



Issue No 571 August 2026

Rock the Mock



Stonesfield turned out in force for the annual Old Woodstock Mock Mayor day of fun, as our own Village Idiots were the headline act on a wonderful warm sunny evening in the town square.

Using the venerable old Town Hall as a backdrop, the group wowed the faithful with their lively set. A group of under 10s had a great time bopping away at the front, while the rest of us also joined in with the favourite cover numbers.

Old Woodstock's Mock Mayor tradition dates back to 1786, created then as a playful act of defiance to the neighbouring Woodstock Town Hall. It continued for generations before fading, only to be brought back in the 1980s. The event combines humour, history

and community spirit, while raising funds for local causes. This year the beneficiaries will be Heart Heroes Oxfordshire Hub, Woodstock Stroke Club and the Oxfordshire Museum.

Diane Bates



Old Woodstock's Mock Mayor

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Deadline for next issue 15 Aug
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Printer

Windrush Press, Witney
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Advertising:

Deadline for next issue 10 Aug
Advertisements to
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Dates for your Diary

July

26	Cream Teas	Combe Reading Room	2.30-5pm
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August

1-31	Pics @ The Pub: Photography Show	The White Horse	pub hours
2,9,16,23,30	Cream Teas	Combe Reading Room	2.30-5pm
3,6,10,13	Taekwondo	Village Hall	5.30-6.30pm
3,10	Hannah Bathe HIIT	Village Hall	7-7.45pm
3,10,17,24	Stonesfield Superstars (Pickleball)	Village Hall	12 noon-2pm
3,10,17,24,31	Monday coffee	St James' Centre	10-11.30am
4	Morris Dancing	The White Horse	7.30pm
4,11,18,25	Stonesfield Superstars (Pickleball)	Village Hall	12.30-3pm
4,11,18,25	Seniors' Café	The White Horse	3-4pm
4,11,18,25	Zumba	Village Hall	7-8pm
4,11,18,25	Zumba Strong	Village Hall	8-9pm
5,12,19,26	Pilates	Village Hall	9.30-10.45am
5,12,19,26	Hannah Bathe Strength & Condition	Village Hall	7-7.45pm
5,19	Folk Dancing	Village Hall	7.45-10pm
6,13	Hannah Bathe Strength & Condition	Village Hall	7-7.45pm
8,9,22,23	Roman Villa Open Day	North Leigh	11am-5pm
11	Breast Cancer Now charity event	The White Horse	12 noon-2pm
11,25	Quiz night	The White Horse	8pm
14	Old Prebendal House Open Garden	Shipton-u-W (see p13)	11am-4pm
15	Craft fair	The White Horse	11am-5pm
17,20,24,27	Taekwondo	Village Hall	5.30-6.30pm
17,18	Combe Feast Funfair	The Green	5-10pm
18-31	<i>Timeless Tales</i>	Oxfordshire Museum	10am-5pm
19	Talk: <i>Women at war</i>	Soldiers of Oxfordshire M	7pm

Continued on p4

Dates for your Diary

August (cont)

29	Men's Walk and Talk	outside St James' Centre	10am
29	Dinosaur Hunt	The White Horse	(see p6)
30	Aunt Sally Open tournament	The White Horse	3pm
30,31	Sealed Knot Civil War re-enactment	Great Tew	11am-5pm
31	Jazz	The White Horse	5-7pm

September

1-6	Pics @ The Pub: Photography Show	The White Horse	pub hours
1-6	<i>Timeless Tales</i>	Oxfordshire Museum	10am-5pm
2	Parish Council meeting	Village Hall	7pm
3	Talk: <i>Lee Miller, A woman at war</i>	Soldiers of Oxfordshire M	7pm
5	Repair and Community Café	Village Hall	10am-2pm
6	Afternoon Tea	Combe Reading Room	2-5pm
9-30	Pics @ The Pub: Two Artists	The White Horse	pub hours
14	Gardening Club wine tasting & talk	St James' Centre	7.30pm

Village Hall activities 'resting' for August (normal days)

- Baby & Me postnatal yoga, Bump & Me antenatal yoga (Monday)
- Stonesfield Social (Tuesday)
- Yoga & Relaxation (Wednesday)
- Parish Council meeting (Wednesday)
- Upholstery (Thursday)
- Baby & Toddlers (Friday)



Notices & news

Village Hall news

We are truly in summer mode, with many of our classes taking a well-earned break, but the hall is busy with parties. Looking toward the end of summer, why not think about attending a new group or class? Start the new academic year with a new hobby or exercise mission. We have lots of really great classes, and I want to highlight them to remind you all, and hopefully spark some interest.

Keeping fit:

Strength and conditioning: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings

Zumba: Two fun dance aerobic exercise classes, Tuesday evenings

Pickleball: Gentle way to keep fit and active in a small group: Monday and Tuesday afternoons

Folk dance: An enjoyable dance evening, often to live music. A different way to keep fit and make friends; Wednesday evenings

Yoga or Pilates: Gentle stretching and flexibility, with special mother and baby sessions.

Young people:

Taekwondo: A great discipline to learn this martial art; Mondays and Thursdays

Baby & toddler group: great social fun time for mums too

Prenatal and baby yoga, ideal for all about-to-be and new mums.

Crafting:

Upholstery group: learn by doing; maybe revamp that old chair in the corner?

Any art groups out there that would like to hire our space?

Social:

Tuesday Suppers, providing a two-course meal in a social environment for all. Crafts for kids and take-away service available (bring your own Tupperware).

If you are interested in any of these groups, please let me know and I will pass on your details to the group leader. Finally, don't forget that our club room is great for meetings; both one-off or regular.

Claire Renshaw

Stonesfield Village Hall Bookings

info@stonesfieldvillagehall.com

www.stonesfieldvillagehall.com

Repair Café

The next Stonesfield Repair Café and Community Café will be held on Saturday 5 September from 10am - 2pm.

Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy company and delicious cakes, drinks and light lunches at the Community Café while our repairers will fix all your broken goods if they can. We have a very good success rate for all kinds of items. Both are run on a donation basis, so don't throw away that broken stuff or leave it to sit around – bring it along!

Mike Sofroniou

White Horse news

The quiz is back at the pub every other week through August. Why not put a team together and see if you can become quiz champions? There's no need to book, just turn up and grab a table or contact us if you want to reserve one. Teams are a maximum of six and there's a chance to win a cash prize if you get the correct key to open the box. Next dates are 11 and 25 August.

