



## Calling our

Photo: krakenimages

## Community Champions!

Here we are again in mid-November, and on the Stonesfield Community Pub team, we have turned our thoughts to Christmas. We are very aware how difficult things are financially for many this year, with the cost-of-living crisis affecting so many lives, including households in Stonesfield. Any one of us might need support from our village at some point, and the pub team, along with our wider community, want to help.

The 'Reverse Advent Calendar' initiative has been very much appreciated over the last two years and we'd like to ask for your help again. We're hoping to encourage as many people as possible to become community champions by using our reverse advent

calendar guide to create a festive food parcel that can be delivered to a household in need.

It's easy to get involved: simply wrap an empty box - ideally in festive paper - leaving the top open. Then from now until 17 December, add the items suggested daily on the calendar, or an alternative of your choice, that can be served cold if necessary (avoiding nuts/alcohol please). It's also fine if there are more or fewer items in your box - everything will help and be gratefully received.

You can find the calendar on page 6 and at [www.backthewhitehorse.com/news/reverse-advent-calendar](http://www.backthewhitehorse.com/news/reverse-advent-calendar).

More details 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.

## Disclaimer

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

Articles are solely the responsibility 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.

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

## Do you want to advertise?

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

Line ads: £2.00 per 30 words.

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

Line ads can also be delivered by hand to:

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

All advertisements must be paid for in advance.

### **Publishers**

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

### **Editor for Feb issue**

Dale Morris  
(898210)  
slate@stonesfield.online

### **Copy:**

#### **Deadline for next issue 15 Jan**

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

### **Editor**

Dale Morris  
(898210)  
slate@stonesfield.online

### **Printer**

Windrush Press, Witney  
  
©TheStonesfieldSlate 2022

### **Advertising:**

#### **Deadline for next issue 10 Jan**

Advertisements to  
slate-ads@stonesfield.online

Current and past copies of the *Slate* are available at [www.stonesfield.online](http://www.stonesfield.online)

## Dates for your diary:

### December

3	Coffee & Croissants	St James' Centre	9-11am
3	Repair Café/Community Café	Village Hall	11am-2pm
3-12	Scouts Christmas card delivery box	in village shop	
4	Christmas Market	Combe Mill	11am-4pm
4,12,19	Monday Coffee	St. James' Centre	8.45-11.30am
7	Parish Council meeting	St James' Centre	7pm
7	Santa singing round the village	start/finish at the shop	6.30-8pm
12	Gardening Club social	St James' Centre	7.30pm
16	Scouts' Christmas Bingo	Village Hall	eyes down 7pm
17	Pre-school cake sale	outside village shop	8.30am
20	Carol singing	meet at St James's Church	4pm

### January

1	Stonesfield Stumble	leaving from The Cross	11.16am
9,16,23,30	Monday Coffee	St. James' Centre	8.45-11.30am
20	Village Supper	St James' Centre	5-7.30pm
27	Stonesfield Players 2 One-act Plays	Village Hall	7.30pm
28	Stonesfield Players 2 One-act Plays	Village Hall	7pm

### A big thank you to:

Those who contributed articles and photographs to *The Slate* in 2022. Without you we would not have been able to present such a wide range of news and information. Please continue your good work in 2023.

Our editors whose tireless chasing, checking and proof reading ensured *The Slate* was always ready in time.

The army of volunteers involved in the distribution of *The Slate* who ensured that 900 copies were popped through letterboxes within hours of the printer's delivery. And of course thanks to Windrush Printers for their excellent service.

Our advertisers who funded the production and have enabled *The Slate* to make donations to local charities.

We hope our readers have enjoyed *The Slate* in 2022. We wish you all a Happy Christmas and New Year.

The Publishers

# Notices & news

---

## Some seasonal things

Phil, Tina, Curt, Donna and Lyra would like to wish all our family, friends and neighbours a very Happy Christmas and healthy, peaceful New Year 2023. We will be donating to Sobell House Hospice Charity.

The Slatter family

I would like to send my Christmas wishes to my friends via the *Stonesfield Slate* this year, 100+ cards seem too much like a marathon for me this year. I will donate the money to charity. I wish everyone a very peaceful Christmas.

My very best wishes, Marion Hall

I would like to wish my friends and neighbours in Stonesfield, Season's Greetings and a healthy New Year. I will be sending a cheque to Sobell House Hospice Charity.

Judy Oliver

This Christmas we have decided not to send cards, so on behalf of Cilla and myself I would like to wish all our dear friends in Stonesfield a very Merry Christmas filled with love & joy, and a Happy, Healthy & Peaceful New Year, let us hope it's a good one for us all. We will be thinking especially at this festive time of those friends who, like us, have lost a loved one during the past twelve months, may loving memories bring you peace & strength.

John Evins & Cilla

## Charlbury Christmas Trees

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

**Open weekends only – Dec. 3rd & 4th, Dec. 10th & 11th, Dec 17th**  
**Opening hours 9.30-4.00pm**

**Trees up to and including 6/7 foot** – we will again be offering trees freshly pre-cut. However, this year we are sourcing trees from a grower in the Vale of Evesham. who is allowing us to cut and collect just a couple of days before sale. Our many young trees need one more year's growth to be ready for sale in 2023.

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



Please check for updates: [www.charlbury.info](http://www.charlbury.info)

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



.....

## Calling our Community Champions!



(From page 1)

<p><b>21 Nov</b></p>  <p>Tea / coffee</p>	<p><b>22 Nov</b></p>  <p>Toilet rolls</p>
--	--

Do please let us know if you're taking part by sending an email to Susan Rudlin ([susan@backthewhitehorse.com](mailto:susan@backthewhitehorse.com)) and **we'll arrange to collect your box between the 17 - 19 December** so that they can be delivered by Christmas Eve.

### Would you value some support this Christmas?

Old, young and all those in between, there are times when we all need a little help from our community and we're here to support you. If receiving one of the 'reverse advent calendar' food hampers described on the front page would help you or someone you know this Christmas, please tell us. If you're contacting us on behalf of someone else, please do make sure you have their permission to provide their details.

<p><b>23 Nov</b></p>  <p>Festive biscuits</p>	<p><b>24 Nov</b></p>  <p>Cereal</p>
--	--

All you need to do is to contact one of the people listed below. They will just need to know – in confidence - your name, your address and how many people are in your household:

#### **Stonesfield Community Pub**

[susan@backthewhitehorse.com](mailto:susan@backthewhitehorse.com)

#### **Stonesfield Parish Council**

Wendy Gould (898091)

[w.gould@stonesfieldpc.uk](mailto:w.gould@stonesfieldpc.uk)

#### **Stonesfield Pre-school**

Mrs Louise John (898370)

[stonesfieldps@outlook.com](mailto:stonesfieldps@outlook.com)

#### **Stonesfield Primary School**

Mrs Rachel Crouch (891687)

[office.2353@stonesfield.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.2353@stonesfield.oxon.sch.uk)

#### **Stonesfield Voluntary Transport**

Viv Kendall (891803)

[stonesfieldvts@gmail.com](mailto:stonesfieldvts@gmail.com)

#### **Stonesfield Methodist Church**

Kathleen Albért (891733)

[k.m.albert14@gmail.com](mailto:k.m.albert14@gmail.com)

#### **St James' the Great Church**

Rev. Ralph Williamson (891872)

[rector@scbenefice.org](mailto:rector@scbenefice.org)

#### **Baby & Toddler Group**

Sarah Lydiat

[stonesfieldbabyandtoddler@gmail.com](mailto:stonesfieldbabyandtoddler@gmail.com)

#### **Stonesfield Scouts**

Ben Whitworth

[chair@stonesfield-scouts.org.uk](mailto:chair@stonesfield-scouts.org.uk)

or talk to any of the leaders

#### **Roman Catholic Church**

Suze Matthews

[suzemathews899@btinternet.com](mailto:suzemathews899@btinternet.com)

<p><b>15 Dec</b></p>  <p>Jar of jam</p>	<p><b>16 Dec</b></p>  <p>Long-life juice</p>
--	---

It's a pleasure to work in partnership with a wide range of village organisations this year. Thank you so much to everyone for your help.

Susan Rudlin

[susan@backthewhitehorse.com](mailto:susan@backthewhitehorse.com)

# Stonesfield Reverse Advent Calendar

with Stonesfield Community Pub Limited

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Will you be a Stonesfield Community hero?	21 Nov Tea / coffee	22 Nov Toilet rolls	23 Nov Festive biscuits	24 Nov Cereal	25 Nov Tinned potatoes	26 Nov Hot chocolate
27 Nov Gravy granules	28 Nov Tinned fruit	28 Nov UHT milk	30 Nov Crackers	1 Dec Tinned veg	2 Dec Hand soap	3 Dec Tinned hot meal
4 Dec Tinned soup	5 Dec Selection box	6 Dec Tinned custard	7 Dec Baked beans	8 Dec Cake slices	9 Dec Pastan 'n' sauce	10 Dec Hot pudding
11 Dec Tinned meat	12 Dec Tinned fruit	13 Dec Tinned fish	14 Dec Instant mash	15 Dec Jar of jam	16 Dec Long-life juice	17 Dec Festive snacks
18 Dec Parcel collection	19 Dec Parcel collection	20 Dec Parcel delivery	21 Dec Parcel delivery	22 Dec Parcel delivery	23 Dec Parcel delivery	24 Dec Parcel delivery

**Thank you!** It's a difficult time of year for many and your generosity will have made a difference to someone else's Christmas.

**We hope you enjoy the festive season.**

---

## **Walter Price Centenary**

Congratulations and very best wishes, Walter, on reaching 100 not out on this Christmas Day.

Friends and neighbours in Cockshoot Close

---

## **Hebe Godfrey**

Following a short illness and sudden passing, the family would like to thank everyone who attended, organised, and helped with the funeral.

Having read all the many cards and messages we received, we took comfort with all the kind words and memories shared from all who knew Mum.

Special thanks to David and his team of ladies who prepared and presented an afternoon tea fit for a Queen.

Mum will be sadly missed by us all.

