



Issue No 536 June 2023

Windrush remembered



Courtesy TopFoto

The arrival of the HMT *Empire Windrush* at Tilbury docks in 1948, bringing more than 800 passengers from the Caribbean, is a moment that shaped modern Britain. On 22 June 2023 we will mark its 75th anniversary. The ship was named after the River Windrush, which runs through Oxfordshire, where it meets the Thames.

Patrick Vernon, Convenor of the Windrush 75 network, has described this 75th anniversary as a 'Diamond Jubilee for modern, diverse Britain.' It is a moment to celebrate four generations of contribution, legacy, struggle and positive change. And it is an opportunity to look to the future too: to understand how far we have come on race and tackling discrimination in our society, and what still needs to change.

Earlier this year, voices from across UK society – from sport and culture to politics, faith and business – shared their thoughts on why Windrush 75 matters and what they will be doing to mark the anniversary this year. Actor Lenny Henry, politician David Lammy, historian David Olusoga and Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Bishop of Dover, are among those showing their support for Windrush 75, alongside Windrush descendants and representatives of the NHS, the FA, English Cricket Board, Tesco and Royal Mail which will issue a set of special stamps in June to mark the Windrush anniversary.

Institutions and communities across the country will be marking Windrush 75 in a big way this year, particularly on 22 June, which is National Windrush Day.

Continued on pages 25-27

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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.

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Dates for your June diary:

1,5,8,12,15	Taekwondo	Village Hall	5.30-6.30pm
1,7,8,14,15	Hannah Bathe HIIT Class	Village Hall	7-8pm
2,9,16,23,30	Baby & Toddlers Group	Village Hall	10am-12noon
3	Community Café	Village Hall	10am-2pm
3	Repair Café	Village Hall	11am-2pm
3	Women at War exhibition	Woodstock Museum	
3-4	Open Gardens / Flower Festival	Wootton Hall/Church	see p12
5,12,19,26	Monday Coffee	St James' Centre	8.45-11.30am
6,13,20,27	Seniors' Café	Village Hall	3-4pm
6,13,20,27	Spring Social	Village Hall	5-7pm
6,13,20,27	Zumba	Village Hall	7-8pm
6,13,20,27	Strong Nation HIIT	Village Hall	8.15-9.15pm
6,20	Carers Café	Village Hall	10-12noon
7,14,21,28	Gatehouse Pilates	Village Hall	9.30-10.30am
7,14,21,28	Folk Dancing	Village Hall	7:45-10pm
9-11	Folk Dance 51st Dance Weekend	Village Hall	see p8
10	Methodist Teas	Methodist Church	2-4.30pm
12	Gardening Club talk	St James' Centre	7.30pm
16-17	Handmade Oxford Crafts Festival	Waterperry Gardens	10am-5pm
17	Christening display	St James' Church	9am-5pm
18	800th Anniv Service of Celebration	St James' Church	11am
18	Jarisel concert	St James' Church	4pm
18	Handmade Oxford Crafts Festival	Waterperry Gardens	10am-4pm
18	Bridewell Open gardens	Wilcote OX7 3DT	11am
19	Neighbourhood Plan Public Meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm
19,22,26,29	Taekwondo	Village Hall	5.30-6.30pm
21,22,28,29	Hannah Bathe HIIT Class	Village Hall	7-8pm
24-25	Roman Villa Open Day	North Leigh	11am-5pm
30	Plaza Suite – Stonesfield Players	Village Hall	7 for 7.30pm
30	Romeo and Juliet	Churchill OX7 6PH	see p11

Notices & news

A BIG thank you for the Big Help Out

At the Village Hall on 8 May, no less than 21 groups and organisations that work with volunteers in the village brought their displays and great activities, and a drizzly afternoon turned into a very unusual mix of over a hundred happy people and a lot of fun.



I would like to give huge thanks to all the groups and the dozens of people involved in showing all the things that volunteers do for our village. I want to specially mention Jane Rust for resolutely supporting the whole venture from its beginning in March, Julie Curran for great ideas and masterminding the kitchen and its wonderful cakes, Claire Renshaw for designing our posters and Richard Morris for his brilliant pullout-and-keep

supplement for the May Slate which detailed 28 voluntary groups. And the Scouts for energetically keeping us entertained!



And finally, I want to acknowledge all those who don't belong to our volunteer groups, but quietly do things to help people on an individual level.

This day was meant to be just the start of celebrating volunteers and encouraging more people to take it up, and happily several of our groups have reported new recruits since the Big Help Out. The donations we received (but hadn't asked for) will go to village charities.

Viv Kendall (891803)

Dates for your July diary:

1	Plaza Suite – Stonesfield Players	Village Hall	7 for 7.30pm
1	Romeo and Juliet	Churchill OX7 6PH	see p11
2	Summer Fete	Primary School	12-4pm
8	Chrissie's Owls	Village Hall	10am-2pm
8	Charity Bike Day	Stonesfield Playing Field	2-11pm
15	Scouts' Duck Race	River	5pm

Stonesfield Repair Café



We repair things! The Repair Café began as an environmental and community project. So many things get thrown away when they go wrong because we don't know how to fix them, but there are many people in our community who have expert skills which they are willing to volunteer. Could you be a repairer? We need you, especially if you have electronics or sharpening skills.

So far we have saved over 170kg from going to landfill. It's a small step to reducing waste, but satisfying for both parties when something that was broken is mended and works again. Seventy per cent of the items which come to us get repaired.

The café runs every three months in the Village Hall, in conjunction with Stonesfield Community Café which provides hot and cold drinks, delicious cakes and light lunches. The next event will be held on Saturday 3 June at 11am - 2pm.



This month The Village Refill are coming with a stall. Based in Yarnton, they are a dedicated zero waste shop stocking a wide range of refillable earth-friendly, vegan, cruelty-free and organic household cleaning and health and beauty products. Containers will be available to purchase, or bring your own.

For information contact stonesfieldrepaircafe@gmail.com.

White Horse update



There was a good turnout for the second Stonesfield Community Pub AGM on Sunday 14 May. It was encouraging to see how much support there is in the village for the campaign, and we are very grateful to all of those who came along.

The pub group has made an offer to the owner, and is currently waiting for a response.

If you would like to know more about the campaign to buy the White Horse into community ownership, or would like to support the effort by purchasing shares, please visit our website www.backthewhitehorse.com.

Steve Callaghan (07910 866732)
Chair, Stonesfield Community Pub Group

St James the Great Church 800th anniversary

Do come and join in the weekend of celebrations!

Saturday 17th June

9am – 5pm Christening display – gowns, attire, gifts, photos

Come and enjoy the special Christening display in the church, complete with photos and stories of the special event! At the same time, have a look around at the wonderful building – the oldest in the village – and chat to others over refreshments. There is still time to offer an item for the display – please be in touch as soon as possible, with Lindsey Sellar. stonesfield@stonesfieldparishchurch.org or Sarah Plumridge (891163) bolivern@icloud.com.

Sunday 18th June

11am Service of celebration and thanksgiving

A very special time to join together in worship and thanks.

4pm Celebratory concert in the church

Jarisel, a group of 4 local musicians with an international reputation, present an exciting and exhilarating feast of folk music from the Scottish, Irish, French, Italian and Latin American traditions. They will play a variety of instruments (cello, accordion, keyboard, violin, Hardanger fiddle, bodhran) and voice. The concert is suitable for children aged 7 upwards.

Tickets £10, children free (but everyone needs a ticket). Available now by emailing stonesfield@stonesfieldparishchurch.org, after the 11am church service on Sundays,

or on the door if still available. A concert not to be missed!

Lindsey Sellar

stonesfield@stonesfieldparishchurch.org



Chrissie's Owls

July's Community Café will be to raise awareness of, and funds for, Stonesfield-based Chrissie's Owls and Stonesfield Owl Rescue. Join us at the Community Café at Stonesfield Village Hall on Saturday 8 July; please note the change of date. Enjoy a cuppa with friends or pop along for a takeaway cake.

Chrissie's Owls and Stonesfield Owl Rescue are committed to the care and conservation of the UK's native species of owls, as well as to the rescue and rehabilitation of injured owls and other birds of prey.

Opportunities for Chrissie to raise awareness of her work and the birds in her



care are few, and restrictions still continue due to the avian influenza outbreak. We hope to have some stalls and a couple of owls there too. This is an opportunity to meet Chrissie, to find out more about Chrissie's Owls and the Rescue's work.

If you are able to support this event by baking cake, or volunteering in the Village Hall kitchen on the morning of the Café, please contact Chrissie on chrissiesowls@gmail.com or 01993 891618.

To find out more, please visit www.Chrissiesowls.com.

