Stonesfield Slate



Issue No 530 November 2022



I'm writing this the day after our Pop-up Pub at the Village Hall. You never let us down and we're thrilled at how many of you turned out on a grey and increasingly wet afternoon. So many of you turned out we had to get out extra tables/chairs and the cask of Yabba Dabba Doo had to be supplemented by the beer on tap at the club next door. We'd like to thank you for turning up, the Village Hall for hosting us, Sam & Ben from the Sports and Social Club for running the bar in the Village Hall and Nick & Judith, the wonderful duo Hooper Henderson, for their music. This was an opportunity for anyone in the village to come and talk to us about the campaign and we enjoyed chatting to you.

This event followed hot on the heels of our mini beer festival on Saturday, 1 October. We

were delighted that well over 300 people came and I think it's fair to say, we all had a really good time. We raised around £4,250 from entry tickets, extra beer sales and the kind contribution from Sartorelli's pizza sales.

We were also delighted to hear that it was a good afternoon for the Scouts, who raised hundreds of pounds towards their new hut fund from their BBQ, and that the Sports and Social Club also did a roaring trade. We'd like to thank everyone who made it possible, beer drinkers, musicians, sponsors and volunteers, the list is so long we can't name everyone here, but you know who you are.

Continues on page 5

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

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

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

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Dates for your diary:

November

1,8,15,22,29	Zumba	Village Hall	7-8pm
1,8,15,22,29	Zumba Strong	Village Hall	8.15-9.15pm
1,15	Carers' Café	Village Hall	10-12 noon
2	Parish Council meeting	St James' Centre	7.30pm
2,3,8,10,16	Hanna Bathe HITT Class	Village Hall	7-8pm
2,8,16,23,30	Gatehouse Pilates	Village Hall	9.30-10.30am
2,8,16,23,30	Folk Dancing	Village Hall	7.45-10pm
3	Free Supper (booking necessary)	St James' Centre	5-7pm
3,7,10,14	Taekwondo	Village Hall	5.30-6.30pm
4,11,18,25	Baby & Toddler Group	Village Hall	10-12 noon
5	Pop-up Café for Septembeerfest	Village Hall	9am-2pm
7,14,21,28	Monday Coffee	St James' Centre	8.45-11.30am
11	Woodstock Music Society Concert	High St Methodist Church, Witney	7pm
14	Gardening Club talk	St James' Centre	7.30pm
17,23,24,30	Hanna Bathe HITT Class	Village Hall	7-8pm
17,21,27,28	Taekwondo	Village Hall	5.30-6.30pm
18	Folk session	St James' Centre	7.30-10pm
19	Methodist Christmas Bazaar	St James' Centre	2-4pm
19	BTWH Meet the Brewer Taste Pairing	Village Hall	6-11pm
26	Oxfordshire Folk Dance Assoc'n Music Day	Village Hall	9am-9pm
26	Pre-School Cake Sale	Village shop forecourt	9.30-11.30am
26	Georgie Steele's 'And I'll Blow Your House Down'	Finstock Village Hal	l 8pm
26, 27	Christmas Art & Craft Show	Grey Cat Studio	10am-3pm
December			
3	Coffee & Croissants	St James' Centre	9-11am
4	Christmas Market	Combe Mill	11am-4pm

Notices & news

Hebe Godfrey

One of the great pleasures of life in Stonesfield was either bumping into Hebe 'somewhere' or her passing my front gate when, if I hadn't spotted her, she'd tap on the window and wave vigorously, often with a bunch of flowers in her hand, I'd dash out for a lengthy natter over the garden gate. I loved our nonsensical, and on her part rather witty, 'putting the world - or our gardens - to rights' or her tales of life in Stonesfield and those of the village in an era now long gone. Until quite recently I'd meet her pushing her bicycle up near-alpine Peaks Lane - saving 'For goodness' sake, it's nothing, used to push my husband up here in his wheelchair'. Energetic and indomitable to nearly the end.

Dear Hebe, a very special, kind and lovely lady, part of Stonesfield's very essence having been born, bred, worked, married, become a mother and grandmother in the village. All who knew her will miss her most dearly.

Lorna Prestwich (writing from Devon)

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the death of Hebe Godfrey, one of our long standing deliverers of *The Slate*.

Born and bred in Stonesfield, Hebe was also the source of many of our stories of life in the village, and supplied us with the lovely picture of husband Cliff for the front cover of the June issue. She will be sorely missed by family and friends.

The Slate Team

Tony Taylor

Helen, Mark, Katie, Molly, Billy and Ruth and Mike would like to express thanks to everyone who gave support and flowers to us during Tony's ill-health and for the kind words of sympathy and condolences following his recent death.

Thank you too to those who have made donations to The Lawrence Home Nursing Team, Colostomy UK and Katharine House Hospice.

Helen Taylor

Vernon Pinney

Madeleine, Stuart and Helen would like to thank all those who sent cards and messages of sympathy for the loss of Vernon, who sadly passed away on 2 September at the Churchill Hospital.

Thank you to everyone who attended his funeral at St James the Great on 26 September. Vernon will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Madeleine Pinney

Ron Evins

I would like to thank all those who kindly donated to the collection for Prostate Cancer at my Dad's funeral. A total of £285 was raised for this worthwhile cause.

John Evins

The campaign continues (from page I)



Sadly we had to cancel the car wash we'd planned in September because of the current hosepipe ban, but the team are ready with their buckets, sponges and marigolds to spring in to action as and when it's lifted.

