



Having been open for 30 years it is easy to assume that everyone knows who we are and what we do, but having welcomed some lovely new families to the village it's clear that this isn't the case, so I thought this would be a good opportunity to introduce ourselves.

Stonesfield Sports and Social Club was opened by Sir Ashley Ponsonby — the Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, on 23 July 1995.

The Club was the brainchild of Kevin McShane who was the first Chairman, Vice Chairman was Bernard Youngs, the Secretary was Selina Smith, and the Treasurer was Dave Holloway.

The building took a year to construct at a cost of £55,000, raised by fundraising activity as

well as grants and interest free loans from Committee Members.

We are a member's club with both social and sports members. With the club's recent refurb and extension to the patio area overlooking the play park, we have a lovely family feel. Your sporting needs are covered, whether that's joining a team or just having fun. We have a mixture of sports channels on the large screen for special events, a dart board, pool table, Aunt Sally and dominoes. Covering the social side, we have competitions, live music, bingo, quiz, the pizza man and other fundraising events. We have a bit of something for everyone!

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Just call the Editor (see below) who can arrange to collect your handwritten copy.

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

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or contact the Editor by phone.

This month's Editor

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(07814 112437)
editor@stonesfieldslate.uk

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Current and past copies of *The Slate* are available at
www.stonesfield.online or via QR code



Dates for your diary: September

29	Talk: Glove-making in Stonesfield	Village Hall	7pm
October			
1	Parish Council Meeting	Stonesfield School	7pm
1-12	Pics @ Pub: <i>Celebrating Stonesfield</i>	The White Horse	pub hours
1,8,15,22,29	Pilates	Village Hall	9.30-10.45am
1,8,15,22,29	Hannah Bathe HIIT Class	Village Hall	7-7.45pm
1,8,15,22,29	Folk Dancing	Village Hall	7.45-10pm
2,9,16,23,30	Book Break	Stonesfield Library	12.30-2pm
2,6,9,13,16	Taekwondo	Village Hall	5.30-6.30pm
2,9,16,23	Upholstery Group	Village Hall	9.30am-12.30pm
2,9,16,23	Hannah Bathe Strength & Condition	Village Hall	7-7.45pm
3,10,17,24	Baby & Toddlers	Village Hall	10am-noon
3	Harvest Quiz Night	St James' Centre	6pm
4	Chrissie's Owls Community Café	Village Hall	9.30am-1pm
6,13,20,27	Monday Coffee	St James' Centre	10-11.30am
6,13,20,27	Baby&Me (Postpartum Yoga)	Village Hall	10-11.15am
6,13,20,27	Bump&Me (Antenatal Yoga)	Village Hall	7.30-8.30pm
6,13,20,27	Hannah Bathe HIIT Class	Village Hall	7-7.45pm
6,13,20,27	Monday Coffee	St James' Centre	10-11.30am
6,13,20,27	Hannah Bathe Circuits - Mixed	Village Hall	8-9pm
7,14,21,28	Zumba	Village Hall	7-8pm
7,14,21,28	Zumba Strong	Village Hall	8-9pm
7,14,21	Stonesfield Social	Village Hall	5-6.30pm
10	Witney Music Society concert	Witney Methodist Church	7.30pm
11	Charlbury Art Society	Memorial Hall	10am-5pm
12	Charlbury Art Society	Memorial Hall	10am-4pm
12	DIY SOS Day	Stonesfield Scout Hut	TBC
13	Gardening Club Talk	St James' Centre	7.30pm
15-31	Pics @ Pub: <i>Paint & Print</i>	The White Horse	pub hours
17	Youth Provision supporters meeting	Village Hall	7-8pm
18	Ladies' Breakfast	St James' Centre	9am

Continued on p4

Dates for your diary: October (continued)

20,23,27,30	Taekwondo	Village Hall	5.30-6.30pm
21	Folk Night	The White Horse	7.30 for 8pm
24	Young People's pizza evening	Village Hall	7-8pm
25	Men's Walk and Talk	St James' Centre (meet)	10am
28	Bingo Night	SSSC	7pm
29	FoSL Library Volunteers Meeting	SSSC	7pm
29	<i>Moonraker</i> Concert	St James Church	5-7pm
30	Children's movie morning	SSSC	10.30am
31	Film: <i>Consequences of Love</i>	Combe Cinema	7.30 for 8pm
31	Halloween party, music by Jake&Dan	SSSC	8.30pm

November

1	Stonesfield Players Community Café	Village Hall	10-2pm
1	FOSS Halloween Disco	Village Hall	6pm
1	Shoebox event	Methodist Church	2-4pm
7	Maggie's Oxford Pop-up Café	St James Centre	10.30am-3pm
13,14,15	<i>Cold Comfort Farm</i>	Village Hall	7.30pm

Fitness Classes

HannahBatheFitness@hotmail.com

Monday 7^{PM} **Ladies only HIIT**
Monday 8^{PM} **Mixed Circuits**
Wednesday 7^{PM} **Ladies only HIIT**
Thursday 7^{PM} **Ladies Strength & Conditioning**

☎ **07974 100 076**

**STONESFIELD
VILLAGE HALL**



Notices & news

Mary Gilson - A thank you

Mary Gilson 1928 - 2025: our mum moved to Stonesfield in 2019. It was a chance for her to live near family again after a happy retirement to Yarnton with Dad who had died in 2013. Our fortune was to move to a village with 'heart' and 'character'. Mum was born in the Black Country, in Wednesbury and it wasn't long before she was making contacts with neighbours and village life. One of her first personal contacts was Margaret, also born in Wednesbury, whose friendliness towards her was much appreciated. She used the library, the Post Office, the shop and of course as a lifelong member, attended the Methodist Chapel, enjoying being able to walk to service on Sunday even at 95. Wednesday lunch club at St James' became a regular date: village transport, legendary lunches, outings and helpful advice ensured she felt valued and comfortable in the community within a short time.

After 5 years, she needed 24 hour care and thus moved to a local care home, but continued to stay in our thoughts by being on the St James' weekly prayer list and because of the numerous kind, frequent enquiries from villagers and of course, catch up visits by the family to share in this difficult demise. Her death was peaceful, her life full and our family most grateful to all of you for the kindness, the support and the messages and cards we have received since. Of course we miss her, she was a gem.

Ray and Jo

Village Hall news

Following on from the Family Day in August, we are keen to host a youth club, so anyone interested in helping, supporting or joining, please let me know – meetings will be taking place during October with both supporters and young people to shape what we do.

Our regular bookings continue to grow, see details at the hall, and in *The Slate* calendar. September's Repair Café was a success as usual.

We have had several private bookings so don't forget you can book for parties and occasions, with a seated room for 100, there are plenty of options. The hall is also large enough for bouncy castles.

Notice of Stonesfield Village Hall AGM
17 November 2025, 6.30-7.30pm @
Stonesfield Village Hall Club room.
Everyone is invited, especially our regular users.

Finally, don't forget Chrissie's Owls will be running the Community Café on 4 October – please support this local good cause, as well as The Stonesfield Players on 1 November.

Claire Renshaw (07359 338490)
Stonesfield Village Hall Bookings
info@stonesfieldvillagehall.com
www.stonesfieldvillagehall.com

The beast is back!