Morris dancing will return to the pub on Tuesday 4 August from 7.30pm with a performance from Wychwayz Border Morris, so come on down and show your support.

The Breast Cancer Now tea and cake charity event is on Tuesday 11 August from 12 noon to 2pm; to raise money to support the research and care that Breast Cancer Now offer. There will be a selection of cakes, teas and coffees available. The event is free but donations are welcome. There is also a chance to win a homemade cake or a voucher to use at the pub. Come along and meet other people for a chat, cuppa and a cake.

On Saturday 15 August we will be holding a summer fare and fun day with a selection of stalls selling homemade items, 3D prints, locally made bread and much more. There will be an afternoon performance from Sol Samba, a Brazilian percussion and dance group based in Oxford bringing summer vibes and the carnival atmosphere to Stonesfield. Food from the BBQ will be available all day. More to be announced.

Here's some fun for all ages – on Saturday 29 August there will be a Stonesfield dinosaur hunt around the village, with some great prizes on offer for everyone.

There will be a map available from the pub on the morning of the hunt to give you some clues as to where they could be hiding. Find the dinosaur, bring it to the pub and collect your prize. There will be prizes for adults and children.

Who fancies themselves as the White Horse Aunt Sally champion? We will be hosting the first White Horse Open on Sunday 30 August, from 3pm. It's open to everyone, with a chance to win the house cup. Names will be drawn out of a hat, with the winner going through to the next round. It's free to enter with the winner receiving a prize and the trophy to display proudly at the pub. Full details to follow soon.

Our fantastic bank holiday jazz will be on Monday 31 August, 5-7pm. The Alvin Roy quartet will be returning to the garden as we wind down Bank Holiday Monday afternoon. Sun, jazz and drinks – what more could you ask for? No need to book; just turn up and enjoy.

Keep an eye on our socials and NextDoor for more upcoming deals and events. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Craig Tipper (01993 672059)

The White Horse

info@thewhitehorsestonesfield.com

www.thewhitehorsestonesfield.com

Facebook – The White Horse pub Stonesfield

Instagram – [thewhitehorsestonesfield](https://www.instagram.com/thewhitehorsestonesfield) | 4

Pictures @ The Pub

We hope you enjoyed June and July's exhibition of work by Rachael Sherlaw-Johnson and Sophie Shearer. This was very successful and they received many appreciative comments about their work.

Our current exhibition, featuring photography by Diane Bates and Skye Drew, will continue into early September.

Diane enjoys being able to capture images on the spur of the moment – a facility which the smartphone so readily provides – and is showing images taken on her travels, alongside shots she managed to capture by being in the right place at the right time!

Skye graduated from Falmouth University in 2024 with a degree in Marine & Natural History Photography, and while she enjoys photographing nature and wildlife, her work also extends to landscapes, people and pets, architecture and motorsport.

In September we look forward to Fredrica Craig's oil paintings which include landscapes and still life, and Claire Fyfe-Jackson's mixed media collages which celebrate summer gardens.

If you would like to exhibit at the White Horse, we would love to hear from you; please get in touch with us via the email address below.

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

Team: Kerry Burniston, Jenny Lines, Ann Lowe and Trisha Williams

Claire Renshaw for The White Horse
Community Pub

Margaret Enoch



Our grateful thanks to Stonesfield Methodist Chapel family and friends, for the perfect time we shared together on Sunday 5 July, celebrating Mum's 96th birthday.

Mum moved to the village in December 2019, from Main Road, Long Hanborough, to live with us at Wellwood, Churchfields. Having spent many years visiting our lovely village, she's now in her seventh year as a happy resident here!

We enjoyed a beautiful service together, led by preacher Ms Nunu Moyo, with a few words from me, wonderful hymns, then tea, coffee and delicious birthday cake! Together, we did Mum proud!

Jane O'Gorman & family

Mercy of Sisters

At the end of June at the Combe Hub, the new play *Mercy of Sisters* by Grace Bartle was performed by the Stonesfield Players on three consecutive, sold-out nights, with fantastic audience reaction.



Below are two reviews.

Sally Wainwright, creator of hit tv shows *Happy Valley* and *Riot Women*, wrote:

Grace Bartle's production of *Mercy of Sisters* at the Combe Hub was a genuinely entertaining evening. The play carried us along with a strong, swift plot, and the flailing, detailed, middle-aged characters were played with intensity, humour and care by some of our best village talent. We were enveloped by a palpable sense of place and atmosphere with a realistic set, and thoughtful use of lighting and music. The world felt real, and yet the ghost of the four battling sisters' father appeared so elegantly and seamlessly. It was touching and beautiful when he stumbled on and - after all the aggro - spoke so calmly to Floss. He the cause of all the trouble, and she the centre of sanity in this all-too-recognisably charmless, dysfunctional, mad family world. To write and direct a play and put it on stage for us all to dissect takes a lot of courage and a basic belief in

your own talent, and Grace should be thoroughly delighted with her success.

James Kent, film director of movie *Testament of Youth* and Keira Knightley's movie, *Aftermath*, wrote:

Mercy of Sisters is a delight from beginning to end. When I say delight, I don't mean joyous (although it is very funny) or enchanting (the cast pull out all the stops). I'm referring to how the story and themes so powerfully underline the universal experience of all siblings confronted with a sick and ageing parent. Grace Bartle's script and direction made me want to go home and call my elderly mother straight away; if nothing else, to reassure her that I'd be by her bedside to the very end. Invoking such powerful familial feeling in me is ultimately the best testament to this raw but ultimately deeply poignant portrayal of a family at war, who in the end prove that blood really is thicker than water.



Photos: Geraint Lewis

Chris Bartle

Local Private Carer available

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kind-hearted

Victoria 07930 342087

Alzheimer's Society Fundraising Thank you

On 11 July I completed the 13-mile Cotswolds Trek in aid of the Alzheimer's Society. It was an incredibly hot and hilly day, but the views and the camaraderie of our team of five powered me on!



The inspiration for our participation in the event is my wonderful husband, Tim, who was diagnosed with early onset dementia in 2015, aged 54. He was a very popular German and French teacher at the Marlborough School and sadly had to retire immediately. However, Tim remained active, walking and cycling around Stonesfield in our beautiful countryside and chatting to passing neighbours. Tim's dementia is now advanced; he lives in a nursing home nearby and receives frequent visits from family and friends.

