

# The Stonesfield Slate

Issue No 384 August 2009



## Dates for your Diary

### August

1	Quest Seekers Craft Event	Library	10am–12noon
1	Police Street Meeting	Pendle Court	1–2pm
13	Darby & Joan	Village Hall	2pm
13	Police Street Meeting	Pendle Court	2.30–3.30pm
18	WI Summer BBQ	13 Longore	7pm
20	D&J Coffee Morning	13 Longore	10.30am
20	Bingo	Sports & Social Club	7.30pm

### September

3	Craft Club	St James' Centre	7.30pm
5	Wootton Flower Show	Woodleys House	from 2pm
5	Stonesfield Players Safari Supper		7pm
5	LiveMusic (Doghouse)	Sports & Social Club	7.30pm
6	Wychwood Forest Fair	Cornbury Park	from 11am

### Publishers

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### Editors for this month

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### Editor for September

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### Printer

Information Press

**The deadline for copy  
and advertisements  
for the next issue is  
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Copy can be put in the  
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Advertisements to  
sj@sjhaviland.co.uk

### Contents

Notices & thanks	2
Politics & local affairs	5
Education & culture	10
Clubs & societies	14
Charities & good causes	16
Sport	17
Church news	18

*The Scouts participating  
in the kart race (see p. 2)*



# Notices & thanks

## Scouts make it to Liverpool – non-stop

Over the past few months the scout troop has been collecting old scrapped bikes and taking them apart, so that we had working parts to build a kart from scratch. The design was made up as we went along. The construction took many scout nights, and some other evenings and weekends. But, in the end, we had a working kart.

The kart arrived at the Shenington track, and after a few adjustments was ready to race. Once underway, the driver-changes over the 24 hours went smoothly, and all drivers enjoyed the event. It was a great team effort, and at the end the flag was in sight.

Over 24 hours, starting at midday on Saturday 27 June, and finishing at noon on Sunday 28 June, the scouts from Stonesfield and North Leigh took the kart round 553 laps of the track, which totalled just over 200 miles – or the distance from Stonesfield to Liverpool!

Well done lads!

*Clive Sutton (Group Scout Leader)*

## Cycling feat

On 5 July the 'Stonesfield Six', comprising Steve Barker, James Burniston, Brian Clarke, Dan Clarke, Ryan John and Patrick Wilmore, completed 62 miles from London to Oxford by bike. It took between 3 hours 45 mins and 6 hours – all returning

safely! They have raised £2,000 for charity. Very well done to you all.

*Louise (Callow Farm)*

## Parachute jump

I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who sponsored me for my parachute jump on 31 May. It was an incredible experience, and, most of all, it raised £4,000 for Marie Curie Cancer Care.

*Tony Noble*

## Stonesfield Players Safari Supper

Thanks to everyone who supported our Treasure Island themed stall at the Village Fête, and all the pirate Players who ran it – we raised £58 towards our next production. Our next fund-raiser is a Safari Supper on Saturday 5 September – we'll meet for starters at 7pm then begin our Safari around the village, splitting up into different groups for main courses and puddings at different venues, before all meeting up again for coffee to round the evening off. Tickets cost £12 – phone Ros Mengech on 898276 if you'd like some. We welcome members of The Players, ex-members, prospective members and anyone else who'd like to take part! Membership subscriptions are due and have been advertised in our Newsletter to members – if your membership has lapsed and you'd like to rejoin, please contact Becki Sherlaw-Johnson on 891318.

## Our Tree

*We've lost a tree, our lovely tree,  
That reigned so long in majesty,  
At top of village, prelude to,  
That which we love, our rural view.*

*There it stood, our friend so tall.  
Its beauty changed with nature's call,  
From branches bare in winter's grasp,  
To spring's attire, green that would last,  
'Til murmurings of autumn rendered,  
A call to which our tree surrendered,  
Leaves turned to gold, then browned and  
fluttered  
Down to earth, no protests uttered.*

*Man came along, his axe to wield,  
Our beacon vanished from its field.  
Now just a space where it once stood,  
Demoted to a lump of wood.*

*We've lost a tree, our lovely tree,  
That reigned so long in majesty.*

*A Tree Lover*

## Summer Sundays Cream Teas

Home-made cream teas will be served in the Reading Room, Combe (on the village green), every Sunday in August from 3 to 5.30pm. Do come along and enjoy a lovely home-made cream tea and support this local fund-raising event.

*Sally Pursell (01993 898348)*

## Wootton Flower Show

Woodleys House (Off Charlbury Road), Saturday 5 September, gates open 2pm, admission: adults £2/under-16s free.

As you can see it is going to be at Woodleys House again – which is half way between Wootton and Stonesfield – it is a lovely venue (by kind permission

of the Ponsonby family) and may not be there next year. Quite a lot came from Stonesfield last year, and it was a wonderful day – beautiful gardens!

Chipping Norton Silver Band • Scottish Dancers • Decorated Hat Competition • Children's Corner/Entertainments/Displays • Refreshments/Side Shows/Auction/Trophies/Raffle

In the beautiful garden of an English Country House

Many thanks – as usual – for your help

*Kathy Gabbatiss*

## 2009 Wychwood Forest Fair at Cornbury Park

This year's Forest Fair will be held at Cornbury Park, just off the B4220 between Finstock and Charlbury, on Sunday 6 September from 11am to 5pm.

