



Issue No 549 Aug 2024

Liquid sunshine



You can't beat a bit of 'liquid sunshine'!

Stonesfield School Fete went ahead on Saturday 6th July, with the Great British Weather doing its best to drown us and blow us away! Stall holders turned out early, gazebos anchored against the wind and rain, selling beautiful handmade clothing, 3D printed dragons and crafted ornaments, trinkets, toys and plants (from Stonesfield Gardening Club). The weather did mean we were missing a few fan favourites; we hope to see Chrissie's Owls back next year, along with the bouncy castle and the tug of war. We also welcomed back stalls from Stonesfield PreSchool and Stonesfield Scouts, and for the first time from St Mary's Church.

The fete kicked off with music from Ukulele Disaster, belting out some classic tunes from the shelter of the gazebos, then came the

Welly Toss before Stonesfield School Singers, lead by Mrs Wiseman and Miss Boughtflower, serenaded us, lifting spirits as the drizzle set in. Next came Ducklington Morris who bravely danced their hearts out on the slightly slippery grass, followed by Di'mond Spurs Line Dancing, who took up residence in the tea tent shortly after 2pm, ably assisted by some members of Oak Class, as well as some brave adults who stepped up to join in.

Competition entries were varied and many, thanks to everyone for their hard work and well done to our winners (too many to mention). The raffle was drawn by Reverend Ralph, rounding out a lovely, if slightly soggy afternoon, in glorious sunshine. Thank you to all the donors of the amazing raffle prizes, and congratulations to all of our winners.

Continued on p5

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.

Do you want to advertise?

An advertisement in *The Stonesfield Slate* starts from as little as **£3 per month**.

Please email **slate-ads@stonesfield.online**, or call the Publishers on 01993 898841, for full details of availability, sizes, requirements and cost. We can also help with design if required.

Any new advertisements, or changes to existing advertisements, should be emailed to **slate-ads@stonesfield.online** **by 10th of the month**.

All advertisements must be **paid for in advance**.

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.

Publishers

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

Editor for Sept issue

Viv Kendall
(891803)
slate@stonesfield.online

Copy:

Deadline for next issue 15 Aug

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

Editor

Fiona Dangerfield
(07814 112437)
slate@stonesfield.online

Printer

Windrush Press, Witney
©*TheStonesfieldSlate* 2024

Advertising:

Deadline for next issue 10 Aug

Advertisements to
slate-ads@stonesfield.online

Current and past copies of the *Slate* are available at www.stonesfield.online

Dates for your diary: August

1-31	Pictures @ The Pub	The White Horse	pub hours
1,5,8,12,15	Taekwondo	Village Hall	5.30-6.30pm
2	Crawford Cup	SSSC	6pm
3	Oxfordshire Geology Walk & talk	The Cross	2pm
5,12,19	Monday Coffee	St James' Centre	10-12 noon
4,11,18,25	Charity Afternoon Tea	Combe Reading Room	2.30-5pm
6,13,20,27	Zumba	Village Hall	7-8pm
6,13,20,27	Strong Nation HIIT	Village Hall	8.15-9.15pm
7,8	Hannah Bathe HIIT Class	Village Hall	7.15-8pm
7,14,21,28	Folk Dancing	Village Hall	7.45-10pm
11	Crawford Cup Final	SSSC	12noon
12	Village Hall Committee Meeting	Village Hall	7pm – 8pm
14	Parish Council Meeting	Stonesfield School	7pm
14,21	Gatehouse Pilates	Village Hall	9.30-10.30am
18	Combe Mill In Steam	Combe Mill	10.30am-5pm
19,22,26,29	Taekwondo	Village Hall	5.30-6.30pm
22	Stonesfield Players Social Reading	Old Bakery Boot Street	7.30pm
28	Lunch Club Coffee Morning	St James' Centre	11am-12.30pm
31	Methodist Church Teas	Methodist Church	2-4pm
31	Fraud Squad	SSSC	8.30pm

September

5	Book Break	Library	12.30-2pm
7	Repair and Community Café	Village Hall	10am-2pm
8	Charity Afternoon Tea	Combe Reading Room	2-5pm
15	Open Day	Bridewell Garden	11am-4pm



The White Horse - Open for meals and drinks*

* See page 29 for opening times

The White Horse is a community owned pub.

www.thewhitehorsestonesfield.com

Notices & news

Marion Hall

Marion's family would like to thank everyone for their kind cards and messages following the loss of Marion at the end of May. It was so lovely to see so many people at her funeral to say goodbye but also to remember her 96 years, nearly all spent in the village. Thank you all.

Marion Hall

Marion lived in Stonesfield for 91 of her 96 years, but would have been overwhelmed by how full the church was for her funeral. It was lovely to hear so many memories from her friends over the years, many of them about her time as postmistress and shop owner. All recounting her kindness and friendship including several funny stories. Many of us have lost a wonderful friend and will miss her dearly.

Tina and Ann

Geowalk-and-talk: the geology and fossils of Stonesfield

Owen Green of the Oxfordshire Geology Trust will lead a 'geowalk-and-talk' around the village on Saturday 3 August when we will have the opportunity to learn about the geology and fossils of Stonesfield. All are welcome and there is no need to book. The group will set off from the old lock-up at The Cross at 2pm and the walk is expected to take no more than a couple of hours.

Viv Kendall

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Monday Coffee at St James' Centre

How much are you prepared to pay for a good cup of coffee?

Are you aware that you can get a cup, or even a mug, of freshly prepared coffee in St James' Centre, opposite the school gate, every Monday morning except for Bank Holidays, free of charge? Yes, that is correct, completely free of charge!

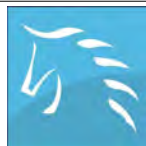
It is served with biscuits and sometimes cake by our volunteers and always comes served with a smile and a genuine welcome.

This gift to the village from the church has been available for 13 years and in the past was a popular meeting place for parents after the school drop off. However, times have changed and so we are changing too.

From Monday 29 July we shall open at 10am until 12 noon.

Please consider popping in for coffee or tea if you prefer. Meet your friends or family or maybe make some new friends! We should love to meet you.

The Saint James Monday Coffee Volunteers.



The White Horse
Open for meals and drinks

The White Horse is a community owned pub.

www.thewhitehorsestonesfield.com

The White Horse, The Ridings, Stonesfield, OX29 8EA

Liquid Sunshine (cont from P1)



Face paint fun

Stonesfield is a small but mighty school that sits at the heart of our community, and the fete plays an important part in our fundraising calendar - despite the inclement weather we raised just over £2,500 for the school. Friends of Stonesfield School has a small committee, and we really do rely on everyone who pitches in behind and in front of the scenes to help. So, a big thank you to all of the bakers who stocked the tea tent, volunteers from all corners of the community who helped us set up, run stalls and pack away, to the performers, face painters, BBQ'ers, to Katy our CandyFloss Queen, to Sarah Walker for opening and showing off our beautiful Forest School site, to Tom Higgs for an heroic 4 hour beat the goalie marathon, to the Ferguson-Reads for bringing along an amazing green tractor, Claire and Mould for crafting, and everyone who came along on the day!



That's what I call an ice cream!

