

# The Stonesfield Slate

Issue No 378 February 2009



## Dates for your Diary

### February

4, 11, 18, 25	Folk Dance Club	Village Hall	
7	PTA Race Night & supper	Stonesfield School	7.30pm
9	Gardening Club	Braemar, The Ridings	8pm
12	Darby & Joan	Village Hall	2pm
12	Parish Council meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm
14	Folk Dance Club Saturday Dance	Village Hall	
16	Poems in a Pub	Kings Arms, Woodstock	8pm
17	W.I.	Village Hall Clubroom	7.30pm
18	Stonesfield Society	Village Hall Clubroom	8pm
24	Pre-School Pancake Day	Village Hall Clubroom	10–12noon
26	Darby & Joan coffee morning	Village Hall	10.15am

### March

6	'Treasure Island' by Stonesfield Players	Village Hall	7.30pm
7	'Treasure Island'	Village Hall	2.30pm, 7.30pm



## Publishers

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## Editor for March

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## Printer

Information Press

**The deadline for copy  
and advertisements  
for the next issue is  
15 February**

Copy can be put in the  
*Slate* box at the Post  
Office or sent by email to  
slate@stonesfield.com  
Advertisements for  
December/January to  
dale.morris@zen.co.uk

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*Hoar-frost on 10 January*

# Notices & thanks

## Sighting of big cat!!!

On 22 November 2008, we were exploring the garden in Churchfields at approximately 8pm when suddenly, out of the bushes, came a 'big cat', prowling towards us. We stopped in our tracks, pointing our torch at it and its eyes glistened at us. We ran back to the house, but we did not know what it was so we asked and were told that it might be a puma. We looked 'Puma' up on the internet where we found it to be a deadly cat! What we saw was a big black cat, with glowing eyes, very sharp teeth, and it was hissing and growling at us. We have not seen it since, but are still quite frightened in case it comes back. But hopefully, IT WON'T!!!

*Toby Bishop and James O'Gorman*

## Found

Ladies watch found in the St James Centre on 8 December. If you think this might be yours please contact Sarah Folley on 898016.

## Wedding thanks

On 13 December at St James' Church, Stonesfield, the marriage took place between Fiona Marie Prewitt and David Richard Rowles. It was a very memorable day despite the weather. We would like to thank family and friends for sharing this day with us, and afterwards at the Great Barn, Aynho. We wish them every happiness for the future.

*Josie, Dave, Margaret & Steve*

## 'New Dog on the Block'

It is evident from the amount of fouling on the pavements in Greenfield Road and Woodstock Road in the last two or three weeks that there is a new dog owner in the village who does not appreciate the etiquette and social niceties of life in our village. The sooner this owner accepts the responsibilities of owning a dog and clears up after it has fouled our pavements the sooner villagers will be able to walk safely in the dark without fear of slipping in something nasty.

*Douglas Rudlin, Greenfield Road*

## Road safety??

Is anyone else concerned walking on Pond Hill? The area of concern is where the white line and cats eyes are on the road between Pumbro and Longore. Walking along there on 22 December with my five-year-old daughter, I heard a car coming up the hill that was going too quickly from the sound of the engine noise. There was also another car approaching from the shop side, so I decided to step into the drive opposite Pumbro.

Just as well I did, as a P-reg electric blue Land Rover Defender pulling a trailer came at an inappropriate speed up the hill, saw the car approaching and pulled left into the white walking area. If my daughter and I had been in that area, we would've been hit and what a Christmas present that would have been. Even my young daughter, without prompting, said

that the driver 'needed to be taught driving'.

If you are the driver, please think about your actions. Driving without thought or consideration will be very costly for you and others if you do not learn to modify your driving behaviour.

If you are concerned about walking in this area due to inappropriate behaviour from drivers, I urge you to talk to police, local councillor and parish council. I am contacting them and hope that some action can be taken to present a long-term solution to the risk presented. If action is not taken, someone may well be seriously injured there due to some driver's lack of care for other road users and inability to think about their actions.

*Richard Mackay*

## London Marathon

My son Stephen will be running the London Marathon on 26 April, in memory of his partner's brother Nick. If you would like to sponsor Stephen please visit [www.justgiving.com/stephenevins](http://www.justgiving.com/stephenevins). For more information or help call Ali Evins, Dove Cottage, tel. 01993 898498.

## 'It just gets bigger!'

### Stonesfield Scouts Christmas card delivery service for Senior citizens

All previous records were broken in the Christmas card delivery service. 507 cards were sorted and delivered in time for Christmas, the last one at 7pm on Christmas Eve. We had the usual frustration of locating just a house name, a name and Stonesfield, and even Boot Street Lane! Thanks to Gladys Lee the handwriting expert, we were able to locate all the 'problem addresses'. Can I thank all the boys of all three sections of the Group for their help in deliveries, and the leaders and parents for their assistance on delivery days.