The Wychwood Project, supported by the Friends of Wychwood, held the first modern Forest Fair in 2000. Since then, the Fair has been held at a different location each year to help indicate the extent of the former forest and to seek to involve more people in the activities of the Wychwood Project, which works with local people to restore habitats and create woodlands within the boundaries of the ancient Forest of Wychwood. By kind permission of Lord and Lady Rotherwick, this year's Fair will be close to the original historic site. There will be over 180 stalls and activities to enjoy, including George Hatwell's Children's Fun Fair. There will be displays by the Wychwood Project and its supporters, the Friends of Wychwood, as well as by many other local conservation and

community groups. As usual, there will be a wide range of Rural Crafts on show and an Arts and Crafts tent. Refreshments will include all-day take-aways, pig roasts and the Friends of Wychwood's tea tent. As well as plenty of Local Food suppliers, locally produced ice cream and farm produce, Witney's local Wychwood Brewery will provide a beer tent. Any profit from the Fair will be used by the Friends of Wychwood to help support the Wychwood Project and other local community conservation work. Entry: £5 per adult, under 16 free. Parking Free.

Volunteers are needed to work on the stalls – if you would like to help and enjoy a free, fun day out, please call me.

*Robert Bigwood (868203)*

### Hallowe'en Disco

Just to let everyone know that on 31 October, we will be having a fancy dress disco in aid of Breast Cancer Research UK. It will be held in the Village Hall from 8pm to midnight and promises to be a fun night out. Tickets will be £5

each, and will go on sale nearer the time. We hope to see all of you there. We know we can rely on your support as it is such a good cause – so pencil the date in your diary.

*Scott Hunt (07976 073764) Elize Hunt (01993 898681)*

### Yellow Pages

The new edition of Yellow Pages will be published this month and delivered in the second half of August. Last year's Yellow Pages can be recycled at Charlbury, Woodstock or Witney. But once again recycling facilities have been made available in the village, courtesy of Sri and Rahini of Amlu's Store, who will have a bin at Pendle Court for the disposal of your old Yellow Pages, and Robin Hartwell, who will take them to the recycling centres.

### August Bank Holiday bin collection dates

<i>Normal collection</i>	<i>Revised date</i>
Fri 4 September	Sat 5 September

# Politics & local affairs

### Parish Council

The Council met on Thursday 9 July for its last meeting before the August break. Three members of the public were present.

The Clerk to the Council reported that she had received an explanation from Highways of the 'points' system by which pavement work was prioritised. She passed this to the Vice-Chairman to discuss with Frank Hall.

Following this, there was a break with tradition in the Public Forum item on the agenda. The Chairman made a statement which involved the quoting of a Ruling in the Appeal Court by Appeal Court Judge, Lord Diplock, on the subject of 'Qualified Privilege'. The Ruling came at the end of a case brought against Bolton Corporation by a member of the public; *Horrocks v Lowe 1974*, and is now enshrined in English Case Law. To summarise, the judgement stated that so long as a member of a Local Council spoke his/her mind honestly there was no 'risk of liability for defamation of those who are the subject of criticism.' The Chairman added that he hoped there would be no occasion to which it could be applied during the meeting. Secondly, he repeated the ruling applied throughout Oxfordshire and elsewhere that members of the public, including the press corps and members of other local authorities, have no right to speak unless authorised by the Council. He assured the meeting that as it had always been his practice to allow members of the

public attending Council meetings to have their say, this would not change. The Chairman thanked the Clerk to the Council for her extensive research on the position of Parish Councils and for making the appropriate legal documents available to him.

Various requests to both Highways and the Cotswold Wardens were noted and it was anticipated that repairs to the steps to the Scout Hut from Brook Lane would be carried out, and also to the steps down to the Evenlode. A further request had been received from the Allotments Association regarding the provision of extra space. A reply was agreed and would be forwarded to the Hon. Secretary.

Gillian Oldfield, our District Councillor, reported on various matters of concern and interest. There was no report from the County Councillor, Neil Owen, in his absence.

### Planning Applications

Prior to the discussion of the first sub-item, the Parish Clerk, Mrs Libby Hartwell, made a clear, concise Declaration summarising her legally accepted position as a Clerk to the Parish Council.

At this point, prior to any discussion, Richard Bishop handed the Chair to the Vice-Chairman, John Simpson.

Land at the rear of Tyne Lodge, Brook Lane; erection of detached chalet bungalow. Council was unanimous in its strong objection to this proposal on the

grounds that it would violate a number of constraints laid down in the agreed District Plan. A number of objections from nearby residents had been received. Recommended for refusal.

At this point, Richard Bishop took the Chair.

The Rectory, Brook Lane; removal of existing garage and erection of dwelling with detached garage. Erection of garage for existing dwelling. The Council had no objections to this application.

Austins Farm, High Street; conversion of existing outbuilding to dwelling with associated parking. Council had no objection to this application.

### Planning Decisions

Land at the rear of Stocky View, Churchfields, erection of dwelling. Council understands that a decision on this application had been deferred subject to a site visit.

