

# The Stonesfield Slate

Issue No 383 July 2009



## Dates for your Diary

### July

2	Craft Club	St James' Centre	7.30pm
7	Darby & Joan Outing	coach leaves at 11.30am	
8	Sue Cook	Library	7pm
9	Darby & Joan	Village Hall	1pm
9	Parish Council meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm
10	BBQ/Duck Race	Evenlode	6.30/7.30pm
10,11	Woodstock Music Soc Concert	Woodstock Church	7.30pm
11	Summer Tea Party	Manor Garden	3-5pm
12	Combe School Fete	Combe Playing Fields	2-4pm
18	Methodist Summer Fayre	'Avalon', Peaks Lane	2-4pm
19	Combe Mill Open Day	Combe Mill	
21	Women's Institute	Village Hall	7.30pm
24	Airswimming	Village Hall	8pm
25	Airswimming & meal	Village Hall	6.30pm
26	Opening of Garden	St James' Centre	4pm

### Publishers

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### Editors for this month

Colin & Gillian Clarke

### Editors for August

Colin & Gillian Clarke  
(898902)

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Combe Mill (see p. 11)



Photo: Tony Simmons

# Notices & thanks

## Philip Atkins

A service of thanksgiving that packs St James's Church to maximum capacity says something about the person being remembered. In Philip Atkins's case it says that he was much loved and highly respected. He died on 30 May after a short and difficult battle with cancer. He had lived in Stonesfield with his wife, Rose, and their two sons, Harry and Edward, since 1985. Having obtained an MA in Graphics at Manchester and subsequently worked for the Manchester Civic Trust, where he wrote, illustrated and designed an Architectural guide, he returned south in 1978 to work at Oxford University Press as a graphic designer. The guide is a clue to Phil's range of interests and talents. An enquiring mind, and a love of all things creative ranging across Art, Architecture, Literature, Music and the natural world, meant that Phil filled his days with the pursuit and employment of those interests. His knowledge and expertise, worn lightly as they were, were widely acknowledged, and Phil was regarded as the authoritative voice and the man to turn to on so many diverse subjects.

Similar devotion was applied to his own artistic creations, where Phil explored the world of painting and drawing. His own opinion of his work was typically self-deprecating, but those of us who were privileged to see his work could only look with envy at the explorative quality, the persistence and the beauty of his output. Seventeen years as a member of the North Oxford life drawing class, which



he attended without fail nearly every Saturday, has left a prodigious amount of work, highly acclaimed by his fellow artists. This creative, enquiring mind was imbued with a warm sense of humour, which permeated every conversation and made Phil good company to be with. We will always remember him with fondness. It is hoped that an exhibition of his work will be arranged in the future.

*Jonathan Roberts*

## Stonesfield Players

The Stonesfield Players present:  
*Airswimming* by Charlotte Jones

*Airswimming* is a beautifully written play about two women incarcerated in the

1920s for being 'moral imbeciles'. Their 'crimes' are that one of them has had a child out of wedlock; the other has displayed 'a predilection for Spanish cigars'.

The scenes of the play alternate between their life in the asylum and their life in a council flat after their release in the 1970s. The play is based on real events. 'The structure and the writing – admirably clear and unsentimental – both trip the light fantastic, effortlessly gliding from the desperately funny to the desperately sad', said a review in *The Guardian*, following the first production of the play at the Battersea Arts Centre in 1997.

Despite the unhappy nature of the subject matter, the play is often as hilarious as it is dark, thanks to Charlotte Jones's stunningly sharp dialogue. The portraits she creates of these two very different women, and the unlikely friendship that develops between them through their tragically circumscribed lives, are observed with compassion, imagination, humour and sheer brilliance.

Playing the two characters from their early twenties and into their late seventies are Jay Miller and Caroline Friend. There are TWO PERFORMANCES ONLY, on Friday 24 July and Saturday 25 July in Stonesfield Village Hall. The Saturday performance includes a two-course meal.

Friday night tickets: £8 (concessions £5).  
The performance starts at 8pm.

Saturday night tickets: £16 (including two-course meal). Doors open 6.30pm, meal served 7pm, performance 8.15pm.