*Clive Sutton, Group Scout Leader*

## Thank you to the Stonesfield Scout group

On behalf of all our members, I would like to thank Clive and his young members for providing us with a postbox and delivering our village Christmas cards for us. This is certainly a Good Deed. Thank you all.

*Avis and Stonesfield Darby & Joan*



# Politics & local affairs

## District Digest (Jan & Feb)

West Oxfordshire District Council would like to hear from residents who have taken advantage of the concessionary travel scheme introduced earlier this year. It was launched in April across England to entitle anyone over 60 to a free pass to travel on all local bus networks in the country. The Council is interested to find out how people have used their passes and is particularly keen to hear from anyone who has an interesting or quirky story to tell – perhaps they had never travelled by bus before receiving a pass, or maybe they have visited places they had never seen before getting a pass, or perhaps they have rekindled friendships thanks to the pass, or even met new friends on their travels. Anyone who has a tale to tell can contact the Council via its website, [www.westoxon.gov.uk](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk), by emailing [communications@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:communications@westoxon.gov.uk) or by writing to: Communications Team, West Oxfordshire District Council, Woodgreen, Witney, OX28 1NB.

## Get £700 off your Council Tax

WODC is running a prize draw to give householders the chance to get their Council Tax bill cut by £700. One lucky winner will be picked at random to receive the £700 discount on next year's bill. This is equivalent to getting your Council Tax paid for six months if you live in a Band D property in West Oxfordshire. The draw has been organised to encourage more people to pay their Council Tax by safe, secure Direct Debit, which helps save money

and keep Council Tax bills down. All householders who pay their Council Tax by Direct Debit will automatically be entered into the free draw. The winner was due to be picked on 20 January.

## Marriotts Close development, Witney

It has been confirmed that Marks & Spencer WILL take the premises in Marriotts Close, as previously agreed.

## Final Flood Report published

The District Council has published its Final Flood Report, setting out what has been done since the July 2007 floods and future actions to alleviate flooding in West Oxfordshire. The Final Flood Report is the culmination of an in-depth investigation by the Council into the summer 2007 floods, which affected more than 1,600 homes and 72 businesses in the District. The Council has already produced an Interim Flood Report and individual Parish Flood Reports for the areas across the District that were affected by the floods, with the aim of helping to identify the cause of the flooding, who is responsible, what work is being carried out, and what the potential options are for future mitigation and who might fund this work.

This Final Flood Report pulls together all the key information, a summary of actions taken to date and, most importantly, a programme of works for the future. As well as outlining the Council's responsibilities regarding flooding and mitigation work, the report

also highlights the responsibilities of other key agencies, such as the Environment Agency, Oxfordshire County Council and Thames Water. The Council has been working closely with all relevant agencies on the issue of flooding and believes this and its other reports will help everyone involved to plan for the future. In addition to the Final Flood Report, work is currently being finalised on a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, which will be used alongside the flood reports to inform future strategic planning.

Cllr David Harvey, Cabinet Member for Environment, said: 'A huge amount of work has gone into this report, and we will continue to work hard on this issue. We are one of only half a dozen or so councils in Britain to have gone into the level of detail contained in this and the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. This will help us immensely, not only on future planning issues, but also in lobbying organizations such as the Environment Agency, County Council, Thames Water and riparian landowners, to enable us to protect as many home-owners and businesses in West Oxfordshire as we can.'

As with all previous reports, the Final Flood Report will be passed on to key agencies such as the Environment Agency, as well as the District's MP, the Rt Hon David Cameron. All of the reports are available for residents to view online at [www.westoxon.gov.uk/floodreports](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/floodreports). Copies are also available at the Council's Elmfield Offices in New Yatt Road, Witney, at the Town Centre Shop in Witney and at the Guildhall, Chipping Norton.

For more information about the Final Flood Report, residents can call 01993 861000 or look on the dedicated flooding pages on the Council website.

*A Happy 2009 to everyone. Gillian Oldfield (01993 891565) & Charles Cottrell-Dormer (01869 347110), your District Councillors*

## Parish Council

### Meeting in December 2008

Two members of the public attended the meeting – our regular attendee Cliff Godfrey and the Primary School's head teacher, Mrs Susie Bagnall.

Parking on Laughton Hill was once again a topic of the Public Forum slot. After much lively discussion, it was agreed that those who were inconvenienced by thoughtless parking should alert the police.

Mrs Bagnall was introduced to Council by the Chairman, who had been invited to the school to lunch with the children and to inspect the new facilities. He noted that the whole atmosphere in the school had changed since his last visit. There was a palpable feeling of direction and friendship between children and staff; the school was quiet and focussed with a high degree of confident application. Mrs. Bagnall outlined her approach to education in general and the leadership of the school in particular. In summarising her aims for Stonesfield Primary School, she mentioned her three goals for all children in her care:

- children should become successful learners;
- they should be confident individuals;
- they should learn to be responsible citizens.