### Correspondence

'In view of the special/confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.' (This includes members of the press). This Resolution was unanimously agreed. The remainder of this section of the agenda was held in camera.

It was noted that the young men responsible for the destruction of the lower stile on the Common had agreed to pay for its restoration.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions to a long meeting. He wished all present a restful and enjoyable break.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Thursday 10 September at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

*Richard Bishop (Chairman 891414)*

### Advance Notice:

Please note in your diaries – Macmillan Cancer Relief, Stonesfield Breakfast will be held in the St James' Centre on the morning of 25 September 2009. Service commencing at 8am and continuing until noon. Please help the Macmillan Nurses to help those suffering with this dreadful disease.

### Oxfordshire County Council Reflections on an Election

On 4 June I was elected County Councillor for the Charlbury Division. I was naturally delighted, and I would especially like to thank all those who voted for me and put up posters, leafleted and canvassed. There are too many for me to thank personally and many more I have never met. Be assured, my success would not have been possible without you. It goes without saying that I shall do my utmost to defend and promote our communities in this, the most beautiful part of England, and I look forward to the challenges ahead.

The election campaign was the most difficult one in living memory, at least my memory. I have fought four elections but never one against such a backdrop of public anger. The Westminster expenses scandal made door-to-door canvassing a nightmare. Imagine walking past the front window of a house at six o'clock in the evening – you can see the family on the settee watching the news, reporting

sleaze and more sleaze, you ring the bell, the youngest member of the family is sent to the door, 'Hello young man, is your dad in?' 'Dad, there's some bloke at the door to see you'. With some grumbling the head of the house comes to the door, takes one look at me and slams the door in my face! However, this extreme act was rare – most people were very British, good-natured and friendly, but one could feel the anger and sense of disillusionment. But, that is all in the past and I am now learning the ropes of County Council work so that I can be an effective representative for you.

Best wishes,

*Neil Owen, Your County Councillor*

### Your Community, Your Call

Get advice on staying safer at home and in your community, and find out how partnership working is reducing crime in West Oxfordshire during a week of activities starting Monday 27 July.

'Your Community, Your Call' has been organised by the Safer Communities Partnership to promote the crime-reduction work taking place across the district. A range of issues will be covered, from domestic violence and drugs and alcohol to burglary, criminal damage and environmental crime.

Supporters at the events will include the Neighbourhood Police Teams, West Oxfordshire District Council, Trading Standards and Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust. Each day runs from 10am to 1pm.

- Monday 27 July: Witney Marketplace
- Friday 31 July: Woodstock Market Square

*Danielle Hilton, Communications Officer  
West Oxfordshire Safer Communities  
Partnership (01993 861640,  
www.whosmybobby.co.uk)*

### Woodstock Neighbourhood Management Update

#### Speeding

Speed Indicator Device (SID) checks were carried out in Freeland and Woodstock on Tuesday 30 June as residents have highlighted that speeding vehicles are a problem in these areas.

Recent result vehicle speeds were obtained for Manor Road, Woodstock, near to the speed camera, and it was found that excessive speed is an issue late at night and in the early mornings during the rush hour. As a result, Roads Policing are going to be invited to attend in the near future to carry out speed enforcement and, where required, issue fixed penalty tickets to offending drivers.

#### Parking

The entrance to the railway station at Long Hanborough continues to be a problem with vehicles parking illegally, and tickets have been issued to those drivers. The neighbourhood team is in consultation with both Highways and Great Western Railway to find ways of trying to provide more parking spaces so that drivers do not need to park on grassed areas or cause obstruction.

#### Youth Facilities

There has been no further update regarding the new youth club in Woodstock. Plans for the new building have been put forward for planning permission and the club is awaiting the result.

## Other News

There have been 37 offences recorded during June across the area. Of these there were 10 incidents of criminal damage, one distraction burglary, two burglaries and seven thefts.

The distraction burglary took place in Long Hanborough. Although nothing was taken, the man used the excuse that he needed access, as the flat downstairs had flooded and he needed to turn the water off. Please be especially vigilant as there have been a number of similar incidents across the force, and as I said in last month's update, unless a valid ID can be produced, do not let anyone in – just call the police.

A wallet was stolen from the doctor's surgery in Woodstock. Unfortunately no suspects were seen, and our advice to people working in public buildings is that you need to ensure that personal property is kept secure at all times.

On Monday 15 June PCSO Phil Workman held public meetings in both Tackley and Wootton using the mobile police station. No issues were raised by residents.

Further street meetings are to be held in Stonesfield, at Pendle Court, as follows:

- Saturday 1 August, 1–2pm
- Thursday 13 August, 2.30–3.30pm
- Saturday 14 November, 10–11am

On Saturday 20 June the neighbourhood team held a bike-marking session at Woodstock police station. Members of the public were invited to bring their bicycles so that they could be security marked for identification, and this was well attended.

If you would like to speak to a local officer you can contact them either by telephoning 0845 8505505, or by emailing [woodstock@whosmybobby.co.uk](mailto:woodstock@whosmybobby.co.uk)

*Danielle Hilton, Communications Officer,  
West Oxfordshire Safer Communities  
Partnership (01993 861640, Mob 07967  
393546)*

## Many hands make light work

A fantastic joint effort by volunteers from the Cotswold Wardens, the Wychwood Project Dry-Stone-Walling Group and Wychwood v has restored 30 metres of collapsed dry-stone wall alongside Brook Lane in Stonesfield. Passing rambblers, dog walkers and village families admired the work as it progressed, and several stopped off to have a go at this old and fascinating rural craft. Many of the older people paused to reminisce about walls and wallers that have been important to them at some time in their lives.