At the beginning of September Simon Armitage's poem *Megalosaurus* was installed in the White Horse garden and presented to the village by Professor Paul Smith, former Director, and Dr Emma Nicholls from Oxford University Museum of Natural History.

As can be seen by Chris Bartle's photograph above, the paparazzi were much in evidence! (See more on p29.)

Trisha Williams

Pictures @ The Pub

We hope you have taken the opportunity to view our special exhibition *Celebrating Stonesfield* – and perhaps will come for a second look as this will be on show until 12 October. The exhibits reflect the landscape, life and history of the village expressed through art, design, poetry and literature. Several items have been loaned or recreated from personal archives and may not be shown again. Many thanks go to everyone who has made this exhibition possible.

Our exhibition *Paint and Print* opens on 15 October and we are pleased to show the work of Melissa Stuart who paints landscapes of the Cotswolds and from her travels, and Jody O'Reilly who creates linocut prints depicting local scenes, and aspects of daily and family life. This will be a selling exhibition running until late November.

October marks the start of the third year for Pictures @ The Pub! Over the past two years we have shown the work of over 30 local artists and hosted several group exhibitions including Art Weeks, the Evenlode Textile Group, and our Spring and Midwinter Shows.

New blood is welcome; if you would like to discuss showing your work, please get in touch at trwynwil003@gmail.com.

Trisha Williams for Pictures @ The Pub
(trwynwil003@gmail.com)

Claire Renshaw for The White Horse
Community Pub



**JOIN US FOR TEA,
COFFEE & CAKE!**

ENJOY A CUPPA WITH FRIENDS OR POP ALONG FOR TAKEAWAY CAKE!

09.30AM TO 13.00PM
SATURDAY 4TH OCTOBER 2025
STONESFIELD VILLAGE HALL, OX29 8HA

A FUNDRAISER FOR STONESFIELD BASED
CHRISSIE'S OWLS AND STONESFIELD OWL RESCUE

IN ADDITION TO CAFÉ:
MEET CHRISSIE & SOME OWLS!
FIND OUT HOW TO ADOPT AN OWL

Chrissie's Owls
Committed to the Care and Conservation of Owls



Stonesfield School - Open Morning

Are you a September 2026 family looking for a place in reception class? If so, come to our open morning.

We will start with a brief presentation from the senior leadership team and will then have a little tour of the school. Please book your visit by letting the office know. The visit will last about 90 minutes.

See you there.

Mrs Kim Rogers

Executive Headteacher

Maggie's Oxford Pop-up Café

Join us on Friday 7 November at the St James' Centre from 10.30am until 3pm!

Morning coffee and cake will be segueing into lunch and then segueing gracefully into afternoon tea with more delicious cake... plus an exciting bottle raffle!

The café will be raising money for Maggie's Oxford, our local cancer care centre in the grounds of the Churchill Hospital offering free practical, emotional and psychological support for people with cancer and their families.

As many of you will know, Maggie's Oxford has supported me since I was diagnosed with myeloma in September 2023.

Myeloma is an incurable, life changing, blood cancer. My son Bertie is running the London Marathon next year for Maggie's Oxford, and this event is to support his fundraising.

Please support us by coming along on the day, and we are also looking for kind people to bake cakes and donate bottles.

Thank you so much,

Eleanor Bailey and amazing support crew - because myeloma means I can't do it on my own!

eleanorbailey55@gmail.com

alwenaappleton@hotmail.com

charles@sandon-house.co.uk

bolivern@icloud.com

Baby sitting and dog walking

Any day except Saturdays. £10 per hour

Tristan Lonsdale

(Year 12 Marlborough School)

tol08@icloud.com 07858 587149

Stonesfield Family Activity Day / Young People's Day (Stonesfield Youth Club)

Tuesday 19 August saw nearly 20 families enjoy a variety of activities in the morning from storytelling, parachute games, tennis to Broken Boardz. The day was organised with Stonesfield Village Hall, Parish Council, Food Group, West Oxfordshire District Council and You Move, as a day to showcase activity for family, a free chance to socialise and enjoy the activities on offer, as well as lunch and refreshments provided by the Oxford Food Hub. Activities were provided by some of our great clubs and groups already in Stonesfield, a huge thank you to all the activity leaders who supported the day.

One mum was very grateful, saying 'it is so nice to find free stuff to do right here in the village, the holidays are long and expensive when you have more than one child'.

The afternoon was the teenagers' turn, with 20 young people joining in activities such as tennis, basketball, Broken Boardz, dominos and bushcraft skills. Our focus was to chat with our village's young people to find out about youth provision and how we can help organise a regular evening activity for them. There was definitely heaps of enthusiasm from all, and we are now working to make this happen. We

Beth's babysitting

I am 14 and live in Farley Close. Please contact me if you'd like me to look after your children in the evenings. I have recently done some volunteering at the preschool to gain some experience.

Beth 07939 508211

need to hear from any adults who will help with volunteering on a Friday evening, but most of all from our young people again to help shape what is wanted and needed for the young people of Stonesfield.

Supporters meeting

Friday 17 October 7pm @ Stonesfield Village Hall

Young People's pizza evening

Friday 24 October 7pm @ Stonesfield Village Hall

If you can't make these dates, but are interested in any way, please let me know.

Claire Renshaw

info@stonesfieldvillagehall.com

QUEEN BEE | YOGA

Motherhood, Connect, Move, Breathe

Monday Classes

Bump&Me

(Antenatal Yoga)
7:30pm - 8:30pm

Baby&Me

(Postpartum Yoga)
10am - 11:15am



Stonesfield Village Hall
OX29 8HA

£10 block booking
£13 drop in class

Contact me to reserve your Mat!

@queen.bee.consultancy

Email: queenbeeconsultancy@gmail.com

With love, Nadia

Move Your Body, Lift Your Mind

As the evenings draw in and life gets busier, it's easy to put exercise at the bottom of the list. But moving our bodies isn't just about keeping fit for the future—it's about feeling good right now. Exercise helps us boost our mood, reduce stress, and connect with others. That's exactly what our village fitness classes are all about: energy, encouragement, and a friendly place to belong.

On Monday evenings at 7pm, the hall comes alive with the sound of laughter and determination. At 7pm, our Ladies Only HIIT Training kicks off—a fast-paced, high-energy workout designed to push you just enough to feel powerful, without ever feeling left behind. It's about showing up, giving it your best, and walking out stronger than you arrived.

Straight after, Mondays at 8pm, we welcome everyone aged 16+ for Mixed Circuits. This class is brilliant if you enjoy variety — each station offers something new, working different parts of the body in short bursts. It's fun, sociable, and perfect for all abilities.

By Wednesday evening at 7pm, the women are back for another round of Ladies Only HIIT. No two sessions are ever the same, so whether it's your first time or your

fiftieth, you'll find fresh challenges and plenty of encouragement.

And then there's Thursday at 7pm: Strength & Conditioning. This is where we slow things down and focus on building lasting strength. You don't have to be a weightlifter to join in—this class is about improving posture, protecting your joints, and giving you the kind of everyday resilience that helps with everything from carrying shopping to chasing after the kids/grandkids.