In these aims were the bones of a successful and happy school. She also described the way in which the new building had added to the facilities for the children, bringing in an increased perspective for them and giving them added opportunities to participate in the wider world. In all, Susie Bagnall showed herself to be a thoughtful and inspiring head with a wealth of experience to supplement her obvious enthusiasm for the advancement of education in Stonesfield. The Chairman mentioned the newly appointed priest-in-charge for Stonesfield & Combe, who is very keen to play an active part in the school and would be an asset in many ways. Mrs Bagnall agreed and stated her hope that the connections between the school, the church and other village groups would be strengthened. The children had already visited the Darby & Joan club and were anticipating a choral visit to the Lunch Club before Christmas.

Council extended a very warm welcome to the new incumbent, priest-in-charge Revd Roy Turner, and felt sure that he and his wife, Bev, would give an added dimension to the work of the church in Stonesfield.

Our County Councillor, Sue Haffenden, reported that the long-term future of Cogges Farm Museum looked to be secure; County was in process of setting up a Trust which will come into being in 2012. In the meantime its subsidy to Cogges would continue. Sue also informed Council that the Stagecoach bus service 20a had received a National Award for public transport in a rural setting.

### **Planning Applications**

Bolivern, Churchfields – alterations to garage and side extension; no objection.

### **Planning Decisions by WODC**

2 The Tewel – refused.

3 The Malsters – permitted.

The Chairman thanked all Councillors for their hard work throughout the year.

### **Meeting in January 2009**

At its first meeting of the New Year, the Chairman wished all Councillors and all Stonesfield residents a happy, healthy and prosperous year ahead.

Several residents of The Tewel were present and there was lively discussion of the perceived problems of parking on Laughton Hill. Council asserted plainly that the only two viable solutions were i) an amicable and mutually acceptable agreement between the parties involved, and ii) for the residents to request that the Highways Dept. of Oxford County Council convene a site meeting. Of these, the best and most likely to succeed is the consensus agreement.

The Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, Sarah Plumridge, outlined the disgraceful vandalism and theft of property which had taken place on New Year's Eve. The Folk Dance Club, long established users of the Village Hall, had its party completely disrupted and ruined by theft of food, money and valuables from several handbags, and the theft of car keys and car. Although still unproven, it would appear that the vandals could include youths, including several girls, from neighbouring villages who see Stonesfield as a soft touch because there is no regular police presence here. The Village Hall Committee intend to request

an interview with senior Thames Valley Police Officers, and Council agreed unanimously to give them the strongest support possible. It would appear that miscreants from elsewhere have been 'moved on' by police from their own patches and have consequently gathered in our village.

As if this were not enough, a report was also received of the first mugging in Stonesfield in recent times. A lady was mugged for her shoulder-bag and it was only the fact that she was trained in self-defence that prevented serious injury and theft. What is happening to our seemingly peaceful and pleasant village? The Village Hall Committee is intending to call a village meeting to try to find a remedy and a way forward. Council will support this move and urges all villagers with a sense of community to attend.

It was noted that the tree on The Cross would be pruned and made safe sometime in January.

Sue Haffenden reported on the start of the Budget discussions which will determine our Council Tax for the ensuing year. Several factors in the economic situation affecting our country will have a bearing on these discussions. For example, the reduction in house building in the County will adversely affect receipts from the Council tax. However, the greatly reduced rate of interest from investments may well lead to a decision to use some reserves to preserve amenities.

### **Planning application**

(discussed at extra meeting on 30 Dec) Austin's Meadow, Churchfields; erection of detached dwelling. No objection.

It was agreed that an interview would be held for the permanent post of Clerk to the Parish Council prior to the next meeting of Council.

### **Vacancy for Co-opted Councillor**

Anyone who is interested in becoming a Parish Councillor for Stonesfield is asked to write in the first instance to the Chairman of the Council, address below, giving a brief outline of interests and experience. It is hoped that Council will receive applications from younger residents of the village. Input from a more youthful element would be appreciated, but this should not be seen as a prerequisite.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Village Hall on Thursday 12 February at 7.30pm.

*Richard Bishop, Chairman, Glenrise, Churchfields, Stonesfield, OX29 8PP (891414)*

### **Owl Rescue**

Last year proved to be very busy for us with over twenty-five injured owls and birds of prey either collected by us from vets and members of the public or actually being rescued from a call out. We are now on the Emergency Services call-out list as we provide a twenty-four hour rescue service.