Funds for buying in new stone and a specialist trainer for the courses were provided by the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment and the Cotswolds Conservation Board. Four training-courses, run by Mark Stratton, provided ample opportunity for people to learn the basic dry-stone-walling skills or to improve existing skills. The rest of the work was completed by volunteers under the expert guidance of Trevor Townsend and Andrew Deller, who shared their knowledge and skills and did their best to keep an enthusiastic band of wallers on track.

A specific focus was put on recruiting young people to try their hand at this

## Finishing touches



most demanding of crafts, and nine young people aged between 16 and 25 came along, through the Wychwood v project, to have a go. They found the work extremely challenging both physically and mentally. Vincent Day, a resident of Stonesfield, who volunteers with Wychwood v said, 'I didn't realize it would be such hard work. My brain and my body ache at the end of the day. I am

glad that I don't have to do it every day for work. But the satisfaction of seeing the wall completed was worth all the effort'.

For more information about dry-stone-walling or the Wychwood v project for young people, please contact Jane Bowley, Wychwood v Project Officer on 01993 814131 or email: [Wychwood.v@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Wychwood.v@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

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# Education & culture

## Stonesfield Library

Telephone: 01993 898187

### Opening Hours:

Monday	2.30–7pm
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	10am–12noon
Thursday	2.30–5pm
Friday	Closed
Saturday	10am–12noon

The Summer Reading Scheme, Quest Seekers, has started! Have you signed up for the challenge? The adventure starts here!

Explore magical and mysterious lands this summer by taking part in Quest Seekers! Join at your local library and you'll be given your own membership card and fold-out poster. Collect stickers for each book you read and win prizes as you follow your Quest!

Finish 6 books to complete your adventure and collect a medal, magic colour-change pen and certificate. Look out for colouring sheets, puzzles and a treasure hunt in the library. There are lots of other activities – so come and join the Quest!

I will be holding a craft event based around Quest Seekers on Saturday 1 August from 10am to 12noon and I look forward to seeing all you Quest Seekers.

I would also like to thank those who came to the author visit with Sue Cook. It was a tremendous success and I thoroughly enjoyed myself. Sue Cook

spoke about her books, her writing habits and read an extract from her latest book with her husband, finishing by signing copies of her two books. I still have library copies of her latest book *Force of Nature* at the library for those who would like to borrow it.

Lucy

## Woodstock U3A – The University of the Third Age

The speakers for Woodstock U3A for the next 6 months have now been finalised. Meeting monthly at the Marlborough School Woodstock every first Tuesday at 2pm, new and potential members are most welcome.

U3A is a nationwide organisation set up for older people not in full-time employment, who wish to meet socially and become involved in a wealth of different interest groups. Monthly meetings generally last about two hours, and include a guest speaker.

Topics to be covered in the Woodstock U3A programme for the autumn are:

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| 8 Sept | Jill Fraser: <i>How to survive in an English country vicarage when you are not the vicar</i> |
| 6 Oct  | Angela Thomas: <i>Taxation in Retirement</i>   |
| 3 Nov  | James Mitchell: <i>Magic of the Musicals</i>   |
| 1 Dec  | Marguerite Osborne: <i>Storyteller – Ghouls &amp; Ghosts</i>                                 |

Woodstock U3A currently has 13 interest groups, all of which meet regularly: Ambling, Battles & Battlefields, Books, Bridge, Discussion, Madrigal Singing, Painting & Drawing, Play Reading (2 groups), Poetry for Pleasure, Recorders, Scrabble and Walking.

An ideal opportunity to meet new friends, socialize, pick up a new hobby or interest or just meet friends once a month. New members are always welcome, and Chairman Mary Hawken (see below) will be delighted to hear from any prospective members.

Mary Hawken (01993 812166), Patrick Fitz-Gibbon (01869 347238)

## Marlborough Community Learning

Our autumn programme will be available in mid-August and we are once again running many courses. We run courses at various times and on various days – evenings, afternoons and weekends. These include:

- Watercolour Painting and Life Drawing
- Pottery, Mosaics and Stained Glass
- IT including Beginners, Improvers and OCR National Computer Qualification, Digital Photography, AppleMac Workshops, PC Maintenance
- ALAN (Adult Literacy and Numeracy) Maths (equivalent to GCSE Grade C)
- Yoga, Badminton, Archery, Golf and Trampolining
- Flamenco Dance
- The History of Hollywood Cinema
- Spanish – Beginners and Advanced

- Fruit and Vegetable Growing
- Flower Arranging and Curtains/Cushions and Blinds
- Holistic Therapeutic Massage Foundation Practitioner Course

Our autumn brochure will be in shops, Post Offices and libraries when it becomes available in August. Most of the courses still have places available. LOCAL LEARNING AT A VERY COMPETITIVE PRICE! If you would like a FREE copy, please telephone 01993 813592 or email: comed.4560@marlborough.oxon.sch.uk

Information is also available on the Marlborough School website: [www.marlborough.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.marlborough.oxon.sch.uk)

If you have any ideas for classes that you'd like to see us providing then please let us know and we'll see what we can do!