A huge thank you also to Stonesfield Scouts for the use of their marquee, to Stonesfield Sports and Social Club for the loan of their BBQ, to the Village Hall for the loan of the tea urn, to Breckon & Breckon for signage and to The Shop and The White Horse teams for selling raffle tickets. Finally, thanks to Mr Jarvis, who opened the fete, judged the competitions and continues to steer our school from strength to strength.



Ice cream van was popular

Aside from raising money for the school, it is wonderful to bring the community together as the school year draws to a close and see all the children having such a lovely time with their friends and families.



As was the BBQ!

Friends of Stonesfield School seeks support from across the community, whether that's staff, parents, governors, grandparents, wider families, neighbours or villagers, everyone is welcome to pitch in and support our school. Contact info@fossteam.org to find out how you can get involved.

The FoSS Committee 2023/24

sarah@fossteam.org

Stonesfield Lunch Club

At St James' Centre on Wednesday 28 August, a Coffee Morning will be held. Please come and join us anytime between 11am and 12-30pm. Enjoy a coffee or tea and biscuits too!

All are very welcome, hope to see you there.

Kathleen Albért (891733)

Methodist Church Teas

Come and join the tea afternoon at the Methodist Church on Saturday 31 August 2-4.30pm. There will be drinks and cakes, cream teas and gift stalls to browse. Just the occasion to meet up with old friends and make a few new ones!

Everyone is very welcome indeed.

Kathleen Albért (891733)

Afternoon tea at Combe Reading Room

We are holding our afternoon tea event again this year in the garden of the Combe Reading Room on Sunday 8 September from 2-5pm. All proceeds will go to the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

We will be serving cream teas, homemade cakes and hot drinks. We will also be selling a new range of handmade gifts and will be holding a raffle.

If you are not able to be there but would like to support the Cystic Fibrosis Trust, please contact me to purchase raffle tickets; price £5 for a book.

Libby Hanks

libby@windowdesigninteriors.co.uk

Repair and Community Café

The next Repair and Community Café will be held on Saturday 7 September 10am - 2pm in the Village Hall. The usual tasty refreshments, cakes and lunches will be available and our repairers will be on hand to do their best to fix your broken items. Put the date in your diary and we look forward to seeing you there.

If you can, let us know what you are bringing at:

stonesfieldrepaircafe@gmail.com

Stonesfield Players Social Play Reading

On Thursday 22 August at 7.30pm at the Old Bakery in Boot Street, the Players will be hosting an informal reading of the dramatised version of Cold Comfort Farm by Paul Doust and Stella Gibbons.

Non-members are welcome to join us and either to have a go at reading a part or just to listen. Please bring drinks and snacks.

For more info contact me.

Becki Sherlaw-Johnson

rebeccasj@btinternet.com

Dogs not permitted on the Playing Fields

There have been several reported incidents of dogs being exercised on the playing Fields.

Just a reminder that **Dogs Are Not Permitted** on the Stonesfield Playing Field or in the Play Park

Stonesfield Playing Field Association

Samuel's Mountain Triathlon for new Scout Hut!

My name is Samuel and I am a Beaver with Stonesfield Scouts. We have now been without our hut for nearly 3 years. We are very lucky to have our hut near the woods where we can build dens and have the space near the hut for fires where we can cook and have marshmallows.

The new hut has started to be built and that's very exciting, but we are still raising money to complete the hut, we still need lots of things like electrics, plumbing, toilets and flooring. I wanted to help so with the help of my dad we have planned a 'Personal Triathlon' on 7 August. I am going to kayak 1 mile, cycle 1 mile and climb Snowdon which is a 10 miles walk in 12 hours, all this less than a week after my 8th birthday.

I go to the mountains a lot and have climbed mountains since I could walk. Since then, I have climbed more than 30 mountains using my own legs, the hardest climb I have done was the North Ridge of Tryfan when I was 5. I have been kayaking a few times with my dad and only got my own boat a few months ago. My dad will be in a boat alongside me as I kayak a lake next to Snowdon, then out of the lake onto my bike to the bottom of the Watkin Path



where I will start my 5 mile walk up Snowdon to its 1085-metre summit then 5 miles back down (dad won't pay for the train).

I am asking for sponsorship to my Just Giving Page so I can help raise money for the new hut and make sure the scouts have a base to last another 60 years, that lots of other children can enjoy just like my dad and I did when we were scouts at Stonesfield.

Robert Lee is fundraising for Stonesfield Scout Group (justgiving.com) just scan the QR code on your mobile device to take you to our fundraising page.

Editor's note: Samuel is such an inspiration, and he is only 8. Dig deep Stonesfield this enterprising young fundraiser needs our support!



Temporary Closure of Pond Hill

In the interests of public safety, it will be necessary for Oxfordshire County Council to close the road and impose a 'No Waiting' restriction as detailed above to facilitate carriageway repair work.

A temporary Notice (T 14149 / RAG) is being made to implement the temporary closure and will operate **from 12 August 2024**. The anticipated completion date is 13 August 2024, 08:00 to 16:00 each day.

A Temporary Traffic Regulation Notice is being made to implement the temporary closure and restriction and will operate on the days shown above.

Please note that Notices for urgent works can last up to 5 consecutive days only.

Access will be maintained for emergency service vehicles and for those frontages within the closure area, subject to the progress of the works and liaison with the works supervisor.

A copy of the drawing showing the extent of the closure and restriction and also the alternative route for traffic can be found at www.stonesfield.online/news.

Further information regarding the works may be obtained by contacting Jamie Raffell -Highways Maintenance Team Oxfordshire County Council on 0345 3101111 or email jamie.raffell@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Botley Road not reopening



Botley Road, which has been closed under the rail bridge since April 2023, will not now reopen in October as planned.

Oxfordshire County Council is extremely frustrated that Network Rail is postponing the replacement of Botley railway bridge at the end of this month and is unable to reopen Botley Road in October as a result. The council is in discussion with Network Rail to understand the implications of this.

More information can be found at www.stonesfield.online/news.

St James' Centre – available for hire

Are you looking for a venue for a regular class or activity? Or perhaps you are arranging a family gathering, children's party, meeting, workshop or fundraising event? St James' Centre is an ideal venue opposite the school – two light, spacious rooms, with a well-equipped kitchen and beautiful garden.

If you would like to have a look round, need further information, or wish to book, please email me.

Ruth Sellar

St James' Centre Bookings Administrator
sjcsbookings@gmail.com

Village Hall News

As the Summer is now in full flow, and people are enjoying the holiday period, we have a quieter time at the Village Hall, with a lot of the clubs taking a well-earned break. Please double check with your class organisers for changes to dates over the summer period.

We are still waiting for BT to resolve our transfer for the booking line number to be moved across from analogue to digital, so please accept our extended apologies to anyone who has tried to reach us by phone. The email aspect seems to be working well, thankfully, so if you do have any enquiries or question, please do contact us via this medium.

Enjoy the summer days ahead, and don't forget we have plenty of space if you need it for functions or parties!

Jacqueline Carthew (898919)
Secretary for Stonesfield Village Hall
stonesfieldvh@gmail.com

Time for Tea in Combe!

Cream Teas will be served in Combe Village Reading Room garden from Sunday 14 July to Sunday 25 August 2.30-5pm.

Each Sunday is hosted by a different village organisation, who share the proceeds at the end of the season.

