of public regarding the residue that comes off the newly installed bench. Genny Early is going to treat the surface to try and reduce this, but it is an expected part of the wearing process of this metal. Cllr Simon Powell is maintaining the grass / branches around the bench to ensure it is kept tidy.

Planning Applications

There was no objection or comment to the planning applications below:

21/03290/FUL at St James Close,
Churchfields, Stonesfield

22/00984/HHD at The Cottage, Pond Hill,
Stonesfield.

Financial

The Clerk advised that preparation for the annual audit has commenced. This information will be published on the website once complete.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting was also held on 18 May, immediately after the full

Council meeting. Minutes with full detail and reports from organisations can be found on the website (stonesfield.online). There was good attendance from members of the public.

Chairman's report

During the year the Council had gradually returned to face-to-face meetings, even though the threat of COVID was still prominently mentioned in the press. The Chairman thanked the Clerk, Councillors and members of the public for attending despite the risk.

The biggest achievement this year was the implementation of the 20mph speed limit within Stonesfield. While the true benefit of this scheme could never be quantified, the Chairman believed that Stonesfield was a safer place because of it, and he thanked Cllr Mick Heduan, Paul Bates and the SAFER team for all their efforts in achieving this.

The other significant achievement this year had been the launch of the Neighbourhood Plan steering group (a sub-committee of the Parish Council), whose purpose was to develop the Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish of Stonesfield. This milestone would not have been achieved without the Sustainable Stonesfield team and also our sub-committee representatives, Wendy Gould and Simon Powell. There was a massive amount of work ahead, but a great start had already been made.

The White Horse saga continued. Thankfully the Parish Council had re-

registered the pub as an Asset of Community Value, which had again been triggered, giving the pub group six months to put together another bid. The Chairman hoped that whatever the outcome, the village would get the pub back open.

The Council had also been pleased to be able to support financially, through grants, a wide variety of Stonesfield organisations like the Playing Fields Committee, Scouts, Primary School, Carers Café and the Repair Café.

Cllr McArdell thanked all Councillors for their work this last year and looked forward to another successful year.

District Council update

Cllr Matthew Parkinson (DC) & Cllr Natalie Chapple (DC) gave a report. Cllr Andy Graham had been made leader of West Oxfordshire DC on the day of the present meeting, and this was why he was unable to attend the Stonesfield Annual Parish Meeting.

A lot had happened in WODC over the year, including aid project for Ukrainian citizens, introduction of hedgehog highways and introduction of electric charge points in the district. COVID had shelved quite a lot of projects, but WODC had supported many businesses to help keep them going. WODC were questioning Thames Water's actions over the years to improve biodiversity in rivers and prevent contamination. Cllr M Parkinson indicated the additional housing in Woodstock was almost a done deal on WODC land, but not at that moment, on Cherwell land. The Woodstock doctor's surgery was still on the agenda.

Reports from Representatives in the Village were presented at the Annual

Parish meeting by Playing Field Representative (Frank Huddleston), Scouts (Ben Whitworth), Publishers of the Slate (Diane Bates), Village website (Paul Bates), the school (Harry Holland), Community Pub Group (Peter Smyth), Gardening Club (Cllr Wendy Gould), the Common (Richard Morris), Neighbourhood Plan (Parish Council working group) (Cllr Wendy Gould), SAFER (Parish Council working group) (Cllr Mick Heduan). All reports can be found within the minutes on the village website. The Parish Council thanks all those who attended and provided reports.

Meeting of 8 June

Financial

The annual internal audit is now complete. The Parish Council considered the figures and accounting statements in the Annual Return to 31 March 2022 (Annual Governance and Accountability Return, AGAR) and approved them. The Clerk will send the AGAR forms to the external auditors. External audit is expected to be completed by the end of September.

Planning Applications

The Parish Council considered the following planning applications below and had no comment or objection:

22/01277/HHD: Alterations to existing front dormers and installation of rear dormer to create additional living space. Westall, The Ridings

22/01376/HHD: Proposed rear extension with associated internal and external works. 9 Longore.

Policy Review

The Parish Council considered and readopted the below policies:

Standing orders

Code of conduct – all councillors will adhere to this

Internal financial controls policy

Parish risk assessment

The Parish Council considered and re-confirmed that SAFER remains as a Parish Council working group, under direction of the Parish Council.

Parish Matters

Old Jail – the clerk is liaising with solicitors to try to progress taking ownership.