The Barn Owl that came to us last March with a broken wing has at last moulted out and is ready to be released, weather permitting; this has been the longest we have had to keep a wild injured owl but it is a remarkable success story and the owl is still very wild. Thanks must go to the Hook Norton Veterinary Surgeons who spent lots of time helping me with

this owl and also to my friend Sally-Anne who looked after the owl in an aviary for me until it became fit and well. Hopefully this owl will breed this year as its partner has visited it every night at the aviary.

Already in the first week of this year we have rescued a Barn Owl from a farm in Freeland. It was very ill and weak, and although I spent most of the night with it giving it critical care, it died the next afternoon. We like to think we can save everything but the sad truth is that for every one we save, three don't make it.

A first for us was being called out to a house in Hazelmere, near High Wycombe, by a couple who came back from California to find a Tawny Owl in their fireplace, having fallen down the chimney. When we arrived and took the front cover off of the fireplace the owl was nowhere to be seen but John had the bright idea of putting his camera inside the chimney and taking a photograph. We had to laugh when we looked at the picture and saw the owl peering down from a ledge about three feet up. We eventually managed to get the owl down and grab its feet before it could fly around the couple's living room, where not only would it have caused considerable damage, it would have plastered everything in soot. I have never seen such a black, sooty owl, everything in the living room was white so we breathed a sigh of relief when we got the owl under control. After I had checked the owl for any injury we released it into the wood at the back of the house

I would like to thank everyone who continues to support us in 2009. We have

been overwhelmed by the support we have received and the interest shown in what we do. Again this year I want to donate five owl nesting boxes and some kestrel nesting boxes locally, so if you have somewhere suitable please contact me so that we can come and look and hopefully site one. 2008 proved to be a bad year for Barn Owls, Tawny Owls and Kestrels: the Kestrel used to be Britain's most common bird of prey but is in serious decline, due to loss of habitat and a shortage of suitable food. The most important thing is suitable habitat for these birds. If the habitat goes so does the food source and that means the birds do not survive.

Field margins and set-aside play a big part in the survival of our owls and birds of prey, providing them with a place to hunt and also a place for many of our ground-nesting birds to nest and rear their young. We humans should respect this and not use these valuable places to walk our dogs, ride our horses or as a recreation ground. Most farmers are aware of the value of these areas and permission should always be obtained as a matter of courtesy before you go on to private land.

We shall be inspecting the nest boxes we donated last year in the next couple of weeks and cleaning them ready for the breeding season. Tawny Owls are the first of our native owls to breed and will be pairing up now. I would like to remind everyone that Tawny Owlets leave the nest long before they can fly and they do fall out of trees. DO NOT PICK THEM UP PLEASE. They will climb back into the tree by using their sharp talons and beaks and their parents will still feed them even

if they are on the ground. If you think they need placing out of danger this is fine as long as it is not far from where you find them. If you think the owlet is injured or not being fed, then before you bring it to us mark the spot where you found it so that we can return it when it is fit to go back. If you find a Barn Owlet on the ground then this is more serious as it must be returned to the nest; the parents will not feed it. Please do not try to do this on your own as it is a dangerous task and you run the risk of being attacked by the parents.

We are still happy to receive old towels and any pet carriers you no longer need as these are very valuable to us; thanks to everyone who donated these items to us last year. We would also like to say a big thank you to Stanton Harcourt Primary School for their generous donation to our rescue. We have purchased two large heat pads with the money which will save us having to borrow them from the vets when we need them. We enjoyed our visit to the school and the children thoroughly enjoyed meeting our owls. We are hoping to raise enough money this year to purchase another hospital box so if anyone out there wants to help us fund-raise then give us a call.

Over the last couple of months we have had problems with people parking across our driveway. Our neighbours are aware of the fact that our gateway is in use 24 hours a day. If we get called out we will not go looking for the owner of the vehicle blocking our access, we will call the police and the vehicle will be towed away. This will also result in the owner of the vehicle being fined £60; we do not want this to happen so please do not

obstruct our gateway; it is an offence to park by a dropped curb and obstruct someone's entrance.

*Chris Harper (891618)*

## **Creative Solutions**

My time in the police service, for me, was about the prevention of crime and many problems from ever developing. Not by locking doors and windows, but for me to get out and about within the communities within which I served and to really get to know people, person-to-person, and develop real trust.

As a cadet early in my service in the late 50s, I was introduced to The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and worked closely with that scheme for very many years. The riots in 1981 showed me that much more could be done for young people: each child and teenager needed to choose one interest they would love to take up, and needed one trustworthy adult who loved that interest to share time with them over it.

As part of a programme I am developing, I would be most interested to hear of any natural sharing of artwork, crafts etc. you do with your children, or of any interest they share with an adult (grandparents, family friend and so on). Also, I am keen to hear of examples of where a child or teenager is learning something positive for their life, outside school and maybe outside home too.