More than just classes, these sessions are about community. Everyone is welcomed, supported, and cheered on, no matter where they're starting from. It's a chance to do something for yourself, while being part of a group that celebrates every step forward.

So why not come along and give it a try? You might come for the workout, but you'll stay for the smiles, the support, and the way you feel afterwards — stronger, lighter, brighter. Definitely a win/win situation with the nights drawing in.

Please contact me for more information. First class is free, so you have nothing to lose.

Hannah Bathe (07974 100076)
hannahbathe@hotmail.co.uk



STONESFIELD VOLUNTARY TRANSPORT SCHEME

Our volunteer drivers are available to take you to local medical appointments or to the hospitals in Oxford and Banbury. We make no charge but welcome a donation towards expenses.

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

Nature Recovery – an Exhibition by Charlbury Arts and Evenlode Textile Group.



The Autumn show of the Charlbury Art Society will take place at the Charlbury Memorial Hall on Saturday 11 October from 10am-5pm, and Sunday 12 October from 10am-4pm. This year the guest artists are the Stonesfield-based Evenlode Textile Group.

The Charlbury Art Society is a long-established group with approximately 200 members. Many are practising artists while others have a keen interest in the arts. Their meetings include demonstrations and talks by guest speakers, as well as workshops and life drawing sessions.

The Evenlode Textile Group which meets monthly in the St James' Centre is an opportunity for textile artists to share their stitch and mixed media skills and to pursue and develop their own individual work.

The combination of Charlbury Arts and Evenlode Textiles promises to be an exciting, varied and vibrant exhibition. Do come and see for yourself!

Margaret Wilmore

Moonrakers Concert

On Saturday 25 October at 5pm in St James the Great Church join us for beautiful and uplifting Celtic traditional and contemporary songs and tunes – not to be missed!

Moonrakers is a renowned Oxford-based, and widely travelled, group of four musicians, who use Celtic harp, cello, guitar, other instruments and voice in their wonderful music-making. See: www.moonrakers.net/

Tickets £12. Available in advance from stonesfield@stonesfieldparishchurch.org or on the door. The concert, with interval, will finish approximately 7pm.

A very warm welcome to all.

Folk Night returned



Tuesday 16 September saw the welcome return of Folk Night to The White Horse. A good number of people turned out for a great evening of music and song.

The next Folk Night will be Tuesday 21 October, 7.30 for 8pm.

Nick and Judith Hooper

Repair and Community Café



Thank you to everyone who came to the Repair and Community Café in September. As well as all the amazing cakes and lunches, we repaired 54 items and kept 55kg of items out of landfill.



We repaired vacuum cleaners, audio equipment, lamps, advised on computers, mended clothes and sharpened tools among many other things. All in all a very good morning!

The next Repair Café event will be 6 December. See you there!

Susan Rudlin and Mike Sofroniou
07530 958111 (Mike)

Men's Walk and Talk

Get outside.

Meet new people.

Talk about anything that's on your mind.

On the last Saturday of each month, the next date is 25 October. Meet outside the St James' Centre at 10am for an easy walk of about an hour. No need to book, just turn up.

For more info text/call Neil 07812 332653

Ladies' Breakfast

There will be a Ladies' Breakfast on Saturday 18 October in the St James' Centre starting at 9am. This is a time to enjoy breakfast with others followed by a short talk.

The cost is £5.

If you would like to know more please get in touch with Bina (891293), Kathleen (891733), Muriel (891479) or Suzy (891552).

There is room at the table for you!

Harvest Quiz Night

Friday 3 October

It is time for another evening of fun and good company! Come and join in our Harvest Quiz Night at St James' Centre on Friday 3 October at 6pm. Bring your family, friends, or come on your own - everyone is very welcome. Buffet supper at half time - all free of charge.

It would be helpful to have an indication of numbers, so if you know you would like to come, please contact me.

Lindsey Sellar, Churchwarden (898757)
stonesfield@stonesfieldparishchurch.org

Combe Women's Institute

WI meetings are held on the second Monday of each month in the Reading Room, Combe from 7.30-9.30pm. We also have two informal sub-groups - WIWAC (Women's Institute Walk and Cake) who meet on an ad-hoc monthly basis to enjoy walks planned around favourite tea and cake cafés, and from October a new group who will meet on the last Thursday of the month to enjoy a variety of social outings.

WI membership is open to all women over the age of 18 and we have an interesting programme of speakers, outings and activities in line with the Women's Institute main principles of encouraging friendship, tolerance, learning and community spirit.

Subscription from October – March is now reduced to £25.50. If you're not sure the WI is for you then come along and try us out. Guests are limited to 3 meetings a year and charged £6 per meeting.

Our next meeting is on Monday 13 October when Ken and June Brazier will be telling us about 'Mercy Ships' which is an international development organisation that deploys hospital ships to some of the poorest countries in the world, delivering vital, free healthcare to people in desperate need.

Please call or email me if you would like further information about the WI.

Julia Sharpe, Secretary Combe WI (891058)
combewi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

Combe Community Cinema



The Consequences of Love (2004), directed by Paolo Sorrentino, is a slow-burning psychological drama about Titta Di Girolamo, a middle-aged man living a monotonous and isolated existence in a Swiss hotel.

For eight years, he has observed life at a distance, carefully concealing his past and avoiding human connection. His rigid routine begins to unravel when he becomes drawn to Sofia, the hotel barmaid, sparking a quiet yet transformative desire for intimacy. As his secrets come to light - including ties to the Mafia - Titta's life descends into danger. The film explores loneliness, alienation, and the risks of breaking emotional isolation.

Doors open on Friday 31 October at 7.30 for 8.00pm start and our 'Cine-bar' will be serving soft drinks, wine and a selection of beers. Come and meet friends for a chat, a drink or two and an enjoyable film night. £5 per ticket on the door, cash and card payment accepted.

The Hub, Park Roads, Combe
Combecommunitycinema@gmail.com

Combe Mill: 19 October Wood Craft and Autumn Market Event

We have invited Wood Turners Clubs along with vintage demonstrations, spoon carving, pole lathe and much more, come along and see how it was done in the past.

Autumn Market Stalls with lots to browse and many of our regular stall holders. Al's Owls will join us again, see and hold a real Owl. Charlbury Morris Dancers will join us in the afternoon.

Combe Mill, a late 19th Century Restored Water Mill on Blenheim Palace Estate by the River Evenlode, all machinery running 'in steam' and volunteers will be on hand with lots of interesting information. See the Blacksmiths in the forge and you might just be able to make a poker. Our tea room will be open, BBQ, gift shop, raffle and tombola.

Adults £9.00, seniors £7.50, accompanied children FREE open 10.30am to 4.30pm.

Free parking and entry. Dogs on leads are most welcome.

Sun 1 December is the Annual Christmas Fayre 11am to 4pm

Market Stalls with lots to browse, get your Christmas gifts early. Santa will be in his Grotto so bring the children along. (Santa's Grotto slots can be booked at combemill.org) There will be a BBQ, chestnuts and mulled wine, tea room, gift shop, tombola and a grand raffle.

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.