Roz, Neil and family, Stonesfield

---

## **Christmas Coffee and Croissants**

**Saturday 3 December 9 – 11am**

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

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

---

## **Carol singing in Stonesfield**

**Tuesday 20 December 4pm**

Come and join in carol singing around the village, finishing (at approx 5.15pm) at the Manor for seasonal refreshments. We meet 4pm at the church. Everyone welcome!

If you would like the carol singers to visit your street, please let us know – email: [stonesfield@stonesfieldparishchurch.org](mailto:stonesfield@stonesfieldparishchurch.org). We will do our best to come!

---

## **Combe Mill Christmas Market**

**Sunday 4 December, 11am – 4pm**

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. There will be a wide range of stalls being run by local small business people, selling a whole selection of items to fill Christmas stockings - or tummies!

Hot and cold food on offer from our BBQ and tea room, along with mulled wine, hot chestnuts and never-ending supply of tea/coffee/cake/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. You can always make a poker yourself - the perfect, hand-forged present.

The raffle will have lovely prizes giving you something to look forward to in 2023 including a cash prize; tickets for Birdland, Hook Norton Brewery, Cotswold Motor Museum, Fairytail Farm; Blenheim Annual Pass; gifts from Little Ox Brewery, chocolates, wine and other goodies too numerous to list.

This year to get to Santa's grotto, our younger visitors can walk through Santa's workshop where his elves will be working, listen to a seasonal story and receive a gift. The cost for this magical and unique experience is just £5 and you will need to go on to Combe Mill website to book a slot.

We would like to put some magic back in to 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](http://www.combemill.org)

---

## **An appreciation**

We would like to thank Rev Ralph and the team of volunteers from St James's Church who put on a community dinner in November. This gave local families the chance to 'dine out' in St James' Hall. There was no charge, just people doing some good for the village community, which was very much appreciated.

The Lydiat family

---

## **Heating or Eating?**

If you feel that you don't need some or all of the money that the government will be giving you to help with your energy bills, you can make a real difference to those most in need if you donate it to food banks.

Ask your local food banks if they accept cash donations or donate to national food bank organisations like the Trussel Trust which help food banks where the need is most acute.

Jon Gordon

---

## **Septemberfest Community Café**

A big thank you to everyone who came to the Septemberfest Community café on 5 November! We had a fantastic turn-out and it was lovely to see everyone! What's more, we are pleased to say that we raised an amazing £600. We hope to hold another one in the New Year. Date to be announced.



---

## **Food Group**

We will be running the Community Café alongside the Repair Café this month (see below). We are also looking at running another baking workshop with Aaron, so look out for more details of that next month.

---

## **Stonesfield Community Café**

The café will be open alongside the Repair Café on Saturday, 3 December, serving tea/coffee/squash with a sweet treat from 11am–12 noon and then lunch from 12 noon until 2pm. As we write, our winter menu is still a work in progress, but it will be available on Nextdoor / Facebook as soon as we've finalised it.

We work in collaboration with Oxford Food Hub to repurpose surplus food, saving perfectly good food going to landfill,



but also significantly helping us to keep costs down. Any monies raised are being 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! There are indicative costs on the menu so that you have an idea of what to give, but ultimately, it's up to you to pay what you can.

Everyone is welcome and we'd love to see you there. Best wishes

Susan Rudlin

---

## Village Hall News

We were really disappointed that the village hall wasn't able to host the village community flu clinic this year. We were told that because the government were insisting on dual vaccinations for flu and covid, that there were issues with logistics of maintaining the temperatures of the different vaccines. We do hope that everyone who needs the vaccinations were able to get to other sites, and hopefully we will be able to offer the service again in the future.

On a similar point, the events committee decided not to go ahead with the Christmas Market this year, as there are a lot of similar things running in the area at the same time, and we felt that in the current economic crisis we would rather focus on a bigger and better event next year when hopefully life is more affordable again!

**Community Café** – Again it amazes me how lucky we are to have such a supportive

community, as when I checked in our November Café in aid of Septemberfest it was teaming with customers and volunteers selling an amazing range of refreshments. A big Well Done to all involved as £600 was raised towards the Septemberfest 2023 and they also have an auction of promises running so please take a look: [www.auctionofpromises.com/StonesfieldSeptemberfest](http://www.auctionofpromises.com/StonesfieldSeptemberfest)

In December we have the return of the Repair Café! If something needs fixing bring it along and they will do their best to restore it to working order. If you need advice about your computer, your phone or software they can help you. (The Community Cafe will also provide delicious refreshments.) If you can, tell them what you are going to bring to help them prepare by emailing [stonesfieldrepaircafe@gmail.com](mailto:stonesfieldrepaircafe@gmail.com) There is no charge but they gratefully accept donations.

We have a space on Saturday 7 January so if you fancy running the café for a worthy cause, please do let me know.

**Scouts Bingo** is back on Friday 16 December from 7–9pm !!!!! A much loved and always well attended event on the social calendar, which is just the excuse you need to catch up with friends for a fun night out whilst supporting a worthy cause!

**Gatehouse Pilates** – Our lovely instructor Anita is taking a break over the month of December but looks forward to welcoming everyone back on 18 January 2023.

**Stonesfield Players** – On 27 & 28 January the hall is booked for the latest production from the Stonesfield Players! Keep your eyes open for more details coming from them directly prior to the event (see more on page 27).

**Stonesfield Baby & 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 who could help with the running of our group. This could be on a rotational basis if preferred. Please contact Sarah via [stonesfieldbabyandtoddlers@gmail.com](mailto:stonesfieldbabyandtoddlers@gmail.com) if you are interested.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support and a big Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2023 from us all at the Village Hall Committee!

Jacqueline Carthew (898919)  
Secretary & Booking Clerk for Stonesfield Village Hall  
[stonesfieldvh@gmail.com](mailto:stonesfieldvh@gmail.com)

## War memorial



Our thanks to the dedicated team who ensured that the war memorial planting looked at its best for the 11 November services.

## Tree planting

Helen Taylor plants a Blenheim oak tree on the Stonesfield straight in memory of Tony Taylor.



Many thanks to all those sponsoring trees, so far we have planted 40 mixed Blenheim oaks and small-leaf lime trees.

Thanks also to the planters who have generously given their time and also to the cars which appear to be going slower down the straight. We have collected 9 big black bags of rubbish, one car tyre, one bucket – unfortunately we also found a dead tawny owl. We have done some improvements to the road drainage so don't expect the large puddles.

If you would like to sponsor a tree or two do get in touch.

John Sampson  
[john.sampson9@btinternet.com](mailto:john.sampson9@btinternet.com)

---

## Stonesfield Stumble | Jan 2023

The annual slow walk on New Year's Day will take place on Sunday 1 January. Meet on The Cross by the St James church at 11.16 am.



Everybody is welcome to shake off the old year and nurse your hangover. No discussions are barred, it would be nice to share some optimism for the New Year if some can be found.

This tradition started in the 1980s, before digital cameras, so the quality of the photo records is not great. See if you can date this archived edition.



Please remind your friends of the happening.

Graham Rutson  
gm.rutson@gmail.com

*- HONEY PATCH -*  
*Cotswolds*



**LOCAL HONEY**

---

£6 per jar

Please contact Gaye on 07990530386  
Or email [honeypatchcotswolds@yahoo.com](mailto:honeypatchcotswolds@yahoo.com)

---

## Churchfields Allotment gathering



Many thanks to all those who attended our autumn social at the Churchfields Allotments on Sunday 30 October.

It was fantastic to have so many members, new and old, make the effort and contribute such wonderful homemade and brewed delights where of particular note was Jeffrey's award-winning cheeses and Mike's Pinot Grigio No 7 - thank you!

It was also quite remarkable timing to avoid the inclement weather earlier in the day and enjoy a wonderful autumnal evening with fellow allotmentees. Enjoy the season!

Love, Deanna x

---

## Village Supper! Friday 20 January 2023

All are welcome to a village supper – FREE of charge – on Friday 20 January, any time from 5pm to 7.30pm, in St James' Centre.

Come and join us for excellent food, warmth and good company! Cold drinks, tea and coffee will be provided, but please bring your own if you wish. No booking necessary.

The evening is supported by St James's Church. For any queries, please email [stonesfield@stonesfieldparishchurch.org](mailto:stonesfield@stonesfieldparishchurch.org)

---

## **Charlbury Christmas Trees – an update for 2022 season**

The good news is that we will be opening this year to sell Christmas trees. We will be open weekends in December (as advertised on page 4) from 9am to 4pm. We hope that you will add your annual visit to Charlbury Christmas Trees to your diary.

For this Christmas, we still have plenty of trees 7/8 foot and above to choose from and to have cut. However, our younger trees, and there are plenty of them, have still not made quite enough growth to be cut this year. This means that, as in 2021, we do not have sufficient trees growing up to 6/7 foot that we can cut.

For Christmas 2021, for many reasons a challenging year for all, we made the decision to open. This involved us being able to meet the demand for trees up to 6/7 feet high. We did this by sourcing pre-cut trees from a well-known and well-respected supplier with whom we had a long-standing relationship, a supplier with some high-profile clients.

For Christmas 2022, we have reviewed our 2021 operation. Our aim each year has been to enable us to open, as we know that a visit to Charlbury Christmas Trees has become an integral part in the run-up to Christmas for many families. But we are also aware that we need to make the best offer possible for our customers and that a

key criterion for our customers will be the freshness of the trees bought.

For this year we have done further research. And we believe that we have found the solution that will allow us to provide trees that we can guarantee are very freshly cut, nearly as freshly cut as ours.

We have made contact with a Christmas tree grower in the Vale of Evesham who has agreed to supply us. We have visited the grower and have been shown his trees. Not only will he supply us, but he has agreed that we can visit during the week prior to each of our opening weekends to select and cut trees to sell.

So we will be open this season and will have trees of all heights for sale. We hope that you will pay us a visit. You can enjoy your annual wander around the plantation and view the trees we have for sale and hopefully you will find the tree that you want to take home.