We also run a School's Out programme for every school holiday (apart from Bank holidays). [See below.] Financial support is available for this. Please contact Fiona Williams at Marlborough School or your child's Headteacher, Family Support Worker or Health Visitor for more information.

Costs: £15 per day/£70 per week or family ticket (up to 4 children from the same family) £40 per day/£160 per week. Eligible for those in receipt of Working Tax Credit. We accept childcare vouchers – please ring for information.

### SCHOOL'S OUT HOLIDAY ACTIVITY PROGRAMME – OUT NOW

Monday 20 July to Friday 28 August

School of Rock 11+  
Arts and Craft 6+

- Sports Activities 6+
- Be a DJ! 6+
- Stained Glass 11+
- Pottery 6+
- Mosaics/Ceramics/Textiles/Printing 6+
- Survival! 8+
- Theatre Workshop 6+
- Customise Your Clothing 10+
- Kayaking 11+ (£25 per day)
- Woodwork 10+
- Drama with Masks 6+
- Sculpture 6+
- Outings/Parties/Olympic Days 6+
- Nails and Henna 6+
- Skateboarding 8+

9.30am–3.30pm with an optional Chill Out 8.30–9.30am or 3.30–5pm (there is an additional charge of £2.50 per child per session for the morning Chill Out session and £5 for the afternoon)

*Bookings taken throughout the summer for School's Out*

Please contact us (using the details above) for more details or to be put on our mailing list. Thank you for your support.

*Jenny Bodinham, Administrator – Extended Services*

## The Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock Exhibitions

**Garden Gallery, 25 July–6 September: Victorian Life.** Bringing history to life with a hands-on approach, which will appeal to adults and children alike, this exhibition focuses on life in Victorian times from a child's perspective. It was a hard life, involving work and discipline, but there was fun too. Visitors can enjoy playground games and dress up in Victorian costume.

### Treasures Gallery: Soldiers of Oxfordshire: Part-time defenders – the first 100 years.

The Haldane Reforms of 1908 established the Territorial Army that we know today, combining the militia and volunteers of the previous century. The exhibition will show snapshots, from the early years of the TA to the present, to indicate some of the reasons why men joined, and their life during the two world wars, as well as images of the TA soldier today.

**Picture Gallery: Soldiers of Oxfordshire: Bugles and Busbies.** Illustrations on a series of themes from regimental history – sport, war, recruitment, humour and others – to include material showing the Regular Army part of the County Regiment.

**Friends of the Oxfordshire Museum**  
No Friends lecture in August.

### Finds Identification Service

On the first Wednesday of each month, Anni Byard, Finds Liaison Officer, will be in the Learning Centre between 2 and 4pm. Bring your archaeological finds for identification. (Tel. 01993 814103)

### New Dinosaur Garden

The new garden, now open, contains Dinosaur footprints found at Ardley Quarry, plus a full-size replica Megalosaur, set in a walled garden with lush Jurassic plants.

### Children's Activities

**Family Drop-ins**  
*£1 per child. No need to book – children must be accompanied by an adult – just drop in between 2 and 4 pm.*

Tuesday 4 August: **Wonderland Spoon Puppets.** Make a spoon puppet character from Alice in Wonderland

Tuesday 11 August: **A Clean Sweep.**  
Make a board game to help the Victorian sweep clean the chimney

Tuesday 18 August: **Trick your eyes.**  
Make a Victorian optical toy

Tuesday 25 August: **Dancing Dinosaurs.**  
Make a jointed Cetiosaurus puppet

Thursday 27 August: **Funny, fascinating creatures.** Make a 3D card inspired by the work of artist Lucy Casson

Also – Victorian Exhibition Drop-ins.  
Thursday 6, 13, 20, 27 August,  
10.30am–12 noon & 2–4pm.

Make Victorian peg dolls with a facilitator in Victorian costume. (These special drop-ins take place in the Victorian exhibition in the Brewhouse.)

**Museum Coffee Shop and Garden**  
Tea and coffee, light snacks and lunches.

**Museum Opening Hours**  
Tuesday–Saturday 10am–5pm, Sundays 2–5pm. Normally closed on Mondays, but open Bank Holiday Monday 2–5pm. Free admission.

For further information please telephone 01993 811456.



## The Black Head

Stonesfield



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**YOUR PUB NEEDS YOU!**

**Live Music**  
Friday 14 August  
from 7.30pm.  
'The Element' –  
two guys who play  
with Ocean Colour Scene.  
Free entry.

**Next Darts Competition**  
Continues Tuesday 4 August,  
7.30pm sharp: 'The Black Head Cup.'  
Call or pop in for details  
to get on the Darts Ladder.

**Events Calendar**

**Ladies Cinema Night**  
Tuesday 11 August from 8pm.  
This month's film:  
'Slumdog Millionaire'.  
Free glass of champagne  
if something Indian  
is worn!

**Traditional Sunday Roast**  
Served on Sundays from 12.30  
till 4pm. £5.95 adults,  
£3.50 children. Booking advised  
but not always essential.