Do contact me by email: [margie.mcgregor@ukf.net](mailto:margie.mcgregor@ukf.net) or write to me, Margie McGregor, Hordley, Wootton-by-Woodstock, OX20 1EP. Tel. 01993 812141. My website is [www.creative-inspirations.co.uk](http://www.creative-inspirations.co.uk)

# Education & culture

## P.T.A. News

The P.T.A. will once again host the village fete this summer on Saturday 27 June from 1pm. If you are an organisation or a club in the village you are most welcome to come along and run a stall of your choice. Any money you raise you get to keep for your funds. We already have the new Stonesfield gardening club interested in running a plant stall. We won't be writing to individual groups this year so please do not wait for an invitation before getting involved. If you would like to run a stall, suggest ideas or would like more information then please phone or email us. Thank you.

Our next event is a Race Night on Saturday 7 February at the school, 7.30pm for an 8.00pm start. Join us for supper and a flutter to help raise funds for our school. There will be a licensed bar and the tickets are £7 per person, including a chilli supper. They are on sale from the school, Zena Rozee, Ali Saville or by emailing [pta@stonesfield.com](mailto:pta@stonesfield.com). Please support us. It will be (as our events always are) a fantastic night!

Kate Shearer (891623), [katieshearer@supanet.com](mailto:katieshearer@supanet.com);  
Zena Rozee (891725), [zena@stonesfield.com](mailto:zena@stonesfield.com)

## Treasure Island

Stonesfield Players present 'Treasure Island' by Robert Louis Stevenson  
The Players will present a newly adapted version of *Treasure Island*. This is the exciting adaptation of the classic

swashbuckling story that is suitable for all the family, boys and girls, young and old. Reviewed as 'A delightful blend of the salty and silly' and 'Jolly, swashbuckling pantomime-like fun'. So come along and give it a go.

Performances will take place at Stonesfield Village Hall on Friday 6 March at 7.30pm and Saturday 7 March at 2.30pm and 7.30pm.

Tickets will be on sale from Saturday 15 February at Amlu's Store and the Black Head, priced at £7 (concessions £5).

Box office enquiries: Jenny Lines (01993 898454)

## 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

Happy New Year to all and congratulations to those who are braving the elements to make it to the library where the greeting is as warm as the heaters blasting out!

We have now received our new computers, which should function quite a bit quicker than the old ones. They have up-to-date software and are connected to a full-colour printer,

scanner and photocopier. Our new printer also has a memory card slot for printing out photographs.

Also, all computers in Oxfordshire libraries are now licensed to use Ancestry.com and are available on either a drop-in or booking service. Please speak to me if you would like more details.

Just a last quick reminder to those with under-5s who haven't joined the library – joining is free and there are no fines or charges for damaged children's books on an under-5's ticket, so come along and encourage your little ones to read (or eat!) books from an early age!

Look forward to seeing you.

Lucy

## Poems in a pub

Kings Arms, Woodstock, Monday 16 February at 8pm

Building on past successes, the well-trying formula of a long poem, favourite old and new poems read by the audience and a poetic translation competition come to a new venue. Handbills with *le poème* available from Amlu's, the public libraries in Stonesfield and Woodstock, the Woodstock Bookshop (23 Oxford Street)

and Peter Clifton (891956). There will be a collection for Cecily's Fund.

## The Woodstock Bookshop

23 Oxford Street, Woodstock OX20 1TH  
Free talks at The Woodstock Bookshop.  
Ring 01993 812760 to book.

*Sunday 8 February, 4pm. Adam Guillain, storyteller*

Adam is a local storyteller who lives in Woodstock with his wife and two young children. The sessions are free. Children need to bring a cushion as the floor is rather hard. Please ring to book a place.

*Monday 23 February, 7.30pm. Charles Elton*

You will not have heard of Charles Elton yet but his first novel, *Mr Toppit*, is being published at the beginning of February by Viking and is Penguin's lead fiction title for the spring. Do come along and support a new author at the start of his career.

## Advance notice – future events

*Monday 2 March 7.30pm. Prue Leith*  
Although she is very well known as a chef and writer about food, Prue also writes novels and her fourth novel, *The Choral Society*, is published at the beginning of February.

## STONESFIELD VOLUNTARY TRANSPORT SCHEME

arranges car transport to doctors' and dentists' surgeries in Woodstock, Charlbury, Long Hanborough, Witney and Water Eaton Park & Ride (for JR link)

**If you need a lift for a medical visit during FEBRUARY, ring 891956**  
(If no reply, leave your answer on the answerphone)

*Please give as much notice as you can. This is a free service provided by volunteers.  
However, an envelope will be provided for donations for costs.*

Monday 27 April 7.30. William Fiennes  
Keep this date free! William Fiennes,  
author of *The Snow Geese*, has written a  
new book, *The Music Room*. Details nearer  
the time . . .

Rachel Phipps, *The Woodstock Bookshop*

### Woodstock Museum

Museum opening hours  
Tuesday–Saturday 10am–5pm, Sundays  
2–5pm. Free admission.