Stonesfield Community Trust shared an update with the Parish Council. The Trust has £281,994.62 in the accounts at the moment; accounts are published on the Charity Commission website. Ongoing projects concern maintenance of properties, design and launch of new website, ongoing grants for education, disability and sport. The Trust is continuing discussions with a local landowner to provide more housing, continuing to review rents and to raise awareness of Stonesfield Community Trust and its objectives for Stonesfield.

White Horse Pub

The Parish Council recoded its formal stance on the pub, to confirm that it would like to see it remain as a pub.

It should be noted that the District Council has now published information on The Local Heritage Project:

www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning-and-building/historic-buildings-and-conservation/local-heritage-project/

Stonesfield Community Pub Limited sought the Parish Council's support under item 12 at this meeting. The Parish Council officially minuted that The White Horse pub should be included as one of West Oxfordshire District Council's non-designated heritage assets (NDHA's). (The reason for this request was to establish documented evidence of this intention at this stage, such that it may be taken into consideration should any application for change of use be made before formal designation is possible.)

Next meeting

The date of the next full Council meeting is 6 July 2022, in St James' Centre at 7pm. (No meeting is planned for August.)

Motorbikes in the woods (added since the meeting)

Blenheim Estate and the Parish Council are aware of motorcyclists going in the woods between Stonesfield and Combe, and this has been dealt with by local Police Community Support Officers.

If residents see / hear motorcyclists in Stockey Woods, we encourage you to please report to the local PCSO, and report incidences as and when they occur. They can then visit the woods and this may deter the riders. The non-emergency number is 101.

Due to the village green application, we and Blenheim would not be able to put private signs up though to deter the riders, as is seen at the other woods locally.

Karen East, Parish Clerk
clerk@stonesfieldpc.uk

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Stonesfield Neighbourhood Plan

Following our public meeting at the end of March, we now have a splendid team of volunteers who have stepped forward to help us create the NP. They are currently working on the questions that we will put into the village survey.

The survey falls into three broad sections: housing, the green environment, and everything else to do with our infrastructure (services, transport, education, recreation, health, employment etc). We will be asking you what you think about these various aspects of Stonesfield, what you want to protect and what you want to improve. The survey is projected to come out in paper form to every household in early Autumn, and will also be available online.

We must make it clear that this survey does not involve creating a wish list for Stonesfield. It is not asking you to give us a shopping list with a view to creating the perfect community. The survey can only cover aspects of Stonesfield that are relevant to Town and Country Planning issues. The questions will reflect this.

The objective for the Plan is *to produce a set of Town and Country Planning policies for Stonesfield, which reflect the planning priorities of the residents and are consistent with national planning policy, the District Plan and 'other material planning considerations.'* As such, the Plan will be a vital piece of evidence when planning applications or other alterations to the village are considered. But because

the Plan has to conform to current local and national planning policy, we do not have a completely free rein to dictate our preferences.

In addition to the three groups of volunteers working on the survey, a fourth group is starting a character assessment of the village to go in the Plan. A character assessment describes the distinct appearance and feel of the built village. This group is looking for more volunteers to help. If you're interested, please contact us at the email below. For more information visit the Oxford Character Assessment toolkit website: www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20193/character_assessment_toolkit/878/character_assessment_toolkit.

Caroline Friend
np@stonesfieldpc.uk

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From our District Councillor

West Oxfordshire District Council has new leadership – the West Oxfordshire Alliance consisting of the Liberal Democrats, Labour, and the Green Party, led by County Councillor Andy Graham.

The new cabinet has already risen to new challenges, including approval of funding for zero carbon housing in a disused playground in Chipping Norton, which will be sold at 20% discounted market value. Other zero carbon affordable housing projects are also being investigated.

We are pleased to confirm that the Council's £150 Energy Rebate Discretionary scheme went live on 6 June. The application window will be open for a 4-week period and **will close on 5 July 2022**. (See page 18 for more on **Help with energy bills.**)

If you know of any resident within your area who may be entitled to a payment, please ask them to make their application on the Council's website:
www.westoxon.gov.uk/council-tax-and-benefits/150-council-tax-rebate/.

For those residents who do not have access to the system, we have officers on hand for support, on 01993 861000. All details, including the eligibility criteria, are also available on the website at the above link.

We hope to have more exciting news in the near future. We are a new administration and welcome new thoughts and ideas. Please do get in touch, via our email addresses.

Mathew Parkinson

Mathew.parkinson@westoxon.gov.uk or

Nathalie.chapple@westoxon.gov.uk.