Janet Burroughs (01608 810260)  
Halcyon Honey Farm

### **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 December or January.



---

## ‘Meet the Brewer’

We were fortunate enough to buy some of the last tickets for ‘Meet the Brewer’ which turned out to be a sold out evening at the Village Hall on Friday 19 November.



Ian Hemingway, Master brewer and founder of Little Ox, introduced the evening by outlining the brewery’s background.

We then had extensive tasting notes for six beers ranging from Hufflepuff (3.8%) to Solitaire (9.0%). These notes told us to expect, amongst other things, ‘full and



fruity’, ‘chocolate, roasted coffee and berry’ and ‘citrus and banana’. They weren’t wrong... it was a roller-coaster of flavours.

All this was paired with a plateful of five cheeses, crackers, chutneys and grapes. A feast prepared by Claire Renshaw and Susan Rudlin. A huge thanks to them.

This was the last of the 2022 programme of events in support of Back the White Horse. More information about the next events at [www.backthewhitehorse.com/news/](http://www.backthewhitehorse.com/news/)

We thank the committee for all their work and look forward to what 2023 will bring.

Paul & Diane Bates

---

## Folk evening



Friday 18 November saw the last of 2022 Folk evenings at the St James’ Centre.

There was music and poetry from a number of Stonesfield and Woodstock residents whilst the audience enjoyed their BYO drinks.

More sessions are planned for 2023, probably starting in February. Keep a look out for information and dates in *The Slate* and on Nextdoor.

Nick Hooper & Becki Sherlaw-Johnson  
[rebeccasj@btinternet.com](mailto:rebeccasj@btinternet.com)

# Politics & local affairs

---

## Stonesfield Parish Council

Update from 2 November meeting.

**September festival:** Plans for this to take place in 2023. The group are raising funds for the Stonesfield play park, Cancer Research and Berks, Bucks, Oxon wildlife trust. Advanced fundraising taking place. The council supports this event.

**Cllr A Graham** reported to the council: Budget setting for OCC is in process – looking for savings of around £50 million. £30 million of this is a direct result of inflation. £20 million is as a result of lack of government support for adult and social care.

OCC working with Oxfordshire community foundation asking people who do not need £400 energy rebate to donate it to help those in need.

OCC hosted '20 is plenty' national conference. Roll out in Fawler shortly. Wootton is joining soon and Bladon will also be joining the scheme shortly. Woodstock likely to join the scheme in 2023.

WODC allocation of £100k and a youth champion for the DC in place to represent the youths in the District.

WODC £200k has also been put in place to support larders and similar organisations.

WODC rural prosperity fund has been set up. £750k has been put aside to support rural initiatives. This is to help support farmers and village shops with diversification amongst other things.

The cabinet meetings are now touring, held across District. Members of the public are welcome to attend. It will be in Woodstock in January.

Town shop in centre of Witney will now be handling queries for Council tax and benefits predominantly.

Local plan process has commenced. Waterways Day is on 18 Nov. The council is bringing Thames Water and campaigning groups fighting for cleaner water together. It is at Woodgreen in West Oxfordshire for those that would like to visit.

**Cllr Geraldine Lawrence** reported that footpaths at bottom of Combe Road seem to be attracting anti-social behaviour. This has been reported to police.

**Financial matters:** The parish council agreed to pay:

- £200 for the war memorial plaque in memory of Frank Hall
- costs to cover 50% of the church clock repair
- a contribution of £200 towards the church burial ground grass-cutting costs which we had budgeted for
- costs of £50 for a wreath for the Royal British Legion.

The council will be budget-setting over the next two months.

## Planning Applications

22/02751/HHD – Middlecote, High Street, Stonesfield. There is no objection to this planning application.

**Cost of living crisis:** Council discussed support the council can offer in the community during the cost of living crisis. Susan Rudlin is ready to help push out information on the reverse advert calendar but we do not have a list of those who need at the moment. We do not need to know names but would be keen to know numbers of those who might need support. Discussions will continue.

**Next meeting:** The date of the next full council meeting is 7 December 2022, St James' Centre at 7pm.

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

---

## Stonesfield Neighbourhood Plan

With invaluable help from our volunteers, we have now created the survey. As I write, it is being tested on a sample audience, to check that the questions make sense and elicit answers that we can tabulate and analyse. The answers to the questions we are asking will tell us what you think about future developments and various aspects of our physical environment: what you care about, what you want to protect, what you are prepared to see changed. The survey has to read well, engage your attention, and take no more than 30 minutes to complete. All this needs careful preparation before a final version is released.

The survey will be circulated as a paper document to every household, but we will be encouraging you to complete it online if at all possible. We want to avoid distributing it over Christmas, so we have decided to delay its delivery until February. There will be a piece in the February *Slate*

telling you what to expect and how to fill it in.

We hope everyone will see this survey as a vital piece of community work and do their bit by completing it. Your answers will enable us to write a Neighbourhood Plan that will help to preserve the Stonesfield you care about for future generations.

Caroline Friend  
np@stonesfieldpc.uk

---

## News from West Oxfordshire

Cabinet meetings, where key decisions are made for the local area, in public, will continue to tour into 2023 to make it easier for people to take part in local democracy and have their say. Cllr Andy Graham, Leader of the Council said, 'The Cabinet meets once a month in public and makes key decisions that affect the whole district as part of the operation of the Council. We want that process to be open, transparent, and easy for local people to see democracy in action.'

'We will be holding Cabinet meetings across West Oxfordshire over the coming months, which we hope will encourage more people to become involved and feel more like we are here to serve them. I encourage local people to turn up and be heard when the meetings are in their area. We look forward to seeing people there and will be ready to talk to people about what matters to them. This is your Council.'

The meetings will be held in towns across the district over the coming months (more details available on the Council's website):

- 11 January 2023 – Community Hall, New Road, Woodstock
- 22 March 2023 – Town Hall, Carterton

- 19 April 2023 – Eynsham

All the meetings start at 2pm (except Woodstock which is 3pm) and will be open for residents to attend without pre-booking. Members of the public are invited to meet cabinet members on an informal one-to-one basis afterwards.

Each meeting has a specific agenda item for public participation where residents can raise topics important to them. Members of the public wishing to ask a question at the meetings must notify [democratic.services@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@westoxon.gov.uk) by 2pm on the Friday before the meeting.

**Sustainable Warmth** WODC has been allocated £1,067,000 funding by the Government to support the new Sustainable Warmth scheme, which will be used to upgrade local homes with modifications to help make them warmer, healthier and ultimately cheaper to run. Free loft insulation, solar panels and low-carbon heating are just some of the energy-efficiency measures that are currently on offer to West Oxfordshire's low-income households. Approved installers are used. Homeowners do not have to contribute to any costs or pay back the grant afterwards.

The grant is available for properties on or off mains gas. Applications are made online via City Energy's website [www.oxfordshire-applications.co.uk](http://www.oxfordshire-applications.co.uk) or by calling 02921 680951. Please also see the Sustainable Warmth webpage on the WODC website for more details.

Anyone struggling to heat their home, concerned about rising energy prices, or wanting to find out more about grant funding opportunities, can contact the Better Housing Better Health advice line for free on 0800 107 0044 or request an

assessment via their website: [www.bhbh.org.uk](http://www.bhbh.org.uk).

To make it easier for residents to find out more about what they are entitled to, and to access the help they need during the cost of living crisis, WODC has pulled together information about the support available on their website: [www.westoxon.gov.uk/costoflivingsupport](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/costoflivingsupport)

---

## **From our County Councillor**

I am now in full recovery mode having had open heart surgery which, as you know, kept me out of service since mid August. Health is and must be the number 1 priority for us all and that could not have been brought home to me more.

The good news is that I will be up and running as your county councillor from November resuming the duties I took on for the whole of Woodstock and surrounding villages.

The latest news is the Lib Dem-led alliance at County Hall continues to roll out the 30mph to 20mph reduced speed scheme to villages in Combe, with The Bartons with Bladon, Wootton, Woodstock awaiting approval.

I will resume chairing the working group I set up to address the home-to-schools transport policy review in November and December with a report and recommendations for improvements.

I have been working with Tackley Parish Council over the railway crossing which was temporarily closed as a result of Network Rail deeming it unsafe. A resolution to ensure access to the bridleway for pedestrians and equestrian riders is moving forward and I have been



involved in bringing the parties together to get a resolution.

Flooding continues to be an issue in certain areas of the division and I am supporting a catchment area study with landowners, the County and Parish Council in Tackley where there has been a long history of flooding in the village, and have ensured flood mitigated measures have been put in place.

I will be following up on initiatives to improve the surfaces outside the shops in Stonesfield but this relies on co-operation with the shop owners whom I have met, with a member of the Parish Council, to further the safety and improved maintenance of that area.

Andy Graham

Oxfordshire County Councillor  
andy.graham@oxfordshire.gov.uk

---

## **Boundary Commission proposals**

On 8 November, the Boundary Commission issued revised proposals for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries in the South East region. Below is an extract from that proposal which relates to the proposal for a new constituency for Stonesfield.

‘3.158 The initial proposals for Oxfordshire were broadly well received, with a number of constituencies receiving very few representations. The Green Party, the Labour Party, and the Liberal Democrats all supported our proposals in Oxfordshire with no amendments, and the Conservative Party made a counter proposal impacting just one ward.

3.159 There was, however, significant opposition from a number of individual

respondents to the proposed Bicester constituency, principally from five wards of West Oxfordshire district that we proposed including in the constituency. Responses from these wards (Eynsham and Cassington, Freeland and Hanborough, North Leigh, Stonesfield and Tackley, and Woodstock and Bladon) stressed their ties to the nearby town of Witney, and a corresponding lack of connections to Bicester in neighbouring Cherwell district. Despite this sentiment, only one counter-proposal, from Oliver Raven (BCE-85388), provided an alternative that attempted to address this concern. This counter-proposal proposed a rotation of wards around the county, with the objective of reuniting the three wards of Eynsham and Cassington, Freeland and Hanborough, and North Leigh with the Witney constituency. This subsequently led to knock-on impacts in the form of alternative constituency pairings of population centres, namely Bicester and Thame, Henley and Didcot, and Kidlington and Abingdon.