For further information please telephone  
01993 811456.

### Garden Gallery

11 February–29 March: *Sharmanka  
Travelling Circus + Gothic Kinetic*. Amazing  
Russian kinetic sculptures magically  
perform circus acts to music.

### Treasures Gallery

Until June 2009: *Soldiers of Oxfordshire:  
Part-time Defenders – the first 100 years*.

### Picture Gallery

Until June 2009. *Soldiers of Oxfordshire:  
Bugles and Busbies*.

### Family Drop-in

17 February 2–4pm: *Move It!* Make a mov-  
ing toy inspired by the Sharmanka Travel-  
ling Circus exhibition. No age restrictions.  
No booking required. Just drop in  
between 2 & 4pm. £1 per child. All chil-  
dren must be accompanied by an adult.

### Friends Evening lecture

*New thoughts on old places: the work of the  
Oxford Victoria County History*, Dr Simon  
Townley, VCH. Wednesday 4 February,  
7.30pm in the Coach House. Friends free,  
visitors welcome £2.



## The Black Head Stonesfield

Warm, friendly atmosphere,  
real fires & candlelight.  
Available for party bookings.

**Food now being served!**

*Open Monday to Friday 4pm till 11pm  
Saturday 12noon till 11.30pm  
Sunday 12noon till 10.30pm*

Tel. 01993 891387

# Clubs & societies

### Stonesfield Gardening Club

The Gardening Club has successfully  
taken root and now needs to grow! Do  
come along to the February meeting and  
share your gardening enjoyment, ideas,  
skills and experiences. Join us at Sylvia  
Huddleston's for a warm welcome and  
glass of wine: Braemar, The Ridings, on  
Monday 9 February at 7.30.

Rachael Naylor (891322) and Wendy  
Gould (898091)

### Stonesfield Society

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 18  
February at 8pm in the Village Hall  
Clubroom, when Mandy Wood, a former  
teacher who enjoys travel, will give us a  
digital presentation about The Klondike –  
'The Last Great Gold Rush'. There will be  
coffee/tea afterwards, and a raffle.  
Everyone welcome – guests £2.

Jennifer Powell (891303)

### Women's Institute (visitors always welcome)

At the November meeting the president  
announced that our recent 'working £1'  
campaign, in which 13 members took  
part, achieved £217 for our funds, with  
Eileen Cleaver raising the largest amount.  
She was presented with a small prize. The  
competition for a design using pressed  
flowers was won by Pam Mercer.

The speaker was Andy Hughes, a  
freelance newsreader, whose choice of  
career was inspired by a YTS course he

undertook when a teenager. He told us  
how the news is put together, with  
thousands of emails being received in a  
day. News comes in from all sources –  
Reuters, Associated Press etc. – and from  
all over the world. When newsreading,  
timing is essential; 'talking to times' is  
really important. Karen Howes  
volunteered to be timed reading a two-  
minute news bulletin and very creditably  
finished within seconds of the allotted  
time. Newsreading sounds to the listener  
to be very calm and organised but there  
are constant crises and lots of stress. The  
story that upset most announcers was  
that of the Beslan school siege. Andy told  
us of many well-known people he had  
met, including Anne Widdecome,  
Richard Branson, Ken Clarke, and many  
others. He said that he had enjoyed every  
aspect of his 18-year career in the media.

The Evenlode group carol service, in  
which the five institutes in the group  
take it in turn to host the event, was held  
on 4 December at Stonesfield Methodist  
Church. The collection raised £110  
which was donated to ROSY (Respite care  
for Oxfordshire sick youngsters).

The Christmas meeting on 16 December  
was our 'bring and share' supper. We  
enjoyed an excellent selection of food,  
and entertainment was 'home grown',  
with seven members reciting poetry or  
giving readings, interspersed with carols  
accompanied on the piano by the  
president, Avis Ushaw. The competition  
for a winter table decoration was won by  
Diana Dawe.

Our next meeting is on 17 February, when Ken Betteridge will tell us about 'Madeira, not just a bottle of wine'. Please come along as our guest for the evening if you would like to know more.

*Brenda Oliver (891330)*

### **Over 60s Club, Darby & Joan**

We began our Christmas celebrations with our annual party. The hall was looking very festive, bright and cheerful. The 3-course meal was served by the 'A' Team and I am sure enjoyed by all. At the end of the meal Father Christmas (aka. Richard Bishop) called in to distribute a gift for everyone. Thanks, Richard, for being with us. The entertainment this year was provided by The Doyle Academy of Irish Dancing. This group of young people under the leadership of Anne-Marie Gallagher were absolutely brilliant, from the 17-year-old down to the 7-year-old. We rounded off with a wonderful rendition of the Twelve Days of Christmas (I think there were twelve!), the Grand Raffle, mince pies with a cuppa and finally 'Auld Lang Syne'. An evening enjoyed by all. Thank you to everyone involved in making it so.