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Stonesfield Pre-School

We are pleased to announce our 100 Club winners for the May draw.

- | | | |
|-----------|----------------|--------|
| 1st Prize | No 82 J Brown | £25.00 |
| 2nd Prize | No 91 T Turner | £10.00 |

Congratulations to you both.

Zena Rozee (898012)
Pre-School Administrator

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Charity Bike Day

A date for your diary: 8 July at Stonesfield playing field from 2-11pm – we are running this event again and hopefully this year the weather will be more clement and not quite as hot as last year. Please come along and enjoy yourselves, and take a look at the varied motorbikes attending. We will come around during the event asking for

contributions to raise funds to support our chosen charities: The British Heart Foundation, Cancer Research and several local charities yet to be announced.

The Stonesfield Sports & Social Club will provide an all-day bar and food will be available for purchase. Scoops Ice Cream will also be attending and various bands will be playing during the afternoon and evening for your entertainment.

We look forward to seeing you all there.

Andy Gillam, Fred Dore, George Williams and Roger Evins (891715)

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Village Hall News

News

As some of you may have noticed, the Winter Warmer changed its name to the Spring Social on its return in April. They are still supplying a weekly evening of activities, with a delicious social supper provided by Stonesfield Food Group, but don't take my word for it. With the lighter evenings why not find out for yourselves and pop along to the next evening?

Community Café

We had a Repair Café running again in March which was another great success: over 50 people through the door and over £400 raised in donations. And we have another one due on Saturday 3 June.

In July we will have the Community Café running on 8 July, raising money on behalf of Chrissies Owls – keep your eyes peeled for updates and posters.

Do get in touch if you would like to take advantage of our venue with its FREE Community Café slot for August, October or in 2024. If there is a cause you are

passionate about, this is an excellent opportunity to raise money for it.

Carers Café

On the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, the Carers Café is for anyone that would like the escapism – to pause, take a breath and smell the coffee. Everyone needs some time out, so do stop by, take some time for yourself and relax in a warm and friendly environment.

Jacqueline Carthew (898919)

Secretary & Booking Clerk for Stonesfield Village Hall

stonesfieldvh@gmail.com

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Folk Dance Weekend

The Stonesfield Folk Dance Club has its 51st Folk Dance Weekend on 9-11 June. On Friday night the dancing is from 7.30-10 pm; on Saturday sessions go on from 10.30 am to 10.30 pm, and the weekend winds up on Sunday around 3pm. If you are interested, please go to www.stonesfieldfolkdance.danceorg.uk for more information. If you aren't able to make that date, don't forget they have a weekly dance every Wednesday from 8pm – 10pm.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support.

Jacqueline Carthew (898919)

Secretary & Booking Clerk for Stonesfield Village Hall

stonesfieldvh@gmail.com

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Plaza Suite: The Stonesfield Players

After its recent revival on Broadway, The Stonesfield Players are bringing to you Neil Simon's classic comedy, Plaza Suite. This uproarious and piercing look at love and marriage portrays three couples who each occupy the same suite at the famed Plaza Hotel, New York at various times of the year.

Performances will take place on Friday 30 June and Saturday 1 July starting at 7.30; doors open from 7pm.

Tickets for both nights are £10 and are available from 1 June from Suriya Express (payment by cash or cheque only) or from Andrew Tacon on andrew.tacon@outlook.com, 01993 891217 or 07795 441986.

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Thank you from Maggie's Oxford



During the month of April, Maggie's Oxford invited dog walkers to strut with their mutt 100km throughout April, in celebration of National Pets Month and to help raise money for their local Maggie's Centre. Some of you may have noticed Sasha out and about, wearing her orange 'I'm Strutting for Maggie's' bandana!

In total, we managed to strut 113.14 km, which is approximately the walking distance from Stonesfield to London. And we raised £531, plus £80 Gift Aid donations for Maggie's Oxford

Set up by Maggie Keswick Jencks with her husband Charles, Maggie's Centres offer support to anyone who has cancer or who has been treated for cancer, as well as their family and friends. Everyone can visit a Maggie's Centre; you do not need a referral and all support is free; plus you have the opportunity to meet other people in similar circumstances in a relaxed and beautiful setting. Maggie's Centres are built at the invitation of NHS Trusts, and usually in the grounds of hospitals with oncology departments. Maggie's Oxford is at the Churchill site.

Thank you to everyone who has sponsored us: your kindness will help to support so many people, just like they have done for us. Thank you.

Jane, Dan & Sasha O'Gorman

Woodstock on-street parking charges

From 1 June, charges will apply for on-street parking in the centre of Woodstock, and will be in effect from 8am to 6pm, seven days a week. If you need to park in the town centre you are advised to check signs or parking machines for information.

From 1 June, you can park free of charge for up to one hour in a paid-for bay on a street in Woodstock, but you will still need to take a ticket from one of the machines and display it clearly in your car. This one-hour free parking is only available on your first visit to any paid-for parking bay on any one day, and is not available in

resident permit holder bays unless otherwise stated on the signs.

If you want to park for longer than one hour, you will need to enter the time you want to stay on one of the parking machines and pay: £1 for 1-2 hours, £2 for 2-3 hours or £5 for 3-4 hours.

For shorter visits, users can park in 30-minute bays located outside the post office or Co-op without the need to display a parking ticket.

Bridewell Gardens



Bridewell Gardens, a local mental health recovery service, will be holding an Open Day on 18 June when the walled garden and vineyard will be open to the public.

There will be a pop-up café in the garden for tea and cake and high-quality plants, home-produced jams and chutneys, and organic sparkling wine will be on sale. Make a day of it: bring a picnic blanket and relax in the vineyard with friends and family. Dogs on leads are very welcome, and families and children are encouraged to explore the site.

No booking is required and the suggested donation is £5 per person. Further Open Days will take place in July and September.

Rachel Green

Bridewell Gardens, Wilcote OX7 3DT

Crafts Festival at Waterperry Gardens



Handmade Oxford will be holding its third annual crafts festival at Waterperry Gardens between 16-18 June.

This event will bring together over 150 UK-based makers and feature a curated selection of arts and crafts including jewellery, fashion and textiles, ceramics, glass and sculpture.

There is also a programme of workshops, demonstrations and talks. Live music will be performed by local musicians and artisan food will be available. More information and ticket booking is available at www.handmadeinbritain.co.uk.

Branwen Bindra
Handmade in Britain

New book launch for local author

A new book, launched on the first May bank holiday weekend in collaboration with the Woodstock Bookshop and Darle and the Bear Gallery, is *28 Days of Positivity: How to crush negativity and release a lifetime of greatness in less than*

a month. It is an evidence-based self-help guide that aims to help readers reduce anxiety and live a more fulfilling and joyful life.

The author, Zeena Hicks, signed copies of the book and met local residents, dignitaries, and readers. Leader of the West Oxfordshire District Council, Councillor Andy Graham, Jane Evans, Head of Wychwood School, Oxford, and Reverend Jeremy Auld, of St Mary Magdalene, Woodstock, were present. Attendees had the opportunity to learn more about the inspiration behind the book and to ask the author questions about the benefits of embracing positive psychology to maintain good mental health.



Darle and the Bear Gallery hosted the event, and guests were able to browse their new spring collection. *28 Days of Positivity* has already received positive reviews from early readers, who praise its practical, easy-to-apply steps and inspiring messages.

The book is now available for purchase at The Woodstock Bookshop and on Amazon. For more information, please visit www.zeenahicks.com.

Women and War: From the Fringes to the Front Line

Women & War: From the Fringes to the Front Line is a new exhibition opening on 3 June 2023 at the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock.



Women & War will explore the diverse experiences of women who have been involved with all aspects of military life, from the 'fringes' of history to those now taking on frontline roles in the armed forces today.

It will include personal items belonging to individual women including the youngest pilot in the county in 1937, the first female chaplain in the RAF, women members of the famous Special Operations Executive (SOE) and the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry, infantry and special forces.

Contributions to The Slate

The editorial team and publishers are conscious that not everyone has access to email and/or a computer. If you are in this situation and would like to submit something for publication, please get in touch with the Editor in order to make alternative arrangements. We are happy to collect something handwritten from you or to take it down over the phone. The Editor's name and contact number appear on page 2 of each issue.

Romeo and Juliet



Students of the Oxford School of Drama will be performing local man William Shakespeare's play, *Romeo and Juliet*, in the garden at Sarsden Glebe, Churchill, OX7 6PH on:

Friday 30 June: Doors open 5.00pm for drinks on the lawn; the performance will start at 6.00pm

Saturday 1 July: Doors open at 4.00pm for tea on the lawn and the performance will start at 5.00pm.