News from West Oxfordshire

Help with energy bills:

ACT BEFORE 5 JULY

West Oxfordshire District Council has opened applications for a discretionary scheme of financial support to help with energy bills. The scheme is for residents who were not eligible for the recent £150 council tax energy rebate. It has been designed to help those who need it most, including people on benefits, those living in shared accommodation and people on a low income. It covers people who are:

- Living in properties banded E-H who are on low incomes or don't pay council tax or for health reasons
- On low income who pay energy bills but not council tax
- Living in houses of multiple occupancy and on low income

- Living in emergency or supported accommodation.

The full list of eligibility criteria is on the Council's website, www.westoxon.gov.uk/150rebate, under *For residents not eligible for the scheme*, together with a link to the form to apply for the support. Applications can be made **until 5 July**. Those unable to use the website can telephone the Council for advice and support, on 01993 861000. However, the Council is encouraging people to apply online where possible to free phone lines for those who need them most.

Getting active together

YouMove is a new county-wide programme to support families with children on benefits-related free school meals to take advantage of a wide range of low-cost and free activities. The scheme is coordinated by Active Oxfordshire in partnership with district councils. The activities include swimming, badminton and a number of other community activities.

This County Council-funded initiative comes at a critically important time, with many Oxfordshire families hit hard by the cost-of-living crisis and post-COVID concerns about both physical and mental health and wellbeing. Being able to get active in a way that works for them will help families to enjoy quality time together, have fun and improve health and wellbeing.

Local charities and community organisations will refer people to YouMove and also provide many of the activities on offer; families can also join in directly by visiting www.getoxfordshireactive.org/youmovewestoxfordshire or by contacting the Local Activator on **01993 861561**.

Education, culture & more

Stonesfield Library

The Library (898187) is open as follows:

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

Do come along and support your local library! Choose from the thousands of books that we have on display, and meet our library volunteers at the same time. There is a huge selection of books for children too.

Why not consider downloading the Oxfordshire Libraries app, where you can search through the millions of books that the Oxfordshire Libraries have in their catalogue, reserve the book and it will be delivered to Stonesfield Library for you to collect? You'll receive an e-mail telling you that it has arrived too! There is a small reservation fee of around £1 for reserving the book, but that's only about half the price of buying a litre of fuel today. You can even log in to your account and pay your charges online. Naturally, you can download eBooks and listen to eAudiobooks too - all with the Oxfordshire Libraries app. So, what have you to lose? All that, and your library where you can enjoy the wit and repartee of your library volunteers. Come in and join us.

Mike Pollitt (891856)

Summer Reading Challenge 2022

What do you love doing? Are you a brilliant baker? Or a mega music fan? Are you the tech wizard among your friends?

Join the Gadgeteers for the Summer Reading Challenge to discover the amazing science and innovation behind the world around you.

The Summer Reading Challenge starts on Saturday 9 July and runs throughout the school summer holidays. Curious? Come along to the library to find out more and to sign up for the challenge!

More information is on www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk.

Bryony Mallows

I'm a Reader... David Stevenson (70-ish)

David and Lynn Stevenson moved to Stonesfield from Kent 15 years ago. 'We are in Stonesfield library about once a week. I've always used a library; probably,' he adds comically, 'because I'm too tight to buy books.'

'I like detective and espionage novels - Raymond Chandler, Anthony Horowitz, Christopher Fowler's 'The Water Room' I read recently, which features London's underground rivers and a woman found dead in her cellar.'

David relishes fictional crime, but his career was on the right side of the law. He

joined the Civil Service straight from school and worked for the Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise; he worked through the introduction of VAT in 1972 and, when Britain joined the EU (then EEC), David visited companies making sure they were fully compliant with the new rules: ironic, in this Brexit era.

Currently David is reading the Mario Puzo classic, 'The Godfather'. 'I've been to where they got married, in Sicily but I've never seen the films or read the books. It's a domestic story really, with the odd bit of violence thrown in'.

'I've always read. I remember being scared to death by Dennis Wheatley's 'The Devil Rides Out', aged 12. (In brief, this book, set in 1930s London, sees the romantically named Duc de Richleau and Rex van Ryn sucked into a devil-worshipping cult and forced to chase villains to an abandoned Greek Monastery, where some soul swapping takes place in the fourth dimension.) This all sounds very much like a standard volunteer shift at Stonesfield library and perhaps this explains why David decided to join the library volunteer group last autumn. 'It's only a couple of hours a month', he says, 'I enjoy it'.