3.160 The Assistant Commissioners investigated a number of potential alternatives within Oxfordshire to try and address these concerns of electors living near Witney who were proposed to join the Bicester constituency; these alternatives included both Oliver Raven’s counter-proposal and their own alternatives. Ultimately, however, they determined that any changes necessary to facilitate this would be too disruptive to every other constituency within the county, which were well-received or uncontentious.

3.161 In recognition of the local authority crossing that was the source of much of the opposition to the proposed Bicester constituency, the Assistant Commissioners

felt that including the name of a settlement within West Oxfordshire in the constituency name would better reflect the extent of communities within the constituency; they therefore proposed that the constituency should be renamed Bicester and Woodstock, but retain the boundaries as in the initial proposals. We agree that this would be a more appropriate name for this constituency, giving recognition to the West Oxfordshire wards included, and therefore accept this recommendation.’

The consultation on this proposal **ends on 5 December**. The public are invited to view and comment via [www.bcereviews.org.uk](http://www.bcereviews.org.uk).

After this final consultation has closed, the Commission will analyse the responses and form its final recommendations. These will be submitted to Parliament by 1 July 2023.

## **Botley West Solar Farm**

Photovolt Development Partners (PVDP) is proposing a new solar farm in the west of Oxfordshire called Botley West Solar Farm (Botley West), stretching from Wotton to Cumnor. Botley West could deliver 840 Megawatts of power to the National Grid, enough electricity to power approximately 330,000 homes. Construction could start in Summer 2025.

A public consultation on proposals for the solar farm will be held **up to and including 15 December 2022**. During that time you can send your thoughts via an online feedback form (on the website), email, phone or post.

There are also a number of community information events. Dates and locations of these can be found on

[www.botleywest.co.uk/Home-Botley-West.html](http://www.botleywest.co.uk/Home-Botley-West.html)

[info@botleywest.co.uk](mailto:info@botleywest.co.uk)

Freephone: 0808 175 3085

FREEPOST BWSF

## **From our MP**

### **(extracts from Robert Courts’ Community Newsletter)**

**EV charging points:** Good to see the new central government-funded electric vehicle chargers up and running in Eynsham. The Government is funding 280 EV charging points across our county, including at five sites in West Oxfordshire: Witney, Carterton, Eynsham, Chipping Norton and Woodstock. This project has given our area a huge boost in improving EV infrastructure and supporting our transition to cleaner vehicles.

**Increased fines for illegal sewage spills:** I welcome the plans announced by the Environment Secretary to raise the civil penalty for water companies who pollute the environment by 1,000-fold - from £250,000 to up to £250 million.

Increasing the financial penalties which the Environment Agency can hand out without going through the courts will ensure quick and strong action can be taken against water companies that illegally pollute our environment.

The Environment Agency must take advantage of these new powers to hold water companies to account and make sure the polluter pays for the environmental harm they cause.

These proposals represent a further step forward in our campaign to end harm from

sewage pollution and protect the health of our local rivers.

**Defence Select Committee:** Following the recent reshuffle, I am no longer the Minister for Aviation & Maritime at the Department for Transport. I wish my successors the very best. I am honoured and delighted to have now been elected to the House of Commons Defence Select Committee by colleagues. At this critical time for the UK's defence and security, I am looking forward to scrutinising the Ministry of Defence and working to improve the UK's defence policy.

### **Thames Valley Police**

As part of Thames Valley Police's commitment to give the public an insight into its work, the force has released statistics on its activity over the six months 1 April to 30 September 2022.

This period saw the force undertake one of its largest and most significant operations in its history, with more than 2,500 police officers and staff policing the committal service in Windsor of Her Majesty The Queen. Over the six months, the force policed high-profile Thames Valley events including Royal Ascot, Henley Regatta and Reading Festival.

Over this time, the force, which protects communities across Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, received almost half a million contacts from the public, attended almost 500 incidents a day and made 15,000 arrests; 30% of these arrests related to domestic abuse.

### **Neighbourhood Watch**

FREE Bystander training, online webinar on 6 December 2022, 7-8pm.

The Suzy Lamplugh Trust has been delivering FREE one-hour 'Stand Up Against Street Harassment' bystander training. Another session is offered on 6 December. The session encourages those who witness harassment to act by:

1. Distracting the perpetrator
2. Delegating by asking for help
3. Documenting the harassment
4. Direct intervention by speaking up in the moment, and
5. Delaying by checking to see if the person is OK

For more details and to sign up, see [www.ourwatch.org.uk/](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/)

Information on Neighbourhood Watch is available at: [www.ourwatch.org.uk/](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/)  
Anyone interested in joining the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme may find details and register at: [www.member-registration.neighbourhoodalert.co.uk/30/Join](http://www.member-registration.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@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:woodstockNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

**Deanna Asplundh**

Stonesfield Neighbourhood Watch  
Coordinator

# Education, culture & more

---

## Stonesfield Pre-School and Day Care

Thank you to everyone who supported our cake sales on 29 October and 26 November.



Lizzie Wharton, Louise John (Manager) and Simon Hopkins (Chair) at Cake sale

We would like to thank everyone who baked, bought cakes, and gave us kind donations, and especially *The Slate* for their kind donation. This has enabled us to purchase a much-needed wooden role-play dressing-up trolley.



We will also be holding a cake sale Saturday 17 December, outside the village shop, selling festive treats.

The glitter and glue are now out at Pre-School, we are getting ready for Christmas, making lots of Christmas arts and crafts. We have also started to learn all our new Christmas songs. The F2 children will be joining the reception children at Primary School to perform a Nativity play, which they are really looking forward to.

To help with our forward planning and opening times from September 2023 we would love to hear from you. If your child is 12 months or over and you are thinking about them attending our Pre School in the future you can register your interest via our website [www.stonesfieldpreschool.com](http://www.stonesfieldpreschool.com) or telephone Louise, Pre-School manager (01993 898370) or email [stonesfieldpsad@outlook.com](mailto:stonesfieldpsad@outlook.com)

Louise John  
[stonesfieldpsad@outlook.com](mailto:stonesfieldpsad@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.

---

## Stonesfield Primary School

### Therapy Dogs Nationwide at Stonesfield



A warm welcome to Gilbert, the golden Labrador, who will be visiting our school every week with Richard. He will be hearing children read and relaxing them into reading for pleasure.

We are so pleased to have volunteers in our school and would like to welcome any local residents who could either hear children read or bring a craft to share with us.

R Crouch & A Hipwell



---

## I'm a Reader ...

Ella Thornburn, 17

I'm a Reader has met several Stonesfield library users now, across a broad span of ages. This month, it seemed an interesting idea to talk to someone who used to come to the library often but hasn't been for several years. Is there still something for them at the library? Let's find out.

Ella Thornburn, 17, in the first year of her A Levels, taking English Literature, Drama and Art, loves reading but is more likely to use her school library, and so hasn't been in the village library for a long time, even though it is on the doorstep.

She was excited and nostalgic to return. As we walk through the door, the bright light welcoming us in, away from the dark and dreary afternoon, a broad smile appears on Ella's face; 'I remember sitting in the children's bit and hunting with my friend for Jacqueline Wilson books!' she says, animatedly. 'My favourite was *Hetty Feather*; I fancied myself a young writer. Hetty is a Victorian orphan who is forced into service, but wants to write also, even though she is uneducated and destitute. She is defiant and fights against her fate.'

We are here to see if Ella will easily find a book in Stonesfield library that she would enjoy reading, even though the collection is quite small (albeit perfectly formed); is there still reason to visit, when you are no longer brought in by an adult after a trip to the playground?

'I always used to spy on the adult section,' says Ella, 'because it had bigger and better books.'

What Ella is looking for today, is something 'well written, but not too

intense, as I'm already reading lots of classics for school'. Her eyes fall on the crime section, and one particular book, by Peter Lovesey, called *The Stone Wife*. 'The cover looks ominous,' says Ella, approvingly - of a photo of a large Victorian red brick mansion, seen from a side angle from the ground, the house almost overpowered by a brooding black cloud in the sky and a dark hedge that looks like it will soon outgrow the house. 'I don't know what's going to happen, but it doesn't look pleasant,' grins Ella. 'Not that you should judge a book by its cover.' It is, it turns out, about a murder that takes place over a medieval carving of Chaucer's Wife of Bath (who had five husbands and a lot to say about how badly the 14th century treated women). The detective discovers that the carving starts to have a malign influence on his life...

Ella also likes the look of Anne Enright's *Actress*; this novel explores a mother-daughter relationship, where the mother is a (fictional) twentieth century legend of stage and screen. Ella wants to go to drama school, performs in several local companies (including the Stonesfield Players) and is currently co-writing a play, so this book, by the Booker prize-winning Irish author of *The Gathering*, seems very appealing.

The conclusion of our experiment is that Ella didn't need to spend very long in the library to find a book she would like to read. We didn't even look at non-fiction or biography. Ella plans to come back and one day perhaps there will be a copy of her play on the shelves.

Eleanor Bailey  
eleanorbailey55@gmail.com

---

## Nature Notes: Spiders come out to play

Autumn is the time of year for spiders to get active and mate. They are seen more often and the various webs shine in the morning dew. The male house spider rushes about in search of a mate and can end up in your bath. If he is lucky he mates and if he is really lucky she doesn't eat him.



I spotted a small, 10mm, long spindly legged spider half way up the stairs. Just as the corner of the wall meets the ceiling. The random threads forming a web were hard to see. Spiders can teach us stillness and patience. Day one, no movement and nothing happened. Day two still no movement, I wondered if everything was all right. Day three the spider, a 'daddy long legs spider', was in position and a small bundle was in the threads of the web...looking like another spider. Day four, the spider was gone. Daddy long legs spiders are common and easy to see once you get your eyes ready and your duster kept away. They can shake the webs as a defence mechanism and are very agile.

Spiders are deeply rooted in the human psyche from fascination to repulsion. No insect (spiders are not part of the insect class) occurs so widely in comics and films. Our relationships with spiders is intriguing.

