



Issue No 528 September 2022

Call of the wild



Young Tawny Owls awaiting release : Chrissie Harper

How many of us would be prepared to be constantly on call, available in the middle of the night to rescue an injured bird? This has been a way of life over a good many years for Chrissie Harper, who runs our local wildlife rescue centre, Chrissie's Owls.

This dedication has recently been recognised with several awards. Last year she was awarded a European Enterprise Award for the best animal welfare charity of 2021 in Oxfordshire. This year two more have followed: a Southern Enterprise Award to the most dedicated animal welfare champion and a Corporate LiveWire Innovation and Excellence Award.

Unfortunately, while these awards are lovely to have and recognise the wonderful work

that Chrissie does, they do not come with any financial prizes.

So far this year the charity has rescued more than fifty birds, mostly barn owls and tawny owls. These are often road casualties, as well as young chicks who have fallen from nests and been unable to help themselves. The aviary at a local farm currently houses six tawny owls, fourteen barn owls and a red kite. They are kept for a month to recover or grow a bit, then the hatch of the aviary is left open for them to come and go at will, while still being fed. The tawny owls generally leave quickly, while the barn owls enjoy Chrissie's hospitality for a bit longer.

Continues on page 6

**Information on Pub and buying shares** (See page 6)

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:

September

1,5,8,12,15,19	Taekwondo	Village Hall	5.30-6.30pm
2,9,16,23,30	Baby & Toddlers Group	Village Hall	10-12noon
3	Agricultural Show	Moreton-in-Marsh	8.30-6pm
3	Day of Dance	Village Hall	10am-5pm
4	Afternoon Tea	Combe Reading Room	2.30-5pm
5,12,19,26	Monday Coffee	St James' Centre	8.45-11.30am
6,20	Carers Café	Village Hall	10-12noon
7,14,21,28	Gatehouse Pilates	Village Hall	9.30-10.30am
6,13,20,27	Zumba	Village Hall	7-8pm
6,13,20,27	Zumba Strong	Village Hall	8.15-9.15pm
7	Parish Council meeting	St James' Centre	7pm
7,8,14,15,21	Hanna Bathe HIIT Class	Village Hall	7-8pm
7,14,21,28	Folkdancing	Village Hall	7.45-10pm
8,15,22,29	Book Break	Stonesfield Library	12.30-2pm
9	Open Day	Witney Sewage Works	9.30-3.30
10	Wootton Flower Show	Playing Fields	2-5pm
10	Community Repair Café	Village Hall	11-2pm
11	Pop-up White Horse	Village Hall	4-7 pm
14	Gardening Club Visit	Bourton House Garden	11am
15	Summer Reading Challenge	Village Hall	3.30-5pm
17	Tea Delights	Methodist Church	2-4.30pm
17	White Horse Cake Sale	Outside Village Shop	9-11am
17	Gift Day	St James's Church	9.30am-12.30pm
22,26,29	Taekwondo	Village Hall	5.30-6.30pm
24	White Horse Car Wash	Primary School	From 9am
24	Food Group Baking Course	Village Hall	10am-1pm & 3-5pm
28,29	Hanna Bathe HIIT Class	Village Hall	7-8pm
29	MacMillan Coffee morning	Village Hall	9am

Notices & news

Remembering Rev Roy



Rev Roy Turner 1951-2022

Roy and I were unlikely close friends, the vicar and the born atheist, but Roy wasn't defined by his religion nor I by my lack of it. We lived across the road from each other and walking our dogs together was really just an excuse for a good chat. We disagreed about some small matters like Brexit but agreed on the important things. Even the most serious of discussions were interspersed with jokes and we never fell out.

I think he must have been born with a bucket list long before anyone had ever heard the term. He always had projects and goals - become a vicar, get degrees, learn to fly a helicopter, write a novel. Without seeming to be driven by his goals, or caring what anyone else thought about them, he just got on with achieving them.

I had no experience of Roy as a vicar and though he might have found the committee side of his job irksome at times there was no doubting his ability to be kind and caring where it mattered most. At the same time he was genuinely concerned about the big issues facing the church as a whole, particularly attracting new people to come.

Roy's emphasis in religion seemed to be the social rather than the miraculous and he felt that the church buildings were a village asset and should be used in lots of different ways by the village.

Roy retired and left the village and then came Covid and we didn't see each other for a long time. Then a few months ago he knocked on our door and came in and helped finish the Christmas cake. It was as though we had just seen each other the day before and if it had been ten or twenty years it would have been just the same.

I know that anytime I want I can think of Roy, large as life, standing beside me.

'Still praying on people Roy?' I ask. A tap on my shoulder, light as the wind, silent laughter, 'stupid boy Pike' he replies. Now that is miraculous.

Jon Gordon

Rev Roy Turner

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death, on 2 August 2022, of Rev Roy Turner who was the former rector of St James's Church, Stonesfield.

More on page 28

Steve Searle



Steve Searle: Geraint Lewis

Lynn, Christopher and Peter would like to thank each and every single person who supported us as a family during Steve's illness. So many people helped in all sorts of ways which made our life so much easier during a very difficult time. We will always be very grateful to you all. Thank you.

Lynn Searle

We lost our good friend Steve Searle on Sunday 7 August. The cancer finally took him from us, and he died peacefully at home with his family around him.

Steve was well known and popular with all ages. Village children will recall that it was Steve who appeared as Father Christmas every year; they all knew, but they kept his identity from their parents.

He was a "remarkable" athlete: adept at tennis, a demon at the badminton net and latterly the star of the bowling green. His competitiveness on the golf course was well known and he played right up until he was hospitalised. Both Lynn and Steve were regulars at local dancing classes for some years.

Always a shrewd financial expert he was a stalwart in the Stonesfield Investment Club, and the Primary School governors benefitted from his deft controlling hand on the school finances. Then there was the White Horse Quiz: Steve's encyclopaedic knowledge of niff naff and trivia reached legendary status during lockdown.

Steve lived life to the full, enjoying adventure holidays with Lynn and friends, and spending precious time at home with the family.

Many of us will remember him as an actor in the Players. No-one who watched Steve perform in a panto wearing fishnet tights, a basque, high heeled shoes, outrageous makeup, and a wig, will ever forget that he was our Dame, our distractingly funny fool who always had a wry joke to make about life, and who always brought a smile to our faces.



Steve in Mother Goose: Geraint Lewis

He was such an asset to the Players not just because he acted with feeling and conviction, but because he gave so much good humour to the production. He could be relied upon to lift people's spirits, have a joke on the side and make any party go with a swing. On stage and off, he will be sadly missed.

Graham Rutson (898230)

Ronald Arthur Evins

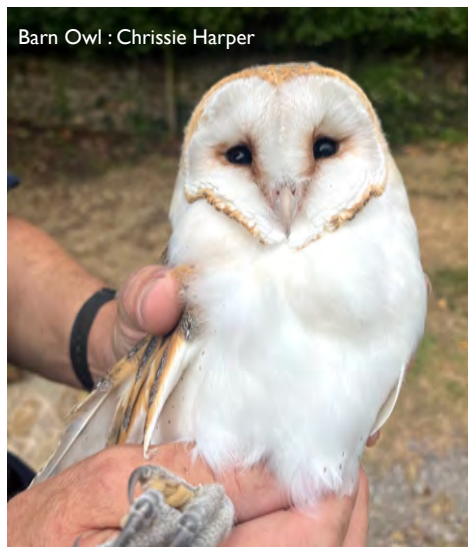
John Evins and his family would like to thank all those who sent messages of sympathy and condolences for the loss of Dad, Ronald Arthur Evins and all those who attended his funeral. He will be greatly missed by us all and everyone who knew him, a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, friend and neighbour.