Before that though, we held a cake stall on the bright and sunny morning of Saturday, 17 September. We wondered if the cake rush of 2020 may have died away, but Stonesfield you didn't disappoint us. There was a delicious array of cakes, locally grown produce and jams/chutneys and we raised a magnificent £626 for campaign costs. No surprises, there's also a long list of people to thank for this, everyone who generously contributed something for us to sell, customers who bought and the team of volunteers who did the work beforehand and served on the day.



We have always said we want to save the pub so that it can thrive as a hub in the heart of village. Bringing our community together for good food, music and beer, even if at the moment it is on an occasional afternoon or evening, is an echo of that dream. We hope you're enjoying the programme which continues with a Meet The Brewer evening on Saturday, 19 November at 7pm in the Village Hall. Ian Hemingway from Little Ox will tell us about his journey into brewing while we get hands-on with beer tasting and cheese matching. For tickets and more information:www.backthewhitehorse.com/news/meet-the-brewer.



In December we'll be asking you to get involved with our Reverse Advent Calendar again, but more about that in the next *Slate*.

Finally, we still believe, and we also know you all agree, that our campaign to save the pub by bringing it in to community ownership is hugely worthwhile and in the best long-term interests of everyone in our village. Our resolve is still strong and we know that getting planning permission for a change of use is going to be a nightmare for any developer with an interest in the pub. Do get in touch if you have any questions. Our thanks as ever for all your support.

Steve Callaghan
Stonesfield Community Pub Limited info@backthewhitehorse.com

Village Hall news

As the evenings draw in and the weather becomes colder and wetter, especially when the nights are particularly bad, we are lucky enough to welcome back through our doors more of the village children in the guise of the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. As much as we love having them at the Village Hall, please don't forget that they are keenly raising funds to get their Scout Hut built so please do help to support them at their events or by buying a brick at www.stonesfield-scouts.org.uk/build-the-scout-hut/buy-a-brick/ or via the link on their Facebook page: 1st Stonesfield Scout Group.

Community Café: Returning on 5 Nov, we have the Community Café being run by the Septembeerfest Committee to raise funds for their 2023 event! I'm sure everyone would love to see the festival back next year, so do go along and support them. Our next available Community Café slot is on 7 January 2023 so if you want to raise some money for your charity, please do get in touch.

Thank you to all who supported the Back The White Horse Pop-Up Pub and Mini Beer Festival in October. The group is back again on Saturday 19 November with a Meet The Brewer Taste Pairing Night so do make sure you put the date in your diary.

Taekwondo have spaces available now. It is an excellent training class for anyone from the age of 5+ and takes place twice a week on Mondays and Thursdays at 5.30pm. This provides a fun, focused and safe place for students to learn this martial art, and provides opportunities to participate in gradings and compete in tournaments. Mr James Kumar has been teaching this Korean martial art for 25 years and his

students include those who have achieved national, European and worldwide titles. Taekwondo is an interesting and enjoyable way for people to build, improve and practise their self-defence skills, strength, fitness and focus. Go along for a trial session and if you sign up the first month will be free! Please contact James Kumar for further information on 07788 583965 or jameskumar@hotmail.co.uk

Thank you to everyone for your continued support.

Jacqueline Carthew (898919)
Secretary and Booking Clerk
stonesfieldvh@gmail.com
facebook.com/stonesfieldvillagehall

Stonesfield Pre-School 100 Club

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

1st Prize: Shirley Taylor (No 10) £252nd Prize: Ronnie Hazley (No 65) £10

Congratulations to you both.

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



Please contact Gaye on 07990530386 Or email honeypatchcotswolds@yahoo.com

Free Supper!

All are welcome to a free supper on Thursday 3 November, 5-7pm at the St James' Centre. Come along for pasta Bolognese and apple crumble (vegetarian and gluten-free options will be available.)

This event is supported by St James's Church. All are welcome on the night but to help us with catering requirements, please let us know in advance if you are definitely coming: stonesfield@stonesfieldparishchurch.org. Thank you.

Stonesfield Community Trust

As an organisation, we endeavour to help and support the village around us with education, sport, and community needs where we can. We were very disappointed, therefore, when we had to pay a fine in respect of a skip we had placed in Glover's Yard due to items being put in it without our knowledge or permission.

Please be aware that, because of this incident, that money will no longer be going to a worthy cause, and instead has been wasted due to someone's thoughtlessness.

Mark Hatton, Chairman

Carers' Cafe

We have been running the 'Carers' Cafe' for over a year now, and still scratch our heads over the name. We couldn't resist a bit of alliteration, and the name's kind of stuck now, but we sometimes worry that people may not identify as a 'carer' and therefore not feel inclined to come along. So, what is a carer?

Have you ever held someone's hand while they had an injection, or done their shopping, or checked on them when there was a power cut? Do you look after a grandchild or niece or nephew sometimes? Are you a full- or part-time carer for a learning-disabled child or adult? Does your child/spouse/parent/sibling/neighbour/ second cousin once removed have a permanent or temporary medical condition or disability? Did your husband break his leg ice skating in 1997 (despite you warning him several times not to show off) and need/expect you to wait on him hand and foot for the next 12 weeks? Do you organise care for your elderly parent who has dementia, or call them at 7pm every night to remind them that Emmerdale will be on soon? The list could go on forever but basically, if you are a human (which you presumably are if you're reading this) living in society, the chances are vou've gone out of your way to help someone else who would have struggled otherwise. You may prefer not to use the label 'carer', and that's fine too!

What we do:

- Hold the Carers' Cafe every first and third Tuesday of the month from 10am until noon in the Club Room at the Village Hall.
- · Provide tea, coffee, cake and a chat.
- Have some kind of creative or explorative activity as a talking point, sometimes related to issues that often affect carers, but more often related to just being a human! Definitely not in a pressured or competitive way, though.
- Share resources that might be useful for care, funding, support, etc.