**CHURCH STREET, STONESFIELD**

**Curry Nights**  
Fridays 21 August from 8pm.  
Choose from a selection  
of fine curries &  
accompaniments.  
Buffet style,  
£6 per person.

**Aunt Sally League**  
Every Thursday evening  
for practices or matches.

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Tel: 01993 891387

Opening hours from 1 July: **Monday** 4–8.30pm, **Tuesday to Friday** 4–11pm,  
**Saturday** 12noon–11pm, **Sunday** 12noon–8pm

*N.B. Lunches & evening meals (excluding events & Sunday Roast) suspended until further notice*

# Clubs & societies

## **Stonesfield Over 60s Club 'Darby & Joan'**

We began our July meeting with our Summer Lunch. Thanks are due to the 'A' Team for all their help. We hope everyone enjoyed it. Our next lunch will be the Autumn/Harvest ploughman's in October.

After lunch names were taken for two outings: first a trip to Hereford, Monmouth etc. on 22 September, and then on 3 November to a Music-Hall with cream tea at the interval down in Hampshire. There was sufficient interest for both. Final numbers and a deposit for both will be taken at the August meeting.

Our after-lunch speaker was Brian Lowe, who showed some lovely slides of *Intriguing Oxford* and told us some really interesting facts about them. It is always good to have a speaker who does not need a lot of notes. He didn't have any, and certainly made this a very interesting afternoon.

We then enjoyed tea and biscuits, and the raffle was drawn, with lots of prizes as usual. Members were reminded that the meeting on 13 August would be a trip down memory lane, with afternoon tea, of course. There is also the Coffee Morning on 20 August. I look forward to seeing you on 13 August.

*Avis Ushaw (898134)*

## **Women's Institute**

**(visitors always welcome)**

We were delighted to welcome our Albert

Hall delegate, Barbara Wells, from Finstock. She gave a heartfelt and very funny description of a chapter of disasters resulting in her late arrival at the Albert Hall, having completely missed the morning programme. The resolution was virtually unopposed. After a day of disasters and let downs, Barbara came away on a high, as the final speakers spoke of the inspiring and influential WI.

Avis thanked those who helped with the *Africa Day* in the Village Hall, with a special thanks to the husbands.

The Speaker was Brian Howe of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI). He had a great sense of humour, and had us chuckling as he told of his own initiation, as a complete novice, into a highly professional and dedicated service. He made light of the disasters as he was dunked into stormy seas on his first rescue.

We learnt how the Lifeboat Service began in the 17th century with any willing local with a boat. By 1800 this motley crew had been bonded into a hotchpotch of crews but it wasn't until much later in the century that a purpose-built boat with extra buoyancy came into service. By the 1930s these rowing boats were superseded by power. Boats are launched from slipways, or can be hauled across flat sandy beaches by tractors, and since 1970 some are always moored in harbours such as the one in Arran.

Today all the boats are self-righting and after the Penlee disaster in the 1980s no lifeboat has capsized. Small inflatable

boats are used for inshore rescue and 7 beaches are patrolled by life guards. The crews are volunteers from all walks of life, but somehow, some don't actually put their hands up – it just happens. Funding is by donations and legacies. We all remember the 'Blue Peter 7' bought by the Blue Peter appeal. The impressive Lifeboat College in Poole was funded by legacies. The college is invaluable as all manner of eventualities can be simulated, allowing crews to practise any type of emergency.

Volunteers are willing to risk their lives for the 'hell of a feeling' that comes after saving the life of a desperate sailor in ferocious seas.

Please note that the summer BBQ will take place at Avis's at 7pm on 18 August.

*Sylvia Huddleston*

## **Stonesfield Gardening Club**

Our July meeting was an 'end-of-term' occasion. Twenty or so of us spent an enjoyable evening visiting some members' gardens. The rain held off and after starting off at Bob and Geraldine Lawrence's delightfully colourful garden in Woodstock Road, where they kindly provided wine and nibbles, we set off to tour 9 more village gardens. We were intrigued by the variety and inventiveness of them all. One never knows what lies behind those back gates! We will definitely repeat the evening next summer – probably a bit earlier, when the roses are blooming.

There is no meeting in August; 14 September will be a Social event with some food and drink, seed and plant swap and lots of chat! We would love to expand our membership so why don't

you come and join us on Monday 14 September, 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

*Wendy Gould (898091)*

## **Stonesfield Craft Club**

The Craft Club met on Thursday 2 July at 7.30pm in the St James' Centre. This month's topic was medallion cards. We learned how to make these cards by heat embossing on to card with a medallion stamp, using silver or gold embossing powder: choosing to cut them into layers; decorating the layers with glitter; and layering them up to form a fantastic medallion. The medallion was then set on to a card. Everyone made at least two cards, and cards were available to complete at home. The eight members present were fascinated by how easy it was to make cards that look so effective – we all had another fun-filled evening.

There will be no meeting on 6 August, due to holiday commitments. However, we shall be meeting at the St James' Centre on 3 September at 7.30pm, when we shall be making cards using another crafting technique. It is a great sadness to hear that Sheila, one of the club founder members, has resigned her membership on health grounds – we shall all miss her greatly.