Kind regards and stay safe

John Evins

Call of the wild (from page 1)

Long-term residents, unwanted pets and alien species which cannot be released, are kept at home with Chrissie. Among them is Thea, a Eurasian eagle owl, who had been living in a garden for six months, scaring everyone to death, until Chrissie was called in to take her away! She also has Icarus, rehomed from a friend, a male eagle owl, who is now 30 years old.



Barn Owl : Chrissie Harper

Chrissie hasn't always kept owls, but she has always been a country girl. A varied career has seen her go from farm hand to dog trainer, to employee at Solid State Logic, to chinchilla breeder and shop manager at Batsford.

A chance visit to a friend with a barn owl would start a life-long passion. Twenty years ago, she started showing her owls at country shows and taking them to schools, as well as doing presentations to local groups. "They used to fight over me on the WI circuit!" says Chrissie. Having seen her present her owls to the gardening club we can well imagine.

The advent of Covid, unfortunately coupled with Bird Flu, has inevitably made life very difficult, as the charity relies solely on donations and fees from shows and visits. Chrissie receives no governmental aid at all. You can help by adopting one of her owls as well as donating directly via her website: www.chrissiesowls.com/donate.html

Diane Bates

Your village pub needs you!



Stonesfield community pub group has submitted a second bid to buy the White Horse. Thanks to our 902 shareholders and everyone who's generously supported our campaign, we remain determined to secure its future for the village. Whether or not this latest bid is successful, it is essential that our community continues to show how much we all want to keep our

last pub. Only through committed community support and our viable alternative to run the pub, will we be able to prevent a change of use planning application (if/when it comes).

To this end, the BacktheWhiteHorse campaign team is organising several events in coming weeks, so that the local community can get together and show that we still want to see the pub open and thriving. (Spoiler alert, there may be beer involved!)

11 September – the ‘pop-up White Horse’. For one night only, the village hall will take on the role of the village pub – and since there is no longer a sign over the door, what better name could we choose? The bar will be open, thanks to the fantastic support from the team at the Social Club and all are welcome! We are hoping some of our local politicians and media can make it and repeat the backing they have given us.

17 September – cake sale outside the village shop. We are hoping to recreate the great success we had in 2020, when American broadcaster ABC news was on hand, and we raised £1,000 for the campaign.

24 September – the return of the car wash. Another success from 2020 and a chance to spruce up the motor after the dusty summer or just laugh at the team getting soaked.

1 October – our very own White Horse (mini) beer festival. Again at the village hall with beer, food and music. What better way for the village to come together and prove that we want our pub open again?

By attending these events, the village will be sending a strong message. Even though

we have made a purchase offer, we still need to raise a lot more funding. Shares are on sale at our website www.backthewhitehorse.com, still at £50 per share, or you can donate or sponsor an event if you prefer. We have a long way still to go to the target we need to buy and run the pub successfully and we must be realistic that this campaign may have to run for years. Many rural pubs have stayed shut for years only to be rescued by their community once the property developers have finally given up. With everyone’s support, we can add the White Horse in Stonesfield to the list of pubs that have been saved.

info@backthewhitehorse.com

Tea Delights!

Come to enjoy an afternoon at the Methodist Church on Saturday 17 Sept from 2-4.30pm. Be tempted by delicious cream teas, cakes and plenty of tea, or coffee if you prefer. Tombola fun will be waiting and a sale table of this and that, where you may find a bargain!

If you have any donations for this event, they will be most appreciated, just get in touch, any items can be collected.

Kathleen Albért (891733)

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Hold the date! This year's Macmillan Coffee Morning will be held on Thursday 29 September from 9am. Venue to be confirmed, but please look out for posters around the village, and updates on the Nextdoor app! For offers of help (PLEASE!!!) call Julie Grime on 07800 942013 or Ali Appleton on 07891 306020.

Annual Parish Church Gift Day

This year our Church Gift Day will be on Saturday 17 September, providing an opportunity for everyone for whom the church is special, in whatever way, with an opportunity to show their support.

The church exists to support the whole community. It is indeed a special place for so many: here we can meet with others to worship God, find quietness for prayer and reflection, and it is here we can ask for God's blessing on special life and family events, such as baptisms, weddings and funerals. For others, the upkeep of the outstandingly beautiful 13th-century building, is of paramount importance.

In order to function – to be here for everyone - the church needs your support. There is no central funding, and it relies on voluntary donations to fund worship, activities, running costs, repairs, and to pay our Parish Share (our contribution to the Diocese for clergy costs etc).

On 17 September, you are warmly invited to bring your gift, large or small, to the church, between 9.30am-12.30pm. Please stay for a cup of tea or coffee! Donations can be made in cash, by cheque (made payable to 'Stonesfield PCC') or bank transfer (bank details available on our website www.stonesfieldparishchurch.org/support-us).

If you are unable to come on 17 September, but would like to contribute, please drop your gift in to the Rectory in Brook Lane. Thank you in advance for your kind support.

Lindsey Sellar, Churchwarden

stonesfield@stonesfieldparishchurch.org

St James Folk Session

Many of you will remember our popular monthly folk sessions at The White Horse and, whilst we hope that we may return there once again, we have decided to hold one at St James' Centre on Thursday 15 September from 7.30-10pm.



Music (acoustic) and poetry are both welcome, so bring your instruments and your voices and join in, or, if you prefer, just come along to listen. Bring your own drink and there will be a £2 charge on the door to help cover the hire cost.

Nick Hooper & Becki Sherlaw-Johnson
rebeccasj@btinternet.com

Stonesfield Repair Cafe

This month, on Saturday 10 September 11am-2pm in the Stonesfield Village Hall, we are offering bike repair and maintenance, knife sharpening, repairs to small items of furniture, electrical appliances, clothing, as well as IT advice and repairs!

Refreshments provided by The Community Cafe. We look forward to seeing you. Do book ahead if you can - stonesfieldrepaircafe@gmail.com

Village Hall News

Here's hoping that everyone has had a lovely break over the summer, and as well as just spending time in our beautiful surrounding countryside, you have also been able to attend and enjoy some of the amazing activities that this lovely village has to offer.

A big thank you to all who attended and supported Science Oxford's Incredible Inventions Library Tour in August! It was an honour to have such a large organisation choose to use our venue, so we are pleased that it went well.

Still on the Library side, we do hope that lots of children took part in the Summer Reading Challenge this year. The Grand Celebration will be taking place on 15 Sept at 3.30pm so we hope to see lots of happy smiley faces at that event!

Due to the Stonesfield Folk Dance Group hosting another Day of Dance on 3 Sept from 10am–5pm our Community Café will run a week later in September.