Tickets are £20 per head, and all proceeds go to the Oxford School of Drama Hardship Fund.

Please RSVP to gemma_chandler@hotmail.co.uk with your request for number of tickets and the evening you would like to attend. Confirmation of tickets and payment details will be sent to you by email.

The performance is open-air, chairs are provided but do wear warm clothes. Bring your own picnic (if you wish) to eat in the garden afterwards. The play lasts about an hour and three quarters, so there is still plenty of daylight for your picnic.

For any further information please call Rupert or Amanda Ponsonby on 01608 658224.

Wootton Open Gardens and Flower Festival

The Wootton Open Gardens and Flower Festival will be held on Saturday 3 June at 2–5pm, and Sunday 4 June at 10am–1pm and 2–5.30pm.

Garden tickets are £6 and they will be on sale at St Mary’s Church, which will house the Flower Festival and displays of crafts. The Festival’s theme is Village Crafts, past and present.

Afternoon teas will be available in Wootton Village Hall, and ice-creams at the Village Stores. Proceeds will be in aid of the Parish Churches of Wootton, Glympton and Kiddington.

Ann Leggett (813005)

Citizens Advice calls for volunteers to help in cost-of-living crisis

Citizens Advice needs volunteers now more than ever, to help make a difference to local people during the cost-of-living crisis. Last year the charity saw unprecedented demand, supporting 8,823 people in West Oxfordshire. It can only do this work thanks to its 41 volunteers.



Witney CA Team in front of Witney office

Three quarters of people who turned to us for crisis support in 2022 did so for the first time, and the number of employed people seeking this kind of support has more than tripled since 2020. We’re talking to people who literally don’t know where else to turn. And we know our advice can really make a difference in helping families find a way forward.

Our volunteers give and gain a great deal. They love the fact that they are helping their community and meet so many different people. It also gives them experience in the charity sector, a sense of purpose and some move into paid roles.

We are looking for volunteers from all backgrounds and of all ages across Oxfordshire who can give their time to help people struggling with energy prices, rising household bills, debt and housing issues. No experience is necessary, as full training will be provided. You need to have a desire to help, an ability to engage with people and use a computer. You’ll receive lots of support from our supervisors and fellow volunteers too.

Andrew, a volunteer at Citizens Advice West Oxfordshire said:

‘When I left work, I didn’t want to just retire. Volunteering on the national telephone Adviceline means I get to talk to people, I hear their concerns, and I help them to identify and explore the different options available to them. It’s really rewarding. Each call is different, and it’s great to know that I’m continuing to help people navigate through life’s challenges.’

To find out more, visit:
www.citizensadvicewestoxon.org or get in touch with
training@citizensadvicewestoxon.org.uk.

Murder in Village Hall



A brutal murder took place in the Village Hall on Friday 19 May whilst almost 100 residents looked on.

After much sleuthing, eating and drinking the village 'detectives' made their decision. One table correctly identified the murderer, who was promptly applauded!

It was a hugely enjoyable evening. Our thanks go to The Stonesfield Players for the entertainment and Septemberfest committee for organising it and for the excellent food and drink.

We hope they made a killing.

Paul Bates

Police and community support

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

2023 ————— Sat/Sun 1st & 2nd July

Combe Art Show

10am-4pm

Come join us at the Combe Reading room to celebrate the talent of over 10 local artists!

Neighbourhood Watch

Say no to antisocial behaviour

Are you and your neighbours plagued by antisocial behaviour (ASB)? Whether it is fly-tipping, noise nuisance, household disputes, harassment and intimidation or environmental issues, look at www.ourwatch.org.uk/asb for guidance on how to recognise it and what to do about it. This site offers a free ASB diary for recording events and a guide to recognising, recording and reporting antisocial behaviour.

Anyone interested in joining the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme may find details and register at: www.member-registration.neighbourhoodalert.co.uk/30/Join. Click on 'Join a scheme' and select 'Stonesfield'.

Deanna Asplundh
Stonesfield Neighbourhood Watch
Coordinator

Politics & local affairs

Stonesfield Parish Council

Parish Council meeting of 10 May 2023

This year was an election year for the parish council. Following an uncontested election and two co-options, the following are now councillors for this parish:

Eleanor Bailey, David Brown, Mick Heduan, Jim O'Brien, Phil McArdell, Simon Powell, Simon Warr.

The Council gave a warm welcome to our new councillor Simon Warr, and thanks to all councillors for taking on this voluntary position to support and do the best for the parish. We would also like to send sincere thanks to Wendy Gould and Geraldine Lawrence who stood down as councillors this term. They have both contributed immensely to the council for many years.

Phil McArdell was elected as Chairman of the council, and David Brown was elected as Vice Chairman of the council.

All the election results are now available on the council's website at www.westoxon.gov.uk/about-the-council/elections-and-voting/election-results/.

Finance

The council has just completed the first round of audit, in which an external auditor checks the finance and processes of the council. This has been successful so we now move to the second phase of external audit, which will be completed no later than 30 September. Copies of the audit

paperwork and the finance of the council will be available to read on the website.

The parish council awarded three grants at this meeting:

Stonesfield Food Group - £500.

Septemberfest – £500

Playing Fields Association – £2,000

Planning

23/00693/FUL Daniel Hobbs, Skyfall Church Street – construction of dwelling – Comment from council is that this is a regular development, and if this had been done in a single larger development (rather than individually) we would have been likely to get some financial contribution to the village. The development has had a cumulative effect. There are however no planning grounds for the council to object on this application.

Date of the next full council meeting

– 7 June 2023, 7pm at Stonesfield Primary School and all are welcome.

Annual Parish Meeting

Following the regular council meeting on 10 May the council held its Annual Parish Meeting.

Chairman's report

The Chairman thanked the council and noted that to be a councillor was a voluntary role. The Chairman also thanked outgoing councillors Wendy Gould and Geraldine Lawrence for their many years of service.

Financially the council has had a healthy year and has given numerous grants including grants to the Stonesfield tree planting group, Citizens Advice, the Neighbourhood Plan group, the Scouts, Chrissie's Owls, Stonesfield Voluntary Transport Scheme and the Playing Fields Association.

A grant has been secured for the Neighbourhood Plan group and superb progress has been made; thanks to all those involved.

The Chairman recorded thanks to the SAFER working group for all their hard work; particularly to Cllr Mick Heduan who leads this group for the council.

Our District and County Councillors attended the meeting and their updates can be found on the website in the minutes.

The council received reports from representatives of several groups in the village: thanks to all those attending the meeting who gave reports. Those reports will be in full in the minutes on the web. They include reports from the school, the Neighbourhood Plan group, the Common group, the Voluntary Transport Scheme, the Big Help Out event, the Gardening Club and the village website. The parish council also wished to add thanks directly to Paul Bates, who continues to support us very well with website support and regular updates, which are much appreciated.

Solar Panels - Stop Botley West

Two representatives from the Stop Botley West (Solar Farm) campaign group attended the meeting to give an update on the proposal, which has caused a lot of

discussion. It will of course affect the local area and will particularly impact Bladon.

Some of the aspects highlighted were: The claim about carbon dioxide in the atmosphere being reduced when panels are installed does not include the offset in creating the solar farm. The panels will be coming from China. There are some suggestions it can take 25 years before any offset is reached. At the moment only 10% of solar panels are recycled, so there is an issue of waste at end of use.

There is a local impact on fields covered in solar panels; an impact on biodiversity and on the land underneath the panels. There is also an issue of these solar sites feeding into the National Grid, as there is not substation capacity; the solar park would need its own substation.

The big issue is that the panels would be going on 3500 acres of agricultural land. It's questioned whether this is the right time to give up agricultural land when it could be done differently – the panels could go on business roofs, houses and there is plenty of space for them to go elsewhere.

If it goes ahead this farm will be by far the largest in Europe. Solar power is very inefficient in the UK, which has variable amounts of sun and the efficiency is estimated as less than 25%. The other options – nuclear and wind – are more efficient. Solar power is not available all the time so a reliable backup source would be needed.

The Stop Botley West campaign is not saying don't do solar; it is questioning doing it on this scale, in this place, at this time.

Blenheim is contributing 80% of the land for this development and Merton College is contributing a small amount; plus a much smaller contribution from two farming companies.

Decisions on the proposed solar farm will not be made locally. The hearings will take place over a period of 12 months. The planning decision and recommendation will go to the Secretary of State so the final decision will be made at that level by one person. The Stop Botley West group is trying to generate as much coverage as possible to stop this before that level is reached.

The parish council and individual residents are encouraged to respond to the consultation with their views. The campaign group also asks residents to keep close to the County and District councils and to write to their MP with views. The parish council will keep up to date with information and a councillor will try and attend all meetings and report updates.