David is not only a devil-, oops sorry, *library*-worshipper but is also well known for his appearances in productions of the Stonesfield Players. He seems a natural on the stage, so I'd always assumed he had a long background in theatricals, but in fact, his first audition at his local theatre group in Kent was a suggestion by someone else. 'It was Aladdin; I was one of Widow Twankey's sidekicks, Flip and Flop. I think I was Flip.' What happened to Flop is unknown, but David has gone on to play some fabulous parts – including in Kent,

the MC in 'Cabaret', Puck in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' and a delightfully bombastic Toad in 'The Wind in the Willows' for the Stonesfield Players. I might be sticking my neck out here, but surely David could be Marlon Brando's Don Corleone? For, as the Godfather almost said: 'A man who doesn't spend time with his library, is not a real man'.

Eleanor Bailey

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Stories of Stonesfield from the past

Oxford University and City Herald
Saturday 6 September 1845

'A Rural Scene. (From a Correspondent.) William Clare, an elderly and decent-looking agricultural labourer, of Stonesfield, appeared at the Woodstock petty-sessions, on Wednesday last, to his summons, to shew cause why he had not paid 8s. 6d. claimed of him as arrears of poor's-rates, due to the overseers of Stonesfield. The case was heard before Mr. Ricardo and Mr. T. Thornhill. The overseers of Stonesfield were the complainants.

In answer to the inquiries of the magistrates, as to why he did not pay his rates, the poor old man, with the tears trickling down his checks, told the following sad tale of distress: "Gentlemen, I am not able to pay it; for the last eighteen months I have only had now and then a day's work, and I am sure that my income has not been above 5s. a-week, to keep myself, wife, and my boy; out of this I have to pay 1s. 6d a-week for rent. My wife is nearly blind, and is very deaf; she at times is not able to wash my shirt for me. I always paid my rates till the last year, and should now if I was able. I did not want to

be summoned, and I paid the overseer 2s. 6d. on account, which was the last sixpence I had, on purpose because he should not summons me. I told him I would pay him a little at a time as fast as I could. The harvest is just on, and I hope to get some work, and I will then pay it."

The overseer said, he summoned him because he was one who was in arrear when he took to the books. The magistrates inquired how it was that the parish insisted on the defendants paying? In reply, they were informed by the overseer that he was a Northleigh man, and as he was an out-of-town man they made him pay. His tale of woe the officers did not deny, and his being an out-of-town man appeared to be the only reason why he was about to be forced to pay rates for the cottage he occupied, and for which he paid 1s. 6d. a-week rent out of an income of 5s. a week, and out of which three persons had to supported. Clare asked for time to pay in, and was allowed a fortnight.

In many agricultural villages there are not cottages enough for the working classes. We know of several in which nearly one-half of the poor are unable to find a home: they in consequence are driven into a neighbouring village, generally a larger one, in which one person is not the sole proprietor, and thus, in addition to other inconveniencies, such as having a distance to go to their labour, &c., they are rated, not because they are able to pay, but because they are 'out-of-town men.' In many villages in which one person is nearly or quite the sole proprietor, cottages are quite insufficient to meet the wants of the poor; although the population has increased, no increase of cottages has taken place, but, on the contrary, they have decreased.'

Oxford Journal

Saturday 19 December 1829

'Same day died (*11th inst. Ed.*), at the Rectory at Stonesfield, in this county, aged 18 years, Caroline, daughter of the Rev. Walter Brown, Rector of Stonesfield.'

Oxford Journal

Saturday 12 February 1831

'On Saturday last died, aged 46, Eliza, wife of the Rev. Walter Brown, Prebendary of Canterbury, and Rector of Stonesfield, in this county.'

Oxford University and City Herald

Saturday 9 November 1833

'On Saturday last died, at Stonesfield, in this county, aged 59, the Rev. Walter Brown, M.A. late a Student of Christ Church and Rector of the above parish (patron, the Duke of Marlborough), and Prebendary Canterbury. M.A. April 87, 1727.'

Douglas Rudlin

Nature Notes: Six miles an hour is perfection

Four miles an hour is too slow: the plants bend. Eight miles an hour is too fast: the plants break. Chris is carefully driving a large yellow digger at six miles an hour through the flower meadow. The digger bucket collects the dry husks and seeds of the yellow rattle plant to perfection.

Yellow rattle is described as 'the single most important plant you need to establish when creating a wild meadow'. It is semi-parasitic, latching onto the root systems of grasses and then extracting nutrients and water. This stunts the growth of the dominant grasses, allowing a greater range of wild flowers to thrive.