Back by popular demand! The Community Café on 10 September will again be The Repair Café catered for by the Stonesfield Food Group offering delicious refreshments and cakes! Note the new time 11am–2pm, and this time they will be offering a bike maintenance and repair service. For more information, get in touch at stonesfieldrepaircafe@gmail.com.

Another offering from the Stonesfield Food Group is their one-day Baking Course on Saturday 24 September, which will be focused on breadmaking. Keep an eye on the Facebook page and Nextdoor for more info as it becomes available.

Don't forget that all classes will be running as normal from September onwards, and there is something for everyone, but there is always room for more, so if you want to run an activity please do get in touch!

We are still looking for budding DIYers to get in touch to help us make the hall a fancier and nicer version of itself, so if you have skills and are up for a challenge, do get in touch, or come along to our AGM at 5.30pm on Monday 3 October.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support

Jacqueline Carthew (898919)

Secretary and Booking Clerk

stonesfieldvh@gmail.com

facebook.com/stonesfieldvillagehall

North Leigh History Society

Our new season starts up again on Tuesday 6 September, when Rachel Livingstone will be talking about the history of North Leigh footpaths and bridleways. Whether you are a keen walker or just enjoy an occasional stroll, you will probably have walked along a path that has been trodden through the centuries by local residents. We need to use these paths frequently because if they fall into disuse they will disappear and be swallowed up for other uses like agriculture.

Do come and find out more. We meet at 7.30pm in North Leigh Memorial Hall, OX29 6SS, members £18 per year, visitors £4 per talk. Further details are available from Diana Power (01993 882301) or Robert Kyte at kyterobert@gmail.com and 01993 880368.



Combe Women's Institute

We are keen to increase our membership and extend a warm invitation to ladies who are over the age of 18 to come along to one of our meetings and see if we have anything of interest for you. We already have several members from Stonesfield who joined us a few years ago when the Stonesfield W.I. closed. The W.I. is an organisation based on the ideals of fellowship, truth, tolerance and justice; it's non-sectarian and non-party political. Our main objectives are to advance the education of women in all areas including local, national, and international issues of political and social importance, music, drama and other cultural subjects, crafts, science and health and social care welfare and to promote sustainable development for everyone's benefit. All of this whilst having a good time and enjoying the companionship of friends.

W.I. meetings are held in the Reading Room, Combe from 7.30-9.30pm on the second Monday of each month. Guests are charged £4 to attend the meeting plus £1 for refreshments and a raffle ticket. Membership subscriptions for July through to the end of March 2024 is £33. We start our new season on Monday 12 September with a talk from Emma Hamer about Why Farming Matters and

how producing food and caring for the environment go hand in hand.

We are also holding a coffee morning on Saturday 1 October in the Reading Room, Combe from 10.30-12am where as well as being able to enjoy some delicious cake, current members of the W.I. will be around for you to meet and our new programme of speakers for the forthcoming year will be available.

Please do come along or contact me if you would like more details.

Julia Sharpe (891058)

Secretary Combe W.I.

sharpe315@btinternet.com

North Leigh Roman Villa

North Leigh Roman Villa Volunteers started 3 years ago with the aim of helping more people to see the stunning mosaic at the site. It has not been an easy time since then for anyone. We are therefore particularly pleased to have welcomed, at our recent July Open Weekend, our 4,000th visitor to the mosaics since we began.

Openings took place in August and will continue in September, with the Cotswold Wardens offering another chance for a guided walk that will coincide with one of the open days. Details available at: North Leigh Roman Villa - English Heritage (english-heritage.org.uk)

Matthew Lee

North Leigh Roman Villa Volunteer

Follow us on Twitter: @villa_north

Woodstock wonderland of cultural discovery

Visiting Woodstock opens the mind and excites the senses in a myriad of different ways. Woodstock is packed with inspiring child friendly activities.

Step into real dinosaur footprints or embark on I-spy or crazy trails, craft or family drop-in holiday fun day. Get close to nature and hunt down fairies in a Woodland or Secret Garden or stay in a 13th century coaching inn where the creaking floorboards and winding hallways are evocative of hundreds of years of visitors, some very notable!



In the museum, discover the secrets of the Georgian and Victorian eras, marvel at Roman remains and hear stories of adventure, courage, conflict and peace. Picnic in the Pleasure Gardens, long afternoons by the lakes, a baffling maze and hide and seek in the grounds of a magnificent palace.

And if that's still not enough to entertain your little ones, Woodstock also has three play parks to choose from too. When it's time to recharge the batteries, you will find a multitude of child-friendly places to eat and drink dotted around town to complete your day out with the kids in whimsical Woodstock.

Blenheim Agrees Five-Year Partnership with Youth Development Charity

Blenheim is strengthening its links with Oxfordshire Youth as part of a new long-term partnership which will see them generate £50,000 a year for youth development.

The money will go towards significantly improving the lives of young people affected by disadvantage, through increasing education, employment, and training opportunities, and tackling key issues such as youth homelessness, the mental health crisis, and youth violence.

Celebrating its 75th anniversary this year, Oxfordshire Youth is the leading charitable organisation for the youth sector in Oxfordshire. Its links with Blenheim go back more than 60 years. "With Blenheim's support, the future of Oxfordshire's youth looks incredibly promising, ensuring that whatever background young people grow up in, they will have the opportunities, support and skills needed to grow into successful, happy, and healthy adults, leading successful lives, giving back to Oxfordshire, and creating a better future for all," said Emmy O'Shaughnessy, Director of Innovation and Growth at OY and Deputy CEO.



Summer Swordsmanship Returns to Blenheim Palace

Bravado, swordsmanship and performance all combined as the 'Art of the Duel' returned to Blenheim Palace during August. Experienced and talented stage-fighting actors dazzled visitors with their re-enactment of classical two-person combat. Duelling's codes, traditions and gory details were all covered in the displays.



Between the 17th and early 19th centuries, duelling was a common way of settling disputes between members of the aristocracy. The performances included a particular focus on the young John Churchill's 1671 duel with Sir John Fenwick, with the action-packed displays exploring the art and awfulness of duelling.

Oxford Station redevelopment



On 17 August the Department for Transport confirmed it has awarded

£78.6m to Network Rail to support the redevelopment of Oxford station and railway, helping provide a bigger and better station, more services for passengers and freight, and improved journey times for passengers in the future.

The key changes include:

- The introduction of a new track and platform.
- A new western station entrance that will be built next to Botley Road.
- Improvements to the nearby road network and replacement of Botley Road bridge.

The track work to create three high-speed crossovers at Oxford North Junction will take place over four weekends in September and October 2022. This will mean that there will be no services in or out of Oxford on 10 and 11, 17 and 18, and 24 and 25 September, as well as 1 and 2 October.

The work to replace the bridge is scheduled to take place between 29 July and 6 August 2023. During this time Botley Road will be closed to through traffic and there will be no train services in or out of the station.

www.networkrail.co.uk/running-the-railway/our-routes/western/oxfordshire/oxford-corridor-phase-2/

Help with the cost of living

At this time when we cannot fail to have noticed the rising prices of food and particularly fuel, Age UK Oxfordshire has compiled a checklist of the various grants which are available to help. There are eight different schemes from various sources, which are not all widely publicised and Age UK Oxfordshire welcomes this opportunity

to spread the word to any who may find it useful.