The Alzheimer's Society has been an invaluable source of care, advice and support through each stage of Tim's dementia journey. It's great to be able raise funds for their work providing help and hope.



Thank you to everyone who spotted my posters and sponsored me on the walk. I am delighted to report we have raised £7,357 to date. There is still time to donate if you would like to, using this link below or by searching on the JustGiving website for Mel Osman. Every little helps.

Thank you on behalf of the 'Tim's Girls' Trek Team: Mel, Beth, Sarah, Karen and Angela.

Mel Osman

[www.justgiving.com/page/mel-osman-3?](https://www.justgiving.com/page/mel-osman-3?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL)
[utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL](https://www.justgiving.com/page/mel-osman-3?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL)

Carer required to support 19 year old man

I need a carer to support me through summer holidays when I am back home from college. Duties include:

- Help with all aspects of personal care throughout the day, including getting in and out of bed
- Support with going out on trips
- Potentially 'waking night' support

Full training can be given. Pay: £17 per hour

Matt Steele 07880 724708

Chrissie's Owls



We have had an extremely busy year so far and have done 50 rescues to date. We are caring for five little owl chicks, four tawny owl youngsters (soon to be released), ten barn owl chicks and a kestrel.

We released two young buzzards last week (though we sadly had to euthanise one other), a young red kite and an adult barn owl. We've also released adult owls and birds of prey after short term care.

We had a young raven who sadly died on the journey home, because it had been left in the heat all day before we were called in.

All the owl chicks will be released back into the wild, weather permitting of course.

Tawny owls and little owls will have finished breeding for this year, but we are expecting another influx of baby barn owls in the second clutches. Last year, barn owls had their worst year for a decade but they are making up for it this year.

Blenheim Estate has now asked us to be their on-call rescuers.

We have had to spend over £5,500 on food for the birds recently, so are grateful for everyone's continued support and would like to thank anyone else who supports us in any way. Please see our website for ways you can help!

Chrissie and Phil Gaines
www.chrissiesowls.com

Stonesfield Baby & Toddler Group

Our lovely playgroup runs in term time on a Friday, from 10-11.30 in the village hall. We have an hour of free play with cake and tea/coffee for the grown ups, then snacks, story and song time for the little ones. All grown ups and little ones are welcome, from birth right up to school.

A big thank you from us to Muriel and Kathleen, who keep us well supplied with refreshments, help us to tidy up and generally look after us all – we couldn't do it without you! Thanks also to Claire for bringing her guitar and keeping us tuneful! And finally, thanks to Stonesfield Community Trust, who generously fund our hall hire.

We look forward to welcoming familiar faces and new ones on 11 September.

Want to get involved? Want more info? Drop us a line to stonesfieldbabyandtoddler@gmail.com.

Hannah & Topaze

St James' Centre

Have you seen the newly-refurbished St James' Centre yet? New curtains, new carpet, new cushions, new fridge... and the garden is looking beautiful too! The Centre is a perfect venue for family gatherings, children's parties, meetings, workshops, fitness groups, fundraising ventures etc. Perhaps you are planning a new group for September?

Do contact sjcsbookings@gmail.com for further information and availability.

Ruth Sellar
St James' Centre Bookings Administrator

Voluntary Transport Scheme donations are going up...

Stonesfield residents who use our Voluntary Transport Scheme to take them to local medical appointments have often asked if our rates have gone up – and until now the answer has always been no. The suggested donations cover our drivers' expenses, and the rate is limited by HMRC. They are calculated according to the mileage driven, and we do not make any charge for our time.

Last April the government put up the allowed expenses rate for the use of private cars for business (that's us) by 10p per mile, which is welcome as we all know what has happened to the price of petrol. Incidentally, the rate had remained the same since 2011.

So this is to let you know that from 1 August, our suggested donations will go up in line with the new HMRC rate. If you book transport with us, the suggested donation will be made clear at the time of booking, as it always has been.

We look forward to continuing to provide our friendly door-to-door service to get you to the doctor, dentist or other medical appointments locally and to the hospitals in Oxford or Banbury, and then home again. We will still be very much cheaper

than a taxi, and a whole lot easier than public transport.

Do feel free to contact us with any queries or requests for transport.

Viv Kendall (01993 891803)

Stonesfield Voluntary Transport Scheme
stonesfieldvts@gmail.com

August Bank Holiday Coffee

St. James' Centre will be open on August Bank Holiday Monday from 10:00 - 11:30am – do come and join us for coffee and a chat. The refreshments are free and all ages are welcome!

A request

St. James Centre is open every Monday for coffee from 10:00 - 11:30am. A couple of our volunteers have recently decided the time has come for them to drink coffee rather than pour it - so we are looking for some additional help. Have you got a couple of hours to spare on Monday morning once or twice a month? There are always two people on duty and we would welcome new faces with open arms! Please text or call me on 07854 653631 for more information.

Mary Wells



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 August: Viv Kendall
01993 891803 or stonesfieldvts@gmail.com**

Macmillan Coffee Morning – reminder

Please remember our forthcoming 2026 Macmillan Coffee Morning at St James' Centre, Friday 25 September, 09:30-11:30 am. Bottles and cakes welcome - bottles to Wellswood, Churchfields beforehand; cakes to St James' Centre from 08:30 am on the day.

Thank you!

Jane O'Gorman & Stonesfield Macmillan Coffee Morning Team.

Lisa Cooper, Hairstylist

Starting this month, I'll be joining the team at HBH Hair salon. I'll be in the salon every Thursday and Saturday and look forward to welcoming you.

To book, please contact me on 07584 565932.

Lisa Cooper

Timeless Tales

The Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock's new free exhibition, 18 July – 6 September, explores the county's rich folklore through tales of superstition, tradition and mythology; all rooted in local landscapes and communities.

Using objects from the collection alongside atmospheric displays, the exhibition brings these stories to life. Visitors can uncover the beliefs and customs that shaped the lives of local communities.

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/museums-and-history/oxfordshire-museum

Events at Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum

Dr Kate Vigurs,
Chalke Valley



Linked to the SOFO Museum's Lee Miller exhibition (*Lee Miller: A woman at war*, ending 13 September) are two related talks. The first, *Women at War* with Dr Kate Vigurs, is at the Museum Briefing room on Wednesday 19 August at 7pm. She will look at trailblazing women like Lee Miller who covered the events of the Second World War as they happened. In the second part, she'll uncover the stories of women who dropped into Occupied France, following their journeys from recruit to SOE secret agent.