What we don't do:

- Ask people to announce their carer credentials at the door - all are welcome, however large or small your caring role.
- Have a misery- or gossip-fest or spillyour-guts cafe (although you're very welcome to have a moan if you need it, we all do sometimes).
- Require people to possess any artistic ability.
- Expect people to share anything they don't want to about themselves or those they care for.

Please do come along if you think you might like to, and also tell others who you think might be interested. Being an excarer also counts! If you would like to come along, but may struggle with transport, accessibility, or leaving someone you care for, or you have any other questions or concerns about coming, please get in touch, in strict confidence. The cafe is free, thanks to funding from the Parish Council.

Hope to see you there!

Lauren and Georgie laurennormanton@hotmail.com georgie@thesteeles.org

Do you need help?

Do you sometimes need help with bits of shopping, or have an errand to run? Or perhaps you'd like company and a chat sometimes.

If I can help you, you'll probably be helping me!

Contact Marilyn: 01993 891465

Baby and Toddler Group

Stonesfield Baby and Toddler Group runs every Friday during term time at the Village Hall. We welcome all families with young children from the village and beyond for play, songs, tea and homemade cake!

We are looking for volunteers, young or old, to join us and help with the running of our group. This could be on a rotational basis if preferred. Please contact me if you are interested. Many thanks.

Sarah Doe

stonesfieldbabyandtoddlers@gmail.com

Breakfast fireworks at the Pop-Up Café!

Okay, not literally ... but what better way to start Saturday 5 November than with a bacon roll (veggie/gluten free options too) or just a leisurely morning coffee with cake or a wholesome lunch in our pop-up café in Stonesfield Village Hall?

9-11am Bacon rolls with coffee, tea or juice

11am-noon Coffee, tea and delicious homemade cakes

Noon-2pm Lunch with homemade soup, jacket potatoes and more cake!

In order for Septembeerfest to take place next year, we need to raise enough money to pay for the marquees, fencing, stage, lighting, sound system, portable loos etc. In the coming months we will be running fundraisers to ensure this epic charity festival can go ahead.

Everyone in the village (and beyond) is welcome so please do pop along. It will be really sociable and fun!

The Septembeerfest Team

Stonesfield Scouts



Stonesfield Scouts are urgently seeking volunteers to assist with running the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts sections. Full details of what is involved appear in the Clubs and Societies section (page 19).

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Christmas Art & Craft Show at Grey Cat Studio

Christmas presents, stocking fillers and mulled wine ... This popular event is back again on 26 and 27 November, 10am-3pm, at Grey Cat Studio, Woodlands Rise, and features art work and crafts by Kerry Burniston, Jenny Lines, Ann Lowe, Rachael, Rebecca and Griselda Sherlaw-Johnson.

Becki Sherlaw-Johnson rebeccasj@btinternet.com

Methodist Church Christmas Bazaar

The Christmas Bazaar is to be held at the St James' Centre on Saturday 19 November, 2-4 pm. There will be Christmas gifts, games and a variety of stalls, together with refreshments and fun. Any donations to the stalls will be very much appreciated.

Do come along and enjoy a happy afternoon with new friends and old. Kathleen (891733)

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2022

Important dates:

Poppy Appeal national launch date: Thursday 27 October.

Armistice Day: Two minutes' silence at 11am Friday 11 November

Remembrance Sunday: Sunday 13 November

Door to door collections will be held this year and static boxes distributed to local businesses and organisations so please purchase a poppy. There will be no cake sale this year.

Anyone who would like to support the appeal can contact myself or Sarah on 898193. You can also donate online at: www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/ways-to-give/donate?

Your continued generosity and support is greatly appreciated.

David Brown

Poppy Appeal Organiser for Stonesfield Royal British Legion

Folk session



As our September session was so popular, we have decided to hold another one at the St James' Centre on Friday 18 November 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 and listen.

Bring your own drinks and there will be a £2 charge on the door to help cover the hire cost.

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



Did you sponsor any trees planted on the Straight in the 1980s?



The Stonesfield Tree Planters are looking for anyone who sponsored trees or knows someone who did. We have been unable to find any record and would like to collect as much information as possible. For those who sponsored an ash tree in 1986, we would like to offer you one of the new trees to be planted as a replacement.

Would anyone else like to sponsor a tree? Please contact john.sampsong@btinternet.com

PS: As we go to press, preparation work has started on the Straight. Warning signs will be in place and motorists are requested to take extra care in this area.



Christmas coffee and croissants

Do come to the St James' Centre for coffee and croissants (or mince pies if you prefer) on Saturday 3 December from 9-11am. There will be cake and gift stalls, and plenty of festive spirit.

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

Combe Mill Christmas Market

It is nearly that time of year again so why not come and share in the Christmas atmosphere at the last fundraiser of the year for Combe Mill which takes place on Sunday 4 December, 11am-4pm. There will be a range of stalls run by local small

business people, selling a large selection of items to fill Christmas stockings - or tummies! Children can watch Santa's Elves at work in the workshop and listen to stories with Santa in the grotto.

Hot and cold food will be on offer from our BBQ and tea room, along with mulled wine, hot chestnuts and a never-ending supply of tea, coffee, cake and mince pies. Our very own gift shop will be selling some items made by our blacksmiths - unique presents made with love and a bit of hard work on the anvils in our forge. The raffle will have lovely prizes giving you something to look forward to in 2023.

We would like to put some magic back into a traditional Christmas experience for visitors of all ages and make some valuable income for the Mill. See you there!!