Please come and enjoy delicious cakes and scones in a beautiful village setting. We look forward to seeing you.

Contact number: 01993 891134

Bridewell Gardens: Open Day 15 September

Bridewell's walled garden and organic vineyard will be open on 15 September 11am-4pm. Learn about Bridewell's work, gardening and working with nature to support people who have experienced serious mental health issues.

There will be a pop-up café in the garden for tea and cake. High quality plants will be on sale along with home-produced jams and chutneys, and our acclaimed organic sparkling wine. Make a day of it and 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 there is a suggested donation of £5.

Bridewell Gardens, Wilcote OX7 3DT
www.bridewellgardens.org

Come and explore...

Stonesfield's Rocks and Fossils



...a Geowalk with

Owen Green
Oxfordshire Geology Trust

Saturday 3 August, 2-4 pm

Meet on the Cross
(outside the lockup)

Free!



A mega thank you



Now that the new Megalosaurus information board has been installed, it is time to recognise and thank the many people who have assisted with 'Project Meg' over the last few months.

- Viv Kendall for her enthusiasm, expert knowledge, unwavering effort, and steadfast support throughout.
- The Parish Council for funding the new board and Karen East, Parish Clerk, for associated administration.
- The Oxfordshire Geology Trust for their input for the new board: Owen Green for updating the text and Bill Fuller for producing new illustrations.
- Graham Rutson, Alan and Viv Kendall, and Owen Green for providing photographs.
- Paul Bates and Rosalind Bates for the layout and design of the new board.
- Mick Heduan for accepting delivery of the new board on behalf of the Parish Council.
- Alan Kendall and Steve Moss of the Stonesfield Common working group for installation of the new board on Brook Lane.
- Simon Warr for suggesting the involvement of Stonesfield Primary School.

- Viv Kendall for making a presentation to a school assembly.
- Matt Jarvis, Headteacher, and the teaching staff for running the Megalosaurus project.
- The pupils of Years 3-6 for producing artwork for the exhibition.
- The Oxford University Museum of Natural History for providing display materials and the cast of a Megalosaurus footprint.
- Nicky Holland, Chris Young and Claire Renshaw for their assistance in mounting the exhibition at The White Horse, and Craig Tipper and Barbara Leahy for their patience.
- Mould Renshaw for creating dozens of origami dinosaurs!
- Clive Parsons for the loan of his fossil finds.
- Helen Atkinson and Nicky Holland for assisting with the fossil viewing sessions.
- Dr Emma Nicholls, vertebrate palaeontologist and Manager of the Earth Collections at the OUMNH, for giving a talk and presentation on the Megalosaurus.
- Owen Green for leading a 'geowalk-and-talk' on the geology and fossils of Stonesfield.

Thank you all so much for your part in making it happen!

Trisha Williams for the Megalosaurus Project (triywnwil003@gmail.com)

Footnote from Viv Kendall: ... and we should not forget to thank Trisha Williams for starting the whole thing rolling by proposing that we renew the information board on Brook Lane and her input to various elements of this project.

The Stonesfield Dinosaur – A Global Icon



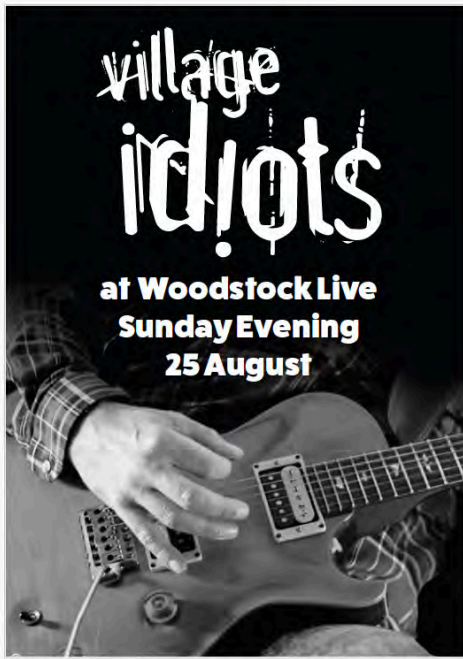
The White Horse,
Stonesfield

Tuesday
30 July,
7pm

Free!

Dr Emma Nicholls
Oxford University Museum of Natural History

Space is limited so please go to
Eventbrite.com Our Megalosaurus and book your place.
In any difficulty, please call 01993 891960



Combe Mill 'In Steam' Models and Collections Day

Combe Mill is a late 19th Century Grade II listed water mill on the River Evenlode which, in its day, was the workshop for the Blenheim Palace estate.

Combe Mill steaming events are well under way, we are now looking forward to our next event on 18 August which is themed - 'In Steam Models and Collections'. Come and browse the market stalls that will join us. We will be joined by local Models Clubs exhibiting their models of fairground, trains, tractors, buses, and much more. Bring the children along, they will enjoy the day immensely.

All machinery will be running 'In Steam' and volunteers will be on hand with lots of interesting information. Tea room will be open, if you would like to call in for refreshments, cream tea, cake, ham roll, coffee and soft drinks. There will also be a BBQ, Gift Shop, Tombola & Raffle. Dogs on leads are most welcome.

Adults £9.00, Seniors £7.50, accompanied children FREE open 10.30am to 5.00pm.

Ever thought of volunteering at Combe Mill? Come to a steaming event where you will see where you have an interest and can join the Team.

Also open every Wednesday for 'self-guided tours' with volunteers around.

Adults £5.00 Seniors £4.00 accompanied children free. Tea Room open.

Margaret Gruber
Blenheim Palace Sawmills,
Combe, OX29 8ET
www.combemill.org

Politics & local affairs

Stonesfield Parish Council

There was no meeting in July. The **next meeting is 14 August** at 7pm (Stonesfield school) where we expect to welcome newly elected councillors and co-opt for the last remaining vacancy.

Parish Clerk

clerk@stonesfieldpc.uk

West Oxfordshire District Council

District Councillor Report - June 2024

The work of the council and its paid officers covers the areas of planning, waste collections, maintenance, business support, grant-making, affordable housing, homelessness & supporting parish councils. The council is currently governed by an alliance of The Liberal Democrat, Labour and Green groups, and is now made up of 21 Liberal Democrats, 13 Conservative, 11 Labour and four Green Party councillors.

Part of my role, together with Cllr Tim Sumner, is to connect the four parish councils and the residents in the Stonesfield & Tackley ward with the help that residents need on all WODC matters, and others. It also involves supporting community groups, and connecting them with sources of help.

June Council highlights - I sit on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. One proposal scrutinised, and since approved is the upgrade of the public open space CCTV

cameras covering the areas of Carterton and Witney to high definition digital, together with the installation of five new cameras in Chipping Norton. WODC will join the Thames Valley Police CCTV partnership, transferring CCTV assets and operational responsibility to TVP under a 'single owner' model; and moving monitoring arrangements to a shared Oxfordshire hub.

Home Upgrade Grant (HUG2):

Funding was awarded in 2023 to Oxfordshire County Council to retrofit the homes of low-income residents living in energy inefficient homes, which will reduce fuel poverty and carbon emissions in Oxfordshire. Residents who could benefit from the funding should register their interest with the delivery partners: www.welcomethewarmth.org.uk/register-your-interest

Move Together: Move Together helps people who are anxious, or have long-term health conditions and require support to move more and build activity into their everyday lives. The programme is for people who are 16+ years old, inactive, have a long-term health condition or disability, and offers access to a range of different activities specific to the individual's needs. See more information at www.getoxfordshireactive.org/move-together. You can also call them directly on 01993 861564.