A link to the group, with all the latest information, can be found here:
www.stopbotleywest.com/.

Councillor priority fund

Applications to the County Councillor priority fund have reopened. For more details see Cllr Andy Graham's report on page 20. Please contact Cllr Andy Graham to apply to this fund (not via the parish council).

Verge cutting and 'no mow May'

Oxfordshire County Council is again supporting 'no mow May' and encouraging participation, see Cllr Andy Graham's report on page 21. This parish is taking part.

Hydrogen-powered fire engines

As a general update residents may be interested to hear that Oxfordshire is taking part in a pioneering project to develop hydrogen-powered fire engines.

Grants and cost of living

Sustainable Warmth Grants: Funding for residents without mains gas, and household incomes of less than £30,000 (or in receipt of means-tested benefits) is still available.

Grants for care workers: Cost of living grants remain available for care workers.

Grants are available via Oxfordshire County Council and West Oxfordshire DC. Please contact the clerk if you are struggling to get through to the right people.

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

Neighbourhood Plan

Here are a few of the many and varied comments made in response to the survey in March. They represent the main themes of people's concerns, but of course there were plenty of other topics raised.

'Manage housing development in a balanced but realistic way. Focus upon building homes for people who most need it and at a price that is really affordable! Increase council tax for second/holiday homes.'

'Higher quality, more contemporary design is achievable and should be required of developers.'

'Some means of controlling creeping development, as seen in Farley Lane. Some

means of ensuring adequate infrastructure is in place before any further development in the village.’

‘The pub, for me is essential for community cohesion and building stronger relationships between residents.’

‘Community-owned renewable energy schemes such as wind, solar and geothermal.’

‘I would like to see the village attain a dark sky status in accordance with the International Dark Sky Association.’

‘Improve bus reliability and reduce cancelled buses. A bus service to Witney so that our young people can get to the town for leisure, education, etc.’

‘I strongly support the use of dedicated cycle paths.’

‘Clean up the river, stop the discharge of sewage into it by Thames Water.’

We are now combing through the magnificent set of responses to collect data and statistics for all the topics raised by the survey. Once we have the final scores for each response, we can start work on writing the policies which will reflect your answers. The policies will not be dreamt up by the writing team; they will be based on what you have told us in your response to the survey. This stage of writing the Plan will take many months and be done by a team of volunteers. Please contact us if you would like to be involved.

We want to be as open and accountable as possible throughout the process of writing the Neighbourhood Plan. We are therefore holding an **Open Meeting on Monday 19 June**, at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. Please come and ask us questions about what we’re doing and why. There will be slides, explanations, and invitations for

people to challenge our methods and hold us to task. We are working on behalf of the village (at the request of the Parish Council) to create this Plan, and we want you all to be involved at every stage through public consultation and information sharing. We look forward to seeing you there.

Caroline Friend

info@stonesfieldplan.com

SAFER update

Community Speedwatch



SAFER’s stand at the Big Help Out on 8 May generated some interest in Community Speedwatch (CSW). As a result, a couple of residents volunteered to join CSW and have started their online training. However, to be more effective more volunteers are still needed. This will enable CSW to run three or four times a week from May until November, when poor weather and light will stop us.

If you want to make our village a safer place for all residents, then you could help by becoming a CSW volunteer. You will receive full training, be issued with personal protective equipment and be covered by Thames Valley Police’s and Stonesfield Parish Council’s insurance.

You can volunteer for as little as one hour per month and you are able to choose when you want to help... any time during daylight hours. Email SAFER for more information.

Pond Hill

In March Liana Kitova (local parent) and Cllr Michael Heduan (Stonesfield Parish Council and SAFER Chair) conducted a survey of risks for pedestrians in and around Pond Hill. As a result of this a report was prepared by SAFER for the Parish Council and Cllr Andy Graham (Oxfordshire County Council). With their support this report was presented to Oxfordshire Highways.

On May 9, James Wright (Oxfordshire Highways), Cllr Andy Graham, Cllr Michael Heduan and Paul Bates (SAFER) met in Pond Hill to explore options for improving pedestrian safety, particularly for school children.

It was agreed that Oxfordshire Highways would work on a staged plan to make changes outside the shop and on the narrow section of Pond Hill below Pumbro.

Potholes

These should be reported direct to Oxfordshire Council using their website. www.fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk. It is best if you take and upload photographs of the problem.

Fly tipping

This should be reported direct to West Oxfordshire Council using their website. www.westoxon.gov.uk/environment/fly-tipping/.

As well as the more obvious examples, the following all count as fly-tipping: leaving items:

- beside street bins and recycling banks.
- on the floor of communal bin areas.
- outside closed recycling centres and charity shops.

SAFER (Stonesfield Action for Enhanced Road safety)

A Stonesfield Parish Council working group

www.stonesfield.online/safer/

Safer@stonesfieldpc.uk

From our WODC Councillor

I must firstly congratulate my newly elected colleague for the Stonesfield and Tackley Ward, Tim Sumner, who I know will be dedicated in helping the parishes of Stonesfield, Combe, Tackley and Wootton. Thank you to all who voted for him, and in doing so gave me someone really positive to work with!

Reflecting on the first year of a new administration, I feel the majority of the council's priorities are on track. We have a new local plan in the making which should mean we have a clear vision up until 2041. The purchase of Marriott's Walk, the shopping area in Witney, means we now have a bit more control to support our local economy and keep it within the hands of local people.

We have made significant progress with Thames Water who, in what I believe to be a nationwide first for a District Council, are now sitting down with our Councillor for Environment to try to work a way to prevent river and waterways pollution.

We have also successfully installed ground-breaking broadcasting technology within some of our committee rooms, with a plan to do the same in a new-look council chamber, which means everyone will be able to remotely access our meetings. This

will also mean the spaces can be booked for a variety of functions for the community such as meetings and weddings; all from a central government grant.

I look forward to working with Tim and the local communities in the coming year and, as ever, I would encourage anyone who needs to get in touch to do so via my email address.

Mathew Parkinson

mathew.parkinson@westoxon.gov.uk

News from West Oxfordshire

West Oxfordshire Alliance

Following the local elections on 4 May, the Liberal Democrat, Labour and Green Groups have agreed to form an administration to run the County Council; known locally as the West Oxfordshire Alliance. No single political party gained an overall majority (i.e. 25 of the 49 seats). The breakdown of councillors by party was Liberal Democrats 18, Conservative 17, Labour / Labour and Cooperative 10, Green 3 and one independent.

West Oxfordshire's Local Plan

WODC has released a consultation summary report for its emerging Local Plan, following a 6-week public consultation held from August to October last year. The consultation was designed to give people an early say on what key issues they would like the new Local Plan to address.

Over 5,000 people visited the consultation site, and 441 people and organisations responded. There were also 1,143 contributions and comments made, and just under 3,000 people signed up for news updates.

The Council also organised face-to-face events for Town and Parish Councils and stakeholders, where they discussed tackling the climate and ecological emergency; promoting healthy, safe, strong, and inclusive communities; enhancing the natural and built environment; creating attractive, accessible, and thriving places; meeting the housing needs of all; and cultivating a vibrant, resilient, and diverse local economy.

The events and the consultation site aimed also to gather responses on specific measures that the plan may introduce, such as delivering affordable homes and zero-carbon standards for new buildings. All six themes received strong overall support, along with largely positive feedback on the specific ideas identified under each theme.

The Council's current Local Plan, which covers the 2011-2031 period, was adopted in September 2018. The new plan will extend to 2041, to ensure that it sets out clear plans of action for important issues such as the climate and ecological emergencies.

The public will have further opportunities to contribute: the next consultation is scheduled for the summer and will focus on turning the ideas generated from the last consultation into specific aims and objectives; opening discussions on how and where the District might develop in the future; and gathering suggestions on potential new land uses such as housing, employment, green space and renewable energy.

In November, the Council will gather feedback on preferred policy options and then aims to publish a final draft

plan between late spring and early summer of 2024.

For more information on WODC's emerging Local Plan and to access the full consultation report, please visit www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-plan-2041/.

Market Towns study

West Oxfordshire District Council has commissioned Heartflood, specialists in place management and development, to identify potential projects to support West Oxfordshire's market towns. As part of this work, Heartflood is conducting a survey to gather the views of the public, businesses and other local organisations.

The projects will be undertaken under the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which is part of the Government's Levelling Up agenda, and aim to improve employment and skill-building opportunities. WODC has received £1 million from the UKSPF over three years. The Council is committed to supporting local businesses, improving visitors' experience and addressing the needs of the local community. Revitalising town centres is one of its key priorities, with potential projects including improved signage, better information for visitors and support for independent businesses.