Tony Simmons www.combemill.org



Combe Women's Institute

The October meeting started with a talk about afternoon tea and we heard how tea drinking became fashionable as far back as 1662 with afternoon tea at home being introduced in the 1880's. Women were able to go to the tea shops unchaperoned and the teashops became places where the suffragettes met to plan their campaigns. The Victorians introduced cucumber sandwiches, the Victoria sponge cake and the more comfortable tea dresses which were worn without corsets!

Scones were introduced later and thought to be connected with the expansion of the railway network. We were introduced to the etiquette including how to fold and use your napkin and hold your tea cup correctly. We were also shown many gadgets designed to make tea drinking enjoyable.

The President thanked everyone for their involvement with the recent coffee morning which, with expenses deducted, raised £325 for WI funds which will be used to finance future speakers. Various future events were highlighted and the Christmas Challenge of making a snowman out of anything for the December meeting was announced. To end the evening, we all enjoyed a traditional afternoon tea with scones, jam and cream and lots of tea.

We have an excellent programme of speakers and events for the forthcoming ten months, so if you're over 18 and think that you might enjoy an evening with a mixed aged group of ladies, please do come along and try us out. Jane Dickinson is our speaker for November and her talk is entitled 'Women in Oxford'.

Guests can attend up to three meetings per year and are charged £5 which includes refreshments and a raffle ticket.

Membership until the end of March 2023 is now just £22.

WI meetings are held in the Reading Room at Combe from 7.30–9.30pm on the second Monday of each month. We are currently experimenting with the format of our meetings and our November meeting will start with the speaker so it would be helpful if you could arrive around 7.20pm so that we are sitting comfortably for her to begin on time.

Julia Sharpe (891058) Secretary for Combe WI

Woodstock Music Society

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The second concert of Witney
Music Society's new season will be a piano
recital given by Alexander Soares, a BBC
Music Magazine Rising Star. His
programme 'A European Odyssey' will
include works by Schumann, Beethoven,
Chopin and Liszt. The concert is at 7.30pm
on Friday 11 November at High Street
Methodist Church, Witney.

Tickets (price £15 or £1 for under-19s) are available in advance online or at the door from 7pm. For more information, please telephone 898020 or visit www.witneymusicsociety.org.uk.

Can you offer a Christmas promise?

The Stonesfield Septembeerfest needs promises for our online Christmas Auction of Promises which will make brilliant Christmas gifts!

As you may know, the Septembeerfest Committee is preparing for the next music and beer festival which will be on Saturday 9 September 2023. The Stonesfield Septembeerfest is a charitable event and we are now fundraising to ensure we will be able to run the festival.

As part of these efforts, we are looking for your help to create an exciting variety of promises - big or small. Previous auctions have included everything from a cream tea, a ride in a vintage car, and stays in holiday houses to a music lesson. We'd love to hear what promise you might be able to donate – be as original as you like. A guided tour of a historic site? A flight in a glider? A morning of gardening work? Or a day at your exciting job?!

If you can donate a promise or would like to discuss what you could offer, please contact Karen Payne as soon as possible at guyandkaren@aol.com. The auction will go online mid-November and will close a week before Christmas. For more details on this and other festival preparations, please follow us on Facebook: Stonesfield Septembeerfest.

Many thanks

Karen Payne

On behalf of the Septembeerfest Committee



North Leigh History Society

Our next talk is on 1 November when Paul Barnett will be telling us about Dunkirk's little ships. Please note that this is a change to our previously advertised talk, which is now scheduled for May. We meet at 7.30 pm in North Leigh Memorial Hall, OX29 6SS. Membership is £18 per year and the charge for visitors is £4 per talk.

Further details are available from Diana Power (882301) or Robert Kyte (880368) or at kyterobert@gmail.com.

Politics & local affairs

Stonesfield Parish Council

Meeting held on Wednesday 5 October 2022 at 7pm at the St James' Centre.

Litter bins: Bins in the village have been discussed at length and we are aligned now. We have increased capacity and also have someone paid by the Council to assist with litter picking. The bins are emptied on a weekly basis.

Old lock-up: It is not possible to spend public money on this at present as SPC does not own the building; however SPC has engaged with legal advisers in order to attempt to claim the lock-up and when this has been achieved funds will be spent on its maintenance. This is a time-consuming process but the Clerk is progressing the matter.

Financial: SPC is pleased to report that the external audit has been signed off by the auditors and the Council.

Consideration of the 2023/24 budget will commence in November.

Planning Applications

22/02365/HHD There are no objections to this planning application

Residents in need: SPC would like to support those in need in Stonesfield and this will be discussed at its next meeting. SPC would welcome ideas from residents or groups who might wish to organise initiatives. It was noted that the cost of living is already having an impact. It was noted that the Cherwell Larder at Exeter Hall in Kidlington is open for lunch on

some days and every Saturday morning for food. No referral is needed if anyone is in urgent need. Similar programmes are also running in Witney and Chipping Norton.

Next meeting: The next full Council meeting will take place on 2 November at 7.30pm at the St James' Centre.

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

News from West Oxfordshire

WODC has commenced consultation on the Planning Inspector's feedback on the plans for the new Salt Cross Garden Village north of the A40 near Eynsham.

Consultation will take place for a period of six weeks and allows residents to give their views. Information is available online at www.westoxon.gov.uk/gardenvillage and will be distributed to local libraries and public buildings. Residents may provide their feedback by 5pm on Friday 4 Nov.

Age UK's Cost of Living Campaign

Age UK have produced much useful information regarding pension credits and benefits in connection with their Cost of Living Campaign. This can be found on their website at ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire or may be requested by emailing helpline@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk or telephoning 0345 450 1276.