YouMove: This provides free or low-cost activities for families living in Oxfordshire. If your child or children are in receipt of

benefits-related free school meals, there is a fantastic range of activities to enjoy together, including during weekends and school holidays. In addition, YouMove is here for children in need of support; this includes refugee children and young carers. There is a 50% discount on all pay as you go activities at Better Leisure Centres, including during weekends and school holidays. It also includes a free access pass to Blenheim. See www.getoxfordshireactive.org/ youmovewestoxfordshire

Local biodiversity: Polecats are in the region! I found a roadkill polecat between Witney and Curbridge. Polecats were trapped pretty much to extinction at the end of the 19th century. It is great news that they are recolonising West Oxfordshire!

Biodiversity policies: Government guidance (17 May 2023) is that, as a public authority, town and parish councils must: consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity, agree policies and specific objectives based on their consideration, act to deliver their policies and achieve their objectives. I look forward to supporting the development of the Stonesfield Parish biodiversity policies and plans.

Community: Congratulations to the magnificent committee and new tenants of our community pub, the White Horse. This is such a great outcome after a long time and much work by the committee and villagers.

To contact your District Councillors, email: genny.early@westoxon.gov.uk or tim.sumner@westoxon.gov.uk

Genny Early - District Councillor

More news from West Oxfordshire

Cameras have been installed throughout rural locations in West Oxfordshire as part of the Rural Crime Partnership's work to combat fly-tipping using £156,000 funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley and the Home Office's Safer Streets initiative.

This area of work will be led by the West Oxfordshire, South Oxfordshire, and Vale of White Horse district councils and Thames Valley Police. New covert cameras, purchased with funding from the scheme, will be deployed in fly-tipping hotspots across local rural areas.

Matthew Barber, Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley, said 'Fly-tipping is not just an eyesore, it can be a health hazard and also create a dangerous environment for wildlife and, when done on farmland, livestock and crops. I'm pleased that the funding we secured will support the installation of new covert cameras across West Oxfordshire, South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse to help tackle these incidents which blight our rural environment.'

The cameras are specially developed to tackle crime at rural outdoor sites, including fly-tipping, by using invisible 'No Glow' night vision LEDs.

The scheme will also see the placement of signs around known hotspots to deter fly-tipping, alongside the cameras to catch offenders. The cameras will be regularly moved around the district to tackle known issues.

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

Drains update



Oxfordshire County Council crew inspected the Laughton Hill and Boot Street drains on 4 & 5 July.

As expect the issue is not 'just silting up' but something which will require more extensive work. We wait to see what the next steps will be.

SAFER

safer@stonesfieldpc.uk

Neighbourhood Watch

Information on Neighbourhood Watch is available at: www.ourwatch.org.uk/

Anyone interested in joining the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme may find details and register at: www.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

Deanna Asplundh

Stonesfield Neighbourhood Watch

Coordinator

Thames Valley Police Open Day

You are invited to join us at our Force Open Day on Saturday 7 September between 10am and 4pm. The event will be hosted at our training centre in Sulhamstead, near Reading.

Last year, over 4,000 people had the opportunity to see behind the scenes, meet our people and learn what it takes to keep our communities safe.

From inspirational talks to exciting demonstrations and family friendly activities, the day promises to be full of fun for the whole family.

Keep an eye on our social channels and website for more details, coming soon!

Emily Cooper (Police, Corporate Communications, Thames Valley)

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 August:

Viv Kendall 01993 891803 or stonesfieldvts@gmail.com

Education, culture & more

Stonesfield Library

The Library (telephone 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

Home Library Service

The Home Library Service is free and there is no charge for requests or late returns. To register for this service or for further information, telephone your local library, or the Home Library Service on 01865 810259, or email homelibraryservice@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

Deborah Wilson (898187)

Library Manager



The White Horse
Open for meals and drinks

The White Horse is a community owned pub.

www.thewhitehorsestonesfield.com

The White Horse, The Ridings, Stonesfield, OX29 8EA

Summer Reading Challenge



Bored? Another rainy day?

Sign up for the Summer Reading Challenge!

You can read anything you like – stories, poetry, fact books, graphic novels or listen to audiobooks – it's up to you!

Come along to the library and pick up your Collectors Poster (age 4 & over) and start the challenge.

Under 4? The Mini Challenge is for you!

What are you waiting for?

More information on www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

Bryony Mallows

Stonesfield Pre School

Stonesfield Pre School are pleased to announce that we are relocating in early 2025 to the Primary School site. We would like to thank the School Head, Matt Jarvis and the school governors for their help with the relocation.

We would also like to express our gratitude to The Community Trust, who have been our landlord for the past 25 years, and our continued appreciation for the support of our parents, past and present, and the wider community.

Stonesfield Pre School are looking forward to this new beginning and will continue to provide a breakfast club, Pre School sessions and an after school club.

If you are interested in any of the above please go onto our website stonesfieldpreschool.com and follow the link 'enquire now' or email Zena Rozee at stonesfieldpsad@outlook.com

Simon Hopkins, Chair.

I'm a Reader

As many Slate readers will know, I was diagnosed with incurable blood cancer myeloma last September after breaking two vertebrae for no good reason. Since then, I have had months of chemo, hundreds of procedures, another vertebra break, two colonoscopies (one on my birthday!), bought seven wigs and as many scarves, discovery of a second cancer in a large polyp in the bowel, two bowel operations (one emergency after freak internal hernia after the first op). All of which has meant a lot of time in hospital.

I am now in hospital again, having received a dose of hard-core, old-school chemo,

melphalan, and have had a stem cell transplant, from my own harvested stem cells. This requires up to four weeks in hospital, so I hope you will understand that I am therefore this month writing about books to take into hospital, focused on myself, for interview time has been short!

Of course, I've been far too ambitious with the books I thought I might read, or maybe I knew I would only dip in and out and wanted to have a book for every likely mood.

My Bright Abyss by Christian Wiman. He's a poet, a theologian *and* he too has incurable blood cancer. Looking one's mortality in the face, brings out the spiritual in even the most hardened; I've found reading this writer's poetic musings on pain, suffering and nature as solace, when I can concentrate (not often). I'm struck that his "meditations of a modern believer" seem a lot more romantic than my experience of living with cancer, which is all undignified eruptions from orifices. Wiman was writing about the soul, suddenly my long dormant piles were shouting for my attention.

What Katy Did at School by Susan Coolidge. A friend sent me this. 'What Katy Did' is the most famous in this series, set in nineteenth century Ohio telling the story of harum-scarum Katy Carr and siblings, getting into scrapes until Katy (appropriately enough) breaks her back and, as per wisdom of the time, spends months cooped up in bed and dealing, in a very human adolescent way with her life shrunk to four walls. I can relate. I read that one many times as a child, but never the school sequel. It's a comfort to meet up with old friends.