From the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP):

- £300 Pensioner cost of living payment. This is a one-off payment coming in November-December 2022 and will come automatically if you receive a Winter Fuel Payment and were born on or before 25 September 1956. If it is not paid automatically, you may need to apply by calling 0800 731 0160.
- £200-300 Winter Fuel Payment is paid automatically if you were born on or before 25 September 1956. In case of problems call 0800 731 0160.
- £150 Disability cost of living payment. A further one-off automatic payment due in September 2022 to those receiving one of the following benefits on 25 May 2022: Attendance allowance, Personal independence payment, Disability living allowance, Constant attendance allowance, Armed Forces independence Payment, War Pension Mobility supplement or Scottish Disability benefits. Regulations on this are still being written. Any problems: call DWP on 0800 731 0122.
- £650 Cost of living payment – this is for those on means-tested benefits (Pension credit, Universal Credit, Income Support, income-based Jobseekers' allowance (JSA), income-based Employment and support allowance (ESA) and is paid automatically in two instalments. If you receive a tax credit and have already received a £650 payment, you cannot access this payment as well. For problems call 0800 731 0469.

From your energy company:

- £400 Energy Bills support scheme for all electricity customers, paid automatically as credit to your account or by voucher, between October 2022 and April 2023. In case of problems, call your electricity provider.
- £150 Warm Home discount, issued automatically between October 2022 and April 2023 by your energy provider as credit to your account, if you or your partner get the Guarantee Credit element of Pension Credit. Call your energy company for details.

From your District Council:

- £150 Council Tax rebate for properties in bands A-D, provided you or your partner are named on the bill. The rebate is paid automatically to direct debit customers between April 2022 and April 2023. Other customers will be sent written details of how to apply. In case of problems, contact WODC on 01993 861000 or visit www.westoxon.gov.uk/council-tax-and-benefits/.

Finally, the Government has provided an extra £500 million for local support via the Household Support Fund, which will be extended from October 2022 to March 2023. The Fund will be administered by local councils in England and further details are available from them.

If you have any issues or questions related to money or benefits, these are independent advice services that you can contact:

Age UK Oxfordshire: 0345 450 1276 (please ask for the Helpline)

Citizen's Advice West Oxfordshire: 0808 278 7908

Universal Credit "Help to Claim" support provided by Citizen's Advice: 0800 144 844

Politics & local affairs

Stonesfield Parish Council

Great Big Green Week

The heat and lack of rain this summer can't fail to bring climate change to the forefront of everyone's thinking. This year's Great Big Green week is from 24 September to 2 October. It is an opportunity for organisations and communities to come together to tackle the crisis and protect the environment. The theme this year is energy. Easy wins for the community to tackle this in small ways are:

- Change to LED lightbulbs where possible.
- Cut out harmful chemicals in cleaning products.
- Improve insulation at home.
- Swap to a green energy provider.
- Plant an appropriate tree in your garden.
- Switch short journeys to cycle journeys, share cars or use public transport where possible.
- Extend the life of clothes - repair or pass on to someone else who can use them (or charity shop).
- A classic but probably one of the easiest & quickest changes to make, turning the thermostat down by just 1 degree and can cut your bills by over £50 a year.
- Shorter showers - under 4 minutes is ideal!
- Turn the thermostat down slightly and use a timer so the heating is only on when you need it.
- Air dry clothes to reduce the energy (and cost) of tumble-drying washing.

- Turn it off! An easy one - turn off lights, switches and appliances when not used.
- Eat more seasonal and local food - and share food you might otherwise throw away with neighbours or the local larders / foodbanks (Witney has a larder which is open to all at The Amos Room, Methodist Church, High Street, Witney).
Tuesday - Fridge 10am-noon
Wednesday - Larder 3-7pm
Thursday - Fridge 10am-noon
Saturday - Fridge 10am-noon

Please share community suggestions with the Parish Council so we can create a list on the web to help everyone become greener and save money.

Dog Fouling

Please can all dog owners pick up dog waste (from their own dogs!) when out walking and place the bagged waste either in your own bin or one of the multi bins in the village. As a reminder, in England and Wales you can get fined £80 - with a maximum penalty of £1,000 (e.g. if your case goes to court) for not picking up dog mess. The UK dog fouling law, and related fine, does not apply to registered blind dog owners.

Next Parish Council Meeting

The date of the next full council meeting is 7 September 2022 – St James' Centre at 7pm.

Karen East, Parish Clerk
clerk@stonesfieldpc.uk

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News from West Oxfordshire

Electoral Registration – Don’t lose your right to vote!

With local elections taking place in May 2023, West Oxfordshire residents are being urged to check their electoral registration details or risk losing their chance to vote on decisions that affect them as the Council starts its Annual household Canvass to check everyone's voting details are up to date.

Recent home movers in particular are urged to check their details. The Council will be contacting households via post in the coming months with information on what the householder needs to do to make sure their details are accurate. Residents can find out more about registering to vote by visiting the council website at: www.westoxon.gov.uk/elections or contact the council's electoral services team at elections@westoxon.gov.uk or by calling 01993 861410.

Improving Service Delivery

WODC is to change the use of its buildings in Witney to improve service delivery for residents and transparency when making local decisions. This will improve accessibility for residents by moving more services to the easily accessible Welch Way offices in the centre of town. It will also include the installation of a new system for viewing council meetings online and make the buildings more efficient.

Seeking commitment from Thames Water to reduce pollution

The Council is calling on Thames Water to do more to stop raw sewage being pumped into local rivers by increasing the capacity

of sewage treatment works and also provide more transparent monitoring of sewage discharge.

The Council has asked Thames Water to move faster to increase sewage treatment capacity and will work closely with Thames Water, the Environment Agency and other key local organisations such as Windrush Against Sewage Pollution, and other community groups to achieve these aims. Specifically, by December 2025 to have increased the capacity of each sewage treatment works so that they can not only meet current demand but also what will be needed in future. The capacity increases should take account of future housing growth, rather than just increasing capacity to catch up which is the current approach.

West Oxfordshire District Council
Communications Team
communications@westoxon.gov.uk
West Oxfordshire District Council

.....

From your local MP: Business Breakfast Briefing

Great to speak to local business leaders at the latest Business Breakfast Briefing in Carterton. These regular meetings are a valuable opportunity to discuss the latest economic and business climate, enabling me to gather local feedback to take back to Westminster.

Thank you to local business leaders for your engagement and for all you do to promote jobs and investment in our area. If you are interested in attending, please do email me and I'll be sure to add you to the invite list.

GOT2B Youth Awards

Delighted to attend the launch of Got2b's first ever West Oxfordshire Youth Awards (WOYAs) in Carterton recently. Got2B is a local non-profit company that provides youth services, youth clubs, workshops and events for young people aged 13-17 across West Oxfordshire. Got2B are launching the WOYAs to recognise the achievements of young people in our area and are looking for businesses to help sponsor the awards, which will take place in November.