*Box Office: 898454*

*Tickets also available from Amlu's store*

## Beech Tree Grief

Like Carole Hardcastle, I cherished the big beech tree at the top of the hill out to Fawler. I still have a photo of it hung with lace curtains of ice a few winters ago, and it was a vital part of our landscape. As far as I could see, it just had one dead branch, which a good tree surgeon could have trimmed out without harm, and the remaining stump shows no sign of being other than perfectly healthy.

West Oxon District Council said, 'It was not subject to a preservation order, and it was not our responsibility.' But Blenheim Estate, on whose land it was, insist that it had a parasitic fungus, *Kretzschmaria Deusta*, that causes dangerous decay affecting the heart of the tree once it has taken hold, and that Oxfordshire County Council Highways' arboriculturist advised the only safe course was to have it felled. It feels like premature action, but they are probably particularly nervous since that tree in Oxford fell and killed a girl in a car.

Blenheim say they are arranging for a replacement standard tree to be planted in the autumn. So wait another 200 years for it to reach maturity.

*Tony Crofts*

## Garden Birds

One warm sunny afternoon in late May the bird activity in our garden in Pond Hill seemed more than usual, so with not much else to do, I began counting the different species over a two or three hour period. I quickly got to a total of twenty, including half a dozen fly-overs. There were several regulars missing such as the

Wren, Song Thrush, and Blue and Great Tits and so a garden list of thirty or so wouldn't be out of the question. The ones I saw in order of spotting were: Robin, Blackbird, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Starling, Black-headed Gull, Red Kite, Rook, Jackdaw, Wood Pigeon, Collared Dove, Swift, House Martin, Greater-spotted Woodpecker, Dunnock, Magpie, Chaffinch, House Sparrow, Sparrowhawk, and Swallow. In winter there will be visitors such as Redwings, Fieldfares, Siskins and Linnets – I could go on.

*John Ward (891278)*

### **Combe Primary School Summer Fete**

Sunday 12 July 2–4pm, Combe Playing Fields. Friends of Combe School are organizing a Dog Show, Bouncy Castle, Pony Rides, Raffle. Fun for all the family.

*Candida Checksfield*

### **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 takeaways, 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, for forward planning, 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 (07976073764), Elize Hunt (01993 898681)*

## **Politics & local affairs**

### **Parish Council**

Council met on Thursday 11 June and was pleased to welcome seven members of the public. The Public Forum agenda item was enlivened by contributions from all the visitors. Frank Hall raised the thorny question of the repair to the pathways on Greenfield Crescent. (You will have noticed that the footpaths on Greenfield Road have been extensively repaired recently.) He pointed out to Council that in his forty years living on the Crescent desultory repairs had been carried out on one side only, and then not completely. He reiterated the comments made by other villagers that the state of the paths was becoming dangerous. Council promised to raise the matter urgently with the Highways Dept. of the County Council, while reminding those present that this would be a repeat of many requests for the same stretch of road.

As all the remaining members of the public had attended with one purpose – a planning application – that item on the agenda was brought forward.

### **Planning Applications**

(i) Application to erect dwelling on land to the rear of Stocky View, Churchfields. The Chairman introduced consideration of this item by outlining his various discussions with the Principal Buildings Officer of the Oxford Diocese (owners of the track) regarding the opening of access to vehicles from Scout Hut Lane. It was agreed that this would be a matter for County Highways and not the Planning

Committee of West Oxford District. Several members of the public made representations in opposition to the plans, and the applicant, Mr Carl Harris, also added to the discussion. Councillors reviewed the application and decided to recommend refusal on the grounds of its size, dominance and the effect on neighbouring properties.

(ii) Holmlea, Church Street – erection of extensions and an increase in height to form first-floor accommodation. Council had no objection to the application.

Neither our District Councillor nor County Councillor had anything to report as the newly constituted Councils had hardly had time to meet since the elections on 4 June.

Council welcomed Mr Neil Owen as our County Councillor, taking the place of Sue Haffenden. He affirmed that he had the interests of the village at heart and would work for the benefit of all.

It was noted that Robin Hartwell had trimmed the hedges in various places in the village and Council expressed its gratitude. John Bright had repaired the top gate on to the Common which had been vandalised. Council similarly expressed its thanks.