For more information and to contribute your views, please visit www.westoxon.gov.uk/spf.

From our County Councillor

Councillor priority fund: Applications to the councillor priority fund have reopened. The application process has slightly changed, requiring an online application and an email/letter of support

of the councillor. Eligible organisations include, registered charities, not-for-profit companies, community or voluntary groups, and parish councils/meetings. Grants cannot be made to individuals, profit-making organisations and private limited companies. Projects seeking funding must be deliverable by March 2025.

Electric Vehicle Chargers: OCC is set to receive £3.6 million to rollout EV charging points across the county. The priority will be to provide charging points in rural areas and where off-street home charging is not possible. Community organisations (e.g., parishes, village halls) may be able to take ownership of the charging points to provide them as a community asset and deliver a revenue stream. Further details will follow.

Air Quality Strategy: An OCC air quality strategy (long term) and 'route map' (short term) has been developed. While monitoring of air quality is a district responsibility, the Environment Act 2021 places a responsibility on the County Council to support districts and reduce air pollution. An information campaign will follow, which will include information on indoor pollution and log burning fires.

Social care: OCC runs a 'shared lives' carer scheme whereby approved Oxfordshire residents, with space in their own home, care for a person with learning difficulties, mental health problems or other needs that make independent living difficult. Carers can offer to provide one-off respite care, or longer-term care and everything in between. The scheme has been running successfully since 2020. More information for anyone interested can be found on OCC website.

A scheme to match older residents with a spare room with younger people looking for alternative accommodation, called Homeshare, which also runs as a way to provide older people with additional support / company. Both schemes are examples of the 'Oxfordshire Way' to allow people to live independently in their communities.

Verge cutting and 'no mow May': Oxfordshire County Council is again supporting 'no mow May' and encouraging participation. Due to the amount of verge cutting required, OCC has an updated maintenance schedule to prioritise biodiversity. However, OCC is not able to put away its mowers for a full month and still meet its schedule of work, meaning some areas will be cut in May. Verges that need to be cut to maintain public safety

will be cut back multiple times if necessary.

Household waste strategy: Consultation closed on HWRC strategy 2023-2043. The strategy replaces the 2015 Conservative HWRC strategy which aimed to close local sites and deliver 3 or 4 super sites. The new strategy aims to retain the current 7 sites. The strategy encourages re-use and repair, rather than disposal in the first instance.

Hydrogen powered fire engines: Oxfordshire is taking part in a pioneering project to develop hydrogen powered fire engines.

Sustainable Warmth Grants: Funding for residents without mains gas, and household incomes of less than £30,000 (or in receipt of means-tested benefits) is still available.

Grants for care workers: Cost of living grants remain available for care workers.

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

Our green space is on track for a wild summer
with #NoMowMay

We're locking up our lawnmower this May and letting long grass and wild plants grow naturally. This will provide a much-needed boost for wild plants and other wildlife throughout summer.

Join the No Mow May movement at plantlife.org.uk/nomowmay

NO MOW MAY
Plantlife

From our MP

Social housing update

The Government has launched a new campaign called Make Things Right, which draws attention to what can be done about problems with social housing. The campaign ran until the end of April but its website is still open, and covers what steps residents can take if they are unhappy with the service from their landlord.

The website also explains the coming Charter for Social Housing Residents, which holds that residents should expect to:

- Be safe in their home
- Know how their landlord is performing
- Have their complaints dealt with promptly and fairly
- Be treated with respect, backed by a strong consumer regulator for tenants

- Have their voice heard by their landlord
- Have a good quality home and neighbourhood to live in
- Be supported to take their first step to ownership.

The website is

www.socialhousingcomplaints.campaign.gov.uk.

Funding for schools

The Government has announced that schools across Oxfordshire will receive £2.8 million in extra funding in May 2023.

Robert Courts

robert@robertcourts.co.uk

The logo for Stonesfield Pre-School & Daycare features the name in a colorful, multi-colored font. 'Stonesfield' is in a larger, multi-colored font, and 'Pre-School & Daycare' is in a smaller, multi-colored font below it.

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
(£6.50 per session) Cereal, toast and fruit juice included

Pre-School Sessions

9am – 3pm daily for children aged 2–4 years (£17.50 per session)

After School Club

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday; 3.15 – 6pm
(£16.50 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)

Education, culture & more

Stonesfield Primary School

From the headteacher

Hi everyone. I have now settled into the role of headteacher at Stonesfield School and accepted the permanent position, so I thought I would let you know a little more about myself and my background in education.

I began my teaching in Croydon in 2001, teaching a lovely Year 2 class at a school called Castle Hill Primary School. I did not have ambitions to be a teacher but my dad, a secondary English teacher, convinced me that I would enjoy it and, after a year in the role, I knew he had been right. I spent the next six years teaching Key Stage 1 classes at schools in London, before moving to Hastings in 2007 to take up a leadership role as Key Stage 1 Leader.

In 2010 I became Deputy Head of Sandown School, a large 2 form entry primary school in Hastings. Shortly after I accepted the job, the school was inspected and judged inadequate by Ofsted. The headteacher resigned and I was Acting Headteacher until a permanent appointment could be made. Together with the new head, we moved the school rapidly from an inadequate judgement to a good judgement.

With this achievement behind me, I moved on to my first headship in 2015. I became head of Westfield School, a one-form entry, rural primary school in a village just outside Hastings. I spent more than 7 years at Westfield School and really enjoyed the

challenges the role brought, as well as becoming part of the village and community.

Because of the great experience I had at Westfield School, when I needed to relocate to be closer to family, I looked for a rural school again and found Stonesfield. The welcome here has been so warm and I am looking forward to working with the staff and community to make Stonesfield School the best school around.

Matt Jarvis (891687)

From the School Governors

After an incredible 25 and 10 years respectively, Harry Holland and Susan Corrigan are standing down as governors of Stonesfield Primary School. The board of governors would like to express their sincere thanks for their many years of tireless service. Both have performed various roles on the board during this time, including periods as chair and co-chair. They have helped steer the school through such challenges as Ofsted inspections and a number of changes of Head Teacher. Above all, they have ensured that our school has continued to provide a safe, nurturing and positive start to hundreds of local children. We are very grateful for this vital contribution to village life.

We would also like to welcome Mark Burniston and Topaze Skerrett as new governors. They join Hannah Crowe, Helena Doucas, Anne Ede (staff governor), Matt Jarvis (Head Teacher), Andrew

Moore, Peter Smyth, Katherine Spencer, James Venables, Simon Warr and Michelle Wheatfill.

Conrad O'Brien (chair)

conradobrien@stonesfield.oxon.sch.uk

.....
I'm a Reader... James, 5.

'I am an *excellent* reader.'

James, 5, says this again, in case I was unconvinced or failed to pay proper attention the first time around.

'I am an *excellent* reader. I read a book at home yesterday, in, like, a *minute*.'

He gives me a brief demonstration, which goes very successfully until he gets tangled up on 'skilled', which is, admittedly, tricky, particularly if you don't know what it means. We settle on 'good at'.

'I like horse books because I like horses. I am good at that.'

'Skilled?' I suggest; he nods. 'I can jump on a horse and ride it.'

No such skilful derring-do is required for trips to the library as 'mummy drives me'. James does not live within walking distance of any library but there are a number within a quick drive, including Stonesfield, which they sometimes come to when 'mummy's working'. He's not sure what she does, but it 'doesn't take very long', as she picks him up from school, every day, 'apart from Friday when I go to Nana's'.

James likes Stonesfield library because 'there's a playground next to it' and 'there's a cushion' and he always finds good books in it.

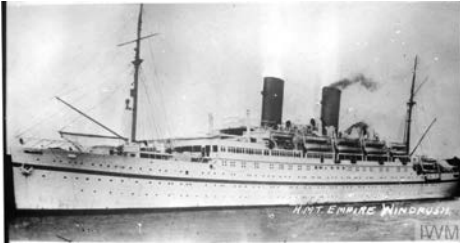
This discerning customer is particularly pleased about the number of animal stories

in the stock, and he doesn't just read for pleasure, as he tells me: 'I'm going to be a vet'. Luckily, Stonesfield library has an extensive junior non-fiction collection which includes lots of animal information books, among the space stories, ballet insights, Pokémon trivia, guides to ancient civilisations and manuals on how to drive a tractor.