Reducing Childcare Costs

I welcome the recently announced package of measures to reduce the cost of childcare for parents, boosting the number of childminders and driving up the take up of childcare offers to help parents with rising costs.

A consultation will be launched to look at increasing the number of children that can be looked after by each staff member in early years settings, which could reduce the cost of childcare by up to 15 per cent, or up to £40 per week. We are also increasing awareness of existing childcare offers, to boost take up by families.

Update on Salt Cross Garden Village

The Planning Inspector has responded to West Oxfordshire District Council on the Area Action Plan (AAP) for Salt Cross

Garden Village, paving the way for the plan to be approved and setting the scene for the development to progress. The AAP, developed through extensive consultation with local communities, sets out the framework for how the Salt Cross Garden Village should be a landscape led development, taking into account key factors such as affordable housing, protecting the environment, active travel and business growth. A full public consultation is anticipated to take place shortly.

Help to Build Register

Salt Cross Garden Village aims to provide for self-build opportunities.

Residents will soon be able to register their interest to be able to custom build their own home at Salt Cross. A 'help to build' scheme has been launched by government, to find out more please go to - www.ownyourhome.gov.uk/scheme/self-build-portal/

Community Development Facilitator for Salt Cross Eliane Pony is able to assist with enquiries about self-build projects at Salt Cross, she can be contacted here - eliane.pony@westoxon.gov.uk

If there is anything at all I can do to help, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at robert@robertcourts.co.uk

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 Amanda Peters (01993 891947) or Viv Kendall (01993 891803) to book transport in September.

Stonesfield's Character?

Stonesfielders...old and young (and all those in-between), people who've lived here forever or who moved in last month... we need your help.

You might have heard that like many other communities up and down the country, some Stonesfield residents have formed a group to create a Neighbourhood Plan. The purpose of a Neighbourhood Plan is to help protect what makes the place you live in special and to protect it for future generations. Once it's done, Stonesfield will join Charlbury, Eynsham and Hailey and others, in having documents formally registered with the District Council stating what villagers think is important. It can't definitively stop developers turning the playing field into a 24-hour supermarket, but it is ammunition in the fight.

One part of the Neighbourhood Plan is called the Village Character Assessment. This sounds slightly sinister, but it is just a document which lists all the things which give Stonesfield its character, its history, and its geography.

This is where we need help and there's not much effort required! Everyone knows about the old pubs, mines, fossils etc, but we are interested in getting information about less well-known things, that are still of interest.

Your house or flat might have a special story behind its name, an interesting building history – this might be as much from the nineteen-seventies as from the earlier eras. Are there interesting views from a particular spot by your property? Is there an interesting family history link? Basically, anything that interests you, interests us. You can share as little or as

much as you like. Anonymously or, if you want the glory, with your name up in lights.

You can

- email us at np@stonesfieldpc.uk
- complete www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/StonesfieldCharacter
- use the QR code (below).

If you don't have access to the Internet, you can fill out and detach the form on page 18 of this Slate and hand it in at the shop.

We can come to you if you can't face writing it all down or you'd like to show us something for a possible photograph.

Please get in touch.

Susan Rudlin

np@stonesfieldpc.uk



My home’s history

Your name:

Your address:

How should we contact you?

Tell us points of interest about

- Your house / garden

- Views from your house / garden

- Your street

- You or other people who’ve lived in the house

Do you have photos?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yes	No

Do you want us to visit?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yes	No



Stonesfield Pre-School & Daycare

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)

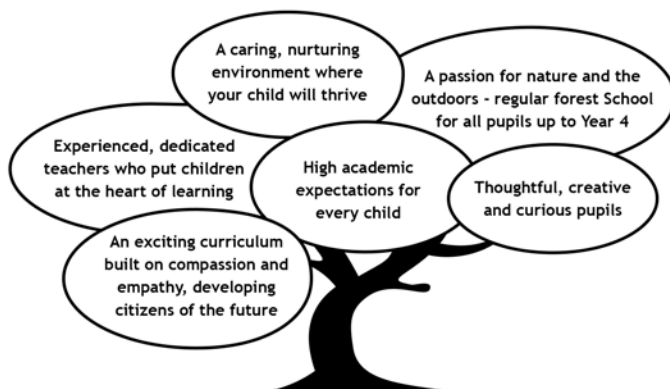
Stonesfield Primary School

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, please contact the school office.

Tel: 01993 891687

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

Education, culture & more

Stonesfield Primary School

An opportunity to support your community

A village school is the heart of the community in many ways. In Stonesfield we are fortunate to have a small but vibrant primary school which aims to offer the children of the village and surrounds the best possible education for each and every child. We are inclusive, friendly and ambitious. We are looking for new governors who want to be part of building the future of the school. In addition, we will be holding elections for parent governors in the autumn term.

If you would be interested in joining us, we would love to hear from you. Please contact our co-chairs Harry Holland and Sue Corrigan by email in the first instance and we will arrange to have a conversation.

scorrigan@stonesfield.oxon.sch.uk or
hholland2353@stonesfield.oxon.sch.uk

Interim Headteacher Arrangements for Autumn 2022

Recruiting a headteacher is arguably the most important role of a governor, unfortunately our initial advertisements for the headteacher position at Stonesfield School did not produce candidates we were able to interview. Therefore, we have made interim arrangements for the headteacher for the autumn term. The headteacher role will operate as a job share which will ensure high quality provision across the week. We have two principal job share

partners, who will be supported by our existing SENCO (special needs co-ordinator). They will ensure handover and communications so that the school operates effectively.

Mrs Anne Hipwell will be headteacher for Mondays and Tuesdays. She is currently Assistant Headteacher at Woodstock School. Woodstock have kindly agreed to allow her to join us, and we are grateful to them for this.

Mrs Rachel Crouch will be headteacher Wednesday to Friday. She is an experienced headteacher who was most recently interim head at Charlbury School. She will bring a wealth of experience to the school, and we are grateful to her for agreeing to join us.

On Thursdays Mrs Mel Carruthers, our SENCO, has agreed to act as duty headteacher working with Mrs Crouch. Mel has been a headteacher in the past and we would like to thank her for her assistance.

We will advertise the role again in the autumn/winter and we will keep you informed as we move forwards in line with the long-term strategy and vision for the school. We would like to reiterate our thanks to Mr Trevail for his hard work during these last difficult few years and the support he has given us in making these arrangements. Our best wishes go with him and his family.

Stonesfield Primary School Governors

Stonesfield Library

The library is open as follows

Monday 2.30 - 7pm

Wednesday 10am - 12 noon

Thursday 2.30 - 5pm

Saturday 10am - 12 noon

Stonesfield Library telephone: 898187

Summer Reading Challenge 2022

Have you read your 6 books for the Summer Reading Challenge? Only a week to go till the end of the challenge (Saturday 10 September).

Don't worry! You've still got time to finish.

The Summer Reading Challenge Celebration will take place on Thursday 15 September in the Village Hall Clubroom (next to the library) from 3.30-4.30pm. Make sure you collect your invitation to the Celebration from the library when you complete the challenge.

Bryony Mallows



I'm a Reader...