The second talk, on 3 September, is given by Ami Bouhassane, who will discuss the life and legacy of her grandmother, Lee Miller.

Tickets for each talk are £15; information and booking is on www.sofo.org.uk/whats-on/.

Blenheim Palace dinosaurs



From 10 August to 1 November 2026, Blenheim Palace will host *Dinosaurs Are Forever*, a major new exhibition by artist Jay Burridge, created in partnership with the Museum of Natural History, University of Oxford. At the heart of the exhibition are five monumental sculptures of *Megalosaurus*, the first dinosaur ever to be scientifically named, in 1824. Discovered in Stonesfield, *Megalosaurus* changed our understanding of the natural world and helped lay the foundations of modern palaeontology.

The fossil remains of *Megalosaurus* are now on display at the Museum of Natural History, University of Oxford.

These sculptures are not traditional museum reconstructions. Built from advanced modern materials and designed to be fully articulated, the sculptures reimagine dinosaurs through a contemporary lens. Making their public debut at Blenheim Palace, the exhibition offers visitors a rare opportunity to encounter the world's first named dinosaur, reimagined for the 21st century. This exhibition is included with an Annual Pass.

Old Prebendal House Open Garden

The Old Prebendal House, Shipton-under-Wychwood, is an award-winning nursing home set on the banks of the River Evenlode in the heart of the Cotswolds. It is a historic Grade II-listed house with beautifully maintained, eye-catching gardens. On Friday 14 August, visitors are invited to explore these wonderful gardens and scenic riverside walks, in support of Katharine House Hospice.



Entry is £5, with no charge for under-16s. All visitors will receive a cream tea with their ticket purchase. There will also be a plant sale, giving you the chance to take a piece of historic Old Prebendal House home with you, and all proceeds will be donated to Katharine House Hospice.

The gardens are wheelchair friendly and dogs on leads are welcome; there is plenty of parking in the grounds. The gardens are open between 11am and 4pm.

The Old Prebendal House
Station Road, Shipton-under-Wychwood
Chipping Norton, OX7 6BQ

Combe cream teas

You are invited to enjoy Cream Teas in the delightful garden of Combe Reading Room. These will be held every Sunday until 30 August, 2.30-5pm and on Sunday 6 September 2-5pm.

Each Sunday is hosted by a different organisation from the village, which share the proceeds at the end of the summer for their fundraising. Any questions? Call 07732 112557.

We look forward to seeing you.

Elaine Sherrott



Combe Mill

Our themed event on 16 August is about models and collections, with local model clubs and their latest models, mini market stalls and also Oxfordshire Vintage Motor Cycle Club in attendance. All machinery will be running In Steam.

Combe Mill is a late 19th century Grade II listed watermill on the River Evenlode which was the workshop for the Blenheim Palace estate. It has a steam beam engine and restored water wheel; all machinery will be running in steam and volunteers will be on hand with lots of interesting information.

The Tea Room will be open for refreshments to enjoy in the picnic area by the river, with a gift shop and raffle.

Dogs on leads are most welcome and parking is free.

Adults £9.50, Seniors £8.50, accompanied children are free. Open 10.30am to 4.30pm (last entry 3.30pm).

We are also open every Wednesday at the same times for self-guided tours, with volunteers available for questions. Adults £6.00, seniors £5.00 and children free.

Have you ever thought of volunteering at Combe Mill? Come to a steaming event to see where you have an interest and can discuss it with the team.

Margaret Gruber (01993 358694)

Combe Mill, Blenheim Palace Sawmills

Combe OX29 8ET

www.combemill.org

A Battle for the Cotswolds

The Sealed Knot will be re-enacting a battle from the English Civil War at The Great Tew Estate under the title *A Battle for the Cotswolds*. It is taking place this August Bank Holiday on Sunday 30 and Monday 31 August 2026.

Entrance tickets, including parking, cost £20 per family (2 adults and three children), £10 per individual ticket or £5 concessions. Children under 5 enter for free. The tickets can be purchased in advance on their website: www.thesealedknot.org.uk or on the day.

Combe Connect

Combe Connect is the local magazine for your neighbouring village. You can read the latest issue at www.combeconnect.co.uk.

Editor@combeconnect.co.uk



Contacting The Stonesfield Slate

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.

A reminder of The Slate email addresses.

To submit an **article**, please email **editor@stonesfieldslate.uk**. – deadline 15th of the month for the next month's issue.

To **advertise** – deadline 10th of the month for the next month's issue, or for general enquiries please email **publisher@stonesfieldslate.uk**

No email?

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

Paul & Diane Bates, Publishers
publisher@stonesfieldslate.uk

The Editor
editor@stonesfieldslate.uk

Politics & local affairs

Stonesfield Parish Council

Full Council Meeting

Five councillors attended the meeting on Wednesday 1 July, together with Cllr G Early and one member of the public. There were no apologies for absence, declarations of interest or matters raised during public participation.

The Council approved the minutes of the previous meeting and noted that no applications had been received to fill the current councillor vacancies. Members also reviewed the Actions Register, noting that the Parish Council's new logo had been completed and recording their thanks to Richard Morris for his work.

Under planning, Members considered one planning application at St James Close and raised no objection. An update was also received on the Manor Field planning application following the meeting of the West Oxfordshire District Council Management Development Committee. The Council resolved that a representative would attend the Committee meeting on 8 July to speak on behalf of the Parish Council and that a letter would be sent to the Monitoring Officer outlining the Council's concerns regarding the conduct of the previous meeting.

Cllr G Early provided an update on the emerging West Oxfordshire Local Plan, including proposed housing growth, infrastructure requirements, affordable housing policies and the continued

designation of Stonesfield as a Tier 3 settlement.

The Council considered the Examiner's draft Fact Check Report for the Neighbourhood Plan and delegated authority to the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group to prepare and submit a response identifying any factual inaccuracies before the submission deadline.

Members approved the payment schedule presented to the meeting and ratified expenditure incurred under the Clerk's delegated authority. It was also agreed that a monthly bank reconciliation would be presented alongside the financial reports to strengthen financial monitoring.