John Sampson

---

## **Local history: Oxford Chronicle and Reading Gazette Saturday 12 January 1861**

'Frost Amusements. – Put out in the open air conical wine or rummer glass, and notice the vagaries and forms the ice will assume – no two days alike; one day filled with air bubbles; another, the enclosed or condensed air assuming the forms of dirks and daggers and round-headed pins. The surface this day level, to-morrow, even though the weather be calm, raised into mimic hills and mountains. The expansion too of the ice, ten to twenty per cent., perhaps more, according to the strength of the frost, showing in miniature the effects of frost, how it might, in its destructive power, even rend rocks. Its utility is seen in pulverizing and drying the soil, and in the making of slates, as at Stonesfield, in this county, where the stones sent up by pit shafts in summer, are in winter, by the strength of frost, spilt into slates.'

Douglas Rudlin

---

## **Suit worn by Winston Churchill goes on display**



A 1950s grey pinstripe suit worn by Sir Winston Churchill has gone on display at his birthplace, Blenheim Palace. The suit was made by British fashion retailer Austin Reed and includes a label dated \*16/9/53

*RT Hon Sir Winston S. Churchill K.C.G.* It is on show as part of an exhibition dedicated to the 'greatest Briton' and his lifelong association with the Oxfordshire UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The suit, which was purchased at auction, is accompanied by a two-page letter confirming its authenticity and stating it was given by his wife, Lady Churchill, to a Mary Williams in the 1960s.

The future Prime Minister and wartime leader was born at the Palace on 30 November 1874. His father, Lord Randolph Churchill, was the youngest son of the 7th Duke of Marlborough. His mother, Lady Churchill, was at Blenheim with her husband attending a St Andrew's Day ball when she unexpectedly went into labour.

As well as being his birthplace, Blenheim is also where he proposed to his beloved wife Clementine in the Temple of Diana during a summer rainstorm.

He is quoted as saying: 'At Blenheim I took two very important decisions: to be born and to marry. I am content with the decision I took on both occasions.'

Churchill is buried, alongside Clementine, in Bladon churchyard on the edge of the estate.

Samantha Vaughan 07469 129743  
SVAughan@blenheimpalace.com

---

## Woodstock Music Society Christmas Concert

Hubert Parry: *Ode on the Nativity*; Franz Schubert: *Scherzo from Symphony No. 9*; Judith Bailey: *Wassail*; *Christmas Carols*.

Woodstock Music Society Choir and Chamber Orchestra, Conductor Paul Ingram

Friday 9 and Saturday 10 December 2022 at 7.30pm

St Mary Magdalene Church, Woodstock

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

---

## Witney Music Society Christmas Concert

Our December concert will be given by the prize-winning brass quintet Connaught Brass. Their programme includes arrangements of works by Bizet and Fauré together with original works for brass quintet. The concert is at 7.30pm on Friday 9 December at High Street Methodist Church, Witney.

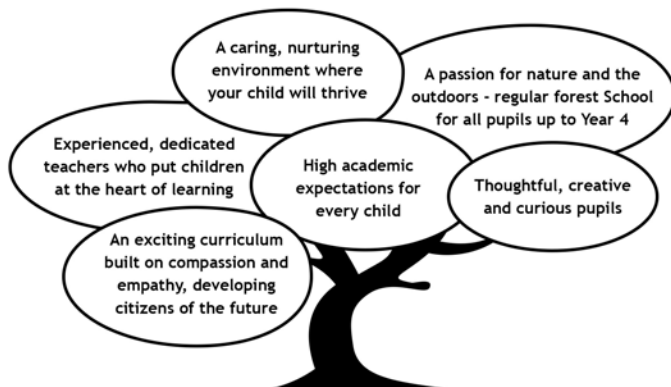
Tickets (£15, £1 for under 19s) are available in advance online or at the door from 7pm. For more information, please telephone 01993 898020 or visit the Witney Music Society website [www.witneymusicsociety.org.uk](http://www.witneymusicsociety.org.uk)

## 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](mailto:office.2353@stonesfield.oxon.sch.uk)  
Headteacher email: [head.2353@stonesfield.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:head.2353@stonesfield.oxon.sch.uk)



# Clubs, societies & sport

---

## Christmas with the Stonesfield Scouts

This year, celebrate the festive season with the Scouts. 1st Stonesfield Beavers, Cubs and Scouts are channeling their inner elves to help make Stonesfield a festive place this December. Events include:

- Send Christmas Cards to locals in the village using local delivery service. The Christmas Card Box will be in the Shop between **3 and 12 December**. Please make the addresses clear – any donations welcome.
- Santa and his sleigh will be making the rounds of the village on **Wednesday 7 December**. Come and listen to the festive tunes (!) and help support local good causes, including us!
- Finally, come and join us for our Christmas Bingo in the Village Hall on **Friday 16 December**. Drinks to be drunk, snacks to be snacked upon and some amazing prizes to be won - it will be great fun. Eyes down at 7pm.

Have a great Christmas and Happy New Year.

The Stonesfield Scouts

---

## Stonesfield Environment Group

We are delighted to have Ash Smith from Windrush Against Sewage Pollution (WASP) coming to speak to us on 6 December. As we mentioned in last month's article we are looking at ways in

which we can support the return to good health of the Evenlode. One option is to go for Bathing Status; WASP have looked at all these options for the Windrush so we are keen to hear from them so it can inform our own decisions re our stretch of the Evenlode. A couple of us will be attending the WODC Waterways day in November and will report back from that in the February *Slate*.

Several of us have been helping with planting the new trees along the Woodstock Road. We are planning ahead for next year: ideas include a village-wide litter pick, 'no-mow' May and more wildflower planting. If you want to be involved please get in touch, our meetings are still virtual so it's a pretty good use of an hour a fortnight and we are very strict on timekeeping!

Julie Curran

[juliecurran0@gmail.com](mailto:juliecurran0@gmail.com)

---

## Stonesfield Gardening Club

Our November meeting was a bumper one, with a visit from Chrissie's Owls as well as a talk.

We kicked off the evening with Chrissie coming to thank us for our donation to her charity, and bringing with her Ben, an Indian Eagle Owl, to say hello. He was obviously very interested in what was going on in the hall, twisting his head this way and that, while Chrissie told us what a busy year they have had. Eighty (yes, 80!) owls have already been rescued this year,

Chrissie Harper with Ben



but, with bird flu about, they are unable to release any back into the wild for the time being.

Jane Ellis and Genny Early then told us all about their charity, Farmland Bird Aid, set up twenty years ago to help farmland birds through the 'hungry gap' which has been created by changing farming practices. Ploughing directly after harvesting instead of leaving stubble over the winter, cutting back hedgerows earlier, cultivating tight to the field boundaries are all examples that have reduced the amount of natural bird food available in the winter. Farmers and volunteers are now helping to redress this balance with supplementary feeding as well as sowing bird seed crops, allowing hedgerows to grow bigger and leaving wider field margins. Local farmers are clubbing together to apply for the latest agricultural subsidies available for these nature friendly actions.

Locally, there are 50 people feeding birds on a regular rota on our farms and footpaths, over 20 sites. Yellowhammers and linnets are now seen in large numbers up the Oxfordshire Way towards Charlbury – look out for them when you next walk up there!

If you would like to be part of the scheme, please contact Jane or Genny [info@farmlandbirdaidnetwork.org](mailto:info@farmlandbirdaidnetwork.org) or see [www.farmlandbirdaidnetwork.org](http://www.farmlandbirdaidnetwork.org).

For a finale to the evening local photographer Martin Gasgoigne-Pees treated us to a selection of wonderful pictures of birds that he has seen around the village – a stunning selection of what we may see if we keep our eyes open.



This month we have our social event in the St James' Centre. On Monday 12 December, 7.30pm, we will hold our quiz and be serving up mulled wine and mince pies. This will also be an opportunity to renew your membership if you have not yet done so. Membership cards for 2023 will be available for those all-important discounts at the gardening centres!

Look forward to seeing you then.

**Diane Bates**

Secretary, Stonesfield Gardening Club

[www.stonesfieldgardening.info](http://www.stonesfieldgardening.info)

---

## **The Stonesfield Players Present**

**On 27 & 28 January 2023** we are staging two one-act plays at the Village Hall. The Saturday night performance will include a light meal in the interval. Please note there are two different start times because of the meal. The 27 (Friday) will start at 7.30pm, the 28 (Saturday) will start at 7pm.

**The Dumb Waiter directed by Sally Wainwright** (writer of *Gentleman Jack*, *Happy Valley*, *Last Tango in Halifax*)

Probably Pinter's most well-known short play, *The Dumb Waiter* is a compelling, funny, disturbing, absurd 'comedy of menace'. Ben and Gus are hit-men, sent to eliminate someone. But who will that someone turn out to be?

**Celebration directed by Rebecca Sherlaw-Johnson** (co writer of *Shadow of the Desert* and *In Our Defence*)

A drama society meet to decide how to honour the memory of a member. Should it be respectful and serious or joyful and celebratory? Egos and strong opinions clash in this humorous and poignant one-act play.

**Tickets:** for Friday 27 £10, for Saturday 28 (light meal included) £20, are available from Jenny Lines: 01993 898454, text to 07468 563014 or email at [jenny\\_lines@btinternet.com](mailto:jenny_lines@btinternet.com). We can accept payment by bank transfer if ordering direct from the Box Office.

And from 5 January for the **Friday night performance only** from Suriya Express, payment by cash or cheque only (made out to *The Stonesfield Players*).

---

## **Combe WI**

We warmly welcomed Jane Dickison to our November meeting. Jane spoke with great knowledge and enthusiasm about the Women of Oxford, starting with Annie Rogers and Grace Hadow who were fundamental in establishing the ladies' colleges in Oxford. In 1917 Grace was also the first Vice-President of the NFWI and was responsible for choosing Jerusalem as our anthem which we still sing today – although not at our monthly meetings! Many of the recent leading female politicians also studied at Oxford including – in no particular order – Liz Truss, Thérèse Coffey, Theresa May, Margaret Thatcher, Shirley Williams and Yvette Cooper. Other interesting women discussed, to name but a few, were Dorothy Sayers, Ethel Florey, Ethel Bellamy, Sarah Cooper (the marmalade founder). Jane had many more women to tell us about and I am sure that we will be inviting her back in the future.