Jane van der Ploeg, 66

When I ask Jane if she minds her age being divulged, she laughs cheerfully: "I've just got my state pension and my bus pass, I'm officially an old lady! I find this strangely liberating ... I'm not sure why." This means it is sixty years since Jane bought her first book, an occasion she remembers well.

"My mum's brother in Herefordshire gave us one pound between the three of us sisters; it was old money, so we had six and eight each. The book was *My Naughty Little Sister* which was divine. I was always reading; my mother took me to the doctor, because I wasn't sleeping, complaining, 'she just goes under the covers with a torch and reads.' The doctor wasn't too worried."

Jane and her daughter Lauren (who has previously featured in these pages) set themselves a target to read a book a week back in 2018 and are still going. Jane has kept an assiduous handwritten record of all her reads in a notebook, and, as aide-mémoire, records her views on each one. Necessarily, these remarks are short, and, consequently, sometimes comically damning: 'OK', 'twee', 'a bit pedestrian' and, 'mmm, not sure', nestle among the 'brilliant', 'loved it' and 'guilty pleasure'.

Jane's favourite authors are John Irving, Sebastian Faulks, and Margaret Atwood. However, I was particularly interested to learn, one afternoon in the library when I was volunteering, that Jane is a recent convert to the graphic novel*. She has worked for years as an English as a Foreign Language Teacher and it was an Italian male student who recommended, *Pyongyang: A Journey in North Korea* by Guy Delisle. "It completely changed my view of graphic novels; I thought they were

all like Spiderman and Batman, but my student explained they are half-way between prose and cinema. *Pyongyang* gives you a sense of the starkness of North Korea, that you possibly wouldn't get from a novel."

Jane's father was in the army, and so, as a child, she moved around frequently - Germany, Northern Ireland, Kenya and the slightly less glamorous Preston. They were in Berlin in August 1963, when President Kennedy made his famous 'Ich bin ein Berliner' speech. Her father pointed out that JFK had a daughter about Jane's age. Three months later the President was assassinated. "My sister and I were playing under the table when we heard the news on the radio...everyone was saying what an important man had been killed, I just thought of him as, 'that little girl's dad'."

Jane moved to Stonesfield in 1983 and has accordingly been regularly visiting our library for 39 years. It was smaller, with no children's room and before *that*, Jane remembers visiting a mobile library in the same spot. Was that still worth visiting? "*Absolutely*" she says fervently, "we were young, not much money, the library was great."

*After note: volunteering at the library is a great opportunity to talk books with others in the village, why not sign up?

Eleanor Bailey

House Martins Update!

Further to our article in the previous slate we would be very interested to find out if any other residents in Stonesfield have house martins nesting or showing interest in nesting in the village. We are doing a survey for the house martin conservation society and would value this information -

whether they are just flying over you or nesting on your house. We are also interested to know if you have any swifts that are nesting or showing interest in your property

If you would like any more information regarding house martin nest boxes or swift boxes/bricks to be put up or installed, please email us on: amanda1964miller@gmail.com or telephone 07774 235669 (Patrick Miller) or 07929 160149 (Paul Wren)

Patrick and Amanda Miller

Local History: From the Oxford Journal - Saturday 25 October 1851

'Accidental and Fatal Accident – An inquest was held at the Marlborough Arms Inn, Stonesfield, on Tuesday, the 21st inst., by James Westell, Esq., coroner, on view of the body of William Lovegrove, of Old Basing Hants, labourer, aged 17 years, who died from injuries received on the Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton Railway, at Northleigh. By the evidence it appeared that the deceased was employed on the above railway, and was on a certain waggon, which started and jerked him off between the wheels and the rocks, driving him for about 16 yards under the wheels, and was afterwards rolled out. His left arm and one of his legs was broken, and his head and body severely injured. He was immediately taken to Stonesfield and Mr. Abel Davis, of that place, started with him in a cart to the Oxford infirmary, but deceased died after getting two miles on his journey. Verdict – accidental death.' (Buried in Stonesfield on 22nd October 1851. Ed.)

Douglas Rudlin

Clubs, societies & sport

FoSL: Friends of Stonesfield Library

Do you enjoy reading? Could you spare a couple of hours a month? Come and join the library team. A great volunteering opportunity!

**For further details contact Mike Pollitt
Tel: 891856**

Stonesfield Sports and Social Club Update

We have had a wonderful few months making use of our new patio and furniture over the summer.

A massive thank you to the Village Idiots who played for us again this year during the Queen's Platinum Jubilee bank holiday weekend. Over 300 villagers attended the event and we have made a £400 donation to the Village Idiots' chosen charity, Cancer Research.

In July, the annual Sheila Stockwell charity cricket match took place, and the event raised an amazing £1,100 for Sobel House. Congratulations to Richard and everyone who took part.

In August the final of the Andy Crawford Cricket Cup took place with over 100 people enjoying a close fought match between Minster Lovell and Witney Swifts, who eventually won after a super over. Thank you to George Redknap and the

cricket club members for organising such a brilliant competition again.

Finally, don't forget we have a quiz every Tuesday and two Aunt Sally teams who play on a Thursday. We have started to do Fizzy Fridays and Prosecco is only £10 a bottle. We now have a large screen and show many of the big fixtures, they are all published on our Facebook page.

If you would like to join the Sports and Social Club just pop in and see Ben, Sam or Aimee.

Stonesfield Gardening Club

A challenging time in the garden for the last few weeks!

I'm sure we've all been watering as little as possible, while not wanting to lose precious plants or produce from the garden. Suzy Boardman says she has been watering at the allotment (those allotmenters in Churchfields with the foresight to have water installed!) but has not done the blackberry, which has been very happy without. Our raspberries have been in many years and have deep roots, but I think the yield is down as they have not been irrigated.

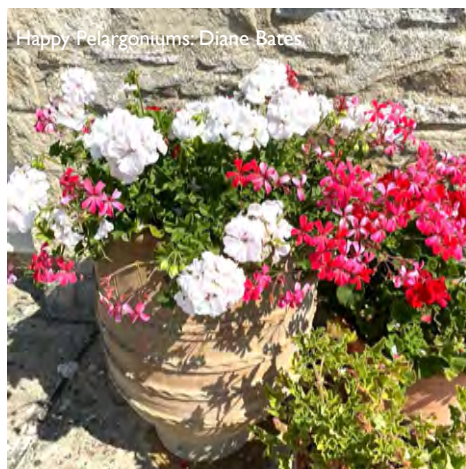
Valerian (self-seeded in all our gardens, but none the worse for that) and Verbena Bonariensis are both happy in the dry.

Trisha Williams advocates Nandina Domestica, the Himalayan bamboo, which tolerates most conditions it seems. Also rosemary, Grevillea and some grasses.



Plants with grey foliage are naturally happy in dry conditions, my Perovskia always looks good as does cat mint and Eryngium, the sea holly. The RHS recommends Helichrysum, which is usually sold for containers. Mediterranean plants like lavender of course are always happy being baked.

For flowers the RHS recommends Cistus, Halimoloech, Fremontodendron (climber), tree lupin and Spanish broom. I recommend we all takes notes of what has survived this summer and let everyone else know – knowledge is power!