Neighbourhood Watch

Information on Neighbourhood Watch is available at: www.ourwatch.org.uk/
Anyone interested in joining the
Neighbourhood Watch Scheme may find details and register at: www.memberregistration.neighbourhoodalert.co.uk/30/
Join. Clicking on 'Join a scheme' and selecting 'Stonesfield' will complete the request.

Police and community support: For information or advice on security concerns, please call 101 or contact woodstockNHPT@thamesvallev.pnn.police.uk.

Deanna Asplundh Stonesfield Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator



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. COVID safety precautions are still in place.

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

Education, culture & more

Stonesfield Pre-School and Day Care

We are a small village Pre-School offering a nurturing environment for two to four year-olds and wrap-around care for children aged three to eleven years. We are a charity and are committee-led so we rely on fundraising and support from our local families

At Pre-School our main aim is to prepare each child for school and further their knowledge of life experiences. We do this by providing the opportunity for each child to shine in areas that are of great interest to them, class every child and their family as special individuals and support their individual needs.

Our wrap-around care currently consists of a breakfast club (Monday-Thursday 7:30-8:45am) after which primary schoolaged children are walked across to school by members of staff in time to start their day. We also run an after-school club, on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays for children aged three to eleven years. It is not necessary for children to be pupils at Stonesfield Primary School in order to attend; we have children who are dropped off here once they have returned to the village from their school day. Stonesfield Primary School pupils are collected by our staff, after which all the children have a much-needed snack and enjoy the endless variety of activities provided.

If you wish your child to attend our Pre-School and would like to be added to our waiting list, please contact Louise John, Manager, at stonesfieldps@outlook.com or Zena Rozee, Administrator, at stonesfieldpsad@outlook.com and we will be more than happy to discuss availability.

Another of our main aims is to meet our local families' needs. If you have a requirement for days and sessions which are not currently available, we would love to hear from you as we may be able to accommodate your needs if numbers allow.

Louise John stonesfieldps@outlook.com

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.

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

I'm a Reader ...

Cynthia Severn, 88.

Cynthia is so strong-voiced and sturdy of demeanour that it is hard to accept that she is, what she describes as, 'pretty ancient'. She has lived in Combe for the last 52 years; before retirement she taught singing and piano and has always used the library services in that time. 'My biggest fear,' she says, 'is how I will get to the Library when I can't drive any more.' I reassure Cynthia that there is a Home Delivery service for people who are unable to come to the Library in person, so she won't be left in the abyss that is existence without a nice book to read; however the Library is more than a place to find books, it's a place to connect.

When Cynthia and family came to Combe from Norfolk in 1970, it was the mobile library that visited the villages. 'We'd all trail down there once a month and it would be a good opportunity to meet people you didn't see very often and have a chat.' Sometimes the chat would have an unplanned extension, when 'the van broke down and we'd all be waiting and eventually a message would get through that it wasn't coming.' (No mobile phones back then, kids.)

You'd have thought, then, that a permanent library in an actual building, would have been a good thing, but actually, Cynthia says she was 'very disappointed and upset', when it stopped. It didn't stop her library visits, however.

Cynthia is particularly fond of historical fiction. A recent favourite is *Execution*, by SJ Parris, a fictionalised account of the 'tricky' relationship between Protestant Elizabeth I and her Scottish Catholic

cousin Mary Stuart. 'England 1586. Two Queens, One Throne. A Conspiracy to Murder.' The blurb reads like a Hollywood blockbuster waiting to happen. 'It's fiction not fact, but it's based on fact. I've always loved history.' Cynthia also enjoys Susanna Gregory, who writes the mediaeval mysteries featuring Matthew Bartholomew, a teacher of medicine and investigator of murders in 14th century Cambridge. Other favourites include Victoria Hislop and Ann Cleeves, the mystery writer.

Cynthia is a 'fairly quick reader' and comes to replenish her books every two or three weeks. She has a daughter in Stonesfield and a son and two late-teenage grandchildren in Pennsylvania. It's too much for Cynthia and her husband to make the long flight now but she is proud of her grandson, a gifted jazz musician who has just won an award to study in Vienna and has offers to play on cruises in the Mediterranean. I suggest to Cynthia that she should get a ticket to join him. She doesn't seem fully convinced of the plan - it would, after all, mean missing a few weeks of Stonesfield Library opportunities.

Would you or your child like to feature in a future 'I'm a Reader' article? Do you want to share funny and/or fond memories of your library and reading life, here in Stonesfield or elsewhere? Let's share some library love, in the cost of living crisis, where the fun is free and open four times a week! Please get in touch with me.

Eleanor Bailey eleanorbailey55@gmail.com

Nature Notes: The Linden Tree

There are few trees that are better magnets for insects than the small-leaved lime (linden tree). Honey bees produce a pleasantly minty honey, small-tongued bumblebees are fanatics, less so long-tongued and solitary bumblebees. The leaves support caterpillars of moths such as the peppered, the vapourer and the lime hawk. (Moths have such great names).

The linden tree is an indicator of ancient woodland and is one of our oldest native trees, cropping up in folklore throughout Europe. Importantly, once established, it has a deep tap root and so can better survive drought and is reasonably heat-tolerant.

The Stonesfield tree planters will be putting 20 linden trees along the Stonesfield Straight this autumn in order to develop the green corridor for wildlife from Blenheim woods to our village.

Mature trees are to be found on the first bit of the drive towards the Cornbury Park estate in Charlbury and can be seen from the footpath.