We have an excellent programme of speakers and events so if you're over 18 and think that you might enjoy a relaxed evening with a mixed aged group of ladies please do come along and try us out. Non-members are charged £5 per meeting and can attend 3 meetings a year as a guest before deciding whether or not you want to join. Membership until the end of March 2023 is £22 and from January it will be just £11.

Our December meeting is the members only Christmas Party but we invite guests to join us on 9 January when our speaker will be Liz Woolley. She will be talking about food and drink in the 19th century.

WI meetings are held in the Reading Room, Combe from 7.30–9.30pm on the second Monday of each month.

Julia Sharpe (891058)

Secretary Combe WI

## North Leigh History Society

On Tuesday 6 December Antonia Keaney will be talking to us about Christmas at Blenheim. Come and find out how Christmas has been celebrated at the palace over the years. We meet at 7.30pm in North Leigh Memorial Hall OX29 6SA, 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. Please note that we don't meet in January, so the first meeting after Christmas will be on 7 February.

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

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

## New Yatt Riding for the Disabled

Volunteers urgently required on a regular weekly basis for our half-day riding sessions on Monday afternoon, Thursday late afternoon and for our pm rota (1/2 hour at 3.30pm on a sign-up basis). We also need help with yard maintenance and harrowing of our school and have an active waiting list for other sessions. If you are able to spare a few hours once a week to help provide therapeutic riding to children and adults, training provided, please check out our website [www.newyattRDA.org.uk](http://www.newyattRDA.org.uk) and email us at [nyrda-volunteers@googlegroups.com](mailto:nyrda-volunteers@googlegroups.com).

## Stonesfield Football Club

It might seem like an odd statistic, but with Christmas just around the corner, The Firsts have only played (and won) one league game due mainly to their success in two knock out competitions, but that may be remedied fairly soon. Their run in the Junior Shield continues as they easily took care of Steeple Aston in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round with a great win at home (5-1). They started off well in The Fred Ford with a fabulous 7-3 win away at local rivals Charlbury (always a nice place to win in the cup!) and the hero of the hour was the irrepressible Cary Rice who notched another fabulous hat-trick in what's come to be known as The Demolition Derby! However, success in The Fred Ford was short lived as they travelled to RAF Brize Norton in the next round and succumbed to a 2-0 defeat. The team at the air base is always an odd one to play against as you never really know which one will turn up: clearly, as the score line suggests, all their best players were available this time! So, their first defeat of the season: it'll be interesting to see how

our boys respond to that setback in the weeks approaching the Christmas break.

What a month it's been for The Reserves! It all started with a comfortable 2-0 win at home against Carterton Town. Next up it was a fabulous 3-2 win against top-of-the-table Yarrnton 'A', where the man-of-the-moment was Jake Halligan who scored a goal-of-the-season contender (which turned out to be the winner) with a quite remarkable strike from deep in his own half. Magnificent stuff! They then travelled to Leafield and battled hard for a share of the spoils in a 2-2 draw. Then they travelled the short distance to 2<sup>nd</sup>-placed Wootton and put in a fabulous performance to bring home yet another three points with a brilliant 2-0 win. 10 points from a possible 12 is fantastic for our lads who now sit in 4<sup>th</sup> place in the league: it'll be all eyes on them to see if they can keep up this great run of form.

You must feel for Jake Halligan: normally his outstanding strike from his own half would set him up for this month's Fredo Award, but it's hard to see past the speed-merchant that is Cary Rice, with his hat-trick against Charlbury. The Fredo is no stranger to The Combe Road where the Rice brothers have been known to share it month on month, but this is history in the making as Cary takes it two months in a row and deservedly so! Step up once again, Cary Rice, The Fredo is all yours!

Finally, thank you to everyone in the village for your fabulous and continued support. On behalf of all at Stonesfield FC, let me wish each and every one of you a very Happy Christmas and every success for the coming New Year.

Tom Flanigan (891979)

The logo for Stonesfield Pre-School & Daycare features the word 'Stonesfield' in a colorful, multi-colored font at the top. Below it, 'Pre-School & Daycare' is written in a similar colorful font, with a small soccer ball icon integrated into the letter 'o' in '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](mailto:stonesfieldpsad@outlook.com))

# Church news

---

## Stonesfield Methodist Church

### Services for December

4	11am	Marjorie Brown
11	11am	Andrew Maisey
18	2.30pm	Reverend Andrew Biggs Carol Service - Holy Communion
25	No Service at Stonesfield	
25	10am	United Family Service at Chipping Norton Methodist Church

### Services for January

1	No Service at Stonesfield	
8	11am	Local Arrangement
15	11am	Stella Bristow
22	11am	Reverend Andrew Biggs Holy Communion Service
29	11am	Reverend Fred Ireland

### Make way!

I wonder about that journey to Bethlehem.

A recent journey of mine was fraught with challenges of a kind, there were haphazard roadworks, a sudden downpour and bright-eyed wandering pheasants, otherwise soon done.

Bethlehem must have seemed like a million miles away to a couple with a donkey, although more like a hundred as the crow flies. What then for Mary and Joseph? The ground would have been hard and rough with steep hills to climb, the nights cold with food scarce, both struggling with

fearful thoughts and missing family back home. Here a mother to be, feeling weary and scared, seeing no certainty ahead.

But God's words were enough, enough for these two young people to put aside their troubles, to journey into the unknown with courage and determination, until at last they found the rest they sought so desperately, in an old cattle shed, fit for a king.★

God Bless your Christmas time. Come to a Service soon.

Kathleen Albért (891733)

### From the minister:

Hello! I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and my wife, Julie. I am the new Minister for Stonesfield Methodist Church and also Superintendent Minister for the West Oxfordshire Circuit. We are living in Chipping Norton where we moved in during August. We are looking forward to getting to know everyone at Stonesfield as well as the surrounding area. We have come from Gloucester where I was minister for two churches for the last 8 years and Julie was Community Outreach worker for one of them. Prior to that we spent 5 years in Burnham on Sea. However I am originally from Bristol, where I still have family and where I was a primary school teacher before entering the ministry. Julie grew up near Bromley, in south London and was also a primary school teacher. As we get close to Christmas we are looking forward to

celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ among you and learning about the local customs.

This year we are acutely aware of the difficulties being faced by many as a result of the cost of living crisis. We also are filled with sadness by the war raging in Ukraine as we enter the season traditionally thought of as the time of peace and good will. We hold these situations in our prayers and pray especially for children who are suffering at this time. We give thanks for all those who are working to offer help and support in various ways. Amen.

Rev Andrew Biggs (01608 544362)  
superintendent@westoxfordshiremethodists.org.uk

---

## **New Church thought**

Life is tough at the moment, in all sorts of ways. So, shouldn't we try our best to be kind? That in itself will be a gift to whoever is on the receiving end.

To put it in more lengthy language: 'God loves every one of us but cannot directly benefit us - only indirectly through each other. For this reason he inspires us with his love. If we receive this love, we become connected to God. Our love for God makes us willing and able to love our neighbour.' (True Christianity, E.Swedenborg)

Dale Morris (898210)

---

## **Church of England Worship at St James the Great, Stonesfield**

**(Benefice of Stonesfield with Combe Longa)**

[www.stonesfieldparishchurch.org](http://www.stonesfieldparishchurch.org)

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

**Churchwarden:** Lindsey Sellar  
stonesfield@stonesfieldparishchurch.org

**St James' Centre bookings:**  
sjcsbookings@gmail.com

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

### **From the Rector – The Birth of a Child**

Although I spend most of my time on parish business, I also have the role of Vocations Advisor in the Diocese of Oxford, as did Rev Roy my predecessor. This is all about encouraging people to think about the ways in which God may be calling them to service in the church, either to 'ordained' ministry, or to 'lay' ministry. Ordained ministry means becoming a Deacon, a Priest or a Bishop, while Lay ministry can cover a wide range of responsibilities such as preaching, teaching, youth and community work, as well as pioneer work in new housing areas. Both Ordained ministry and Lay ministry can be full-time or part-time, paid or unpaid. Most women or men who are ordained (and often called 'clergy') eventually take on responsibility for a parish, as I have here. The role is properly called 'Parish Priest' in the Church of England, but we may be known as Vicar or Rector. These mean the same today, and are just historical titles. But not all Church of England clergy have responsibility for

parishes. Many are called 'chaplains' and work in prisons, schools, hospitals, hospices, universities, airports and stations, industrial areas, in the armed forces, and even in Parliament.

As a young man I spent two years as a lay minister working with students, and for a large part of my ordained ministry I was a university chaplain in Oxford. In those roles, it was exciting to see young people preparing for adult life, with all the drama and anxiety it entails. But the great beauty and privilege of working as a parish priest is the opportunity to be part of the whole cycle of human experience, from birth through to death, and all the things which happen to us in between.

The cycle of the Christian year, which remembers the life, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth, echoes the cycle of our own lives. At this time of the year we celebrate the birth of Jesus, a boy born in a troubled community, whose parents fled as refugees to a neighbouring state until it was safe to return. In him we see the joy and promise and worry which a new baby brings, which in the case of Jesus was especially poignant, given the prophecies made about him. We see the thrill and the strain of parenthood as Mary and Joseph began to understand the ways in which their son was special, and yet normal too. They must have wondered, as all parents do, what sort of life he would live, and prayed for his safety - not knowing just how extraordinary his life would be, the manner and time of his death, or the way in which this tiny baby would, as an adult, have such a profound effect upon the world and upon its people.

This Christmas, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, whom we know as the Saviour, we

recognise God's presence in our own lives too - knowing and loving us from before we were born, all the way to the eternity for which we were created. Jesus was born to share our life, to bring God's peace to our lives and to our broken world, to reveal God's love even in the turmoil and hurt of human existence, and to call us to know God ever more deeply.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas, and hope you will join us in church for our Christmas celebrations.