There were no police matters or grant applications to consider. The Vice Chair reported that the Clerk had made enquiries with Blenheim regarding ownership of the Lock Up and that a further update would be provided once a response had been received.

Under Parish Council land matters, Members agreed to defer further consideration of the vehicle parked on Longore until the September meeting. Richard Morris then gave a presentation on proposals to create a wetland habitat on The Common. Following discussion, the Council approved the proposal in principle, subject to further development of the scheme, identification of costs and the necessary statutory consents. It was also agreed that a grant application to the

Evenlode Catchment Partnership would be completed. Further information on a proposed community metal detecting survey would be brought back to a future meeting.

Members considered Oxfordshire County Council's Quiet Lanes Programme and agreed that wider public engagement should take place before the Parish Council adopts a formal position. The Council resolved to write to Oxfordshire County Council requesting that the proposal be considered through a democratic consultation process, invite representatives to attend a future Council meeting, publish information for residents explaining the proposals and consultation process, and remain neutral on the scheme pending further information and public engagement.

The Council reviewed and adopted the revised Scheme of Delegation for urgent matters arising between meetings, providing greater clarity around decision-making and responsibilities.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on **Wednesday 2 September 2026 at 7.00 pm** in the Village Hall. There will be no meeting during August.

Kay Linnington

Clerk, Stonesfield Parish Council

clerk@stonesfield-pc.gov.uk

Manor Field Update



The WODC Planning Committee made a site visit to the Manor Field on Thursday 2 July. The visit lasted about one hour. The committee viewed the site from the Combe Road before entering the field via the Manor Drive. Around 50 people gathered to see the visit, thank you to those who came to show support for their opposition to this application.



At the Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 1 July, the Parish Council submitted a formal letter to the WODC Monitoring Officer, highlighting the inaccuracies and omissions in the Planning Officer's report and statements at the recent June Planning Committee meeting. WODC has now advised that there has been a substantial change to the application and the hearing previously scheduled to take place on Monday 6 July was deferred.

We will inform you once we know what the substantial change is, and a new date for the hearing has been fixed.

SUSTO

West Oxfordshire District Council

Three unitary councils for Oxfordshire and West Berkshire

The Government announced on 16 July that Oxfordshire and West Berkshire's seven existing councils will be replaced by three unitary councils from 1 April 2028, as part of its plans for local government reorganisation.

The new councils will be:

- Greater Oxford Council, covering Oxford and its immediate surroundings
- Northern Oxfordshire Council, covering most of the existing Cherwell and West Oxfordshire districts, and
- Ridgeway Council, covering most of the existing South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse districts, and West Berkshire.

The change will mean that in each of the three areas, one council is responsible for local services, including housing, planning, recycling, roads and social care, rather than those responsibilities being split as present between county, city and district councils.

The Government had considered three options for reorganisation: a single county unitary council, or two unitary councils or three. Councillor Andy Graham, Leader of West Oxfordshire District Council commented that the decision was deeply disappointing; West Oxfordshire had consistently supported a two-unitary councils solution as it would create simpler structures, reduce duplication, strengthen financial resilience and most importantly deliver better outcomes for residents and communities.

Nothing will change for now: current council services will continue as normal and residents and businesses should continue to contact the existing council in the usual way. The new councils will not be created until 1 April 2028.

In May 2027 there will be elections for the new unitary councils; then the new shadow authorities will be set up to plan the new councils (but not to deliver services). The new councils will take over responsibility for local services in April 2028.

More details of the three-unitary proposal can be found on www.3councils.org.

West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2043

West Oxfordshire District Council's Executive has agreed to recommend to the full Council that the final draft Local Plan 2043 should be published for public consultation later this summer. The Local Plan will guide how West Oxfordshire develops up to 2043 and how it delivers new homes, jobs, infrastructure, community facilities and green spaces.

This final draft has been developed through four rounds of public consultation, and has taken account of almost 7,000 comments. Several main themes have emerged consistently: the need to ensure infrastructure keeps pace with growth; the importance of ensuring the best use of previously developed brownfield land; transport improvement and dealing with traffic congestion; the need for affordable housing, particularly social rented homes, housing for the elderly and self-build opportunities, and finally the need to protect the landscapes and natural environment of the Cotswolds National Landscape, ensuring development is planned sensitively and sustainably.

Under national planning policy, West Oxfordshire is required to plan for around 16,290 new homes up to 2043. The Council has also agreed to accommodate a further 2,000 homes to help neighbouring Oxford City with its 'unmet' housing need, increasing the overall housing requirement to just over 18,000 homes. The draft plan sets out how that growth could be accommodated in a planned and sustainable way, supported by infrastructure, environmental protections and investment in local communities.

Subject to approval at the full Council meeting on 22 July, the draft Local Plan will be published for formal consultation later this summer, before being submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for independent examination.

Further details about the consultation, including how to view the draft plan and submit comments, will be announced shortly.

Living independently at home



Well over 100 West Oxfordshire residents, including children and young people, have benefited from Disabled Facilities Grants from the District Council, supporting safe and independent living in their own homes. The grants in 2025-26 supported provision of 34 level access showers, 18 stairlifts, 16 projects to improve access into

and around homes, and two home extensions. Some of the recipients have described the grants as life-changing.

Disabled Facilities Grants are available to eligible residents who need changes made to their home because of a disability or long-term health condition. Residents must first have an assessment carried out by an Occupational Therapist through Oxfordshire County Council. If adaptations are recommended, Oxfordshire County Council can then make a referral to the council for grant assistance.

Fly-tipping



West Oxfordshire District Council is investing in measures to cut fly-tipping, including additional signage and targeted camera surveillance in favourite fly-tipping locations. In Eynsham fly-tipping incidents have reduced by 96% following introduction of these measures.

Action is also being taken against illegal waste carriers (unregistered or incorrectly registered), with joint stop-and-search operations carried out along major routes with Thames Valley Police, HM Revenue and Customs, Cherwell District Council and the Environment Agency. Fixed penalty notices have been issued, including for fly-tipping, littering and abandoned vehicles. The Council has created the new role of Environmental Crime Officer, to maintain a stronger presence in areas affected.