Combe Mill

Blenheim Palace Sawmills, Combe OX29 8ET

Witney Music Society

The 2025-26 series of Witney Music Society concerts starts in October. Details of all the concerts are on the Witney Music Society website and in its new brochure, copies of which may be obtained via the website or from locations throughout Witney.

The opening concert of the new season will be given by the Prague-based Trio Bohémo who will be performing works for piano trio by Haydn, Smetana and Schubert. The concert is at 7.30pm on Friday 10 October at High Street Methodist Church, Witney.

Tickets (£18, £1 for under 19s) will be available at the door from 7pm or in advance online. For more information, please telephone 01993 898020 or visit the Witney Music Society website www.witneymusicsociety.org.uk

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.

Politics & local affairs

Stonesfield Parish Council

July Report

Planning: No objection was raised to the planning application at Stonesfield Manor, Combe Road.

Neighbourhood Plan: A detailed report from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group was received and agreed.

Finance: £70.02 was approved for replacement defibrillator pads at the St James' Centre.

A Parish Council PayPal account was approved, with a £300 spending limit under the Clerk's delegated authority.

Committee & Working Groups: Membership of the HR Committee and all working groups was confirmed.

Owl Video Device: The Council declined to purchase an Owl video conferencing device at this stage, but will review again after winter.

Bins: The Council approved the installation of a dual bin by the shop, with servicing costs agreed.

Community Orchard: Work is progressing, with a 5-year working plan to be produced.

The Common (Cricket Pitch

Fencing): Urgent fencing work was approved. The Council agreed to proceed with a metal post option, with installation to be carried out as part of a college student project.

Village Hall Hedges: The Council confirmed responsibility for a section of hedge by the car park. It was agreed that hedge cutting should continue annually, alternating sides. Further information on who should carry out the work will be gathered before arrangements are made.

Clerk's Report: AGAR submitted; Meadow Clary survey success noted; traffic regulation and flood fencing noted; new Clerk phone number operational; shop grant project noted.

September Report

Village maintenance: A new bin has been installed by the shop. Hedge cutting at the Village Hall and grass cutting contracts will be reviewed in October.

Neighbourhood Plan: The revised Neighbourhood Plan was approved. The Steering Group was thanked for its thorough work, warmly applauded by all present.

Finance: Payments were approved and a new Multipay Card agreed.

Parish Councillor resignation: Cllr J Huband has stepped down and was thanked for her service.

External Audit: The annual review of the Council's accounts for 2024–25 found no major issues. Minor improvements were recommended for future years, including clearer publication of audit notices.

District Councillor update: Cllr Genny
Early reported on several matters: (see
separate report)

Clerk's update: The Council formally
confirmed the end of the Clerk's
probationary period, with a pay increment
awarded. Councillors thanked the Clerk for
her hard work and support to date.

The next Parish Council meeting will be
held on Wednesday 1 October 2025 at
7pm.

Kay Linnington

Clerk, Stonesfield Parish Council

clerk@stonesfieldpc.uk

Parish Council approve draft Neighbourhood Plan for submission to WODC

The Neighbourhood Plan steering group
worked tirelessly over the summer to
analyse feedback following our public
consultation process that took place March
– May this year. We logged and considered
every single comment we received from
residents, landowners and statutory
consultees, including WODC. We then
amended our original draft in the light of
these comments and submitted the revised
draft to the Parish Council for their
approval.

On 3 September, at their regular monthly
public meeting which was attended by the
steering group, the draft Neighbourhood
Plan was unanimously approved by the PC
for submission to WODC.

The steering group will now write the two
documents which must accompany the
draft Plan – a Consultation Statement
(setting out everything we did to consult
the village on the Plan) and the Basic
Conditions Statement (setting out how we
have conformed to the relevant protocols).
We aim to complete this work by the end of
October. We will then submit the Plan and
accompanying documents to WODC for
approval. At this stage, a copy of
everything will be on the website and in the
library.

WODC will review the Plan and then send
it to an independent Examiner for his/her
consideration. WODC and the Examiner
may seek further changes to the Plan which
will require additional amendments. When
both are content with the Plan it will then
be put to a village referendum, organised
by WODC, which will need a simple
majority of residents in order to be 'made':



Become a voice for Stonesfield!
Become a Parish Councillor!

Your Parish Council needs you!

Do you care about your village and want to help shape its future?

Now's your chance to get involved, share your ideas and
represent your community.

- ✓ No experience needed
- ✓ Just a passion for Stonesfield and a willingness to help

Join us and make a real difference.

Interested? Get in touch with Kay the Parish Clerk,
clerk@stonesfieldpc.uk

Be heard. Be involved. Be part of Stonesfield's future.

the technical term used when the Plan is accepted by all parties.

The time frame for the final stages of the process is out of our hands, and could be lengthy, but we will of course inform the village here in *The Slate* and on the website when we have anything to report.

Caroline Friend
info@stonesfieldplan.com

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From our District Councillors
September 2025

Salt Cross Development: Net Zero Policy approved!

Salt Cross is a proposed garden village, consisting of 2,200 homes and employment space, and located north of the A40 across from Eynsham. The Net Zero policy for the Salt Cross Village development has been approved by the Planning Inspector after an earlier legal challenge. The policy, which aims to ensure that all buildings at Salt Cross are Net Zero carbon in operation, has been found to comply with national policy and to be ‘sound’ in other respects, subject to several modifications. It marks a significant achievement for the Council and places Salt Cross among the UK’s leading developments in sustainable place-making. The Salt Cross Village development will form a substantial part of the housing to be built in West Oxfordshire, and sets high standards for new houses to be built and run. More detail is available at: www.lowcarbonhub.org/p/13647/

Youth Needs Development

James Edney, WODC Youth Development Officer, started in Feb 2025. His role was born out of the Youth Needs Assessment 2022, which heard from almost 4,000

young people across the district and identified barriers they faced accessing positive activities and issues they considered most important to them. A ‘Have a Go’ day in Stonesfield was developed in partnership with the YouMove team, as a launch activity from which to build more ongoing provision. The ‘Have a Go’ day was held on 19 August, for families with young children in the morning, and 11-18 year olds in the afternoon. YouMove ran ‘Broken Bordz’ (skating and scooters with ramps). Forest school, tennis, basketball, dominoes and story-telling were some of the other village activities on offer. Huge thanks go to everyone involved, and to Claire Renshaw and Julie Curran who organised so much.

Genny Early
West Oxfordshire District Councillor
genny.early@westoxon.gov.uk

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More from West Oxfordshire
What to do if you hit a deer

As we approach deer rutting season (September to November), the number of deer involved in vehicle collisions on our roads increases dramatically. If you find yourself in a collision with a deer, please take the following steps

1. Ensure your safety - Pull over to a safe location away from traffic and turn on your hazard lights.
2. Assess the situation - Check yourself and your passengers for injuries. If anyone is hurt, call for an ambulance immediately.
3. Call 999 - Call the police on 999 to report the accident. They will handle the situation with the deer and can provide assistance if needed. Injured

deer can be both unpredictable and volatile, and can cause further risk and harm to other road users.