200 fun things to Knit by Victoria Lyle. I found this book in The Maggie's Centre – the building next to the Churchill Hospital which offers space and comfort for people with cancer to relax. There is a wide selection of flowers, birds and insects to knit. I like that they don't take long. I knitted a floral brooch for my friend's 'lucky' soft toy snail, Samuel. My friend has requested the frilly slug, little ambitions, but something to do.

Kafka's diaries – they are a dip in and out sort of read. The feeling of being in hospital is itself Kafkaesque. You wake up in a place and in a body that isn't yours. Like Gregor Samsa, who is the salesman who wakes up turned into an enormous insect, which leaves him, (understandably) feeling alienated and full of existential angst.

I bought this book at the excellent Kafka exhibition currently running at the Weston Library. As a man who suffered frequently both mentally and physically, the diaries are full of comforting miserablism. 'In peace you make no progress, in war you bleed to death' – no Disney schmaltz here!

Eleanor Bailey

Pictures @ The Pub

By the time this edition of *The Slate* arrives, our exhibition of textile art by Ann Lowe and Margaret Wilmore, and landscape paintings by Chris Davies, will be up and running.

A skilled textile and mixed media artist, Ann has developed a special enjoyment in designing her own pieces, many of which have been exhibited in local museums and galleries. Margaret's work blends her photography, digital experiments, printing

on fabric, collage and stitch, and her collages have been shown in exhibitions across the country.

With a love of the great British countryside, self-taught acrylic colourist Chris has been living and painting in Stonesfield since 2010. Chris's paintings are a mixture of works from memory, photographs and working drawings.

We hope you enjoy viewing their work.

Trisha Williams for Pictures @ The Pub
(trifynwil003@gmail.com)

Claire Renshaw for The White Horse
Community Pub

Book Break's Break

Book Break is taking an August break and will start again on Thursday 5 September. Our continued focus has been upon the shared reading aloud and discussion of the novella, including, this year, one longer novel.

Although little is known about the life of painter, Vermeer, in Delft, Tracey Chevalier writes convincingly of just how it may have been in *Girl with a Pearl Earring*. Told from the perspective of Griet, a maid in Vermeer's household, the narration is deceptively simple but effectively evokes life in 17th century Delft in the Vermeer family and in the imagined story behind the eponymous *Girl with a Pearl Earring*. Alongside the novel, we also looked at the paintings of Vermeer and gained real insight into the painting process. We were fortunate to be able to watch the streamed version of the Vermeer exhibition showing concurrently at the Rijksmuseum giving us a close-up view of those remarkable paintings.

A considerable reading challenge this year was Kazuo Ishiguro's *Klara and the Sun*, a topical novel in its futuristic vision of AI in everyday life. Set in the USA, Klara is a solar-powered AF (Artificial Friend) bought from a department store to provide company for Josie, a teenager with a potentially fatal illness. The themes of genetic modification and the role of AI in our lives are disturbing ones but the novel gave us a very readable way into the subject. We will be intrigued to watch the planned film version of this novel.

Perhaps our most satisfying read has been John Preston's *The Dig*. This tells the story of the 1939 excavation of a burial mound at Sutton Hoo which led to a remarkable, archaeological find which totally changed our view of the so-called 'dark ages'. Apart from the amazing discoveries made at Sutton Hoo, John Preston unearths the

hidden aspects of the characters involved in the drama. It was intriguing to learn that John Preston was the nephew of Peggy Stuart (nee Preston), one of the archaeologists involved in the Sutton Hoo excavation. The film of the novel, which we all very much enjoyed, makes satisfyingly explicit what is implicit in the novel's characters.

As always, we are grateful for the use of Stonesfield Library as our venue throughout the year.

Wendy Lynch (891107)

Stonesfield Primary School

Learning together to achieve our best.



Looking for a friendly, inclusive, local school for your child?
Stonesfield Primary School has places in all year groups - we would love to show you around.



To arrange a tour with the headteacher, please contact the school office.

Tel: 01993 891687

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

Volunteer Focus - The Lunch Club - A Great Big Thank You!

When we decided to leave Altrincham in Cheshire and the dreaded M6 and move to Oxfordshire to be nearer our son and family, who were living in Abingdon then, we drew a triangle on the map between Woodstock, Witney and Chipping Norton,

It was pure luck, as apart from visiting Blenheim Palace on the way to London, we knew little of the area.

As luck would have it, we found Stonesfield! and a house with a decent sized garden plus the bonus of being able to walk the dogs from the house.

Once we had moved in and settled a little, we joined many of the societies including the W.I., the Stonesfield Society and the History Society and for the next 30 years lived a charmed life here in Stonesfield.

Along with Hazel Smith, Hilary Eaton, Jenny Powell and Bob Hain we set up the Lunch Club which provides a day out for lonely and perhaps isolated older people in our community. For the last twenty seven years members and helpers have been meeting every Wednesday in the St James' Centre and enjoying the companionship offered along with a delicious lunch, outings and varied activities. I spent 20 odd years enjoying the companionship of the forty plus volunteers, who made The Lunch Club possible. I also came to admire the true grit of many of our members as they coped with often difficult lives.

When speaking of volunteers - what an achievement for a small village the size of Stonesfield. Without this unwavering support Lunch Club could not have survived. Each week eleven volunteers

were needed: 4 drivers, 2 cooks 2 helpers and a Day Organiser.

Every three months people like Diana Dawe, Hilda Hyde and Jenny Haviland drew up rotas for helpers and drivers. Mary Hughes and others organised visits and activities.

Mary Plumridge accepted and banked the monies each week and kept immaculate records. Brian, her husband, helped with the accounts annually.

That the Lunch Club has survived as it has is solely because of the support of the village and is something of which to be proud.

As the time approaches for us to leave the village and move on to the next phase in our lives Richard and I wanted to say 'Thank You' to this charmed village and its inhabitants who accepted two townies into its midst and gave us the enviable life we have lived here for the last 30 years.

Thank you, one and all and may you continue to flourish as the successful and thriving village that you are,

Semper Floreat Stonesfield!

Anne Bishop

The Stonesfield Spirit

Volunteers are the backbone of happy, healthy and connected communities. Without them, many organisations simply would not be able to do the important work they do. Stonesfield is no exception, the spirit of volunteering has been a cornerstone of our village for decades and we should be rightly proud of our efforts.

In this third article I want to champion the volunteers across the wider community of

Stonesfield, possibly less visible than the pub volunteer army but just as vital! Stonesfield groups and volunteers give up their time and expertise to make our village better. They provide varied social activities and opportunities to meet others. Working to improve our environment, helping when things are difficult, sharing our childcare, giving us fun activities to engage in and even taking us to the doctor.

Like many villages, Stonesfield is blessed with a wonderful church community representing a number of denominations. They provide essential pastoral support for our residents. There is no fanfare, just quietly in the background giving help to those in need. Our church volunteers commit their time week in week out, year after year; be it gardening, counselling, running coffee mornings and numerous church events for our community to enjoy. Once again it is impossible to quantify the hours and efforts of our resident volunteers but hopefully this piece will give you an insight:

- St James the Great Church volunteers help with Monday Coffee which has been going for 13 years and has seven volunteers currently. This is open to all in the St James' Centre 10-12 noon every Monday - check out the lovely piece in this month's News section for more information.
- St James the Great Church volunteers contribute to every service and to the wider church through reading, welcoming, serving coffee, arranging flowers and providing maintenance services in the church, churchyard and St James' Centre.
- Stonesfield Methodist Church volunteers provide wonderful support to the church

and hold events throughout the year to raise funds, including their upcoming afternoon tea on 31 August.