This year we have an exceptional flowering of yellow rattle; the steep hill down to Stockey Bottom is glowing light yellow. (I wonder if last winter's tobogganing over most of the slope helped the seeds into the soil?) By the time this issue of the Slate arrives the seeds will have dried, and when disturbed the seedhead will rattle. This was traditionally a sign that meadows could be cut.

Back in the barn Chris sieves the seeds from the husks, filling small packages with yellow rattle seeds. The packets whizz off in the post to help create another wild flower meadow.

John Sampson

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STONESFIELD VOLUNTARY TRANSPORT SCHEME

Our volunteer drivers are available to take you to local medical appointments or to the hospitals in Oxford and Banbury.

We make no charge but welcome a donation towards expenses; safety precautions are still in place.

Please call Viv Kendall (01993 891803) to book transport in July.

Clubs, societies & sport

Stonesfield Gardening Club

June saw the return of our Open Gardens event – at the time of writing the forecast is good and we have an interesting collection of village gardens for people to browse. We're hoping to have a successful event.

This month we are back to a monthly meeting in the St James' Centre on 11 July, with a talk by local naturalist Martin Catt on Wildlife in the Garden. Martin says he will be happy to use his skills to explain any mysteries in the way of nibbled plants or other oddities that members would like to test him with, so bring them along!

Diane Bates

Secretary Stonesfield Gardening Club
www.stonesfieldgardening.info

Stonesfield Sustainability Groups

Stonesfield Environmental Group: Dipping our toes in the Evenlode

Paddling, dog walking, the duck race – some of the different ways of enjoying our river... most Stonesfield residents find the river one of their favourite places to be. The Stonesfield Environmental Community Action Group want to tell you what we have learned about our river and what we are planning to do – we hope you'll want to join us in trying to protect it.

Due to poor water quality, otters, kingfishers and other cherished wildlife are threatened. None of the 18 water bodies in the Evenlode catchment achieves 'good

ecological status', according to current Environment Agency monitoring. We want to understand more about the poor state of our river, the role of raw sewage and waste water discharge and other sources of pollution that are damaging its ecology.

A group of us has done an online training course organised by Earthwatch on monitoring the quality of our river. When our test kits arrive, we can begin sampling at suitable sites on the river, at the same time every month. This means we will measure and record key pollutants – nitrates, phosphates – and we can also measure the clarity of the water. We will report back here on what we find.

We have found that a lot of groups are involved in this area. Perhaps you are already a member of one these groups (or another which we have not yet come across); if so we'd love to hear from you. We are navigating our way through this to find the people most appropriate to work with. Here are a number that we are now involved with:

- *The Evenlode Catchment Partnership* (ECP) facilitates collaborative approaches to support ecology across the catchment and ensure the River Evenlode can achieve good ecological status
- *Wild Oxfordshire* is a group of knowledgeable and experienced scientists, practitioners and communication specialists inspiring and empowering people to work together

effectively for nature's recovery across Oxfordshire

- *Earthwatch* connects people with scientists worldwide to conduct environmental research and empower them with the knowledge they need to conserve the planet. Science and data is at the heart of what they do, so their approach is evidence-based.

As we find out more over the next few months, we will post links to these groups on the Stonesfield Village website so you can check them out in your own time. If you want to get involved, a great start would be their Evenlode WaterBlitz weekend – see separate item on page 8. The Environmental Group meets fortnightly on Tuesdays on Zoom at 8pm. Whether you are already taking action, or would like to learn more and get involved - let me know if you would like to come along.

Julie Curran

Stonesfield Food Group

Our next event is on 2 July, where we will be running the Community Café alongside the Repair Café at the Village Hall. Given that this falls in Wimbledon fortnight, we will be putting on a Wimbledon themed menu – think strawberries and cream, high tea, scones and lots of other treats including Raducanu on the menu!

In September we will hold our free one-day bread making course. The exact date is yet to be set and we are keen to get an idea of numbers so please email me if you might be interested. The Food Group meets fortnightly on Tuesdays at 7pm: let me know if you want to come along.

Julie Curran

juliecurran0@gmail.com

Stonesfield Library of Things: Garden stuff to borrow

With many gardens looking their best right now, have you looked at the Library of Things for gardening equipment you can borrow?

There's a lot there – a push lawnmower, extendable plant loppers, strimmer, pruning/bow saw, garden shredder, tree loppers (but be wary of nesting birds), greenhouse/conservatory cleaning kit. Also a preserving pan and long-handled spoon to make some strawberry or gooseberry jam, perhaps.

Go to stonesfield.online, click on 'Select page' and choose Library of Things under 'Sustainability'. Or contact me if you don't have access to a computer - you can still borrow things!