John Sampson

Local history: From the Oxford Journal - Saturday 9 October 1802

'Linen & Woollen Drapery, and Dwelling House. To be sold by auction by Churchill and Turner on Wednesday the 20th Day of October, 1802 - The stock in trade of Mr. Nichols, at Stonesfield, near Woodstock, in the County of Oxford, who is leaving that Neighbourhood; consisting of an Assortment of broad and narrow Cloths. Corderoys (sic.), Fustains (sic.), Swansdown and other Waistcoat Pieces, Printed Calicoes, &c. also some readymade Clothe, Hats, &c -The Sale to begin at Ten o'Clock in the Forenoon. Precisely at Five in the Afternoon will be put up for Sale at the Sign of the Boot, in Stonesfield aforesaid, The said Premisses, now in the Occupation of Mr. Nichols; comprising a well-established Shop, Parlour, Kitchen, and Cellar, with Rooms over the same; Stable and other Out-buildings, and a large Garden and Orchard well planted. Also, an Allotment, near the Village of Stonesfield aforesaid, containing about one Acre. The Whole of the Premisses are in very good Repair, well supplied with Water, and may be entered on immediately. Catalogues may be had at the Inns in the Neighbourhood, Place of Sale, and of the Auctioneers, Woodstock.'

Douglas Rudlin

Clubs, societies & sport

Ist Stonesfield Scouts

Do you want to be involved in Scouts? (Yes, you do!)

1st Stonesfield Scouts are always on the lookout for people to help lead sessions for Beavers, Cubs or Scouts. After many years of volunteering their time, a couple of our leaders are stepping down and we need people to fill their boots. If you are interested, or know someone who is, and want to get involved then we want to hear from you! If you are not sure, then I have answered a few common questions below to help convince you.

What are the Scouts?

1st Stonesfield Scouts run a Beaver, Cub and Scout section in Stonesfield, and have done so for the past 74 years. We are a small but energetic group that has introduced a love of the outdoors, a willingness to help the community and local BBQs to the village for generations.

Hmmmm. Maybe. But I am sure there is someone else who might do this better.

There might be, but there probably won't be! All of us in 1st Stonesfield live in or near the village and have (or recently have had) young people in the group. The group needs people to give a little time, otherwise it is in real danger of not continuing. It only takes a few of us, and we need your help.

I suppose so. So, what does it involve?

In short, as much or as little as you can give. The weekly sessions are run and organised by a group of enthusiastic volunteers who genuinely enjoy spending their time making dens, cooking on campfires or learning new skills. We all help each other and we all learn along the way. We love people regularly helping out from week to week, and are really looking for people to help lead the odd session.

OK, I am interested, but I am not sure I am qualified.

That's fine! The Scouts organisation trains you up and we have loads of experience in the group for suitable activities. To begin with you can just help out, and then lead on a few activities when you feel ready. It is much more straightforward than you might think.

Do I have to wear a woggle?

Not to begin with (but you never know-you may actually enjoy it.)

Fine. You have convinced me. How do I sign up?

Come and speak to us: Cubs meet at 6.15pm on Wednesdays, Scouts at 7.30pm on Thursdays and Beavers at 6.15pm on a Friday, or email Ben at: chair@stonesfield-scouts.org.uk

Claire Scudder

1st Stonesfield Scouts Stonesfield

Stonesfield Gardening Club

At our October meeting we were very pleased to welcome back Rosy Hardy of Hardy's Plants who came to talk to us about autumn perennials.

Recommended tall plants for the back of borders included michaelmas daisies, *miscanthus sinensis malepartus* which produces attractive tassels, and double anemones.

With around four weeks of growing time left and soil which is still relatively warm, suggestions for spring plants included brunnera for shady areas; pulmonaria for a damp woodland environment and coreopsis, particularly coreopsis Daybreak, the flowers of which are a very attractive burgundy and gold. For ground cover hylotelephium creates attractive low mounds of deep red foliage, and for poor soil and dry conditions suitable plants are balota, helianthums and origanum Kent Bell which produces flower heads similar to hops.

Finally, we were reminded not to overlook hardy geraniums which come in a vast range of colours — whites, pinks, magenta, burgundy, pale blue, cobalt, purple and so on. As their name suggests, they are completely hardy and will spring up year after year.

Looking ahead, in a change from the published schedule, our November meeting will have a talk on Farmland Bird Aid by Genny Early and Martin Gascoigne-Pees, together with a special visit from Chrissie's Owls.

Trisha Williams www.stonesfieldgardening.info

Sustainability Groups

The Food Group

Another busy month with our one-day sourdough bread baking workshop at the Village Hall. Stonesfield's own Aaron Deemer was positively inspirational and his love and flair for baking was fantastic to see. We are working on Aaron to see what else he might be persuaded to teach us.... His dog is called 'Bao' so maybe some steamed buns?

Our next event is alongside the Repair Café on 3 December where we will be providing our low-cost pay-as-you-feel menu with support from the Oxford Food Hub. We are really gathering pace now and looking at how best to support our community through the winter and the cost of living crisis in relation to accessing good quality and nutritious food. If you have any suggestions, please get in touch.

We are also thinking about another trip to local producer, Worton Kitchen Garden - a lovely spot, really worth a visit and we will report back.

We are now meeting monthly so much less onerous! Please do get in touch if you would like to get involved.

Julie Curran juliecurran0@gmail.com

The Environment Group

We had our first meeting for the year, The Evenlode Catchment Partnership came and spoke to us about their remit which is very broad, covering natural floodplain management, biodiversity, the state of the Evenlode and educational outreach on all these great activities.

We have been discussing the idea of trying to secure 'Bathing Status' for our stretch of the river. This status has only been granted to two other rivers or watercourses in England. These conversations are at an early stage but we are lucky to be connected with local and national groups that can tell us about their own experiences and guide us on what would be the best course of action for our river. We will understand this better in the coming weeks and will come back and tell you what looks like the best option, why, and what we are intending to do about it.