4. Do not approach the deer - Injured deer can be dangerous, so avoid getting close to it/them.

Benefit Scam Alert

Please be aware of cold callers claiming to work with the DWP or other similar agencies. The DWP or any legitimate agency will never charge for benefit advice or request payment before helping with claims. If you receive a suspicious call, independently contact the DWP or the relevant agency using an official telephone number – do not use numbers given to you by the cold caller.

Wait at least 15 minutes before making the call as fraudsters may keep the line open and respond claiming to be the DWP or agency you are telephoning.

Never disclose any personal or sensitive information over the telephone.

Common methods of communication include telephone calls, text messages of emails that mimic official DWP correspondence.

Often these communications will:

- Inform you that payments are at risk unless you provide details such as bank details or national insurance number.
- Offer to apply for benefits on your behalf for an upfront fee
- Impersonate DWP staff to gain your trust and collect sensitive information.

If you suspect you have made a payment in response to such a scam call, immediately contact your bank and dial 159; the operator will direct your call appropriately.

Scams! When to hang up the phone!

Scammers are constantly inventing new and clever tricks to steal your money! Too many to mention! The safest thing to remember is this, if you hear any of the following (selected examples), hang up the phone.

Scammer: "You owe unpaid tax and will be arrested today." Hang up the phone!

Scammer: "Go buy gift cards and read me the numbers." Hang up the phone!

Scammer: "We're from your internet provider, let us access your computer." Hang up the phone!

Scammer: "Don't tell anyone about this call, keep it secret." Hang up the phone!

Scammer: "Press 1 to connect to HMRC/Bank/Police." Hang up the phone!

Scammer: "This is your bank, your card has been cloned. We'll send a courier to collect it." Hang up the phone!

Scammer: "We've noticed suspicious transactions on your account, you need to move your money to a saver account." Hang up the phone!

Scammer: "Your Amazon/PayPal account has been hacked, give me your login details." Hang up the phone!

Scammer: "Your computer has a virus, we'll fix it if you let us in remotely." Hang up the phone!

Scammer: "We're offering you an exclusive investment with guaranteed returns." Hang up the phone!

Scammer: "Don't hang up, this is urgent!" Hang up the phone!

Remember: If you feel you need to check with your bank, use a different phone to the one you were contacted on! The

legitimate number is on the back of your credit/debit card. Never call the number the scammer gave you.

From our MP

If you need help or have a query, please feel free to email me and we will be in touch.

Calum Miller MP

calum.miller.mp@parliament.uk

Police and community support

How to contact us

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

Deanna Asplundh

STONESFIELD STUDY HUB

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN GCSE SCIENCE, GCSE MATHS, OR A-LEVEL BIOLOGY TUITION?

Bespoke tuition available with Dr Lauren Daly, an education specialist from the University of Oxford with over 10 years of teaching experience.
Fully DBS checked.

Email to find out more:

lauren_baker341@hotmail.co.uk



LAUNCHING OCTOBER 2025

A NEW GCSE AND A-LEVEL
TUITION COMPANY LAUNCHING
IN STONESFIELD.



Stonesfield Neighbourhood Watch
Coordinator

Education, culture & more

Stonesfield Library

Note our new phone number:

01865 815181

Opening hours:

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 to:
homelibraryservice@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Deborah Wilson (01865 815181)

Library Manager

Celebrating 75 years of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe at Stonesfield Library

This half term you won't have to go through a wardrobe to experience the magical world of Narnia.

Come along to the library during opening hours in the week beginning 27 October (half-term) for a unique opportunity to enter Narnia and meet some of the characters from the book *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* written by CS Lewis.

Mr Tumnus, the White Witch, Mr and Mrs Beaver and Aslan, the Great Lion (as well as others!) will all be there and you can enjoy finding out their part in the story as you read or listen to readings from the book.

There will be craft activities including making a lion mask or a mask of your own design on Wednesday 29 October from 10.30 to 11.30. If you are planning to come to this session, please collect a free ticket in advance from the library.

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

Stonesfield School - a new school year starts!

What a fabulous first couple of weeks we have had at Stonesfield School. Even before term started the staff and volunteers were in to complete training and spruce up the school. We have a smart new fence around our Early Years playground and the school library has been rearranged ready for the children to use.

The children have all returned from their summer holidays enthusiastic and ready to learn, looking smart in new school uniforms and shiny shoes. We have begun our year with a whole school project based around the book 'The Dot' by Peter H Reynolds. We have explored how each of us will make our mark on the school community this year as well as learning about different artists who have been inspired by dots in their work.

Our youngest children in Willow Class have been exploring dots in nature and repeated patterns, Chestnut Class have learnt all about the work of Yayoi Kusama, the celebrated Japanese artist and our oldest children in Rowan Class were inspired by Damien Hirst to make their

own dot paintings. We shared our work with parents in our first celebration assembly on Friday when we had a great turnout of parents.



We are delighted to have been able to help out the local football club while the playing fields are out of action and I have met with our amazing FOSS (Friends of Stonefield School) who have lots of exciting events planned to raise funds for our school.

I am looking forward to meeting many of you in the coming months. It is a pleasure to have joined such a lovely school at the heart of the Stonesfield community.

Mrs Aisling Hill
Head of School
Stonesfield Primary School



The school team with Mrs Aisling Hill (inset)

Cows with calves on the Common

It's that time of the year again when we get cattle on to the Common. Cattle are one of the best ways of maintaining the grassland and improving the Common. When cattle are allowed to graze freely they select different plants, and even different parts of the plant, to nibble or browse. Over time, this selective eating by the animals creates a varied structure within the plants and the habitat. It is this that helps create the right conditions for a wide range of plants, insects, birds, reptiles, and mammals to exist. The weight of the cattle also ensures seeds are pressed into the soil.

We want you to enjoy the countryside responsibly, especially now there are cows with calves on the Common.

(Information from the National Farmers Union)

- Cows are nosy and may come to investigate, especially if you have a dog with you.
- Don't panic or run if cattle follow you – stay calm and walk quickly and quietly around the herd.
- Remember cows can be protective of their young. Never get between cows and their calves – go around the herd and rejoin the path as soon as possible.
- Keep your dogs close, under control, in sight and on a short lead around cattle.
- If you are threatened by cattle, release your dog so you can both get to safety separately.
- Dog poo can spread disease to cattle. Bag it and bin it – there's a waste bin by the road gate.

If you aren't comfortable walking where there are cattle, there are many other footpaths nearby.

Thank you for controlling your dog while there are cattle on the Common and ensuring the gates are closed.

For more information contact:
clerk@stonesfieldpc.uk

Nature notes

Red ribbons for the trees on the straight

The trees we have planted over the last three years (now one for everyone in the village) have struggled over the drought and we will review next spring for how many we may have lost. The trees planted on the straight are now entering their fourth year and look to have survived well. You may notice that we have marked most of them with a red ribbon to help keep them safe from the hedge trimming.

Some are already breaking the height of the hedge while others are still growing in the tubes. As you drive towards Blenheim the trees on the left had to be planted in the line of the hedge, so are less seen than those on the right as the highway's boundary is the ditch line. The trees that have done least well are the ones planted near existing blackthorn. The 30 oaks donated by Blenheim have done well as have the small leaf limes.