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

E-scooters

In a response to concerns over the use of e-scooters and associated antisocial behaviour in and around Stonesfield, Thames Valley Police are carrying out high-visibility patrols, engaging with young people and parents, and taking enforcement action where needed, including seizing the scooter. The police have noted people riding e-scooters on public roads, pavements and footpaths, riding dangerously or inconsiderately and with near-misses with pedestrians and vehicles. They urge residents to report antisocial behaviour via 101, or online to www.thamesvalley.police.uk, to speak to the neighbourhood police contact or to call 999 in emergency. Anyone capturing such behaviour on video is asked to contact a

Police Community Support Officer at Woodstock Police Station.

Parents need to make sure that their young people understand the legal restrictions on e-scooter use, the importance of respecting others in shared spaces and that misuse can lead to police action and seizure. See www.gov.uk/electric-scooter-rules for more information.

Rogue traders

Rogue traders have been reported operating in the area of Milton-under-Wychwood. An elderly resident agreed to allow a group of men to carry out garden work; they worked for an hour and a half to cut some trees and made a mess; saying they would return the next day to clear it up. They failed to do so and charged the resident £3,500 for the work done.

Police advise that with warm weather and long daylight hours, rogue traders are using the opportunity to offer gardening, roofing, paving and other outdoor work. Advice is that before agreeing to any work, it is worth checking with the Buy With Confidence scheme. This is a Trading Standards approved register of businesses that have been vetted on their trading history, customer service standards and complaint handling, to ensure they operate in a legal, honest and fair way. To find an approved trader, go to www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk.

Some good points to remember if you want work done are:

- Do not feel pressured into agreeing to work on your doorstep
- Never agree to work from someone who cold-calls unexpectedly
- Always get at least three quotes from reputable companies.

- Ask for recommendations from family, friends or neighbours.
- Check reviews and credentials before agreeing to any work.
- If you feel pressured or unsure, ask them to leave and contact a trusted person.
- If you believe a crime is in progress or you feel threatened, call police on 999.

Phone-free schools

Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Barber, has announced £255,000 of funding to support secondary schools in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Milton Keynes to become mobile phone-free.

The funding will support secondary schools to purchase secure mobile phone storage such as lockable pouches, lockers or boxes, that ensure pupils are not able to use their phone during the whole school day but still allows them access when travelling to and from school.

For more information about the fund, go to www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/news/pcc-unveils-new-fund-backing-phone-free-schools/.

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

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

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

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.



Saturday 4 July - Sunday 6 September
inspireculture.org.uk/summerreadingchallenge

Delivered in partnership with libraries
summerreadingchallenge.org.uk



Nottinghamshire
County Council



Arts Council
ENGLAND



National
Year of
Reading
2020

Illustration: © Peter Whittle. 2020. All rights reserved. The Reading Agency (2020). All rights reserved. Library number: 01914112 English and Wales.

From our Primary School

As we reach the end of another successful academic year, I wanted to take a moment to share some wonderful news and reflect on the incredible journey that Stonesfield School has been on over the past year.

Just over a year ago, I was asked by Oxfordshire Local Authority to support the leadership of Stonesfield School and to help train, mentor and induct a Head of School into a substantive headship role. It gives me enormous pleasure to now share that, following a rigorous review process, Mrs Hill has been appointed as the substantive Headteacher of Stonesfield School from September 2026.

The Governing Body fully endorsed Mrs Hill's appointment and were unanimous in their view that she is the right leader to take Stonesfield forward. Governors were particularly impressed by her clear vision for the future of the school, her commitment to the community and the strong relationships she has built with pupils, staff and families during the past year.

This is a significant milestone for the school and one that is thoroughly deserved. Over the past year, I have had the privilege of watching Mrs Hill grow into her leadership role with determination, professionalism and an unwavering commitment to the children, staff and wider community of Stonesfield.

There is much to celebrate.

In September 2025, we welcomed just six children into Reception. I am delighted that this number has doubled, with twelve children due to join us in September 2026. This growth reflects the confidence that families place in the school and the positive

reputation that continues to spread throughout our community. We have welcomed new families and have also seen families choose to return to Stonesfield, which is a wonderful endorsement of the school's direction and future.

External advisers and school improvement colleagues have recognised the significant progress that has been made. They have noted the improvements in teaching and learning, the increasing consistency across the school and the strong implementation of agreed systems, practices and policies. These foundations are vital in ensuring that every child receives the very best education possible.

I would also like to recognise the exceptional contribution of our governing body. Governors have challenged and supported leaders with passion, dedication and determination. They have left no stone unturned in their commitment to securing the very best outcomes for pupils and ensuring the school continues to move forward with confidence.

We now enter September with a full complement of staff, strengthened leadership and a clear sense of direction. Most importantly, our pupils are thriving. Visitors regularly comment on the calm, purposeful atmosphere around the school. Children are engaged in their learning, eager to participate and benefit from an ambitious and exciting curriculum that encourages them to think deeply, be creative and achieve their potential.

Our vision is now firmly at the heart of all that we do:

‘Learning together to achieve our best. Rooted in our village community, we aim to create a nurturing and ambitious

environment where every child is empowered to thrive with resilience, kindness and joy.'

Of course, there is still much to do. School improvement is a continuous journey, and we remain ambitious for our pupils and our community. However, it is important to pause and recognise just how far the school has come in a relatively short space of time and to celebrate the collective efforts that have made this possible.

For me personally, this moment is one of immense pride and relief. Knowing that the school is in such capable hands means that from September I will be able to step back from my current two-day-a-week commitment at Stonesfield to just half a day each week. This will allow Mrs Hill the space and opportunity to lead the school confidently into the next stage of its

journey, whilst continuing to benefit from my support as Executive Headteacher.

I would like to thank our staff, governors, parents, carers and, of course, our wonderful pupils for their trust, hard work and commitment over the past year. Together, we have achieved a great deal, and I am excited to see what the future holds for Stonesfield School.

Please join me in congratulating Mrs Hill on her appointment. I know she will continue to lead the school with the care, ambition and dedication that have been so evident throughout this past year.

I wish you all a wonderful summer break and look forward to an exciting new chapter for Stonesfield School.