### **Missing Tree**

Several villagers had asked about the sudden and unexpected removal of the tree at the top of the rise on Witney Road. This was as a result of fears on the part of the County Highways that boughs

were in danger of falling on passing traffic. The Parish Council had little warning as County contacted the owner – Blenheim Estates – and obtained its permission to fell. The road was closed for another purpose – which is still a mystery to Council – and the tree was felled at the same time.

Council welcomed our new Parish Priest, the Revd Roy Turner, who attended, setting a precedent which pleased everyone.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday 9 July 2009 in the Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.

*Richard Bishop, Chairman (891414)*

### Official Opening of the St James' Centre Garden

This time last year, thanks to lots of hard work and generous donations too numerous to mention, as many of you will have seen already, we completed a major overhaul of the St James' Centre Garden – changing it from a mass of weeds and old tarmac into a landscaped garden, full of peace, beauty and tranquillity. We planted an array of shrubs and hardy annuals, the vast majority of which overwintered successfully. We now have a garden that is full of springtime beauty, and we feel that the time is now right for an official opening. The date that we have chosen is Sunday 26 July from 4pm onwards. The afternoon will combine a 'bring and share' tea in the St James' Centre and a short Service of Blessing in the garden. Weather permitting, we will move on to an open-air Songs of Praise and Thanksgiving Service, also in the garden.

However, if the summer weather proves too unreliable, we will move into the church. Everyone is welcome.

The garden is available for use by anyone (whether a churchgoer or not) in need of a place for quiet and contemplation. It will, of course, be used on many occasions by groups and individuals who have rented the St James' Centre. We would ask everyone to treat the garden with respect and to keep it neat and tidy at all times. It can be accessed by going around the back of the St James' Centre from the car park. We would also ask that you keep the back gate closed.

Needless to say, the garden needs a lot of looking after. If you would like to join the team of volunteers who help with different chores, then please get in contact with me. We are also looking for further donations of plants to fill out a number of the beds. If you would like to give us any of the following, we would be delighted to receive them as established plants or as cuttings:

Ceanothus 'Autumn Blue'  
 Choisya Fermata  
 Cytisus scoparius 'Andreas'  
 Eleaagnus elobingeri  
 Hebe albicans 'Red Edge'  
 Hypericum 'Hidcote'  
 Perovskia atriplicifolia 'Blue Spire'  
 Potentilla 'Daydawn'  
 Any small conifers in pots.

We hope to see as many people as possible at the Opening on 26 July.

*David Gambier (898464, mob: 07766-406759), Churchwarden & St James' Centre Garden Makeover-Appeal Chairman*

### District Digest

#### Oxfordshire County Council

As a result of the recent poll, Neil Owen has been elected for OCC Charlbury Ward (replacing Sue Haffenden), and Ian Hudspeth has been re-elected for the Woodstock Ward.

*Gillian Oldfield (891565) and Charles Cottrell-Dormer (01869 347110), Your District Councillors*

### Results of the Oxfordshire County Council elections on 4 June 2009

The results for the Charlbury Division were as follows:

Candidate	Party	Votes
Neil Owen	Conservative	1,757
Rosalind Scott	Lib Dem	932
Clarissa Hornblow	Green	346
Gina Burrows	Labour	233

Total votes cast: 3268

Spoiled votes: 17

Electorate: 6959

Turnout: 47.21%

Elected: Neil Owen

### Overview of the Oxfordshire County Council elections

Party	Seats	Net gain	Share of votes
Conservative	52	+8	42.81%
Liberal Democrat	10	-5	23.87%
Labour	9	+1	15.09%
Green	2	-3	13.87%
Independents	1	-1	3.96%

Turnout: 38.19%

*Editors*

### Local policing

It has been a fruitful month during May for West Oxfordshire. We will be getting another nine police officers for the district, which will enhance visibility and response of uniformed officers in our towns and villages. This is part of the Force's increase in police numbers and has bucked the trend of diminishing resources in the West. I think that this is great news for our area.

Nonetheless, we have the largest geographical area in Thames Valley, and there are challenges in terms of preventing offenders from other areas coming to the West and committing offences here. Recently, gambling machines in pubs, clubs and hotels have been targeted, and we have also had a few house burglaries where laptops and electrical equipment were stolen. I would appeal to all to be more vigilant, and to report any suspicious people and vehicles to us so that we make it harder to commit crime in our district. If you have any information on local incidents, please don't hesitate to contact your neighbourhood team on 08458 505 505. If you would prefer to remain anonymous, please ring Crimestoppers on 0845 555 111.