The book James says is his favourite of the moment, though, he should probably not take to veterinary school. *The Long-Nosed Pig* is by Keith Faulkner, and a so-called 'pourquoi' story, where, as with Rudyard Kipling's *Just So Stories*, the origin of a quirky animal part or trait is given a fantastical explanation. Kipling devised unlikely reasons for the evolution of the elephant's trunk, the cat's standoffish snootiness and the leopard's spots, among others, yet the Nobel literary prize-winning author never got around to the pig, an omission that Faulkner is keen to exploit. The story reveals that originally the pig had a long nose, but that, unlike the elephant (which I've never heard big up its trunk), the pig swaggered about the animal kingdom, flaunting its superiority - telling the anteater his nose was nothing compared to the porcine nasal appendage. Pig is equally dismissive of the pointy snout of the swordfish and the marvellous beak of the toucan. All this showing off inevitably sees the pig get his comeuppance, as one day he gets his nose crushed against a wall and ever after all pigs have stubby snouts. I figure James can learn about genetic heritability another day. He loves to read, and he loves the library, and that's the main thing.

Eleanor Bailey

Windrush remembered (from page 1)



The anniversary is being celebrated in all our major cities, from London to Manchester, from Bristol to Edinburgh. It will also be celebrated in some of our smaller towns, such as Wellingborough, where a Windrush Flag Raising Ceremony and a community event has been organised, featuring a film screening, art displays, storytelling, music and Caribbean refreshments.

There is also a major programme at Tilbury Docks, the Radiate Windrush festival in London's Burgess Park and a Windrush concert at the Royal Albert Hall, commemorative stamps and coins, a new one-man show from Lenny Henry and a special programme at the V&A Museum.

The Windrush 75 network, which brings together over 350 organisations and individuals committed to marking this significant moment in our shared history, has created www.windrush75.org/events to promote the various events happening across the country.

It also compiled a Windrush Top 20 playlist, which showcases the huge contribution made to UK music by the Windrush generation, their descendants and those who followed from across the Commonwealth over the past 75 years, helping shape British popular culture. The playlist featured household names such as

Stormzy, Craig David and Boney M. The playlist is available on Spotify.

The 75th anniversary of the Windrush is a moment to bring different communities together to celebrate our shared history. The Windrush story is part of Britain's wider story too, helping to explain who we, the British people, are today. Everyone is invited to the party.

If you'd like to hear more about Windrush 75 plans, get in touch with the Windrush 75 network at info@windrush75.org

Cameron Pannell-Rae

Windrush 75 network coordinator

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.

Val Phillips (891455)

Friends of Stonesfield Library

FoSL: Friends of Stonesfield Library

Do you enjoy reading?

Could you spare a couple of
hours a month?

Come and join the library team.
A great volunteering
opportunity!

For further details contact
Mike Pollitt (891856)



Arrival of the Windrush

HMT *Empire Windrush* carried 1,027 passengers, and two stowaways, on a voyage from Jamaica to London in 1948, many of whom, now commonly known as the 'Windrush generation' have settled in the UK since and started families.

Most of the passengers on the ship were from Jamaica, and successfully arrived in the UK after paying £28 to sail.

Despite the apparent novelty for attending journalists of the new arrivals, the *Windrush* was not the first ship to bring migrants from the West Indies to Britain. As historian David Olusoga points out, 'In March 1947, the SS *Ormonde* transported 108 migrants from Jamaica to Liverpool. In December that year the *Almanzora*, carrying around 200 people from the West Indies, docked at Southampton.'

Thousands of people from the Caribbean responded to the government's invitation to live and work in the UK from the 1940s-1970s, to help rebuild the country. Their contribution is still making a difference today. Many came to help build

the fledgling NHS, to work in essential services like transport, and in Oxford to work in the Cowley plant. As well as rebuilding the economy they helped shape our leisure, influencing things like our music, fashion and food.

Naming of the Windrush

MV *Monte Rosa* was built in Germany and launched in Hamburg on 13 December 1930. *Monte Rosa* was originally built as a cruise ship, taking German travellers to Europe and South America on Nazi-approved holidays. As late as 1936, the ship was carrying passengers between Hamburg and London.

During the war MV *Monte Rosa* was a support vessel for *Tirpitz*. In 1944 it was a troop ship until it struck a mine. Having been repaired it was used as a hospital ship until it was badly damaged by another mine in February 1945 and towed to Copenhagen.



Decommissioned in August 1945 the ship was claimed by the British as a prize of war and fitted out as a troop transport ship.

In 1946 the ship was renamed HMT *Empire Windrush*. A ministry official decided that the German liners needed to be renamed and would be named after rivers in the country. There appears to be no clear reason why the Oxfordshire river was chosen as a name, and it could very well have been a random choice - but it is one that has lasted for decades.

Men of the Gloucestershire Regiment, the 8th King's Royal Irish Hussars and the Royal Engineers embarked on the *Windrush* at Southampton in October 1950, bound for Korea.

In February 1954 the *Windrush* set sail from Yokohama in Japan on what would prove to be its final voyage. On 28 March, while the *Windrush* was sailing off the coast of Algeria, an explosion in the engine room resulted in a huge fire. Four members of the crew - G.W. Stockwell, J.W. Graves, A. Webster and L. Pendleton - were killed in the explosion, but the remaining crew and all 1,276 passengers were saved. The Guardian called it 'one of the greatest rescues in maritime history'. The Royal Navy attempted to tow the *Windrush* back to Gibraltar, but the ship sank in the early hours of 30 March.

Nowadays, the word *Windrush* is much more synonymous with the generation of people that arrived in the UK on the boat.

Caribbean Living Room Exhibition

The Caribbean Living Room at 58 Between Towns Road, Cowley is a partnership with the Afrikan Caribbean Kultral Heritage Initiative (ACKHI), the BK.LUWO group and Museum of Oxford.

In 2018, ACHKI and BK.LUWO created the Caribbean Living Room, a reconstruction of a typical 1960s West Indian front room, as an immersive temporary exhibition at the Museum of Oxford. In 2019, Fusion Arts worked with them to move it to Between Towns Road for people to visit and explore, to learn more about the Windrush Generation and to hear their experiences.

In June 2023 we will be celebrating the 75th anniversary of the docking of the *Windrush*. The Caribbean Living Room will be used during the Windrush Day celebrations.

Free to visit (donations are welcome) and open Tuesday - Thursday 10am - 4pm every week.

www.fusion-arts.org

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, if you need them.

Please call or email to book transport in June:
Viv Kendall 01993 891803 or stonesfieldvts@gmail.com

Clubs, societies & sport

Stonesfield Gardening Club

Our speaker in May was Chris Day, talking to a good crowd of members about Gardening in a Changing Climate, looking at the way we garden, the plants we grow and how we deal with climate change. Obviously, a huge topic to cover in an hour and very topical as we all had tales of the plants that had not survived through the winter.

Chris reminded us that trees and plants take carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, so the greening of our own spaces is a good idea. Small changes like growing a hedge in our front garden rather than fencing, means that the plants will capture pollution particles, as well as providing a wildlife corridor and somewhere for birds and insects to feed and shelter.

We should be looking at conserving water and making sure that we have water butts around the garden. This has the added advantage of saving rainwater going in to our already hard-pressed sewerage system.



Eryngium Big Blue

Chris's top six climate resistant plants are Eryngium Big Blue, Verbena bonariensis, Stipa gigantea (not for the faint hearted!), Origanum vulgare, Sedum matrona and Stachys byzantina Big Ears. I'm sure we can all come up with our favourites.

Our talk on 12 June will be by Russell Attwood, who will be telling us about no-dig gardening. All those allotmenters in the village are very welcome to join us – we only charge £3 for visitors, which barely covers the tea and biscuits!

Diane Bates

Secretary Stonesfield Gardening Club
www.stonesfieldgardening.info

Stonesfield Sustainability Groups

Stonesfield Environment Group

We had a really useful day at The Big Help Out in the Village Hall talking to those who came by about what we are doing, showing them our tree planting maps and plans and how we test our river water. It occurred to us that because we are interested in this field, we might forget to communicate some of the basic information that really troubles us... so we are going to post some basic factual data each month starting with the following.

Do you know untreated sewage is legally discharged into the Evenlode by Thames Water?

Do you know what untreated sewage is? It is the waste water from our homes, it

12 Things That Should Never Go Down the Drain



contains human excrement and water-borne pathogens and bacteria and can also contain wet wipes and sanitary products.

Do you know the Rivers Trust have developed a map that allows you to see when sewage is being pumped into the river? (www.theriverstrust.org/sewage-map)

Do you know our nearest sewage treatment works are in Finstock and Combe?

Do you know that Finstock Sewage Treatment Works spilled untreated sewage into the Evenlode 15 times last year for a total of 96 hours?

Do you know that Combe Sewage Treatment Works spilled untreated sewage into the Evenlode 33 times last year for a total of 360 hours?