Our September meeting will be at Bourton House Garden on Wednesday 14 Sept. We are meeting at 11am.

Diane Bates

Secretary Stonesfield Gardening Club

www.stonesfieldgardening.info

The Wychwood Flora Group

The Wychwood Flora Group surveys and looks after some of the rarest plants in West Oxfordshire, including Meadow Clary, Downy Woundwort, Cotswold Pennycress, Red Hempnettle, and the Yellow Star of Bethlehem.

We are also involved with exciting floodplain projects with the Evenlode Catchment Partnership and others. We see an amazing variety of plants on the limestone grassland in this area.

Our habitat management work and work parties, alongside the Cotswold Wardens, have been effective in helping rare plants to thrive, and are also great fun and a good way to meet like-minded people. Our work involves visiting beautiful locations and surveying/looking after a diversity of plants in a variety of habitats.

The Flora Group is very friendly, and welcomes new volunteers with no or any level of experience. It is a good way to build identification skills, and to see the countryside with fresh eyes. If you would like to come along, please drop us an email at: wychwoodfloragroup@gmail.com.

Stonesfield Sustainability Groups

The Food Group

Sourdough Bread Baking Workshop
24 September

There are a few spaces left on the free one-day sourdough bread baking course, please get in touch if you would like to come along, email me.

juliecurran0@gmail.com

Community Café

We're back on Saturday, 10 September with tea, coffee, cake, and an autumnal light lunch starting at 11am (with lunch served between noon and 2pm).

We are working in collaboration with Oxford Food Hub to repurpose surplus food. This not only stops perfectly good food going to landfill, but significantly helps us keep our costs down, so that any money we make can be channelled towards helping villagers survive the current cost of living crisis. The Village Hall generously sponsors the club room.

We work on a pay-as-you-feel basis, that means you can contribute however you can to the success of our event: donating your time, skills, money, or something even more imaginative! We will have a menu with indicative costs on it so that you have an idea of what to give, but ultimately, it's up to you to pay what you can. We're running at the same time as the Repair shop, we will be in the club room, they are in the hall. Everyone is welcome and we hope to see you on the day.

Food Group Meetings

The Food Group will start meeting again in September, moving to monthly meetings.

If you would like to join us to get involved in all things food, then please email juliecurran0@gmail.com

Julie Curran

juliecurran0@gmail.com

The Environment Group

The Evenlode: A team of our volunteers took part in sampling the river as part of the Evenlode WaterBlitz in July. The data from all the groups that took part was collated and the results show high levels of Nitrates, Phosphates and poor ecological status at sampling sites: More details at: www.freshwaterwatch.org

We will continue to sample the river using these tests but we are also investigating what other kinds of testing we could do that might give us more insight, this could include E.Coli testing and measuring the levels of invertebrates to give a more detailed picture of the state of the river. We will report back when we have more information.

We are excited to share with you the attached infographic of our water quality summary report for 2021-2022. The incredible data collected is now the biggest contributor to water quality monitoring in the catchment and is showing that sewage effluent is the main cause of poor water quality in the Evenlode. Both the infographic (see page 26) and summary report can be found online on the Wild Oxfordshire webpage here: www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk

Continues on Page 27

THE EVENLODE CATCHMENT

is **430km²**, with part of the catchment found in the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

CITIZEN SCIENTISTS

take more water quality samples across the catchment than anyone else. Without this important data, it would be harder to identify where management measures are needed most

THE RIVER EVENLODE flows for **72km**

from its source in Gloucestershire through Oxfordshire until it joins the River Thames

20

Citizen Scientists in the Evenlode catchment regularly take water samples and report their results

544

citizen science water quality measurements taken from 2019 to 2022

SEWAGE is the main cause of poor water quality in the Evenlode

"Between September 2019 and June 2020, 9 Sewage Treatment Works spilled untreated sewage into the Evenlode for a total of 8,344 hours."

Professor Peter Hammond

PHOSPHATES (PO₄) AND NITRATES (NO₃) are nutrients that enter our waterbodies from two key sources: in the wastewater from Sewage Treatment Works and via agricultural runoff from fertilisers added to crops and grasslands. These nutrients are often limited in freshwaters, so the addition of even small amounts have big ecological impacts such as algal blooms which reduce oxygen for organisms such as fish.

67%

of water measurements have high phosphate levels (>0.1 mg/l) which indicate poor water quality

79%

of water measurements have high nitrate levels (>2 mg/l) which indicate poor water quality

POOR WATER QUALITY IS THREATENING BIODIVERSITY.

Endangered wildlife such as water voles found in the catchment need good water quality to thrive.

AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY is significant in this rural catchment and will also be delivering nutrients into rivers via surface runoff

IMPACTS OF NUTRIENTS ARE WORSE IN SUMMER – this is due to lower flows in the river as there is less rainfall but the discharges from the Sewage Treatment Works remain the same

SEPTIC TANKS may also be delivering nutrients into catchment waters depending on level of maintenance but there exists no census or routine monitoring so further investigation is needed

URGENT IMPROVEMENT TO SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS is needed to improve the water quality of the Evenlode

The Evenlode Catchment Partnership, hosted by Wild Oxfordshire with funding of £3 million from Thames Water is bringing together local knowledge and partners including Earthwatch, local community groups, Environment Agency and Thames Water **to deliver improvements to the water quality of the Evenlode**

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Become a Citizen Scientist in the Evenlode: Visit freshwaterwatch.org and Contact us!

JOIN US



Campaign for change: Take to social media or write to your local MP, Thames Water and other authorities (Ofwat) to demand urgent improvements are made to Sewage Treatment Works in the Evenlode.



wildoxfordshire.org.uk



www.freshwaterwatch.org



water@earthwatch.org.uk

Please feel free to share our infographic and findings via social media. We are also currently distributing a press release to the media to help raise the profile of this valuable work and will share any media updates on this with you.

We hope this inspires you to continue to monitor and encourage others to sign up to our WaterBlitz: 30 Sept - 3 Oct 2022. Details at: www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk

The FreshWater Watch Team

A date for the diary!

There is a highly relevant event coming up. I know it may not sound like your destination of choice but....Witney Sewage Treatment Works Open Day - 9 September.

'70% of the Evenlode's waterbodies have a poor water quality rating because of continuous sewage pollution.' As quoted by The Evenlode Catchment Partnership.

We all know that Thames Water's performance over many years has fallen well short of what we deserve, and that sewage discharges into local rivers are unacceptable. The encouraging news is that, following the passage of the Environment Act, Thames Water are now being required to comply with a range of new legal duties to improve transparency and reduce storm overflows and diffuse pollution from land run off.

Thames Water will be hosting an open day on Friday 9 September. Tours will be running throughout the day. This is a great opportunity to learn more about what they are doing and put your questions and concerns to the experts.

Further information, and details of how you can sign up to join a tour, can be found

here: www.eventbrite.co.uk (once at the site use the search bar with 'Witney Sewage Works').

The Guardian ran a very informative article entitled 'Sewage sleuths: the men who revealed the slow, dirty death of Welsh and English rivers' which is worth a read before the visit: www.theguardian.com (search by article title).