Although it was a chilly day, members met for the January meeting, which Di and Derrick led in my absence. Thank you both. I understand the Bingo was cause for some merriment, sorry I missed it. Members were asked if they would like a lunch again in March and the answer was yes – we will take names in February.

We will hold a coffee morning on 26 February in the Village Hall at 10.15am. There will be the usual bring-and-buy, cakes and a raffle. Hope to see you there, everyone welcome.

The February meeting is on 12 February at 2pm. If you are over 60 and would like to come and visit with a view to joining, you will be most welcome.

*Avis Ushaw*

### **Folk Dance Club**

**Saturday Dance, 14 February, Colin Hume with Pendragon.**

Colin is one of the top English callers, and certainly the most prolific writer of dances in the country. However it won't all be his dances, as he always provides a nice variety of dances from American Squares and Contras to old favourites. Pendragon is a lively group who will make you want to dance.

### **North Leigh History Group**

**Tuesday 3 February 2009**

*The history of Burford and its buildings.* A talk by Dr Simon Townley. North Leigh Memorial Hall, 7.30 pm. Visitors £2, members free. All welcome. Contact Diana Power (882301) for further details.

### **Woodstock U3A -The University of the Third Age**

**Speakers Programme for 2009**

Woodstock U3A has now finalised its speakers programme for the first six months of 2009. 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 2 hours.

Topics to be covered in the Woodstock U3A programme up to July are:

- 3 Feb Patrick Baldwin  
*Isambard Kingdom Brunel*
- 3 Mar Andy Gordon  
*'The Immortal Bard' Robbie Burns*
- 31 Mar Alastair Lack  
*Travels with the BBC*
- 5 May Betty Page  
*Comic Monologues*
- 2 June Ron Pearce  
*News Photography: Anecdotes of a Press Photographer*
- 7 July Graham Laurie  
*Ronald Dahl's War*

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, socialise, pick up a new hobby or interest or just meet friends once a month – new members are always welcome, and Chairman Mary Hawken (01993 812166) will be delighted to hear from any prospective members.

Contact for further information: Mary Hawken (email: mary.hawken@talktalk.net) or Patrick Fitz-Gibbon (tel: 01869 347238, email: patrick@fitz-gibbonassociates.co.uk)

## **Charities & good causes**

### **Helping others**

We decided we needed to sort out our toys and books and clothes after Christmas and have tried to help three different charities – the British Red Cross, Helen and Douglas House and the Blue Peter Appeal 'Mission Nutrition', which our school ran a stall for on 16 January. We hope we have helped to make some people's new year a bit happier.

*James, Emma and Orla O'Gorman*

### **Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2009**

The Poppy Appeal this year raised over

£2,600 from collections in Stonesfield and Combe, and there are committed collectors in both villages, but following my retirement we do not have an organiser for 2009.

The role involves giving out poppies and the collecting tins, getting them back after a couple of weeks, then banking the money raised.

I am happy to talk through the process with anyone who is interested. I hope this isn't the year that the return from our villages is NIL because we have no one to organise it.

*Frank Hall (891428)*



# Sport

## Stonesfield Football Club

It will come as no surprise to the reader that the big freeze which characterised the tail end of 2008 devastated our fixtures. Still, there were a few days where football was possible and our teams met with mixed fortunes. In the league The Firsts took all three points against Chadlington (2-0), shared the spoils with Rover Cowley in a thriller (3-3) and dropped two points at Adderbury Park (1-1). They're in mid-table but with 4 or 5 games in hand over most of the teams above them, so there's still all to play for. Cup games were also played and they progressed to round 2 of the Oxon Charity Cup with a 3-1 win at home to Ducklington. Sadly, in a reversal of that score, they crashed out of the Oxon Senior Cup at Kidlington. As things stand it's clear that the team hasn't made a great deal of progress from this time last year and they desperately need someone to step up and rattle in goals on a consistent basis. We live in hope!

Hope is all that seems left for The Reserves. In the league they haven't won a game since mid-October. They drew with Charlton Res (1-1), were humiliated at Long Crendon (7-0) and lost at home to Freeland Res (2-0) thus completing a thoroughly depressing 6-game run that has seen them plummet from second top to fourth bottom in the table. To compound matters they hosted Goring Utd in The Intermediate Cup and the visitors sent them crashing out with a

very comfortable 3-0 win. The only way forward for The Reserves is to knuckle down, do their best in the remaining games and try to achieve a respectable league position.