Revd Ralph Williamson - Rector

### **Church Services:**

#### **Sunday 4 December [Second Sunday of Advent]**

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

#### **Sunday 11 December [Third Sunday of Advent]**

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

#### **Sunday 18 December [Fourth Sunday of Advent]**

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



### **Christmas Eve 24 December**

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

### **Christmas Day 25 December**

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

### **Sunday 1 January [Christmas 2]**

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

### **Sunday 8 January [Epiphany]**

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

### **Sunday 15 January [Epiphany 2]**

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

### **Sunday 22 January [Epiphany 3]**

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

### **Sunday 29 January [Candlemas]**

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

### **Wednesdays**

9.30am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion (every week, except 28 Dec)
11am	Combe	Morning Prayer (7, 21 Dec, 4, 18 Jan)

### **Thursdays in Advent: ADVENTures 2022**

Advent reflections in Combe Church at 8pm

1 December O Advent! The great O Antiphon sonnets by Malcolm Guite

8 December Wake, O wake! Organ and Scripture with Thomas Simpson

15 December The dawn from on high Poetry on the theme of light, and music, with Revd Ralph Williamson

### **Churchyard gates**

The gates to the new churchyard, on the corner of Brook Lane, are in very bad condition and need to be replaced. The cost would be in the order of £2000. Perhaps someone would like to remember a loved one by purchasing new gates in their memory? If so, please contact the Rector about this.

---

## Roman Catholic Worship

### Christmas – the Gift that keeps on giving

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

That well-known passage from the New Testament reveals to us that we have all been given the greatest Christmas gift of all and for all time. God gave us His Son as his gift to humanity to save us from ourselves.

Each year we celebrate that endless act of generosity at Christmas by giving each other presents. So let us not forget why we do that; it’s in memory of that first Christmas gift of a child, who lived a full, human life and died a horrible death on the Cross so that we may be renewed. It’s the ultimate gift of love which has been given to us and for which our Christmas

celebrations are reminder of that never ending generosity.

### Mass times

Sunday Mass	9.15am
Monday/Tuesday	9.30am
Wednesday	7pm (followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament)
Thursday	9.30am
Friday	9.30am (followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament)

Confession by arrangement with Fr. Clive as below

### Christmas Service times at St Teresa’s

24 December 8.30pm Mass of Christmas Night with carols

25 December 9.15am Mass of Christmas Day

For times of **confession**, see the weekly newsletter: [stteresaschurch-charlbury.com](http://stteresaschurch-charlbury.com)

**Fr Tony Joyce** can be contacted on: [holytrinityrcchippy@gmail.com](mailto:holytrinityrcchippy@gmail.com) or telephone: 01608 642703

**AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED:** Suze Mathews is selling Xmas cards to support ACN and their work supporting persecuted Christians worldwide.

For Parish updates, any further information and further support, [www.stteresaschurch-charlbury.com/](http://www.stteresaschurch-charlbury.com/) or contact Fr. Clive Dytor: chair. [stteresaschurchcharlbury@gmail.com](mailto:stteresaschurchcharlbury@gmail.com)

Roman Catholic Community in Stonesfield – a blessed and hopeful Christmas

# JEM CHIMNEY SWEEPING

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

## PROBLEM FEET?

**NAIL CUTTING • CORNS • CALLUS  
PROBLEM NAILS • FOOT MASSAGE**

Treatment in the comfort of your own home  
**SHARON DAVIES MCFHP MAFHP  
(01993) 891132 / (M) 07941843353**

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

## Bed and Breakfast at Combe

For details  
please view  
[www.greenclose.net](http://www.greenclose.net)  
or call 01993 891223

## PJR Plumbing & Heating

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



**Tel: 01993 881069  
MOB: 07515 733398**

**500807**



### PRICE LIST

- 1 BUILDERS BAG £90.00**
- 2 BUILDERS BAGS £175.00**
- 3 BUILDERS BAGS £250.00**

**PRICE INCLUDES VAT AND DELIVERY WITHIN  
10 MILES OF LONG HANBOROUGH**

**☎01993 880 500**

**✉ [info@bowards.co.uk](mailto:info@bowards.co.uk)**

## A. K. P. DIXON

Home & Garden Maintenance  
& General Handyman

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

Call Ade on 01993 813873  
or 07825 631111

or email [handymanade@btinternet.com](mailto:handymanade@btinternet.com)

## D S JONES

BUILDING  
&

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

All aspects of building, roofing and property maintenance  
undertaken

For all enquiries call or email  
07496149990

[dsmaintenance@hotmail.com](mailto:dsmaintenance@hotmail.com)

## JUNIOR TAE KWON-DO

The Korean art of Self-Defence

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

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

Stonesfield Village Hall

Mon and Thur: 5.30-6.30pm

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

ITF registered international instructor  
James Kumar CRB vetted

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



**Resilience**  
PILATES

Back or Joint Pain?

Pre or post operative rehabilitation?

Need to improve strength or fitness?

Feeling stiff and inflexible?

Address muscle imbalances, improve posture, develop your core and build fitness through individual Pilates sessions in our Stonesfield studio with reformers, tower, chair and more

Call Lucy on 07484901615 or email  
info@resiliencepilates.co.uk



## COTSWOLD GARDEN DESIGNER

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



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



### CONTACT LORRAINE:

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

## Enjoyable and friendly local Art Courses

Drawing and Painting  
Small groups

For more information  
contact Gabriele  
[gabrielekern31@gmail.com](mailto:gabrielekern31@gmail.com)

## Dog-walking service

Do you work long hours and feel that your dog is not getting the attention and exercise that it needs? I run a dog-walking service for Stonesfield and surrounding areas. I have public liability insurance for peace of mind. Please feel free to call for a quote.  
Katrina 01993 891131 / 07824357690  
[katrinamoss1979@icloud.com](mailto:katrinamoss1979@icloud.com)



# windrushgroup

print | design | web | large format

Celebrating our 50th anniversary, we have been delivering our print expertise to a wide variety of clients from the smallest personal project through to much larger organisations. We pride ourselves in delivering the same level of service for all.



**01993 772197**

[Chris@windrushgroup.co.uk](mailto:Chris@windrushgroup.co.uk)  
[www.windrushgroup.co.uk](http://www.windrushgroup.co.uk)

Windrush Group, Windrush House, Avenue Two,  
Station Lane, Witney, Oxfordshire OX28 4XW



## BLINDS AND CURTAINS

*by*

## WINDOW DESIGN

**01993 870606**

Made to Measure  
blinds and curtains

Complete home service  
from measure to fitting

Huge range of fabrics

Fabric showroom open  
by appointment

**[WWW.WINDOWDESIGN.CO](http://WWW.WINDOWDESIGN.CO)**

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



We are a traditional independent small animal  
**Veterinary Clinic**

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

**01993 880551**

[www.coachhousevetclinic.co.uk](http://www.coachhousevetclinic.co.uk)



## Rob Atkinson

Member of the  
Chartered Institute of Building

General property  
maintenance and  
high quality DIY



General repairs  
All carpentry - Decorating  
Minor plumbing

Prompt, reliable and  
recommended service  
No job too small

**Tel: 07876-275300**

[robotkinson.ajdw@gmail.com](mailto:robotkinson.ajdw@gmail.com)

*"A job done well"*

## Stan Johnston Painter and Decorator

With over 35 years experience in the  
trade.

✉ [sjohnstonpaint@outlook.com](mailto:sjohnstonpaint@outlook.com)

☎ 07968 865251 or 01993 898730

## Roberts Garden Machinery Ltd



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

18 years' experience with LAWNMOWER SALES & SERVICE

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

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

Tel: 01993 881320 or email: [robert.milloini@btinternet.com](mailto:robert.milloini@btinternet.com)



## Salon Copenhagen

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

*Unisex hairdressing salon for ladies, gentlemen and children.*

*All aspects of hairdressing undertaken by our professionally trained stylists.*

*We also offer earpiercing.*

*Open Monday to Friday  
Saturdays by appointment only*

*Find us on Facebook.*

## A. L. SOLE & SON

*Funeral Directors*

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

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

Private Chapels of Rest  
in a peaceful garden setting.

Tel. 01608 644112

## PELLMANS

**Solicitors**

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

**01865 884400**

[www.pellmans.co.uk](http://www.pellmans.co.uk)

1 Abbey Street, Eynsham, Oxford OX29 4TB

Home visits and evening appointments available

# Reliable Repairs

## Domestic Appliance Repairs

WASHING MACHINES  
REFRIGERATION  
ELECTRIC COOKERS  
TUMBLE DRYERS  
DISHWASHERS

**Professional  
Descaler Available**

Call Andrew

**01993  
891339**

or  
Mobile

**07989 945971**

Fixed priced repairs to  
include electrical  
safety test

Electric cooker  
connections both  
freestanding  
and built-in

BS7671 accredited

Full public liability cover

Same day, evening &  
weekend appointments  
normally available

## Andrew A. Adams FCCA

Chartered Certified Accountant

Quality personal service for your  
Accounting, Taxation and Business needs

Competitive fees agreed in advance

Free initial meeting

Telephone: 07790 854574  
01993 891280

Email: [aaadams@TalkTalk.net](mailto:aaadams@TalkTalk.net)

## Foot Health Professional

Joanna Attridge  
MCFHP MAFHP



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

Based in Combe  
Fully qualified and insured

07961 620 292

[joannafoothealth@gmail.com](mailto:joannafoothealth@gmail.com)  
[www.joannafoothealth.co.uk](http://www.joannafoothealth.co.uk)

# onevillage.com

## One place to go for interiors

## Online & On the A44 in Woodstock

The social choice

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



**best-one** 

## **Suriya Express & Post Office**

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

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

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

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



**All aspects of roof work undertaken**

Slates • Tiles • Flat roofs  
Chimneys • Valleys • Leadwork  
Moss clearance  
UPVC fascias • Soffits • Gutters  
Advice and estimates free

Freephone  
0800 955 5063

Mobile  
07817 792194

## **WOODSTOCK TAXI SERVICE**

**07766 743081**



## **TOWNHOUSE**

● EXECUTIVE TRAVEL ●

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

*Our friendly team includes female drivers*

**[www.townhousewoodstock.co.uk](http://www.townhousewoodstock.co.uk)**



## **Stonesfield massage**

grounding . stability . strength

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

For appointments call Kate  
07473272503

Have a look at the treatments menu  
**[www.stonesfieldmassage.com](http://www.stonesfieldmassage.com)**

# ACE

Car Repairs and Servicing  
01993 700041

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

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



mike  
chambers

painting & decorating  
interior & exterior  
general  
property maintenance

friendly service,  
fully insured  
your DIY done for you!