That is a combined total of 456 hours, or 19 days of untreated sewage dumped in the river last year.

What can you do? Get involved with us as part of our campaign. And make sure you know how to treat your own waste water.

Join us...

Julie Curran

juliecurran0@gmail.com

Stonesfield Food Group

We will be catering for the Community Café alongside The Repair Café on 3 June. Come and enjoy a delicious lunch and sweet treats...also come and see what we are all about. Our slogan is "Neighbours helping Neighbours" and the funds raised through your generous donations allow us to keep running the café and also help us to support our neighbours in accessing good quality nutritious food. We are working with the Parish Council and also the *Slate* to offer very practical support in accessing food in the village... more on this in next month's *Slate*.

We also run the Spring Social alongside the Village Hall and that is going well; we regularly have 50 people in the club room on a Tuesday night and our take away service is also providing another 15 to 20 meals. It is a very informal and lively atmosphere so please do pop in. We have an expanding list of helpers and chefs and so the time commitment is very manageable. It can be as little as once every three weeks, so do please get in touch if you would like to help out.

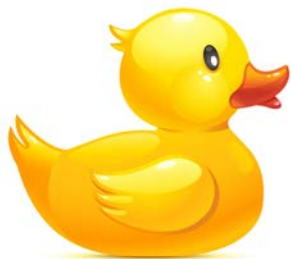
We are still meeting monthly online: if you would like to join us, drop me a line.

Julie Curran

juliecurran0@gmail.com

Scout Hut and Fundraising Update

The Duck Race returns...



The annual Stonesfield Scout Duck Race will return on 15th July from 5pm. Please come and support our local group, buy a few ducks and enjoy our BBQ. This is always a lovely event to mark the start of the summer holidays. Ducks will be for sale from outside the shop, from any of the Beavers, Cubs or Scouts or from our special duck race website - just search Stonesfield Scouts Duck Race (or go to www.stonesfieldduckrace.square.site).

Starting the Scout Hut

While it is a little tricky to predict exact dates, we are hopeful that by the time this article is published, work will have started on our new Hut. We are £45,000 from our target, but with £130,000 raised, we have a great opportunity to build a hut for the future. Follow our story on Instagram (@stonesfieldscouts), Facebook (facebook.com/stonesfieldscouts) or www.stonesfield-scouts.org.uk.

Get involved

If the Big Help Out inspired you and you want to get involved in any way you can, please come and find us or email Ben on chair@stonesfield-scouts.org.uk.

Ben Whitworth

chair@stonesfield-scouts.org.uk

Stonesfield Football Club

As the dust settles on season 2022-23, it seems cruel to dissect the bones of the final stage of the Firsts' campaign, but dissect we must. With the holy grail of Premiership Champions within reach, they allowed it to slip through their grasp by the slender margin of 7 goals! They finished second to Hailey, losing out on goal difference.

The month started with a great win away at Milton (4-1) but the confidence soon dissipated with two horrendous home defeats to Enstone and Hailey (both 2-0). In their final league game, the Firsts would be crowned champions if they beat Freeland by 13 goals. That was always highly unlikely and so it proved, as they scored 6 without reply. On any other day the goals by Freddie Holloway (2), and both Rice brothers (2 apiece) would have merited further comment, but now they are simple footnotes in the margins. In the past two seasons the Firsts have finished third and now second in the league. Maybe they'll go one better next season and lift the trophy, but that depends on whether this group of young players can stick together and learn the lessons of this season. If they'd beaten any of their main rivals (Hailey, Enstone or Charlbury) both home and away, they'd have been Champions. A final footnote: in The Ted Young Senior Cup they knocked out Hailey in a thriller (5-4), then lost to Charlbury (2-1), which kind of summed up their form over the past month. Congratulations to Hailey FC.

The Reserves have had a very good campaign, finishing fifth in Division 3. They completed the season by drawing at home with FC Mills (2-2), a walkover

against Tower Hill and a win at Kingham (4-0). Sadly, their progress in The Supplementary Cup ended with defeat on penalties (3-4) at home to Eynsham following a thrilling 3-3 draw. Manager Ben Franklin can be proud of his team's performances this season as he's put together a good mix of young players feeding through from Stonesfield Strikers, together with some 'old heads' who have helped guide them into adult football. I've got high hopes for the team next season if they can keep this group of players together.

The Fredo Committee was being hard-headed about the award this month, but when it was pointed out that Ben Franklin has done a brilliant job with The Reserves (a few of his boys getting game time with The Firsts) the winner was obvious. In fact, the committee has decided that Ben

Franklin is Stonesfield FC Fredo Award Winner for the entire season – and who can complain?

The Football Club would like to thank everyone who has helped this season including The Sports and Social Club, The Playing Field Committee (especially Mark Hatton), everyone at the *Slate* and that loyal band of supporters who have watched and cheered from the side-lines, in all weathers, from start to finish. You know who you are, thank you!

Tom Flanigan (891979)



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Church news

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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

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From the Rector – Summertime

The beginning of June is when most of us consider the summer to have begun, and very welcome it is too. Meteorologists consider the months of June, July and August to make up the Summer, but from an astronomical point of view, considering the tilt of the Earth's rotational axis in relation to its orbit around the Sun, summer this year begins on Wednesday 21 June. It is the warmest season of the year, and now more than ever, but we can still be surprised by strangely cold snaps: when I was just a month old, in the first days of June 1962, the temperature in Norfolk was -5.6 °C.

Christians celebrate the feast of Pentecost around the start of June – either just before that, or just after, since it is counted as seven weeks after Easter. This year it fell on 28 May. It commemorates the day when

the first Christians in Jerusalem, gathered for the Jewish festival of Shavuot, received the gift of the Holy Spirit. The disciples, who had prayed together anxiously after Jesus' death, and had met him with confusion and joy after his resurrection, now received the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, which the gospel writer Luke describes as tongues of flame, and as a rushing wind. This gift, which Jesus had promised, was to equip them with power from God, which they used to proclaim with boldness the message of love and salvation. For this reason we consider the feast of Pentecost to be the birthday of the church – the disciples became very bold from that time onwards, and the good news of Jesus the Messiah and Saviour spread quickly.

Today, we look to God for the same boldness, so that we may be courageous in the way we live. We also look for the other gifts which the prophet Isaiah described as flowing from the blessing of God's Spirit: wisdom and understanding, counsel and inward strength, knowledge, true godliness and reverence. In the weeks of June, and throughout the summer, Christians reflect on how these gifts and characteristics might be more present in our lives.

In Stonesfield, this month will be especially joyful, as we celebrate the 800th anniversary of St James the Great, our Parish Church, on 17 and 18 June. Please see the other information here about events over this weekend (see page 6). One very visual celebration of this anniversary

is being made by children at our School and Pre-School, who have made banners to hang in the church, illustrating the outline of the church and the number '800', made in beautiful multicoloured handprints. We are delighted that our village children have been able to join the celebration in this way. As we look back over 800 years with thanks, we also look forward with hope, and pray for the boldness, wisdom and faith of their generation, and for the faith and Christian witness of all who will come after us in our beautiful village.

Revd Ralph Williamson
Rector

Services

Sunday 4 June [Trinity]

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

Sunday 11 June [First Sunday after Trinity]

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

Sunday 18 June [Second Sunday after Trinity]

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [BCP/said]
9.30am	Combe	Parish Communion
11am	Stonesfield	800th Anniversary Service of Celebration

Sunday 25 June [Third Sunday after Trinity]

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

Wednesdays

9.30am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion (every week)
11am	Combe	Morning Prayer (14th, 28th)

Stonesfield Methodist Church

Services for June

Sun 4	11am	Andrew Maisey
Sun 11	11am	The Reverend Andrew Biggs; Holy Communion
Sun 18	11am	Local Arrangement
Sun 25	11am	Martin Hannant

Methodist Teas!

Come along to the church on Saturday 10 June, 2-4.30 pm and enjoy an afternoon tea. There will be cakes galore, cream teas, gift stalls, produce and the warmest of welcomes.

Should you wish to donate to the event, do get in touch at any time. Your support will be greatly appreciated. Rain or shine, don't forget the 10th!

Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna!

We set great store by the singing of hymns and the music to accompany them.

There are two kind folk who each come along whenever they can to play the pipe organ. Their fingers fly over the keys, enhancing worship and warming our voices.

The pipe organ arrived at this church in the year 1966. It travelled just a few miles from its original home in Spelsbury Parish Church, where it was no longer needed, and after careful reconstruction it began serving this church. Quite frequently on Sunday mornings it's the CD player providing music of a different kind – very helpful nevertheless.