- Probably overlooked are those volunteers who support their churches through the provision of monthly submissions to The Slate. They are a vital conduit in making information known to our community, so a big shout out from the editorial team to Lindsey, Suze, Kathleen and Dale. Thank you ladies!

The Stonesfield Spirit reaches every corner of our village, in addition to the church volunteers there are incredible people supporting a wealth of other groups, causes and activities for our community to benefit from. If I have missed anyone out of the following round-up then please call to berate me! Here goes:

- **The Stonesfield Lunch Club** has been running for 27 years. Please read the beautiful piece by Anne Bishop as she thanks the amazing volunteers who provide this invaluable event for our older residents.
- **Carer's Café** - a fantastic support group that meets every first and third Tuesday of the month, providing company and a listening ear for anyone in the area who has (or has had) a caring role.
- **The Pre School and Primary School Governors** are all volunteers and vital to supporting and steering these organisations to success.
- **Friends of Stonesfield School** provide fundraising through great community events like the summer fete - and always with a smile despite the great British weather!

- **Stonesfield Gardening Club** who not only hold talks and enjoy visits and socials, their volunteers are integral to looking after the War Memorial Garden and the pub garden.
- **Stonesfield Tree Group** is putting their big plans into practice with the planting of hundreds of new trees in our beautiful surroundings.
- **Stonesfield Voluntary Transport Scheme** provides car transport for local residents to medical appointments in the Oxfordshire area. Each driver is reimbursed and DBS checked.
- **SUSTO** making sure that any potential housing developments meet any need for affordable housing without spoiling our rural character.
- **Environment Group** are passionate volunteers seeking to protect and enhance our environment including the Evenlode.
- **Neighbourhood Watch** - anyone can be a member and it is free to join, making our village a stronger and safer place to be.
- **Community Speed Watch (CSW)** - SAFER (Stonesfield Parish Council's road safety working group) work with Thames Valley Police to co-ordinate CSW. More volunteers are needed for 1-2 hours per month to help with CSWs.
- **The Slate Team** - our regular contributors, editors, publishers and distributing team are all volunteers who work hard to bring you the news of our community. I know I love being part of the team!


Why volunteer?

Our community groups always need new volunteers - we need you to keep the Stonesfield Spirit alive and it is wonderful to see a new generation of volunteers emerging in the likes of young Samuel and his mountain triathlon! With busy lives, it can be hard to find time to volunteer. However, the benefits of volunteering can be enormous. Volunteering offers vital help to people in need, worthwhile causes, and the community, but the benefits can be even greater for you, the volunteer. It is human nature to feel good after helping someone out. Volunteering can also help you gain valuable new skills and experiences, and boost your confidence. So give it a go and see what you can bring to the Stonesfield Spirit!

Fiona Dangerfield

Editor

YOUR LIBRARY NEEDS YOU!



Time to spare?
Looking for a new opportunity?
 Friends of Stonesfield Library would like to meet you!
 We support the library service by sharing the opening hours with the professional manager.
 If you enjoy reading and helping people, this is the volunteering opportunity for you!
 We work in pairs and carry out a variety of tasks during a session (usually one session of 2-3 hours per month).

Interested?
Come along to Stonesfield Library to find out more or contact Mike Pollitt on 01993 891856.

Clubs, societies & sport

Stonesfield Gardening Club

The Gardening Club held a very successful Open Gardens event at the end of June, when we had 160 visitors visiting 11 gardens in the village. We are very grateful to those who opened their gardens, some for the first time, and to all those who baked cakes and sold teas. We now have lots of money to give to local charities later in the year.



Some of the 'tea team'

We also went to the (rather soggy) school fete to sell what we had left of our plants, and, thanks to generous donations, we were able to benefit Chrissie's Owls directly.



SGC's tent at the fete



Chris Day with his indoor plants

Also in July we had a return visit from Chris Day of Buckingham Gardens. Having started his career over 40 years ago as an apprentice at a houseplant nursery, he brought along a wonderful display of different plants to show us. The general rule of thumb is that the bigger the leaf the more tolerant of shade a plant is, so a smaller leaved plant needs more light.

Over watering is the biggest cause of problems with house plants, so Chris suggests getting the soil moist then allowing it to dry so the roots can take up oxygen which they also need. Feed your plants too, best done from March to September.

No meeting this month, but September sees the return of another club favourite, Rosy Hardy, talking to us about perennials for pollinators.

Diane Bates

Secretary Stonesfield Gardening Club

www.stonesfieldgardening.info

Stonesfield Scouts

On Saturday 13 July, 1800 ducks were once again set free down the river to the cheers and support from onlookers. The river was a little worse for wear, but the sun was out and the BBQ was on, ensuring the spirits were kept high! The volunteers put on an amazing raffle, hook a duck, bar and BBQ for all who attended. All 1800 ducks were collected at the end of the race (and hosed down) ready for next year.

The scout group would like to thank everyone who bought ducks and supported us. We raised just shy of £2500 and this is being put towards our new hut. Over the years we estimate the ducks have raised many tens of thousands of pounds, and we are glad it remains a part of the village calendar.

Next year we have a few leaders stepping back and so we are desperate for some fresh faces to join in. Please contact any of us if you are wanting to help in any capacity. The Scout Group has been part of the village community for 76 years and we want it to continue.



We will see everyone again in September for a fresh year. Have a great summer and see you for Xmas Bingo!

For more information, please see our website, Facebook or Instagram page by searching for Stonesfield Scouts.

If you want to get in touch with us, please email

Ben (chair@stonesfield-scouts.org.uk)
Gary (gsl@stonesfield-scouts.org.uk) or
Paul (scouthut@stonesfield-scouts.org.uk)

Ben Whitworth

Chair



Stonesfield Sports and Social Club

Wow! What an amazing month we've had! There was so much to do and see at the Club. From watching the Euros on the big screen, enjoying the charity cricket cup, seeing all the bikes arrive for bike night, to BBQs, soaking up the sun on the patio, dancing to the live music and cheering on our in-house club teams. It has really been amazing, and we would like to thank our amazing patrons for their love and support.

It does not end there, August keeps up the tempo with the Crawford Cricket Cup on Fridays with the grand final on Sunday 11 August. Live music from Fraud Squad on 31 August and of course the famous pizza man, Select Flame, every Friday from 5:30pm.

Our two Pool and Aunt Sally teams are still going strong, playing every Wednesday and Thursday, everyone is welcome to come and cheer them on!

Stonesfield Sports and Social Club

Stonesfield Food Group

Emergency Food help

One of the aims of the Food Group is to support Stonesfield residents who are struggling to afford nourishing food. We are able to do this using the funds raised by the Community Cafés run alongside the Repair café, and through other generous donations.

We are currently able to offer food parcels or emergency supermarket vouchers. If you, or someone you know, could benefit, contact Kate Harris, on 01993 898781 or via email at kateharris58@yahoo.co.uk.

If you are able to, you can support the food parcel initiative by donating tinned meat pies, hotdogs, meatballs, chicken, or ham. They can be left in the brown box on the doorstep of 6 Brook Lane.