07973 624797

email: [mike@michael-chambers.co.uk](mailto:mike@michael-chambers.co.uk)  
[www.michael-chambers.co.uk](http://www.michael-chambers.co.uk)

Tracey Keeling



## Personal Trainer

The Older Adult Training Specialist

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

07977 228756

[www.hardenhealthandfitness.co.uk](http://www.hardenhealthandfitness.co.uk)

## DIRTY CARPETS, UPHOLSTERY, RUGS



Most carpets dry within the  
hour

Unbeatable results, removes  
almost all spots & stains


call

**GRIMEBUSTERS**

01993 868924 01865 726983

[www.grimebusters.co.uk](http://www.grimebusters.co.uk)

# We care, when it matters most.



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

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

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

Learn more about us at  
[www.jerramsbrothers.co.uk](http://www.jerramsbrothers.co.uk) or call us at any time.

## Jerrams Brothers

*Funerals Funeral planning Memorials Support Est.1949*

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





New Miss Molly products in stock

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

\*Closed Tuesdays & Sundays

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



Maeve O'Donnell  
Acupuncture

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

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

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

maeve@maeveodonnellacupuncture.co.uk  
or visit

www.maeveodonnellacupuncture.co.uk  
f @ maeveodonnellacupuncture

# Woodstock Solicitors

**WILLS ~ PROBATE ~ POWERS OF ATTORNEY  
INHERITANCE TAX PLANNING**

Tel. 01993 811 792

Email [info@woodstocklaw.co.uk](mailto:info@woodstocklaw.co.uk)

Woodstock Solicitors - 1<sup>st</sup> Floor - 32 New Road - Woodstock - OX20 1PB



### Hypnotherapy

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

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

Tel: 07866 360359  
Email: [linda@lfhypnotherapy.co.uk](mailto:linda@lfhypnotherapy.co.uk)  
[www.lfhypnotherapy.co.uk](http://www.lfhypnotherapy.co.uk)

## Imagine Life

if you had your own...

Gardener  
Decorator  
Babysitter  
De-clutterer

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

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

**all rolled into one!**






For one-off events or regular help please contact Lindsey  
[hatsoffstudios2@gmail.com](mailto:hatsoffstudios2@gmail.com) or call  
01993 898620 07941 561471



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

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



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



07917 703468  
07917 391520  
[westoxon@paw-pals.co.uk](mailto:westoxon@paw-pals.co.uk)  
[www.paw-pals.co.uk/westoxon](http://www.paw-pals.co.uk/westoxon)

## MICHAEL PRICE & SON PLASTERING

58 Ticknell Piece Road  
Charlbury, OX7 3TW

Tel 01608 811642  
Mobile 07710 170049

## GEOFF BOOTH

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

Email: [geoffboothlandscaping@hotmail.com](mailto:geoffboothlandscaping@hotmail.com)



**THAMES VALLEY  
TREE CARE LTD**

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

---

**FREE no obligation quote**

---

**Tel: 01993 891381  
Mob: 07971018279  
Email: info@tvtreecare.co.uk  
www.tvtreecare.co.uk**



**Witney Welding Ltd**

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

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

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

**TEL: 01608 678267  
MOB: 07751 678412  
WITNEYWELDING@OUTLOOK.COM  
WWW.WITNEYWELDING.COM**

**COMPUTER PROBLEM?**

**DON'T WORRY — HELP IS AT HAND!**

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


**RING BOB ON: 01865 880600 / 07768 732123**

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

**Sewing & Alterations**  
**... to make that garment fit you!**

Fittings, hem levels, and a varied range of alteration and sewing work carried out.  
Dresses, Skirts, Tops, Shirts, Jackets, Trousers, Curtains, Cushions and beyond!

**Louise Everett-Brown**  
lou.smiley1@btinternet.com  
01993 813873



*Lighting Your Way Into The Future*

**STEPHEN J. WILEY  
ELECTRICIAN**

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

**NO JOB TOO SMALL**

**Tel (01993) 882778/881409**

90 Main Road, Long Hanborough, Witney, OX29 8JY  
Stephen.Wiley@btconnect.com



**WORCESTER**  
Bosch Group  
Accredited Installer

**GAECO**  
Registered  
Business



# DJR MILES

BATHROOM, PLUMBING & HEATING ENGINEERS LTD

[www.djrmiles.co.uk](http://www.djrmiles.co.uk)



BATHROOM & PLUMBING



GAS & OIL HEATING SYSTEMS



RENEWABLE HEATING SYSTEMS

t: 01993 891533 m: 07860 142230

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





## TOWN & COUNTRY TREES LIMITED



A tree surgery company with  
the integrity you can trust.

Tel: **0845 458 2980**

Mobile: **07976 261850**

Email: **info@townandcountrytrees.co.uk**

**www.townandcountrytrees.co.uk**



## Stonesfield Soap Company

Luxury, natural artisan soap and  
aromatherapy skincare products,

handmade in Stonesfield.

Speciality orders undertaken.

**Tanya Bainbridge**

West Winds, The Ridings,

Stonesfield

01993 891949

*Visits by appointment*

[www.stonesfieldsoap.com](http://www.stonesfieldsoap.com)

[info@stonesfieldsoap.com](mailto:info@stonesfieldsoap.com)



# Perfect Finish

## Hand Ironing Service

- Fully Insured
- Collection & delivery
- Shirt ironing and hanging service
- Clothing, bedding and linen
- Based in Stonesfield

**Contact Marie: 07969 685 479**

**perfectfinishironing@hotmail.com**

**www.perfectfinishironing.co.uk**





## BLenheim PALACE

Blenheim Palace has unveiled a fun-packed calendar of events, exhibitions, new features and activities for all the family to enjoy in 2023. Alongside jousting, the food festival and flower show, there's a host of new activities on offer – all set against the magnificent backdrop of the Oxfordshire UNESCO World Heritage Site. This also includes Nocturne Live, which returns to Blenheim Palace from June 14th - 18th 2023. The 125 million-selling international pop superstar, Lionel Richie, is our first confirmed artist and will be playing at the concert series for not one, but two nights (14th & 15th June). Don't miss out on tickets for this legendary experience.

## BLenheim

### **Blenheim Green Bank: Community Grants and Loans**

We are proud to say we are establishing Blenheim's Green Bank, which will offer funds for local, community projects to improve sustainability and/or adapt to climate change. By creating a Green Bank, it will allow us to better measure achievements and make support more accessible.

The Blenheim Green Loans would be provided exclusively to constituted bodies, such as Town and Parish Councils and are for larger scale projects. The Blenheim Green Community Grants are for smaller scale community projects that promote sustainable environmental benefits, such as planting wildflower verges.



## BLenheim ESTATE

### **Help us to re-plant a woodland to benefit people, wildlife and the environment with a Christmas gift of sponsoring a tree.**

We're on a mission to plant 1,000 trees within our World Heritage Site. With your help, we will plant a variety of native species of hardwoods including oak, cherry, walnut and beech. We only plant native species to protect and support our precious ecological system. Your purchase will help Blenheim plant and care for one tree, from collecting the seed, nurturing it into a sapling, preparing the land, planting, tending to the growing tree and protecting it well into the future.

[blenheimestate.com/sponsor](https://blenheimestate.com/sponsor)

---

Keep up-to-date with our news and latest events by signing up to our newsletter at

**[blenheimpalace.com](https://blenheimpalace.com)**

# FLOWERS

## ESTATE AGENTS



*"The Agent of choice in Woodstock and the surrounding villages "*

*Call 01993 627766 for confidential advice on all property matters.*

RESIDENTIAL SALES & LETTINGS | LAND & NEW HOMES

[woodstock@flowersestateagents.com](mailto:woodstock@flowersestateagents.com) | [flowersestateagents.com](http://flowersestateagents.com)

LONDON HOUSE, 16 OXFORD STREET, WOODSTOCK, OX20 1TJ

# Looking for holiday inspiration?

## THEN JOIN US FOR THE 2<sup>ND</sup>

  
Great Experience Travel Group

### GREAT TRAVEL EXPERIENCES SHOW



We have lined up more than 25 tour operators, airlines, and tourist boards to share their expertise with you covering holiday destinations across the globe whether travelling on a budget or planning the trip of a lifetime.

Whatever your interest from cruise to adventure, ski to safari, coach, rail, flight, city-break, or just lounging on a beach, we'll have experts on hand to help and guide you with information and advice.

**SATURDAY 14TH JANUARY**  
**10.00 – 15.00**  
**WITNEY LAKES RESORT**  
**ENTRANCE IS FREE**

The 2nd Great Experience Travel Great Travel Experiences Show is brought to you in conjunction with Witney Radio.

Please retain this advert – if you book a holiday with one of our selected suppliers as a result of visiting the Show and bring a copy of this advert into the office when you make your booking, you will qualify for a range of special discounts and offers



[www.greatexperiencetravel.co.uk](http://www.greatexperiencetravel.co.uk)





THE PEAR

THE HOLLY AND THE IVY

WHO LOVES A GARDEN LOVES A GREENHOUSE TOO  
WILLIAM COWPER

A GARDEN BELIEVE IN TOMORROW  
AUDREY HEPBURN

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

PARTRIDGE



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

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

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

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

20% STONESFIELD DISCOUNT. ONLINE SHOP: ABLACKBIRDSANG.COM OR CALL 01993 891030



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