Kim Rogers, Executive Headteacher

Mark Burniston, Chair of Governors

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

- A caring, nurturing environment where your child can thrive
- A passion for nature and the outdoors - regular forest school for all pupils
- High academic expectations for every child
- Experienced, dedicated teachers who put children at the heart of learning
- An exciting curriculum built on compassion and empathy, developing citizens of the future

Join us at our open days 2026

•8th Oct

•20th Nov

Any questions or to book a visit contact the office on office.2353@stonesfield.oxon.sch.uk

Home of Your Own: Renovating

Buying an older property in need of renovation is an attractive alternative for many who want to create a home. These often offer greater flexibility to tailor the layout, performance, and character to individual needs, providing long-term satisfaction over short-term inconvenience. Well-planned renovations can improve energy efficiency and increase the property's value. However, success depends on careful planning, realistic budgeting, and understanding the risks involved.

When assessing potential properties, look for signs of structural issues such as subsidence cracks, roof deterioration, and damp. Renovating without a clear understanding of the building's condition can result in unsafe outcomes and rapidly escalating costs. A full structural survey is strongly recommended, particularly for older homes.

Victorian and Edwardian houses often have solid walls, which require different approaches to insulation and damp-proofing compared with those with modern cavity wall construction. For terraced or semi-detached homes, any work affecting walls shares with a neighbour requires serving notice under the Party Wall Act, a legal requirement designed to protect all parties and prevent disputes.

Confirm whether your planned works require planning permission. Many internal alterations fall under Permitted Development (PD) rights, but extensions, loft conversions, major structural changes, and works to listed buildings or properties in conservation areas usually require

formal approval. Submitting a Pre-Application Enquiry to the local planning authority before purchase can clarify what permissions are needed. Separately, Building Regulations approval is required for structural work, electrics, plumbing, insulation, and fire safety, with compliance certificates essential when selling.

Prepare a detailed budget covering labour, materials, professional fees, approvals, and a contingency of 10–20%. Some renovation works, including refurbishing long-empty properties, may qualify for VAT relief, so specialist advice is worthwhile. Energy efficiency upgrades—such as improved insulation, glazing, heat pumps, or solar panels—can reduce running costs and add value, and some may qualify for grants, although planning consent may be required in certain areas.

Finally, consider the local ceiling price: the maximum buyers typically pay in that area. Research comparable properties and focus spending on improvements that deliver the strongest returns, such as extensions, loft conversions, energy efficiency, and modernisation.

Jan Liberadzki BA Arch (Hons), MSc
www.jlda.co.uk

Clubs, societies & sport

1st Stonesfield Scout Group



Pre-race gathering

A huge thank you to those who turned out from Stonesfield and beyond to support the duck race on Saturday 11th July.

Special thanks also to all the volunteers who gave up their day to lug ducks, BBQs, Pimm's and more to the river, to shepherd the motley flotilla downstream and to the team of duck catchers at the finish line. The event raised around £2,000 for our scout group!



Setting off the ducks

We were visited at the race by Sarah Joyner, the outgoing District Lead Volunteer who presented certificates to Ben and Pete, acknowledging and thanking them for 5 and 25 years' commitment to

Ben, Sarah and Pete



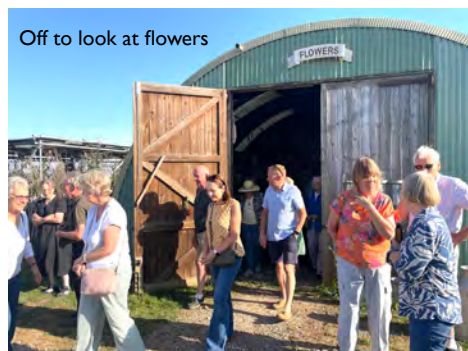
scouting. (We think the latter is rather an underestimate) Adding our thanks to them too - scouting in Stonesfield simply wouldn't be what it is without you!

As always, if you're interested in volunteering for 1st Stonesfield Scouts, please do drop our chair (Ben) a line (chair@stonesfield-scouts.org.uk). And if you know a young person who might like to join our Beavers, Cubs or Scouts, please visit our website for details of how to join up www.stonesfield-scouts.org.uk.

Wishing everyone a lovely summer, and we look forward to welcoming all of our units back in the autumn.

Hannah Crowe, on behalf of the Trustees
1st Stonesfield Scout Group

Stonesfield Gardening Club



Members of the Stonesfield Gardening Club and guests spent an enjoyable summer's evening visiting the sustainable Chippy Flower Farm, close to Little Tew. The visit highlighted the beauty of pesticide-free, locally grown blooms.

Following drinks, we had a guided tour of the fields, which operates a 'no-dig' farming method. The farm offers Pick-Your-Own, as well as supplying bouquets, and runs a number of different flower-related workshops.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable and educational evening that gave everyone plenty of inspiration to bring back to our own village borders and allotments.
www.chippyflowerfarm.co.uk

The next Gardening Club meeting will be on 14 September. Back by popular demand, Andrew Wood will be returning for a talk and wine-tasting. There will be a limited number of places, and pre-booking details will be on the Gardening Club's website at the end of August.

Gaye Olesen, Chair
www.stonesfieldgardening.info

The Megalosaurus Society

Our talk and display on Stonesfield's slate mines by Nina Morgan and Vivienne Kendall was a resounding success. Despite the oppressive temperatures, we had a full house and were delighted that so many people felt this topic was important enough to brave the heat! Huge thanks go to Nina and Viv for the immense amount of research carried out in order to present such an interesting and informative talk.



Next month brings our members' visit to Witney Blanket Hall, where we will learn about the local wool industry and the measures devised to regulate the quality of the world-famous Witney blankets.

In the meantime Oxford University Museum of Natural History's project – *Life as we know it* – has been completed and, particularly relevant to us, it includes a display on *Megalosaurus* and other fossils of Stonesfield. Admission is free. (OUMNH, Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PW; see www.oumnh.ox.ac.uk.)

For more information about the Society and its activities, please get in touch with us at megsoc25@gmail.com.

Trisha Williams, Co-Chair

Stonesfield Tennis Club



Jane, Lindsey, Jim & Miles

In the Wychwood League, we lost to both Bourton Vale (away) 40 games to 26 and at home to Chipping Campden 28:38. Every game counts, so the League is still quite close. Teas were excellent! Thanks for playing to Lindsey, Jane, Miles, Jim and Johnny, who played his first match this season for the WL.

We have three home games this month, on 16, 23 and 30 August at 2pm. You are all very welcome to come and support and see our lovely team in action.

Alex Dillon continues to provide coaching as follows.