Dale Morris (898210)

Stonesfield Repair Café: Don't chuck it - repair it!!

Our first event will be on 2 July in the Village Hall from 9.30am - 12.30pm, along with the Community Café.

Bring anything that is not working and needs some TLC. We are offering help with bike maintenance and repairs, IT and phone problems, repair of domestic electrical appliances and other mechanical items, and simple clothing repairs. We can't promise to fix everything, but we have experienced repairers who will do their best to help you. You might learn useful new skills and tips, and have coffee and cake at the same time!

Email us if you can so we know what you are bringing. mikesofroniou@gmail.com or stonesfieldrepaircafe@gmail.com

Mike Sofroniou

mikesofroniou@gmail.com

Stonesfield Scouts Camp

We had a great time! After more than five years, the whole 1st Stonesfield Scout Group came together for a camping weekend at the County's Youlbury Scout Centre for adventure, fun and new challenges, plus a little cake. All Sections were in attendance, with 44 young people in all from the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. We had incredibly brave Beavers, aged just six years old, staying two nights on their first Scout camp together, as well as five new Leaders and Assistants. After a quick recce of the grounds on Friday evening, we had hot chocolate around the fire and were in sleeping bags by 10pm, with sweets and giggles all round.



Beavers perfecting archery skills

On Saturday, the Beavers were perfecting their archery skills and crate stacking. The Scouts went on the 3G swing and undertook an expedition hike with all their kit, whilst the Cubs alternated tomahawk throwing with Jacob's Ladder climbing. The Scouts cooked for themselves on open fires that evening and we were all entertained with camp fire songs, Cecil the caterpillar stories, and poems, from the Leaders, former Leaders and Exec Members, as well as Scouts and Cubs taking an active part. Much fun and laughter was had.

We were woken with a trumpet on Sunday morning, and packed up the tents while the whole Group undertook inter-sectional activities and games, where Scouts helped Beavers and teamwork was in full flow.



Scouts on an expedition hike

We closed with a traditional ceremony, a little pomp, Jubilee badges for everyone, County Awards for some, and Scout Challenge and Activity badges for others. Congratulations to Verity for achieving the Gold Award; the highest Chief Scout Award in Scouting. Well done. We lowered the flag and packed up the remaining cake and crates, and headed home for some rest and relaxation, before planning our Duck Race in July. Hope to see you there.

Jonathan Hands, Group Scout Leader

1st Stonesfield Scouts

gsl@stonesfieldscouts.org.uk

Church news

Stonesfield Methodist Church Services for July

Sunday 3	11am	Stella Bristow
Sunday 10	11am	The Reverend Rose Westwood Holy Communion Service
Sunday 17	10.30am	United Service at Charlbury No Service at Stonesfield
Sunday 24	11am	Marjorie Brown
Sunday 31	11am	Andrew Maisey

The celebrations for Her Majesty were joyous days indeed. I'm filled to overflowing with glorious Jubilee memories and I hope you are too. A huge thank you to all the people who helped make it such a special time to share.

When many rejoice together,

The joy of each is richer,

They warm themselves at

Each other's flame.

St. Augustine. 354-430 A.D.

Come to a Service soon!

Kathleen Albért (891733)

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

Churchwarden: Lindsey Sellar
stonesfield@stonesfieldparishchurch.org

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

From the Rector: Gratitude

As late spring turns to full summer, I have been thinking about gratitude. Surrounded by birdsong, flowers in bloom and welcome sunshine, it takes no effort to feel grateful. But without the calming effect of the sun, we can easily be influenced by the negativity of the media, by rising petrol prices and the aspirational materialism of the advertising industry, and then for frustration, anger or disappointment to dominate our thinking. Whether or not we have faith in God, rumination on negative thoughts can rob us of peace and happiness. Teachers of mindfulness urge us to limit the tyranny of unhelpful thoughts, and to establish a pattern of positive thinking and thankfulness each day. St Paul, writing to the church in Philippi nearly 2000 years ago, made a similar suggestion, where he says, 'Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable –

if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things'. But is this just sticking our heads in the sand?