If you are the driver on the straight, please keep your eyes on the road.

Moths on the Brook Lane limestone meadow

We had another night time escapade in mid August thanks to Peter from Upper Thames moth group and we have now

reached 153 species of moth recorded so far from March this year. There is a further escapade planned for early October.

The Actinic moth trap we have been lent will continue monthly through autumn and winter getting us to a full year's records by March 2026.

The river that flows through and with us

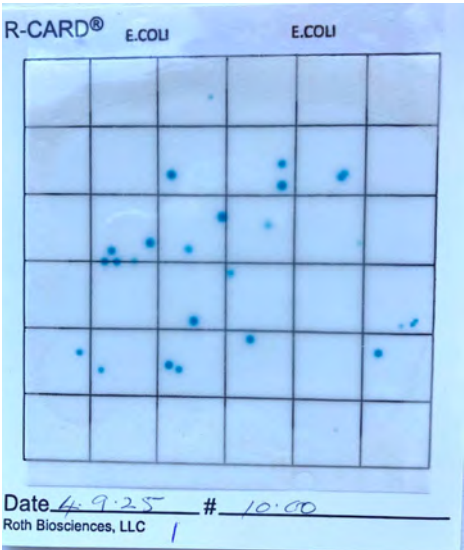
We are increasing the testing of the Evenlode water to include regular E-Coli sampling, this is done using specific cards, three are treated and then incubating for 24 hours (in an egg incubator). E-coli shows up as blue dots which indicate the level of E-coli in the river. When we have enough results a more detailed report will be written up in *The Slate*.

The Evenlode Catchment Partnership is having an in-depth analysis of the river going through Combe and we are supporting this monitoring of the site that is just up river from the Combe sewage works.



Picture of us on site (avoiding the rain) the bonus for the day was seeing two lesser spotted woodpeckers in the canopy of an oak tree.

John Sampson



The card with the blue dots from our test on 4 Sept

Do you have a story to share?

We hope you have enjoyed the news, history, nature, other articles and photographs which have appeared in *The Slate*.

We're hoping to find more Stonesfield residents who will contribute their own articles, poems, drawings or photographs to publish throughout the year.

If you have a story to tell, or anything to share, please send it to us.

The Editor
editor@stonesfieldslate.uk

Clubs, societies & sport

Thirty years on (cont from p1)



Being positioned on the beautiful playing field makes us ideally placed to support the sports teams, acting as the 'club house' most weekends. We support men's and youth football, cricket and tennis, as well as having an amazing space for events like the bike night, a mixture of music, charity days and recently welcoming the village fete back to the field. We love seeing the field so busy and varied.

We would like to add a huge thank you to everyone over the years who has kept the club thriving.

Latest news

A change to the seasons means a change to our opening hours:

Mon- Thu, 5pm – 11pm

Fri 4-11.30pm

Sat 12-11.30 pm

Sun 12-8 pm

Our darts teams have finished their first season back on a high, with the Wednesday night team getting most single wins and promotion to division one for the winter

league and the Thursday night team coming second in their division.

Continuing with the trophies, the men's football have won the pre-season cup - congratulations on a great start to the season lads!

October Dates:

28th bingo from 7pm

30th children's movie morning 10.30am

31st Halloween party with music from Jake and Dan from 8.30pm

We have a quieter month this month as we start to make plans for the holiday I will not name yet, details will follow next month.

Sam Tomlin and all of us at SSSC

1st Stonesfield Scout Group

New faces, new challenges and a new Hut for 1st Stonesfield Scout Group

September is the start of 1st Stonesfield Scouts' year, and we are excited about what is to come. There are lots of new things coming up, as well as the welcome return of some old favourites.

All sections, from Beavers to Scouts, have welcomed some new faces this year. Some have simply moved up, but others are new to the group. We have a new leader in the Beavers, and some new volunteers dipping their toes in the water. We should also have a new Scout Hut we can use, even though this has been long in the making.

There are new plans for large expeditions for the Scout Group to the south coast, the Cubs are going to mazes, pressing apples and learning to kayak to be ready for the summer, and the Beavers are ready to learn the basics of bushcraft, camping and eating as many marshmallows without the leaders noticing!

For others in the group, the arrival of the new hut is tantalisingly close. We hope (but this always depends on a few factors outside our control) being in by October half term and we are aiming to have our grand opening on 9 November to which you are all invited (more details to follow). Special mention goes to Liam for his plumbing, Dave for his landscaping, Andy for his wiring and everyone else for their time and effort.

We plan to have a DIY SOS and Painting day on 12 October. Please come with a paintbrush or roller to give the hut its second coat of paint. Posters, with details, will follow but keep the date free.

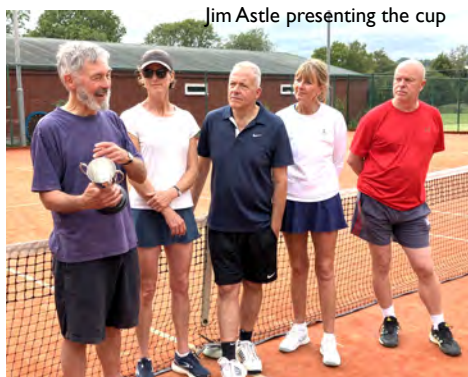
Once again, on behalf of the trustees, our thanks go out to everyone willing to keep 1st Stonesfield Scouts going. We need your time and support to keep this special group going into this next, new phase. As ever, follow us at stonesfield-scouts.org.uk or email chair@stonesfield-scouts.org.uk to get in touch.

Ben Whitworth

chair@stonesfield-scouts.org.uk

Stonesfield Tennis Club

The tennis club plays in the Wychwood League. Thank you to all those who played in the team this year. We came third in the league but it was very close with only a few games separating all the teams. There has been excellent tennis, lots of fun and terrific teas!



On Sunday 7 September Jim Astle (regular player for the team) was delighted to present the Wychwood Tennis League Cup to the winners from Moreton in Marsh. The cup is now engraved in memory of Andy Tacon. Andy not only played in the league for over 20 years but was instrumental in much of the organisation of the league. The Wychwood League was regional winner of the 'Connecting Communities Award' by the Lawn Tennis Association last year. The award was very much due to Andy's enthusiasm.

Tennis coaching continues all year round on Tuesdays with Alex Dillon 07876 194008

Stonesfield Cricket Club

As the residents of Stonesfield enjoyed a lazy Saturday illuminated by bright sunshine, August beckoned, signalling the last full month of the season. Both teams sat in promotion places but by the end of the month the 1st XI's promotion aspirations more resembled The Labours of Sisyphus.

It was to be a long month haunted by the scares of player unavailability as one heavy defeat followed another. Confidence evaporated, a creeping sense of ennui enveloped the team followed by the Epiphany of a mid-table finish.

Field Close witnessed heavy defeats against Oxenford and Stanton Harcourt. Oxenford bowled out The Stones for a feeble 120 before chasing down the target for the loss of one wicket. Stonesfield collapsed from 80-1 to 141 all out against Stanton Harcourt, Fred Holloway (49) before the visitors cruised to 144-1 inside 26 overs.