Seniors' Café and Stonesfield Social

Both of these activities have been taking a rest over the summer. and may return in a different format in September – watch this space!

The Seniors' Café takes place 2-3pm.

The Social happens 5-6.30pm.

Both are on Tuesdays during term time at the Village Hall.

We are very aware of our environmental impact and are proud of our achievements, including:

- Over 1 tonne of food was saved (approximately 30kgs each session). We do this by working with the Oxford Food Hub to use excellent quality food which would otherwise be thrown away and left to create greenhouse gas emissions. Often this food has been brought to Oxford from distant locations where it is grown, with implications for further environmental damage due to airfreight, water and energy used to produce the food or package and transport it.

- Encouraging our FaceBook group members to think about their food choices and providing information about how to reduce waste – for example using cauliflower leaves and stalks as well as the more usual curds! We also demonstrate this through our cooking.
- Very little food waste at the sessions. We provide delicious family friendly healthy meals, and very little is thrown away. One week we even sent some dinner home for hungry chickens!
- We encourage those who have takeaways to bring their own reusable containers or to treat ours as a loan, cutting down on plastic waste
- We have been lucky enough to receive several gifts of surplus, locally grown garden produce – thank you!

Both the Seniors' Café and the Social provide a great social space for neighbours to get together in addition to all the environmental benefits.



None of this marvellous work could take place without our team of volunteers who uncomplainingly clear tables, wash up, provide craft activities and of course cook. We could always use more help, so please consider joining our friendly group. Contact Julie for more information.

Julie Curran, Co-Chair, Stonesfield Village Hall
juliecurran0@gmail.com

STONESFIELD LUNCH CLUB

Stonesfield Lunch Club meets every Weds 11 till 2 (for members) at the St James' Centre.

Lunch Club provides a social occasion, friendship and support for our more mature residents along with refreshments, activities and a freshly cooked 2-course meal each week.

Volunteers are always welcomed for many roles and this is a lovely way to be involved in village life. Contact me if you would like more information on becoming a member or in volunteering.

Kate Harris 01993 898781 or kateharris58@yahoo.co.uk

Church news

Church of England Worship at St James the Great, Stonesfield

(Benefice of Stonesfield with Combe Longa)

www.stonesfieldparishchurch.org

Rector: Revd 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 Church Restoration Begins

Last year we were deeply moved by the generosity of many people in the village who supported our appeal for help towards repairs to our beautiful Church in Stonesfield. Church of England churches receive no financial support from the Government or the Diocese, but they are surveyed every five years and the resulting 'Quinquennial' inspection report lists the repairs which are needed. Overall, St James the Great is in a good state, but the most recent report showed a number of repairs are needed to the roof, and to high level stonework, which led to our appeal to the parish. I am delighted that after careful planning with our architect and builder, the work will begin on the 19 August, and should be completed in November. At a recent site meeting, I was impressed and

moved by the care which is being taken, not just with the building, but also with the people who worship in the Church, and those who live and work around it. Everything possible is being done to minimise the impact of these repairs, and to ensure that St James is in first class condition in time for Advent and Christmas.

The church has not always been so well cared for. It is mostly a 13th and 14th century building, with the tower at its current height dating from the 15th century. In 1517 the Rector was reported for neglecting the repair of the church, and for having a woman in his house. In 1717 the church was said to be 'out of repair and in great danger'. The population of the village was smaller in those days, but church attendance fluctuated, partly through inactivity, and largely through the presence of strong and enthusiastic groups of nonconformists - Quakers, Methodists, and the Salvation Army. In the 18th century St James held just six communion services a year (today we have around 160!). Things were taken in hand in the 19th century, when repairs and improvements were made to the building (some paid for by the Duke of Marlborough) and parish clergy dedicated their time and energy to worship and activities in the parish. By the middle of the 19th century there were four Sunday services and daily services during the week, along with a flourishing Sunday School, evening schools and Bible classes.

We look forward to the completion of the important repairs to our Church. But we are aware that the other meaning of the word ‘Church’ is the community of people who worship within it. We are the church and we gather to worship together, bringing our whole lives, with their joys and challenges, into the presence of God. The church is a place of seeking and finding, of forgiveness, healing and restoration, of learning and of celebration, where we are fully known and refreshed by the love of other people and our experience of the love of God. Please join us!

Revd Ralph Williamson

Church services:

4 August [Tenth Sunday after Trinity]

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

11 August [Eleventh Sunday after Trinity/St Laurence Patronal Festival]

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [BCP/said]
9.30am	Combe	Parish Communion
11am	Stonesfield	Parish Communion
7.30pm	Combe	Evening Service on the Green

18 August [Twelfth Sunday after Trinity]

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

25 August [Thirteenth 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)

A record of recent funerals:

27 June: Marion Annie Hall

Our prayers are for family and friends at this time

.....

Roman Catholic Worship

Freedom

‘So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed’ John 8 31-42

We all want freedom of some sort: freedom from: fear, debt, corrosive relationships, anxiety, some other people. We also want freedom to: love the people we want to love, make our own choices (including choices others would prefer us not to make), be the person we want to be. Saints often show us that demonstrating mercy and forgiveness can triumph over hatred and revenge; that goodness can free us from damaging emotions and consequences.

The freedom of which John is speaking goes further than that; John is saying that Jesus sets us free from sin and makes us whole again. John is clearly telling us that the untrammelled freedom that Jesus offers through His teaching is that we can

end our lives of denial. True spiritual freedom that leads to salvation and eternity in Heaven is obtained only when we wholeheartedly embrace the holy and perfect spiritual truth given to us by God.

When Jesus revealed himself as the Messiah, He said that He had come to Earth to 'proclaim freedom' (Luke 4:18)

Holy Mass

Sunday Mass 9.15am

Weekday Mass

Wednesdays: 9.15am

Fridays: 9.15am

For Parish updates, more information and further support, please go to www.stteresaschurch-charlbury.com/ or contact Fr. Clive Dytor, Parish Priest: fr.clive.dytor@rcaob.org.uk

Roman Catholic Community in Stonesfield

Stonesfield Methodist Church

Services for August

Sun 4 11am The Reverend Stephen Bywaters

Holy Communion Service

Sun 11 11am Kevin Crawford

Sun 18 11am Peter Allen

Sun 25 11am The Reverend Jason Cooke

What bliss a warm bright summer's day can bring.

Elections may rage and football tantalise but nothing is better than waking to a sun filled morning with glorious rays of light blowing any cobwebs away.

On the 6 August is the Feast of the Transfiguration. It remembers that great day when Jesus waited way up on a mountain top until God sent His own piercing rays of brilliance, claiming His son to light the world.

'Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.' Psalm 119:105

Do support our tea afternoon here on 31 August, 2-4-30pm. All are welcome.

Come to a Service soon.

Kathleen Albért (891733)

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

STONESFIELD GARDENING CLUB

Stonesfield Gardening Club is a friendly, sociable club with a full programme of events (see website). You can meet fellow members, listen to interesting and knowledgeable speakers talking about a wide variety of gardening topics and enjoy organised visits to various gardens.

Membership is open to anyone interested in gardening on payment of the **annual subscription (£10 per adult or £18 for a couple at the same address)** and all members receive a membership card entitling them, amongst other benefits, to discounts at local garden centres.