Last month I quoted from the Book of Ecclesiastes, where it says that there is 'a time for everything'. There is a time for peace and gratitude, but what about our legitimate feelings of frustration and anger? As a student in London many years ago I listened to a talk by an elderly Austrian psychotherapist, who had been a pupil of Carl Jung. Vera von der Heydt was born in the 19th Century to a Jewish father and Irish mother. She witnessed two World Wars and moved to Britain to escape the Holocaust, having become a Roman Catholic in 1937, and then went on to have a highly influential career. She saw life's journey as a quest: 'Each day a new day, a new starting point; one finds, one loses; one knows, one does not know'. I heard her speaking about 'the roots of violence within us', and she made the point that whatever we have experienced, whatever has hurt or distressed us, we each have a responsibility to ensure that it does not spill out to harm other innocent people. There is a time to be angry, and a time to refrain from anger. In the gospels we read of the compassion of Jesus, of his gentleness and openness to people of all kinds. He was a man of peace. But at times he also showed his anger at corruption and at those who enjoyed wealth or privilege at the expense of others. He drove the moneychangers, who cheated the poor, out of the temple in Jerusalem, and he denounced the leaders who saw themselves as the children of Abraham, yet who enslaved their people with legalistic rules. There is certainly a time to be angry at the injustice which crushes life, which harms the vulnerable and the innocent, the people God made in love.

Despite the things which make our anger burn – and we could each write a list – gratitude and peacefulness is a blessing for ourselves and for others. As the life of the natural world explodes in a riot of growth around us, a deep thankfulness for life's many simple pleasures is one thing I know I must establish and cultivate.

Rev'd Ralph Williamson - Rector

Services for July

Sunday 3 [Third Sunday after Trinity]

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [BCP/said]
9.30am	Combe	All Age Worship
11am	Stonesfield	All Age Worship
3.30-5pm		Village Summer Party in the Manor Garden – do come!

Sunday 10 [Fourth Sunday after Trinity]

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [BCP/said]
9.30am	Combe	Parish Communion
11am	Stonesfield	Parish Communion
5pm	Combe	Evensong

Sunday 17 [Fifth Sunday after Trinity]

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

Sunday 24 [Sixth Sunday after Trinity/St James' Patronal Festival]

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

Sunday 31 [Seventh Sunday after Trinity]

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

Mondays

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

9.30am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion
11am	Combe	Morning Prayer (6th & 20th)

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Roman Catholic Worship

It's all about communication

Pentecost is that revelatory moment when in effect Christianity was brought to the world. The Apostles were charged with spreading the universal message of God's love for humanity, which continues to be the prime mission of Christians everywhere.

'When Pentecost day came round, the Apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.'

Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11.

Pentecost was also a revolution, as the traditional rituals by which the followers of Christ had lived their lives were replaced with a different focus: *'It has been decided*

by the Holy Spirit and ourselves not to saddle you with any burden beyond these essentials.' Acts of the Apostles 15: 22-29. The focus in future was to be on Christ's message of redemption and salvation.

The Holy Spirit (the Third Person of the Holy Trinity) has given us the gift of love of God and invited us to share it, by our actions, our words and how we interact as Christians with others. We are the medium of that message of Christ's love for us.

Holy mass

Sunday Mass at 9.15am

Weekday Mass times:

Monday and Tuesday at 9.30am

Wednesday at 7pm

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

The Synodal Pathway

The Holy Father 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.

St Teresa's, Charlbury is supporting ACN's Emergency Appeal for the Ukraine, to raise funds to support various religious denominations' priests and members of

religious congregations to continue their mission. If you wish to know more or donate, please contact Suze Mathews (01993 891720 or email suzemathews899@btinternet.com).

Please check St. Teresa's website for details of Confession times etc:
www.stteresaschurch-charlbury.com/

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

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

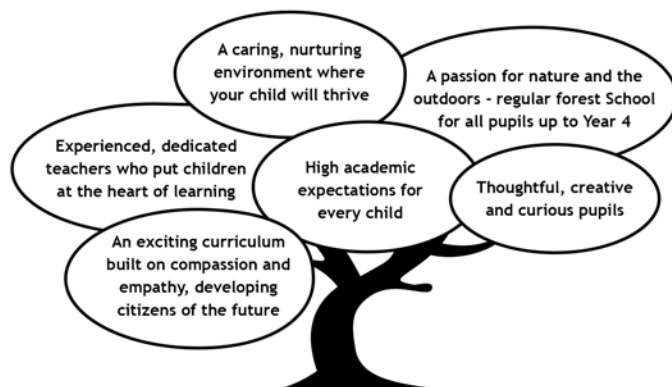
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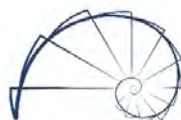
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Companions of the Brush: Paul Maze & Winston Churchill -

Then stop by and visit our NEW exhibition. After meeting in the trenches on the Western Front in 1915, shared love of painting led to a life-long friendship and artistic mentorship with frequent reunions in England and France. Maze was affectionately referred to as 'The Cher Maitre' and 'Companion of the brush' by Churchill's family (in association with the Zuleika Gallery).