Sandwiched between these results, a trip to league leaders Kingston Bagpuize witnessed Stonesfield's biggest defeat in their history, easily rivalling The Spanish Armada or The Battle of Flodden Fields. Bagpuize blasted their way to 283-9 in their 50 overs before bowling out The Stones for 60 in 16 overs. A 223 run morale crushing defeat.

The penultimate match at Charlbury resulted in another massacre, the game lasting slightly longer than it took The Duke of Cumberland's forces to defeat the Jacobites at Culloden. A much weakened team were bowled out for just 30 and a 166 run defeat.

The 2nd XI, selection affected by unavailability in the 1st XL, fared better.

They were indebted to Edward de Montjoie Rudolf as they were called on to enlist any number of waifs and strays from various parts of Oxfordshire to get 11 players on the pitch.

A Jordan Newman inspired victory at neighbouring Charlbury kept The Stones in second place. Despite Newman's 5-31, Charlbury posted a challenging 178-9 but Richard Walker (61) and Newman (52no) saw The Stones reach 181-4 with 12 overs to spare.

The visit of third placed Witney Mills loomed over The Stones. A blanket of fielders on the offside drew an alarming array of poor shots as a procession of batsmen looked sheepishly at team mates as they returned to the pavilion with alarming regularity. Mana Pandurangan spun his way to figures of (3-3) for the visitors as The Stones limped to 74 all out. Mills took just 77 balls to reach 75-2

There was no repeat of last year's acrimonious visit to Horley as the teams serenaded one another all afternoon, the only thing missing, a strolling guitarist. Andy Oliver (75) lead The Stones to a competitive 176-7 before taking (3-29) as Horley reached 150-9 at the close. A nod to Mrs Blake's homemade quiche which was undoubtedly the highlight of the day.

The 2's final home game followed, not exactly the Magnificent Seven, the team could muster only 8 players and as they took the field they must have known how Davy Crockett, and his small band of Texans felt as they faced General Santa Anna's army at The Alamo. It was more like zimmer frames at the ready than 'stand and deliver' as The Stones rolled out Neville Bainbridge 70+, David Burns 70+, two others stubbornly holding onto their

remaining tooth and the rest showing signs of atrophy. In a game reduced to 20 overs per innings Jack Sale with an excellent (48no) helped The Stones to 96-6. With gaps in the field wider than the Grand Canyon, Middleton Cheney scored freely and at one stage were 50-1 after 6 overs but a creditable fightback saw The Stones take 6 wickets before Marc Jordan sportingly dished up a couple of 'pies' allowing the visitors to reach their target.

The final games of the season see the 1's welcome Cumnor to Field Close whilst the 2's head to Shipton, both sets of players looking forward to the games with about as much enthusiasm as someone heading for a date with Albert Pierrepont.

David Burns (07554 920351)

Stonesfield Gardening Club

Our talk in September was given by committee member Dr Lauren Daly who works as education officer at the Oxford Botanic Garden – always good to have home-grown experts to talk to us!

Lauren gave us a very interesting talk on the delights of carnivorous plants, with lovely photographs and videos. The definition of a carnivorous plant is specific – not only must they take in nutrients from dead prey, but they must also actively lure in, catch and digest prey. The plants that do this use colour, nectar and UV patterns to attract insects and they use snap traps, pitfalls, sticky secretions, suction or a lobster pot trap to capture the prey. They then digest them with enzymes and bacteria. All in all, very complicated and clever plants.

Plants include Venus Fly Trap, Sundews, pitcher plants (Sarracenia) and tropical



Pitcher plant

pitchers (Nepenthes). They are surprisingly easy to grow in our gardens (so she says!) with only Nepenthes needing to be indoors all the time.



Sundew

They need bright sunlight, rainwater and peat-free or poor peat acidic soil. Most can happily be put outside in the summer but do need winter dormancy.

This month we will have a return visit from Mandy Bradshaw, the Chatty Gardener, who will be entertaining us with her wonderful photographs of gardens in the Cotswolds.

Diane Bates
Secretary Stonesfield Gardening Club
www.stonesfieldgardening.info

Stonesfield Football Club

Another football season is now underway with opportunities for our teams to bring glory to the club and 'Our Wee Village'! Both our men's teams have worked hard in pre-season and things are looking good. The Firsts have already brought home pre-season silverware in the form of the prestigious Henry Hawtin Memorial Trophy following a great 4-2 win in the final against Charlbury. The Trophy sits proudly alongside last season's Premiership in Brian Clarke's trophy room. The team will be disappointed that they opened their account as League Champions with a draw at Charlbury (1-1). Worth noting that they opened last season's campaign with a draw at Heyford and they still finished as Champions!

On the managerial front, we welcome back Marc Jordon who has taken over from Pete Searle as Tom Green's assistant. Pete Searle has joined Ben Franklin in helping with The Reserves. Pete, now an 'old head' will also be strutting his stuff on the pitch - there's still fire in those boots.

Those of you with great memories will be interested to know that the Witney & District FA have asked RAF Brize Norton to return The Fred Ford Memorial Trophy after they were found guilty of fielding an ineligible player in the final against Stonesfield at the end of last season. There's still no decision as to what happens next, but our club isn't interested in a replay or being awarded the trophy by default, so it's likely that the result will be declared 'void' and the trophy withheld.

The Reserves have been promoted to Division Two and they've made a great start topping the league after three games! They opened their campaign at Eynsham

SSC taking all three points in a great 3-1 win. They then travelled to Ducklington and battled their way to a draw (1-1). Next up it was a tough away fixture at Yarnton B, but they made it look easy with a wonderful 4-0 win. Top of the league on goal difference, let's hope our boys can keep this run of form going!

The reader may (or may not) be aware that the playing field at Stonesfield suffered badly during the Summer drought and is in dire need of some tender loving care. Work is currently underway with a re-seeding programme which means that there will be no home games until the new seeds germinate, and new grass gets established. Hopefully, the pitches will be available for matches again in early November.

If you are new to the village and you've managed to get this far, Stonesfield FC is always looking for new people to join us, either as players or volunteers. The club runs, as mentioned above, two men's adult teams and several youth and kids teams ranging from U18s down to U7s and is always open to new players. If you want to get involved or your child wants to 'give football a go' then don't hesitate to get in touch with me and I'll point you in the right direction. Our club is inclusive and open to all.

Tom Flanigan (891979)

Henry Hawtin Memorial Trophy Winners 2025!



Back row Left to Right:

Carry Rice, Ollie Wynn, Harrison Connolly,
Mike Phipps, Max Brand-Wiggins, Liam
Haris, Marc Jordon

Front row Left to Right:

Liam Salter, Connor Ladbrook, Logan
Mitchell, Jack Newman, Sammy Hart, Will
Barker, Raffy Rice, Jordan Newman

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.

Julie Curran (07973 730907)

Stonesfield Players

Cold Comfort Farm

Written by Stella Gibbons and dramatised by Paul Doust this hilarious parody of rural country life in the early 1930s is our next production on 13, 14, 15 November at 7.30pm at Stonesfield Village Hall.