*Debbie Faulkner*

## **Stonesfield Sports and Social Club**

Bingo will be held in the Clubhouse on 20 August at 7.30pm. There will be a live music event on 5 September, when the band will be Doghouse. Membership of the club is £5. A 50" TV is available free to a good home!

*Russell Shearer*

# Charities & good causes

## Cecily's Fund

Cecily's Fund was last night (25 June 2009) awarded first prize by the Institute of Chartered Accountants (ICAEW) in the On-line Accounts Award for charities with an income of £100,000–£500,000.

Judges commended Cecily's Fund for their clearly-stated vision and mission, easy sign-posting of the report and the fact that they make clear links between money raised and money spent. Cecily's Fund helps over 8,500 Zambian orphans and vulnerable children to go to school. Chairman William Powlett Smith of Summertown, Oxford, said 'We are delighted that the high value we place on transparency and accountability to our supporters, partners and the young people we support, has been recognised. The children whom we help educate in Zambia are very grateful to ICAEW for Cecily's Fund's prize money, which will be put to good use!'

Please do get in touch if you need any more information.

*Sabita Banerji, Communications and Supporter Relations Officer, Cecily's Fund (01993 869005), [www.cecilyfund.org](http://www.cecilyfund.org)*

P. S. Join our Make Music Give Hope fundraising campaign, from now until the end of 2009. We are inviting supporters to put on musical money-making events to help send lots more vulnerable Zambian children to school. For more information see: [www.cecilyfund.org/fundraising\\_music\\_event.html](http://www.cecilyfund.org/fundraising_music_event.html)

## Stonesfield Scout Group

The results of the 12th annual Duck Race were as follows:

First (£150) number 265, Jo Cairns  
Second (£75) number 63, Alistair Grime  
Third (£50) number 17, Megan Johnston  
Fourth (£25) number 95, Hebe Godfrey

We would like to thank all those who helped us to make this year's Duck Race so successful. Special thanks go to Bernard Barrett for access to the river, and to Robin and Christine for the excellent BBQ.

Once again this annual village event has proved to be very enjoyable for adults and children alike. So a big thank you to everyone who bought ducks, and to all who came along on the night.

We hope to see you all again next year,

*Ian Hedges and Zena Rozee*

## Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust Ride or Stride

A reminder that this year's bike ride will take place on Saturday 12 September between 10am and 6pm. If you feel inclined to cycle or walk to raise funds for our historic churches, do please get in touch. Sponsorship forms are available in both churches in the village, or from me, at Peakes House, Peaks Lane.

*Simon Haviland, Parish Organiser (891614)*

# Sport

## Cricket

Before we talk about the ups and downs of Stonesfield C.C., let's take a look into the distant future when the 2012 London Olympics will be a memory, Andy Murray will have lost at least 3 more Wimbledon semi-finals, and the Mike Ogden Stand will be extended to a double tier because, under the leadership and organizing skills of Nick Wilks, the manic Monday youth sessions are starting to produce some good up-and-coming young cricketers who improve more and more each season.

Some of the most exciting games at Field Close this season have been the ones involving the under-11s and under-13s – so a big thanks to Nick and his manic Monday assistants who know that in another 5 or 6 years time a new generation of Hanks, Hattons and Franklins will be gracing the Stonesfield Arena. Maybe Megan Godfrey-Oliver will be the first female and double-barrelled

name to represent the club at league level (we are getting as posh as Combe).

Now to the seniors, and despite crashing out of the cup competitions, there is still plenty to play for as we enter the 2nd half of the season. The 1st X1 are 3rd in Division 3, pushing hard for 2nd place behind runaway leaders Witney Swifts – the highlights of the month being another century from Tim Wyatt at Radley; Jamie Burns carrying his bat with a undefeated 93 at Broughton; and a maiden league half-century from Adam Lambert against Kings Sutton.

The 2nd X1 are only 6 points off 2nd place in Division 7, and are fast becoming known as the run-chase experts, successfully chasing down targets of 200 at Steventon, 178 at West Ilsley, and 189 at home to Hanney – with half-centuries for Craig Richards, Mark Hatton and Robin Hanks in amongst those victories.

*Kevin Sherbourne 'Cover Point' (898336)*

# Church news



## Anglican Worship in the Parishes of Stonesfield with Combe Longa

Priest-in-Charge: The Revd Roy Turner  
The Rectory, Stonesfield, Witney, Oxon, OX29 8PR  
Telephone: 01993 898552 – Email: r.turner131@btinternet.com



Stonesfield Churchwardens: Martine Smith-Huvers (898425) & David Gambier (898464)  
Combe Longa Churchwardens: Bill Andrewes (891376) & Julian Freeland (891223)

[S]=Stonesfield, [C]=Combe Longa, [SJC]=St James' Centre, BCP=Book of Common Prayer, CW=Common Worship, Order One: in Stonesfield Modern English, in Combe Longa Traditional English.

All Age Worship is worship for the family, of all ages.

### From your Parish Priest

Are you going on a beach holiday this year? When our children were small, of course, they loved to make sand-castles, going for a dip in the sea, and, when they were a little older, going body-boarding, particularly in Devon and Cornwall.