A very warm welcome awaits all who come to church, and to any organists, do come and try the pipe organ.

Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord! Ephesians 5: 19b

Come to a service soon.

Kathleen Albért (891733)

.....
Roman Catholic Worship

How do we encounter God?

In our secular times, the ways we encounter God in our daily lives can be very limited. Our encounters are usually confined to church on Sundays and maybe other important feasts like Easter and Christmas, but that reduces our relationship with God to no more than a transactional, superficial meeting with a 'casual acquaintance'. If we wish our engagement with God to be more than that, what can we do?

One answer is to pray. The Encyclopaedia Britannica defines prayer as: 'an act of communication by humans with the sacred or holy – God, the gods, the transcendent realm, or supernatural powers.'

Prayer is the raising of our mind and heart to God; it is a purposeful action of communication with God. When we pray genuinely, rather than asking for things or material outcomes, we seek engagement

with God's endless love, mercy and forgiveness.

'On the day I called, you answered me, O Lord', Psalm 137 (1398) 1-3,7-8 and

'May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you', Psalm 32(33):4-5,18-22

Like all fruitful relationships, candour and a willingness to open oneself to the other are at the heart of an enduring and rich transformational relationship with God.

Jesus taught; 'When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men ... but when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your father who is unseen.' (Matthew 6:5-8).

Holy Mass

Sunday Mass at 9.15 am

Wednesdays and Fridays at 9.15 am

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

Roman Catholic Community in Stonesfield

New Church thought

The books for the New Church talk in depth about the two great commandments (love the Lord your God; love your neighbour as yourself) and what the neighbour is. I'm interested in how it all relates to the recent coronation of a new king, which was also clearly a religious ceremony.

'...As is the case in any kingdom even today, *kingship* represents the Lord in regard to Divine truth.'

'The neighbour ... is not only a person in the singular, but also people in the plural; for a smaller or greater society, *one's country*, the church, the Lord's kingdom, and the Lord Himself above all, is also the neighbour. [These things] are the neighbour, to whom good ought to be done out of love. They also are the ascending degrees of the neighbour: for a society consisting of many is a neighbour in a higher degree than an individual person; *one's country is so in a still higher degree*; the Church in a higher degree still; and, in a still higher degree, the kingdom of the Lord; but in the highest degree the Lord is the neighbour. These ascending degrees are like the steps of a ladder, at the top of which is the Lord.'

As the new monarch, will King Charles III be a good representative of the Lord in how he reigns? Will he set a good and true example for the citizens of his kingdom? Will he himself be a genuine neighbour? As the Prince of Wales he seems to have laid some good foundations. Time will tell how his time as king plays out.

Dale Morris (898210)

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BLenheim PALACE

Join us for after-school sessions at our exciting New Adventure Play, this session is ideal for families who want to come and join in the fun after a busy day at school. The sessions will run from Monday to Thursday from 15:15 to 17:15, where mini explorers will have an amazing two hours to explore this hidden world of adventure. These sessions are £5 per person when you have an annual pass or have purchased a day ticket.

*excludes bank holiday and school holidays.

BLenheim

The replacement of the Orangery roof project is now well underway, as you may have noticed on recent visits. Over the past 300 years the Orangery has been used as a greenhouse, theatre, offices, art gallery, events space and most recently a place to enjoy lunch or afternoon tea. The 18th century glass ceiling has now been fully removed and is being replaced with a timber and slate structure in the spirit of Vanbrugh's original design. This will be a far more effective insulator than glass, saving energy and helping us reach our green goals. The project is expected to finish later this year in autumn. We would like to say a huge thank you to all of our visitors, without whom this unique conservation project would not have been possible.



BLenheim ESTATE

We are delighted to have welcomed the next generation of Blenheim Estate sheepdogs! The eight new puppies are parented by our current working sheepdogs, Tweed and Roe. Our Park Farm Team have been kept very busy over the last few weeks with looking after the lively litter, and they're not the only new arrivals on the Estate...lambing season is now in full swing. If you have visited recently you may well have spotted some of the new lambs frolicking in the fields as we exclusively lamb outdoors. This is to give new-borns the best spring grass and nutrients they need. You may also have seen our 'Thank Ewe' signage during your walks - please do be mindful of walking your dog in the Parkland and ensure that they are kept on a lead at all times so that our sheep are not at risk of being attacked or chased in a way that may cause injury, suffering or miscarriage.

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

blenheimpalace.com

FLOWERS

ESTATE AGENTS



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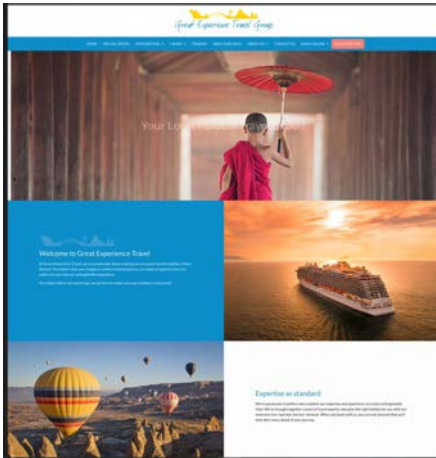
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Our fabulous new website:
www.greatexperiencetravel.co.uk
 is now up and running



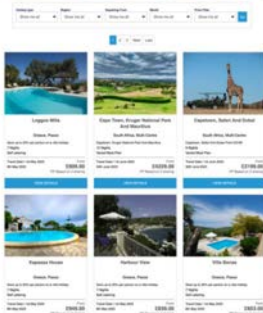
It has lots of exciting new features, and we think that the website looks great. However, it is still a 'work in progress' and has to meet your needs.

If you can see anything that we can do which would make the site even better or even easier to use, please do let us know.

It doesn't mean that we don't want to see you in the office.

This is still our No.1 priority.

The site will just help you find even more holiday options and will make the service that we can offer you even better.



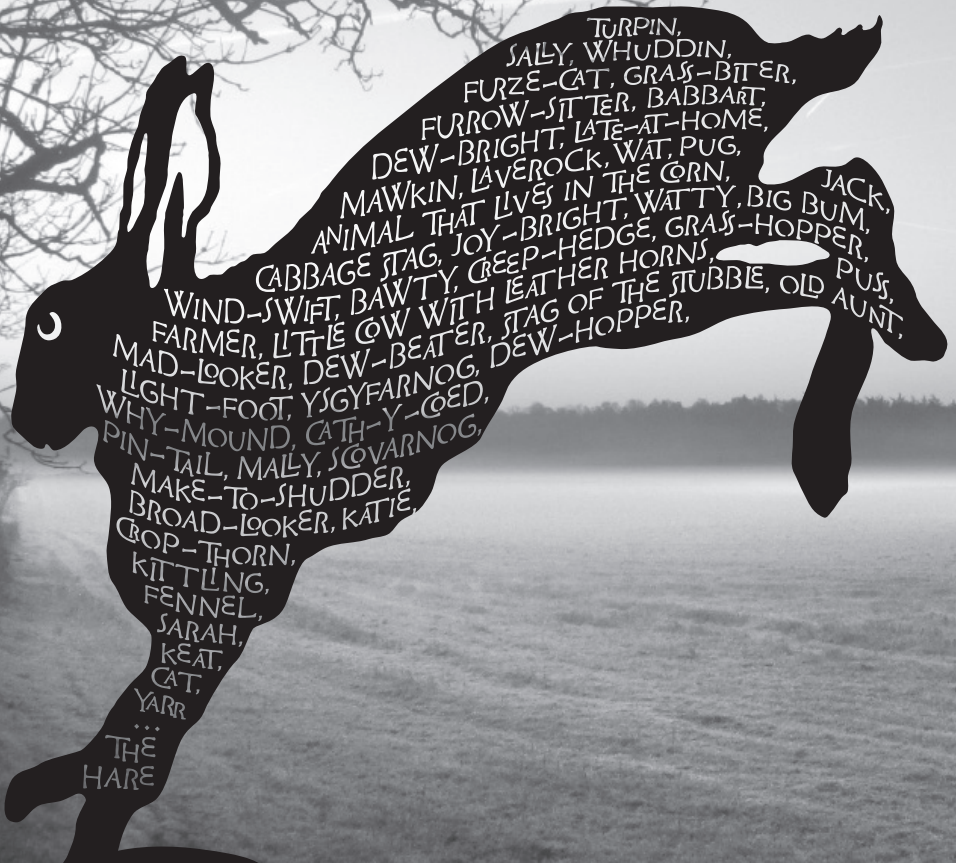
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The Names of a Hare:

A free-standing sculpture featuring dialect, regional and riddle names for the beautiful European Hare often seen around Stonesfield.