In the meantime we continue to sample the river for the pollutants nitrates and phosphates, as well as poor turbidity on a monthly basis and report this data to Earthwatch. We have mentioned before the fact that these results are always poor and we are looking for ways to gain more insight into the health of the river. To that end, two of our members attended a training course to identify and sample riverflies. This was a steep learning curve but absolutely fascinating - who knew mayfly larvae were so BIG! We are now going to start sampling these invertebrates in the river on a monthly basis. The numbers of these invertebrates are indicative of the health of the river as some are particularly susceptible to higher levels of nitrates and phosphates. We have absolutely no idea what the numbers are going to be like. However, we have some suggestions of what 'good' looks like - this will be fascinating to discover. We hope to have some sampling sites identified and perhaps the first data set for next month's edition of The Slate....hold your breath!

We also had a super result for the Common. The very kind volunteers who look after the Common had gathered yellow rattle seeds and put together a set of instructions for how and where to plant

these on the Common to support its management. These have now been planted by Stonesfield Cubs in one of their sessions and we are very grateful for their help with this; it does look like they also had fun and what a fantastic activity with which to get involved. We are grateful and lucky to have such a great network of community groups and volunteers with whom to work across multiple issues. Thank you Stonesfield Cubs and hopefully you can see the fruits (or flowers) of your labours on the Common next year! Thank you to Cub leaders too for making this happen; hopefully some badge credits have been earned - DYB DYB DYB (do your best!)

As ever, if you want to come along and help out in any capacity, please get in touch.

Julie Curran juliecurran@gmail.com

Stonesfield Football Club

.....

It's not really a secret but I'm delighted to say that the footie season is now well underway, and the start of 22/23 has been very good indeed! The Firsts are under new management, with Michael Phipps giving way to the young dream-team of Jack Barker and Sammy Hart. Many thanks to Michael, who has put in a fabulous shift with the team over the years and left a great crop of talented players for Jack and Sammy to work with: their start has been magnificent.

They've already put silverware in the trophy room in the form of The Henry Hawtin Cup - a prestigious pre-season tournament, beating the hosts, Enstone, in an evenly contested final (2-0). They opened their league campaign at Hanborough where they snatched all three

points with Jordan Newman scoring the winner (1-0). They then travelled into Oxford on Junior Shield duty and easily saw off Hollow Way FC (5-0). A trip up to Banbury in the Oxon Charity Cup against Hardwick FC was a tough game but they kept their unbeaten streak going with a great win (3-0). A brilliant start for Jack and Sammy - keep it going, boys!

The Reserves have started their campaign in reasonable form with two wins and two losses in the league. A home defeat against Chadlington (5-2) was followed by two great wins against Eynsham (3-0) and Sherborne Harriers (3-0). A third win on the trot eluded them at Aston, with the home side getting the better of them (3-1). The team seems to have benefitted from an influx of young players from last year's Strikers U18s and these lads don't look out of place in their first season in the adult

game. Mind you, the addition of the experienced veteran, Dan Taylor, has certainly helped them settle. I'm hopeful of good times ahead for our Reserves.

Talking of the bold Dan Taylor, his hattrick against Eynsham had him firmly in the frame for this season's first Fredo Award, but it was snatched away from him in dramatic fashion, at the last minute, by Cary Rice (Stonesfield's answer to the Road-Runner - beep-beep!) with his plundering hat-trick against Hardwick in The Charity Cup! I'm sure the evergreen DT will grace The Fredo Award ceremony at some point this season but, for now, the stage belongs to Cary - well deserved that fella!

Tom Flanigan (891979)

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Church news

Church of England Worship at St James the Great, Stonesfield

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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: Growth

It feels as if the world has reached a precarious point in its history. At least, for people like us who are aware of news from around the world, it feels as though many things are dangerous. Global power is shifting to the East, with consequences we cannot predict. Global warming is becoming an ever greater reality, while the destruction of the natural world continues unabated. The war in Ukraine is moving in favour of the Ukrainians, but the cost to them is enormous in terms of the loss of life, and the destruction of their country. The cost for us is economic, with Europe threatened by recession and power cuts in coming months, while the spectre of possible nuclear conflict still haunts us. In our own country we have seen government in disarray, the economy faltering and markets reeling, while many are stunned by policies designed to take money from the poor and give it to the rich. Things which seemed safe even six months ago,

like environmental protections, are being dismantled in the name of 'growth'. Crises in the NHS and social care affect us all. Covid persists, we face longer waits for treatment or to see a doctor, and many cannot afford a dentist. Education, policing, the courts, and our prison system are under great strain, while rising living costs add to the strain which many feel in their daily lives. What sort of growth are we seeking? I had been hoping that our communities might grow more just, more inclusive, more caring, and more protective of our environment, yet I see little support for this from the centre.

I am neither an economist, nor a politician. My understanding of the challenges facing us today is very limited. Sometimes I feel that I can make little difference to the world, but my faith reminds me that I can be kind, and that sometimes I can speak or act to defend the weak, and must not fail to do so. And I can pray to God, whose Kingdom is built on justice and love.

November sees the special times of Remembrance, All Saints, All Souls and then the beginning of the season of Advent. As the darkness of winter deepens, the symbolism of light inspires our worship. As we prepare to celebrate the light of Christ, we pray for all who may bring light into our troubled world today.

Let us pray for all who will, this month, be faced by any great decision.

For all who will be engaged in settling affairs of moment in the lives of people and nations.

For all who are moulding public opinion in our time.

For all who write what other people read. For all who will speak painful truths in a world of injustice and sin.

For all who will make sacrifices for others. For all who will shape the life of tomorrow in small ways and great.

For all who will transform the lives of others through kindness, forgiveness and compassion.