I don't know about you, but I always feel sorry for those poor old vets. There they are, sound asleep in their lairs hibernating from the rigours of winter, when the call goes out for an over 40's match with Moreton. They fill their lungs, stretch their legs and don the kit, only to see the match fall victim to the inclement weather. Ultimately the poor souls console themselves with a few swift pints of 'winter warmer' in The Black Head before crawling back underground to see out the worst of winter. It's tough being a vet!

In the absence of Dr Dick (rumour has it, he's sunning himself at a medical conference in The Bahamas), it has fallen to me to report on the annual Boxing Day match against The Black Head. In traditional fashion the game was drawn (5-5 or 6-6) with the man-of-the-match award going to Chubb Ford for a masterly performance in midfield, miss-of-the-match to Pat Hunt and tackle-of-the-match to his wee cousin Scott. The game was expertly refereed by Roger Evans, who kept play flowing at ALL times. Thanks in part to a donation from Chris (of Black Head fame), any animosity generated on the field of play was dispelled in the bar afterwards.

*Tom Flanigan (891979)*

# Church news



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



For all church matters, please contact either the  
Stonesfield Churchwardens:  
Martine Smith-Huvers (898425) & Jill Moore (891656)  
or the 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 (& Wednesdays at Stonesfield) Traditional English.

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

### Sunday 1 February [Fourth Sunday of Epiphany]

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

### Sunday 8 February [Third Sunday before Lent]

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 15 February [Second Sunday before Lent]

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [BCP/said]
9.30am	Combe Longa	Matins [BCP/sung]
11am	Stonesfield	Morning Prayer [CW/sung] <i>with Scramblers and Explorers</i>

### Sunday 22 February [Sunday next before Lent]

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

### Wednesday 25 February [Ash Wednesday]

7.30pm	Stonesfield	Parish Communion [CW/sung]
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### Sunday 1 March [First Sunday of Lent]

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

## Church Letter

### A Prayer for this Day

*God of the dawning, grant me hope for this day  
that I may walk in your pathway and live in your light.*

*God of the morning, grant me purpose to go forward  
to respond to the promise of opportunities to love and serve.*

*God of the noontide, grant me strength as I labour to serve,  
to keep my head high, and fulfil my commitment to the task.*

*God of the rest-hour, grant me grace to be still,  
to know the healing balm of time alone, and to find you in the peace.*

*God of the evening, grant me space and time to let go of my responsibilities,  
to enjoy the pleasures of rest and the company of those I love.*

*God of the night, grant me the faith to face the darkness without fear,  
to know that you will hold me in the blessed sleep of time and eternity.*

*God of all my days, grant me the promise of days yet to come,  
and the thankfulness of past days well used.*

*Tom Gordon  
(taken from Growing Hope, by Neil Paynter)*

### Stonesfield Methodist Church

I've just checked what I wrote this time last year just to make sure that I do not repeat myself. Mind you, you know what they say about being able to

preach the same sermon week after week because no one remembers the previous serm . . .

Last January was full of hope because we were just starting the year of Hope 08. The year might well have started that way but the end of 2008 has been filled with messages of gloom and despair. Banks in trouble, well-known names from the High Street going out of business, the pound in your pocket clearly buying less than it did and so many people losing their jobs with, we are warned, much worse to come.

So as we start 2009 where is the hope now?

It is, of course, just where it has always been. It is in the good news of the child born in the stable, laid in the feeding trough, visited by the outcast shepherds and the much travelled magi. That child, Jesus, is not only the hope for when he was born 2000 years ago but the hope for today and for the future.

As our nation enters further into recession more and more people will turn to the church for a message of hope and we must be ready to meet with those who turn to us and greet with them in the love of Jesus with a message of hope.

This turning to God in times of uncertainty has already started. There were more people in church this Christmas than last. I could pretend that it is all down to my charismatic personality but the reality is that many people are searching for a new hope.

Jesus is the answer to their questing and his message of hope will only be heard

through his church – and that is you and me.

The decision to carry on with Hope 08 into Hope 09 becomes even more important. The good news that so many know and cherish in our own lives shall be broadcast once again. More of the seed will fall on more receptive lives and we must be ready to allow Jesus to work in and through us as we proclaim his message of hope and light in the darkness of our world.

There's also the good news of Roy coming to be the new Priest in Charge in the village. Let us all look forward to welcoming him amongst us.

Amidst so much gloom, let us all do our very best to make 2009 a very good year for our village, for our neighbours, and in our own lives. God will be with us all as

we step with confidence into this new year. May the Lord bless and keep you always.

*Love, Richard*

### Services in February

1 Feb	11am	Revd Richard Donoghue Holy Communion
8 Feb	11am	Mrs Dawn Haley
15 Feb	11am	Revd Elgin Crewe
22 Feb	11am	Mr Ron Glithero

### Roman Catholic Worship

#### St Teresa's Charlbury

Sunday Mass	11am
Holydays	9.30am 7.30pm

#### St Kenelm's Church Enstone

Sunday Mass	9am
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