Cold Comfort Farm, home of her cousins the Starkadders, is where society girl, Flora Poste, finds herself after her parents left her with only a strong will and a slender ankle to sustain her. Here she finds deeply depressed Judith, religious zealot Amos, gloomy and despairing Reuben, lothario Seth and nature child Elfine along with a host of other half mad and lost inhabitants living in rambling and gloomy chaos.

Presiding over them all is Aunt Ada Doom who, as a child, saw something nasty in the woodshed and has never let anyone forget it. Can Flora restore order and harmony and will Ada Doom let her?



Tickets available by using this QR code or from thestonesfieldplayers@gmail.com and also Suriya Express at the end of October.

thestonesfieldplayers@gmail.com

The Megalosaurus Society



The White Horse now proudly bears the *Megalosaurus* poem panel on the wall in the pub garden. Do go and have a look if you haven't already – it was composed by Simon Armitage, the Poet Laureate, and tells in graphic detail about the dinosaur whose remains, found here, started the popular interest in dinosaurs that spread around the world.



Professor Paul Smith and Dr Emma Nicholls, who unveiled the poem panel, with Viv and Trisha

Our meeting on 29 September will be in an unusual format: a roundtable discussion between a panel of people who were employed here in all the different stages of glove production in the latter part of the 20th century. Although Stonesfield, like many neighbouring villages, had an active cottage industry making gloves in the 18th and 19th centuries, this died out and then was revived for a few years in the 1950s. The meeting is open to non-members (£5

and under-16s free – please book as on poster), and will be recorded so we can prepare a booklet recounting this part of our history.

November's meeting will be something completely different again – a look at the Avro Vulcan bomber and its role in the Cold War.

Please contact us for more information.

Viv Kendall and Trisha Williams

Megsoc25@gmail.com

GLOVE MAKING IN STONESFIELD

A centuries-old cottage industry revived in the 1950s



A roundtable discussion of memories with the glovemakers and their families

Monday 29 September, 7.00 pm
Stonesfield Village Hall

All welcome: Members and under-16s free;
Non-members £5: please book on
megsoc25@gmail.com or 01993 891803



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 – Sing Praise

The offering of worship to God has always been a defining characteristic of human communities. People of all faiths, ancient and modern, have used light, fire, water, dramatic action and ceremonial objects, as well as words, to awaken our sense of wonder and awe in the presence of God. But perhaps the most stirring element of worship in both the Jewish and Christian faiths is the use of music. We know that three thousand years ago music was used to praise God in Judaism, and the psalms were sung in the Jerusalem temple. The first followers of the risen Jesus sang hymns and spiritual songs together, and early Christians used popular styles of song both for worship and to share their trust in the God of universal love. Today, Christian music is a glorious expression of faith, an offering of worship and a custodian of

belief. It is cherished in plainsong chant and exquisite polyphony, traditional hymns and modern worship songs, as well as orchestral and choral settings for small groups or huge orchestras and choirs. The church is the guardian of this wonderful legacy and living worship, in the sublime chants of Thomas Tallis and William Byrd, the cascading beauty of Handel's Messiah, through the passionate hymns of the Wesleys, to modern worship music which communicates faith to the generations of our own day. New music is being composed for churches all the time, and in the Benefice of Stonesfield and Combe we benefit enormously from the contributions of musicians, composers and choirs, and from those with connections in the wider world of music.

One particular style of Christian music which has inspired many over recent decades originated in France, in the Taizé Community. Founded as a community of prayer and worship in 1940 by Brother Roger Schütz, Taizé is made up of around a hundred brothers from varied Protestant and Catholic backgrounds, from over thirty countries. Taizé attracts over 100,000 young people each year who camp around the central church for prayer, Bible study, communal work, discussion and worship. Its contemplative atmosphere is largely the product of its beautiful, meditative music, based on simple chants in multiple languages, alongside prayer and silence.

On Sunday the 12 October, between 5 and 6pm, we will be holding our own Taizé

service at St Laurence, Combe, which is for the Stonesfield and Combe parishes and is open to all. This special service will use candlelight, beautiful Taizé chants, readings and prayers. The Combe Church Choir (which has members from Stonesfield too) and the Combe School Choir will lead us, accompanied by a group of instrumentalists. Please join us!

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Psalms 100

Rev'd Ralph Williamson - Rector

Church services

Sunday 5 October [Trinity 16]

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

Sunday 12 October [Trinity 17]

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

Sunday 19 October [Trinity 18]

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

Sunday 26 October [Last 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 (1st, 29th), Holy Communion (15th)

Stonesfield Methodist Church

Services for October

Sun 5	11am	Local Arrangement
Sun 12	11am	Karl Williams
Sun 19	11am	The Reverend Andrew Biggs
		Holy Communion Service
Sun 26	11am	Andrew Maisey

Shoebbox Blessings!

Good things come in small boxes, and plenty will be here on 1 November. Each box is wrapped and waiting to be filled with interesting, useful and fun things for children. Can you help and provide any of those?

A box once packed will be ready to cheer a child, one in need of a gift and the love that goes with it. During December, thousands of shoeboxes travel to parts of the world where gifts are rare and the children are

excited and delighted to receive one. Come along on the first Saturday of November, between 2 and 4pm, bring items, fill boxes or donate a little to the flight costs of shoeboxes galore!

T.4.U. pamphlets are available, they provide guidelines on age groups and gift items.

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved,
clothe yourself with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness
and patience.

Colossians 3:12

Come to a Service soon.

Kathleen Alb  rt (891733)

k.m.albert14@gmail.com

Roman Catholic Worship

Humility

May the Church always be a school of humility, welcoming all.

In his reflections before leading the Sunday Angelus in Rome on August 31, Pope Leo prayed that the Church may always be ‘a school of humility’ in following Jesus’ example, as well as ‘a home where all are welcome’, where rivalries are set aside. He reinforced this message when he spoke to his fellow Augustinian Friars at their recent General Chapter (a worldwide meeting to elect a new Prior General) when he spoke of ‘listening, humility, and unity’.

This focus on listening and humility is rooted in the teaching of St Augustine of Hippo, a 5th century philosopher and theologian from North Africa. After a tumultuous, but intellectually active early life, St Augustine was gradually drawn towards Christianity. St Augustine's

teachings on humility emphasise the importance of recognising one's limitations and the need for God's grace. He believed that true humility involves acknowledging our dependence on God and striving to live a life of service and love. St Augustine saw humility as a foundational Christian virtue, essential for following Christ and receiving God’s grace. St Augustine saw humility as complete dependence on God with total submission to His will.

Jesus is that ultimate example of and template for humility, in which we are shown that path to freedom from sin and thus a life of true joy.

Holy Mass at St Theresa’s, Charlbury

Sunday 9.15 am

Wednesdays and Fridays 9.15 am

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

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More details at
www.stonesfieldgardening.info



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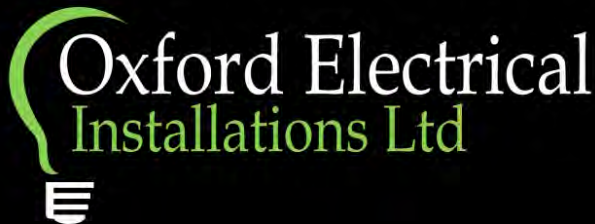


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