God of justice, peace and love, may your kingdom come.

Amen.

Revd Ralph Williamson

Rector

Services

Sunday 6 November [Third Sunday before Advent]

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [BCP/said]
9.30am	Combe	All Age Worship
11am	Stonesfield	All Age Worship
5pm	Combe	Thanksgiving service for the
		recently departed

Sunday 13 November [Remembrance Sunday]

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [BCP/said]
10am	Combe	Remembrance Service followed by War Memorial at

10.45am

10am	Stonesfield	Remembrance
		Service followed by

Service followed by War Memorial at

10.45am

5pm Stonesfield Thanksgiving

service for the recently departed

Sunday 20 November [Christ the King]

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

Sunday 27 November [Advent Sunday]

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

Mondays

8.45-11.30am	Monday Coffee
	in St James' Centre

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

9.30am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion
11am	Combe	Morning Prayer
		(9th, 23rd)

Thursdays

7.30pm	Benefice	Housegroup in
		St James' Centre

Roman Catholic Worship

Holy Communion

Recently, the Pope recalled the prayer in the Gospel of John that says 'I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me.' (17:22-23). The Pope reflected that 'This holy Word allows us to dream with Jesus of the communion of his disciples.' The Pope said, explaining that it does not imply uniformity but consists in our common relationship to Christ, and in Him to the Father in the Spirit. Jesus, he said, was not afraid of the diversity that existed among the Twelve, and therefore we should not fear diversity either, because the Holy Spirit loves to stir up differences and make harmony out of them.

Another word the Pope took from Matthew's Gospel is participation. Recollecting the controversy of the scribes and Pharisees and Jesus' reminder to his disciples that they are all brothers and only the Father is the Master, he said 'Here we can contemplate Jesus' dream of a fraternal community, where all participate on the basis of a common filial relationship with the Father and as disciples of Jesus.'

Pope Francis, The Vatican October 2022

In our increasingly fractured world, we have in Jesus and his gift of communion, a path through which we can all share that universal love.

Mass times

Sunday Mass 9.15am

Weekday Mass Please see St Teresa's website for temporarily adjusted weekday Mass times

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

The Synodal Pathway: 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 progress to date, please see St. Teresa's website – address below

ACN's Emergency Appeal for Ukraine: St Teresa's, Charlbury is supporting ACN's Emergency Appeal for 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 to donate, please contact Suze Mathews (891720 or email suzemathews899@btinternet.com)

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

For Parish updates and further information: Please see www.stteresaschurch-charlbury.com/ or contact Fr Clive Dytor at chair.stteresaschurchcharlbury@gmail.com

Roman Catholic Community in Stonesfield

Stonesfield Methodist ChurchServices for November.

Sun 6 11am Andrew Maisey

Sun 13 11am Local Arrangement

Sun 20 11am Reverend Andrew Biggs

Holy Communion Service

Sun 27 11am Local Arrangement

Welcome! The dizzy days of scorching heat are over for this year at least and it's time for those glorious autumn colours, air with a chill and gloves at the ready!

The change in the weather has brought with it a change at this Church. The new Minister has arrived. The Reverend Andrew Biggs and his wife Julie have moved to the Circuit and are based at Chipping Norton.

Revd. Andrew led his first Service here very recently, sharing his faith journey from school teacher to Superintendent Minister, his message one of warmth and encouragement. Revd. Andrew's ministry here is very much welcomed and we look forward to spending valued time with him and Julie during the next few years.

'Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see'. (Hebrews 11:1)

Come to a Service soon.

Kathleen Albért (891733)



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We are pleased to share an exciting update on our Lake Dredge...we have now removed 100,000 cubic metres of silt from the Queen Pool! Altogether there is 300,000 cubic metres to remove which means we are now a third of the way there. Silt is fine grains of rock, smaller than sand, that build up over time. The silt in the Lake had built up so much (the last dredge was over 100 years ago) that the water is currently only 30cm deep, however it should be around two metres to support the existing ecosystem and the creatures who depend on it. The silt is being removed by leading wet civil engineering firm Land & Water who maintain and enhance the UK's network of waterways.



Digital Pathways

Across our Estate we are updating our permissive pathway signs to include a QR code. In this exciting project we've joined forces with Natural England, the University of Oxford, Oxfordshire County Council, the Ramblers, Greenspace Hack and Editions Systeme D. A series of QR codes will be located on posts along the route allow people to feed back on the current state of the pathway, its suitability for different uses and to report any issues. In addition to logging details, you can also scan the codes to get more information on your surroundings, conservation projects, nearby points of interest, local wildlife and seasonal changes.

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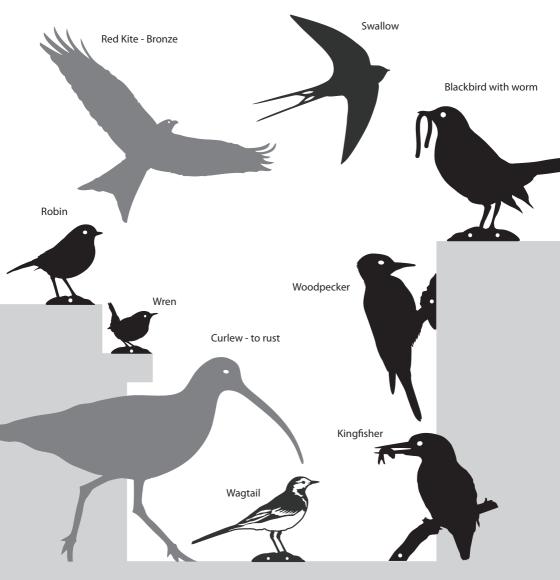












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