It seemed at that time that it was an unwritten law that dad had to orchestrate the proceedings. It could be very busy finding things for the children to do. It has to be said, however, that I am not very good at being still on a beach. Until the advent of those collapsible canvas chairs, I never really felt comfortable lying on a beach, pushing handfuls of sand around to form a suitable bed.

Of course we are supposed to relax and take it easy on holiday. We are supposed to take time out of our busy schedules and take stock of who we are. Perhaps, take time to count our blessings. Perhaps, reflect on where we are in our lives and

where we want to get to! Looking back and looking towards the future.

It's good to take a book with us and experience the lives of other imaginary characters and lose ourselves in a chosen fiction or biography; just to ease us away from our responsibilities for a while.

Then as our children got older they took holidays with friends rather than mum and dad – our holidays moved into a different gear. We then began sharing our vacation time with others who we could relax with and enjoy shared interests. The primary rule though for us has always been: whatever we do and wherever we go, the most important aspect is to ensure that we find some relaxation and rest.

I like to think of holidays as a pivotal time to consider new initiatives and directions. To muse with Bev, my wife, about what could be in store for us in the

future. Whoever comes along with us, we always invite God to be part of the recreation that is our holidays. We make sure it's not heavy but light and creative and it seems to work for us.

Here's a prayer you may wish to consider about your future as you hopefully spend some time in recreation this summer:

Oh God of peace, you have taught us

that in returning and rest we shall be saved, and in quietness and confidence shall be our strength; by the might of your spirit, speak to our hearts afresh as we consider anew the paths that lie before us.

May God bless you and keep you safe during this holiday period.

*Rev Roy*

### Sunday 2 August [Eighth Sunday after Trinity]

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

### Sunday 9 August [Ninth Sunday after Trinity, St Laurence (transferred)]

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [BCP/said]
9.30am	Combe Longa	United Village Service with the Methodists [CW/sung]
11am	Stonesfield	Parish Communion [CW/sung]

### Sunday 16 August [Tenth Sunday after Trinity]

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [BCP/said]
9.30am	Combe Longa	Matins [BCP/sung]
11am	Stonesfield	Morning Prayer [CW/sung]

### Sunday 23 August [Eleventh Sunday after Trinity]

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

### Sunday 30 August [Twelfth Sunday after Trinity]

10am	Combe	United Benefice Communion Service [CW/sung]
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### Sunday 6 September [Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity]

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

### Mid week Communion Services

Mid-week services of Holy Communion (said) are held as follows:

- Wednesdays 9.30am at Combe Longa
- Thursdays 9.30am at Stonesfield

Everyone is most welcome.

## Stonesfield Methodist Church

Dear Friends,

Greetings! The day that I am writing my monthly letter to you is 15 July (last day for copy to be in to the editor – again). It also happens to be St. Swithun's Day.

*St Swithun's day if thou dost rain  
For forty days it will remain  
St Swithun's day if thou be fair  
For forty days 'twill rain nae mair.*

(dost = does, thou = it, nae mair = no more)

Anyway, it is now 4.10pm and it hasn't rained – yet. I was reflecting that, while the rhyme might be a bit of an old wives' tale, it would be a great shame if we were to lose these old sayings and traditions. St Swithun was a Saxon Bishop born in Wessex, and famous for charitable gifts and for building churches.

The reason people prayed to him on his feast day was because, when he died, he asked that his remains be buried outside, where he could be trodden on and rained on. After nine years the monks decided to move his remains inside to a newly built and splendid shrine. The day they

chose was 15 July 971. On that day there was a terrible storm which led to the folklore of rain for 40 days.

I also learnt today that St Swithun has a connection with apples. Today is also Apple Christening Day and when it rains on St Swithun's Day, it is the saint christening the apples. Apple growers ask St Swithun each year for his blessing on the apple crop. No apple must be picked and eaten before 15 July, and apples on the tree on this day will grow to full maturity.

All that from a relatively insignificant saint who lived over 1000 years ago.

I don't know about you, but I'm all for hanging on to these old traditions. They add to the richness of our culture.

When this edition of the *Slate* comes out I shall be on holiday. Now there is a tradition well worth hanging on to!! Have a blessed and good summer.

Yours, with love,

Richard

*Richard Donoghue, Methodist Minister  
(01993 703178),  
richard.donoghue@methodist.org.uk)*

## SERVICES IN AUGUST

Sunday 2 August  
11am Local Arrangement

Sunday 9 August  
11am Stella Bristow

Sunday 16 August  
11am Revd Richard Donoghue  
Holy Communion

Sunday 23 August  
11am Brain Drowley

Sunday 30 August  
11am Revd Ian Duffy

The Church celebrated its Anniversary on Sunday 19 July, with two very special services. Each of them inspiring a wonderful sense of God's presence and peace.

The Summer fayre took place on Saturday 18 July. Mary and Ron Evins kindly opened their lovely garden for this event. Grateful thanks to them and to all those who supported the occasion. It was a very enjoyable and successful afternoon. We sincerely appreciate the generous help and kind donations so readily given.

## Roman Catholic Worship

### St Teresa's, Charlbury

Sunday Mass	11am
Holydays	9.30am 7.30pm

### St Kenelm's, Enstone

Sunday Mass	9am
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*Canon David Evans (01608 810576)*

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