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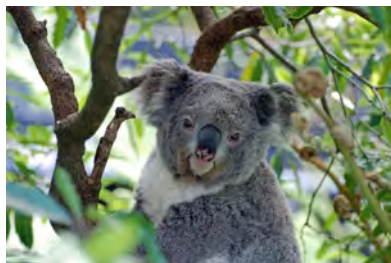
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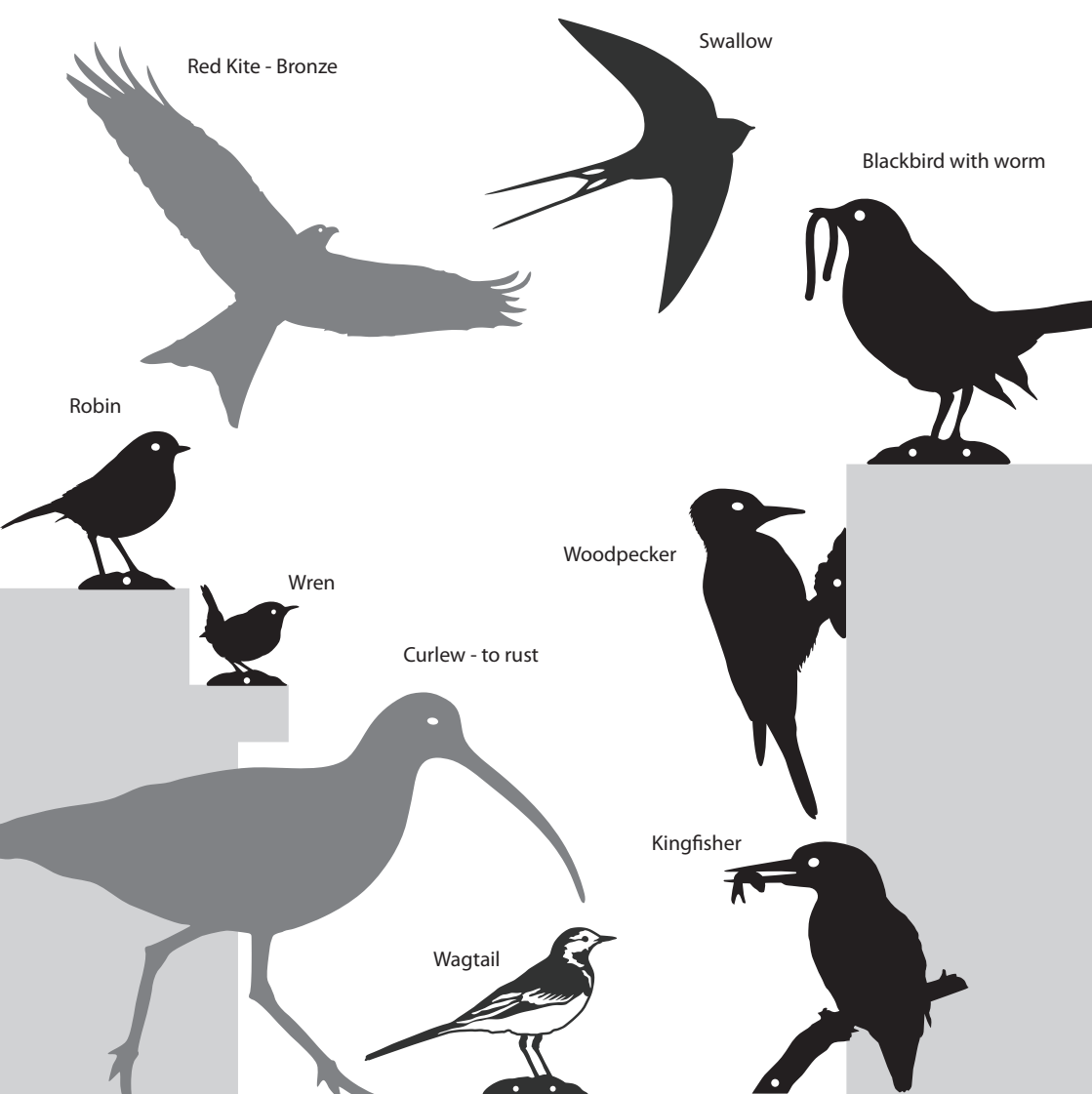


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