Visitors are welcome to attend a meeting for a fee of £4, deductible from membership if you join at the meeting.

More details at
www.stonesfieldgardening.info



The White Horse Open for meals and drinks

Enjoy a menu showcasing classic British fare, alongside a well-curated selection of local ales and fine wines.

Whether seeking breakfast*, a hearty meal, a relaxing drink, or lively conversation, The White Horse offers a timeless retreat, embodying the spirit of traditional English pub culture. Bring along your 4 legged friends too, where our dog loving staff will be ready with a bowl of water and a biscuit or 2.

* Saturday 10.00 – 11.30

Bar						
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
Closed	17.00 – 23.00	11.30 – 23.00	11.30 – 23.00	11.30 – 23.00	11.30 – 23.00	11.30 – 20.00

Food						
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
Closed	Closed	12.00 – 14.30	12.00 – 14.30	12.00 – 14.30	10.00 – 14.30	12.00 – 16.00
		18.00 – 21.00	18.00 – 21.00	18.00 – 21.00	18.00 – 21.00	

The White Horse is a community owned pub.
www.thewhitehorsestonesfield.com

The White Horse, The Ridings, Stonesfield, OX29 8EA

Stonesfield Tennis Club

The club was established over 100 years ago with membership open to all at very competitive subscription rates. The two astro-turf tennis courts were re-laid in 2018 and are in excellent condition with plenty of court availability.

Phone: 07795 441986
(Andrew Tacon; Chairman)

Website:
<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/StonesfieldTennisClub>

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



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
www.windrushgroup.co.uk

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



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



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

Our friendly team includes female drivers

www.townhousewoodstock.co.uk



**Katrina Moss
Inner Peace Reiki**

Treatment in the comfort of your own home
Level 2 Reiki practitioner
Treatment and public liability insurance
Reiki complementary healing can be
beneficial in many ways
Gift vouchers available

Please contact me for a consultation

07824 357690

katrinamoss1979@icloud.com

Need help with your garden?

*Garden maintenance and design
Planting, pruning and weeding
Advice for free*

Michelle Turkie

Please contact me

07531 717991

michelleturkie@gmail.com

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



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

"A job done well"

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

JEM
CHIMNEY
SWEEPING

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

Are you a local business?

You could advertise your business here
from £3 per month.

For details email

slate-ads@stonesfield.online



DJR MILES

BATHROOM, PLUMBING & HEATING ENGINEERS LTD

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)



**THAMES VALLEY
TREE CARE LTD**

Founded in Stonesfield.
Providing a professional, reliable and innovative 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

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

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


A.L. SOLE & SON
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Bidston Close - Over Norton - Chipping Norton - OX7 5PP
01608 644112
office@solefunerals.co.uk
www.solefunerals.co.uk



*Your local independent funeral director since 1948.
Providing a considerate and appropriate service
with a refreshingly normal approach.*

*24hr Service
*Private Chapel of Rest
*Pre-paid Funeral Plans

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

OXAD

Stonesfield's new Architecture and Design Studio

- All planning applications
- Listed building consents
- Building Surveys
- Renovations, conversions and new build projects
- Full design packages from concept to construction

Need advice? We are happy to help, feel free to call us



<https://www.instagram.com/oxa.design/>



Andrew 07462879191

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

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

PJR Plumbing & Heating

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



500807

Tel: 01993 881069

MOB: 07515 733398



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

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

1 Abbey Street, Eynsham, Oxford OX29 4TB

Home visits and evening appointments available



PerfectFinish

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

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 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





Professional, local tree care

Removals, pruning, stump grinding and
hedge cutting

Insured and qualified

Chris Murphy FdSc (Arb) NdArb
07738 151880

chris@ashdowntreemanagement.co.uk
www.ashdowntreemanagement.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

 @maeveodonnellacupuncture

Woodstock Solicitors

WILLS ~ PROBATE ~ POWERS OF ATTORNEY

INHERITANCE TAX PLANNING

Tel. 01993 811 792

Email info@woodstocklaw.co.uk

Woodstock Solicitors - 1st 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
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 or call
01993 898620 07941 561471



WINDOW DESIGN INTERIORS

BLINDS, CURTAINS, FABRICS

Made to Measure
Curtains and Blinds

Fabric Showroom

Measurement and Fitting
Service

www.windowdesigninteriors.co.uk

01993 870606

Call us to make an appointment

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

Mob: 07710 628248

Email: geoffboothlandscaping@hotmail.com

Enjoyable and friendly art classes

Drawing and painting
Still Life

For more information contact
gabrielekern31@gmail.com

PROBLEM FEET ?!

NAIL CUTTING. CORNS. CALLOUS.
HARD/DRY SKIN. FOOT MASSAGE.

**TREATMENT IN THE COMFORT
OF YOUR OWN HOME!**

Sharon Davies MCFHP/MAFHP
01993 891132/ 07941843353

OVER 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE

**REGISTERED MEMBER OF THE
BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF FOOT
HEALTH PROFESSIONALS**

Rita Johnson

(was Hutchings)

Painter & Decorator

Internal & External.

Quality work.

Clean, efficient, friendly worker.

Contact me for free estimates.

01993 772078 or 07826 011560

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



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

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

email: handymanade65@gmail.com

D S JONES

BUILDING & ROOFING

All aspects of building, & roofing undertaken

For all enquiries call or email

07496149990

djsmaintenance@hotmail.com

Instagram: @dsjonesbuilding



**1 Cotswold Business Park.
Range Road, Witney.
Oxfordshire OX29 0YB.**

Oxfordshire based company bringing great local building services to your door...

- ✚ Boiler service and repair.**
- ✚ Gas, Lpg, Oil, and Heat pumps.**

- ✚ Plumbing and heating services.**
- ✚ Repairs and installations.**

- ✚ Building renovations & maintenance.**
- ✚ New builds, extensions, repairs.**

- ✚ Electrical services.**
- ✚ Repairs and installations.**
- ✚ Solar panels & batteries.**



01993 771754



Info@gandoengineers.co.uk

www.gandoengineers.co.uk

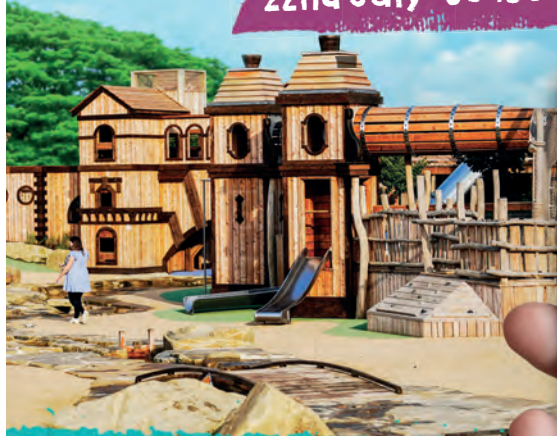


BLENHEIM PALACE

ADVENTURE PLAY

Have fun with Shaun the Sheep this summer

22nd July to 1st September



Download the App
search "Fun with the Flock"



© and TM Rardman Animations Ltd 2024

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 | flowersestateagents.com

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

***The Stonesfield
Evenlode Bench***

*This bench was
created at the end
of Well Lane for
all villagers to
have a restful view
of the Evenlode
meandering
through the
river valley
below Stonesfield
Common.*