Stonesfield Junior Tennis Programme:

Monday:

Orange ball 4.30 - 5.30pm, ages 8-10

Green ball 5.30 - 6.30pm, ages 10-12

Tuesday:

Red ball 3.35 - 4.20pm (£7.50 per 45min session), ages 6-8

Orange ball 4.20-5.20pm, ages 8-10

Green ball 5.20-6.20pm, ages 10-12

Yellow ball 6.20-7.20pm, ages 13 upwards

No commitment is necessary; everyone is welcome to come and try a session. Rackets are available to borrow. Ages are approximate, depending on experience. Unless otherwise stated, sessions are £10.

Adult coaching:

Tuesday 1-2 pm: all welcome, particularly those playing tennis for the first time and improvers.

There is availability for private sessions if of interest.

Please contact Alex directly on 07876 194008 for any further questions / enquiries.

Jane Rust (07812 332654)



A fun sport for all the family!
Charlbury Bowls Club welcomes new members from aged 7 and upwards - taster sessions available by arrangement.
Great facilities: all bowls equipment provided to play on a well-maintained green in the summer and our two short mats in the clubroom all year.
Registered Bowls England coaches.
We have a well-stocked bar too!
Contact: enquiries@charlburybowls.co.uk
Ian Lever: 07585328171
Or Jackie Hague: 07714642302
74 Ticknell Piece Road OX7 3TW
What3words address: spillage.curly.farms
www.charlburybowls.co.uk

Basketball



Wendy and Steve Murray have recently competed in the European Masters Basketball Championships in Athens, representing Great Britain.

The championships cover age groups from over 35 to over 75. There are teams from all over Europe, and some guest teams from around the world; with 200 teams and 3500 athletes from 35 countries in the competition.

We enjoyed great success: Wendy's team finished eighth in the over-60s group, having played 6 games in 8 days; a gruelling schedule. It was a very tough group, which included the current world champions.

Steve's team won the championship gold medal in the over-70s section, retaining the trophy which they won two years ago. They played 5 games in 7 days – not bad for players over 70. They worked very hard,



Steve Murray and the Gold trophy

out-working opponents and playing tough defence. They are the only GB team to have won a gold medal at an International Basketball Championship.

Flynn Reid, a former Stonesfield resident, was the Team Manager for both of the teams, ensuring that everything ran smoothly, from venues to travel. We all believe that she is the best Team Manager in the competition.

We had a great time in the competition, meeting many old and new friends, and are obviously very proud of our achievements.

All three of us have committed many hours of practice, training and also personal finance to be able to compete at the very highest levels.

There are world championships in Brazil next year.....so who knows!

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)

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: Love

August is a month when we may get to witness some spectacular summer storms and this year it feels like we need them. As a child, my mental image of God was of a bearded old man, sitting on a dark cloud, launching thunderbolts at the earth. It took me a while to realise that this was not the Christian understanding of God, but a picture I had seen in a book about mythology!

How do you picture God? In a country church I looked at the noticeboard in their children's area, which had some drawings from Sunday School activity. One showed a smiley lady carrying a basket of flowers, and the title, written underneath in a neat child's hand, said, 'Mrs God'. And once, in a school (not here), a teacher asked the Reception Class children to draw anything they liked. One little girl was hard at work

and the teacher asked her what she was drawing. 'I'm drawing God,' said the girl. 'Well, that's interesting,' replied the teacher, 'because nobody knows what God looks like'. The girl looked puzzled, and then said confidently, 'Well they will know in a minute.'

How do we picture God? The New Testament's most profound and life-changing insight is that God is love. He is pictured as a man, Jesus of Nazareth, who demonstrated that God's love can be revealed in a human being. This gives us confidence to believe that if love can be seen in Jesus, God's son, then love can be seen in other people too, and even in us. As St John wrote, 'God is love, and those who live in love, live in God, and God lives in them' (1 John 4:16). I hope your summer is memorable not for its storms, but for its love.

Revd Ralph Williamson - Rector

Church services:

Sunday 2 August [Trinity 9]

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

Sunday 9 August [Trinity 10]

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

Sunday 16 August [Trinity 11]

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [BCP/said]
9.30am	Combe	Parish Communion – St Laurence Patronal Festival
11am	Stonesfield	Parish Communion
7pm	Combe	Service on the Green

Sunday 23 August [Trinity 12]

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

Sunday 30 August [Trinity 13]

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	Holy Communion (12 August), Morning Prayer (26 August)

Recent funerals / memorial services:

3 July 2026: Peter John Fieldwick

Our prayers are for family and friends at
this time.

Stonesfield Methodist Church

Sunday services for August

2	11am	Keith Crawford
9	11am	Martin Hannant
16	11am	The Reverend Andrew Biggs Holy Communion Service
23	11am	Kath Skinner
30	11am	Local Arrangement

The important Methodist Conference took place last month. Great things were achieved as people came together with a passion for their Creator. The members expressed their thoughts on world, country and local concerns, while ideas were shared and voices heard, all echoing 'People Power for God!'

The Reverend Mark Staney is the new President. May his year be filled with joy, adventure and God's blessings, as he reaches out to Churches around the country and beyond.

Below a simple perfect prayer from the Conference:

Love God

Love others

Make Disciples.

Come to a Service soon.

Kathleen Albért (891733)

k.m.albert14@gmail.com

Roman Catholic Worship

Yes or no

Which is harder to say: 'Yes' or 'No'? 'Yes' is acceptance and agreement; 'No' is rejection and disagreement.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is precise when He requests straightforwardness: 'Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes' and your 'No', 'No'. Anything beyond this comes from the evil one.' (Matthew 5:37).

Jesus is inviting us to accept and agree His message of redemption through belief in Him, and to reject the temptations of the alternatives. Paul develops this further in 2 Corinthians 1: 18-20 when he says: 'But as surely as God is faithful, our message to you is not 'Yes' and 'No'. For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you was not 'Yes' and 'No', but in him it has always been 'Yes'. For all the promises of God will find their 'Yes' in Him.' Acceptance is not about negotiation or equivocation, but a wholehearted openness to God's unconditional love for us.

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

An early harvest





Bespoke massage treatment and products using essential oils for women and children from my relaxing aromatherapy room in Stonesfield

- Parking
- evening appointment
- personal service
- loyalty scheme

For help with anxiety/depression/sleep problems and hormonal issues

Contact Lucy Martin 07552 653000

Lavenderend8@gmail.com

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