In addition, the February 2022 report by the Environment Agency is also an interesting read: 'Water: Myths, Facts and Inconvenient Truths - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)'.

John Sampson

Stonesfield Tennis Club

The club was established over 100 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>

Email: stonesfieldtc@gmail.com
Facebook: [@stonesfieldtennisclub](https://www.facebook.com/stonesfieldtennisclub)
Instagram: [@stonesfieldtennis](https://www.instagram.com/stonesfieldtennis)

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

Churchwarden: Lindsey Sellar
stonesfield@stonesfieldparishchurch.org

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

From the Rector:

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Rev Roy Turner, our former Rector, after a very brief illness. Roy's funeral was held at St Laurence, Combe, on Tuesday 16 August, followed by cremation at North Oxford Crematorium.

The following words are based on the eulogy given by Rev Canon Andrew Wingfield Digby at Roy's funeral, with thanks to Bev Turner, Rachel, Hannah and Jonathan.

Roy was born in Yorkshire on 10 December 1951, one of five children. He dreamed of joining the RAF but was discouraged from doing so by his father. But he never lost his love of flying, and flew a helicopter into Combe churchyard to deliver his daughter Rachel for her wedding. More recently he has made new friends at Enstone Flying Club. After school he became a qualified heating and ventilation engineer, then a salesman, and ran his own business,

Agathos Group. Family was always a central theme of his life. He married Bev in 1980 and they had four children. Sadly, their second child, David, was born with a rare genetic condition and died aged 9, having been cared for latterly at the Martin House Children's Hospice in Boston Spa. This period of Roy's life had many challenges, but Roy's faith never faltered. In due course their journey led them into the Anglican church, and Roy was ordained in Christ Church Cathedral in 2000, becoming curate at Woodstock and Bladon, then serving as Vicar at Brize Norton and Carterton, and finally as Rector of Stonesfield and Combe.

Roy said the best decision he ever made was when he was 16 and at a Methodist youth weekend, he gave his life to Jesus Christ. For the rest of his life Jesus was at the centre of all he did. He knew that what Jesus said in John 14 is true: *'I am the way, the Truth, and the Life; no one comes to the Father but by me'*. Initially his Christian faith led him into music and he was part of a Christian Gospel group called 'Faith' which recorded, and toured the country. He met Bev through the house church they were attending and their love bloomed as he taught her to drive. Following David's death, Roy and Bev became involved with their local Anglican church, and Roy began to sense a calling to ordination in the Church of England. Theological studies at Mattersey and Sheffield University prepared him for ministry after moving here to Oxfordshire.

Roy's life has been cut short too soon and too suddenly, just as Bev and he were making great plans for retirement. He will be remembered for his great kindness, his encouragement and friendship. He was an immensely genial man to whom people warmed instantly. But he might then surprise you with a Yorkshire turn of phrase – 'Spraggie' was his affectionate name for children and grandchildren. 'Pass the gravy' became 'Can you pass the Royal Navy'. He could also surprise his hearers in the pulpit, where a magic trick might illustrate a sermon.

Roy's friends and family have been reeling from the suddenness of his passing. Grief and loss with so little warning is very hard to cope with. But believers do not grieve without hope. The day Roy died is the day he went to Heaven to be with the Lord he loved and served since he was 16. He would entirely agree with St Paul when he wrote in Romans 14: *'If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord, so whether we live or die we belong to the Lord'*.

So on what basis can we be confident now that Roy is indeed in Heaven? He has been a great husband, father and grandfather, he was always great company, he was an accomplished and enthusiastic musician singing children's songs and even taking part in a Kids Praise production. He had a great sense of humour and had a gift for making others smile and laugh. The family has recently enjoyed celebrating Bev's retirement at Sandbanks, and no doubt he was on great form as the family gathered together. By any estimation the man we are thanking God for today was a good chap, and I have not met anyone with a bad word to say about him. But his manifest decency is not the reason for our hope. His

favourite hymn was 'Great is thy faithfulness', which has been sung at all of the great occasions in Roy's life. His hope of Heaven is based on the faithfulness of God, not on his own faithfulness or merit. He knew deep in his heart that there was no shadow or turning with God; he knew that all he needed God's hand had provided; he knew and experienced pardon for sin and a peace that endureth...so he has bright hope for tomorrow.

At this funeral and thanksgiving service he would be disappointed if I did not close by urging anyone who has not done so to do what Roy did 54 years ago and welcome the Lord Jesus into your life as Lord and Saviour. His last words to me were 'Andrew, the Lord has numbered my days'. His untimely death is an opportunity for all of us to do business with God before our days too are numbered.

Rest in peace my friend and rise in glory.

Rev Ralph Williamson, Rector

Services in September

For the latest information please go to www.stonesfieldparishchurch.org

Sunday 4 September [Twelfth Sunday after Trinity]

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

Sunday 11 September [Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity]

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

Sunday 18 September [Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity]

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

Sunday 25 September [Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity]

8am	Stonesfield	No service
9.30am	Combe	Parish Communion
11am	Stonesfield	Parish Communion
5pm	Combe	Evensong

Mondays

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

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

9.30am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion
11am	Combe	Morning Prayer (14,28 September)

Stonesfield Methodist Church

Services for September

4 Sep		No Service at Stonesfield
4 Sep	11am	United Service at Chipping Norton Methodist Church led by Rev Andrew Biggs.
11 Sep	11am	Andrew Maisey
18 Sep	11am	Mary Blow
25 Sep	11am	Holy Communion Service led by Rev Andrew Biggs

Special folk!

Heaven must be aglow right now, the singing more melodious than ever.

Two, dear, long serving members have risen in glory, their joyous voices shared above.

Derrick Millard and Ron Evins served God and this Church beyond all measure, ever giving of their energies, talents and rich gracious fellowship, each in their very own way and both over decades.

Their passing, just a few days apart, has brought sorrow indeed, but thankfulness too, such worthy lives remembered, and profound feelings of gratitude for all Derrick and Ron did in the name of Stonesfield Methodist Church and far beyond. God Bless them.

'Morning all' Ron Evins. 1924-2022

'Hallelujah, Praise the Lord.' Derrick Millard. 1940 - 2022

Kathleen Alb  rt (891733)

Roman Catholic Worship

It's never too late

Do you worry about being late? Lateness and preparation are surfaced in both the Old and New Testaments, reflecting the agricultural nature of those Iron Age cultures, but with a slightly different focus. In the Old Testament it is recognition that there is delay and lateness as we are told in Exodus 9:32

But the wheat and the spelt were not ruined, for they ripen late. We can take from that an understanding that disasters might occur and we think 'all is lost' but much may be saved or redeemed.

However, we see that redemption is made manifest in the New Testament as the tone shifts to preparedness for salvation: Luke 12:40 exhorts us to be ready *'You also must be ready for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect'*. Again, Matthew 24:36 tells us *'But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only'*.

If we put those two themes of lateness and preparation together, we see that a coherent message for us emerges: we might be late, but we can also and always be ready to accept the Lord.

Holy Mass

Sunday Mass 9.15am

Weekday Mass times

Monday/Tuesday: 9.30am

Wednesday: 7pm

Thursday: 9.30am

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

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

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).

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

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