There is nothing better than prevention. Occasionally, I come across incidents where the victims have left their car or house insecure or valuables in full view. Such carelessness offers easy pickings to thieves. In the warm weather the opportunities for theft increase as people leave their windows and doors open without proper safeguards.

Please look after yourself and help us to make it harder for criminals to operate

near you. Remember that we continue to be the lowest crime area in Thames Valley, and it is all due to your efforts in supporting the local police.

*Chief Inspector Jack Malhi, West Oxfordshire*

### Help is at hand for vulnerable residents

A seminar to raise awareness of the home-safety services available throughout Oxfordshire is being held on Tuesday 23 June at Kidlington fire station. The event, which has been organised by the Oxfordshire Distraction Burglary Group, will consist of a series of presentations about projects designed to help and protect elderly and vulnerable residents.

Oxfordshire County Council Community Safety Officer, Judith Johnson, said:

Our guest speakers will cover a variety of issues such as rogue traders, fire

safety and the Nominate Your Neighbour scheme, which has proven very successful in Cherwell. We have invited partner agencies to make them aware of the services they can tap into when dealing with vulnerable and elderly residents in our county.

The Distraction Burglary Group was established two years ago to share best practice and problem-solve issues among the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships in Oxfordshire. This seminar will highlight some of the projects we have been involved in with our partners.

The seminar runs from 2 to 4pm and the press are welcome to attend – but please telephone Danielle Hilton to confirm your attendance.

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

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Telephone Michael on (01993) 891219 for more details and to see samples of work.

# 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

Sue Cook is coming to Stonesfield Library for an evening event organised by the Library to talk about her books and then to answer questions on Wednesday 8 July at 7pm.

In 2006 Sue published her first book *On Dangerous Ground*, which tells the story of a gripping and dangerous voyage for a mother and daughter in Vietnam. Her newest book, *Force of Nature*, was published in 2008 – Jenny and Mark are delighted when their daughter Chloe is born as it took three attempts at IVF. When Chloe is 2, Mark starts to behave strangely and nothing can prepare Jenny for the secrets that will be revealed.

Tickets are limited and are available free from Stonesfield Library (01993 898187) or by calling in.

Also the Summer Reading Scheme, Questseekers, starts on Saturday 4 July!

**Are you ready for the challenge? The adventure starts here!**

Explore magical and mysterious lands this summer by taking part in Questseekers! 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!

*Lucy*

### Baby & Toddler Group

Every Thursday morning at St James' Centre, 10–11.30am. Toys, equipment, crafts and singing for babies and toddlers aged 0–2.5 years. Friendly meeting place for parents, grandparents and carers. £1 per family per session includes a drink and a biscuit. Health Visitor-run Baby Clinic every 1st Thursday of the month.

*Contacts: Ruth (891475), Elize (898681), Lisa (898419), Suzi (891886)*

### Marlborough Community Learning

Marlborough School and the Woodstock Partnership Primaries are busy organising a programme of courses and workshops for adults, families and children. These will include weekly courses, one-off courses and also Saturday workshops – there really is something for everyone. Example courses are: Computing (Applemac, Beginners, Improvers and Digital Cameras), Stained Glass,

Watercolour Painting, Yoga, Life Drawing, Pottery, Film Studies, Badminton, Archery and Golf, Spanish, and Flamenco.

Our autumn brochure will be in shops, Post Offices and libraries when it becomes available in August.

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, 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).

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+

Mosaics/Ceramics/Pottery/Textiles 6+

Survival! 8+  
Theatre 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)

*Book your places now to avoid disappointment*

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

*Jenny Bodinham*

### 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 Evening Lecture

Wednesday 1 July: *Countryside Protection*, Adrian Thornton, 7.30pm in the Coach House. Friends Free, Visitors welcome £2. (Friends take preference if lecture is over-subscribed, so why not join us today?)

### 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.

### Museum Coffee Shop and Garden

Tea and coffee, light snacks and lunches.

### Museum Opening Hours

Tuesday–Saturday 10am–5pm, Sundays 2–5pm. Closed on Mondays. Free admission.

For further information please telephone 01993 811456.

### Combe Mill

Readers will probably know that Combe Mill was saved from conversion into office accommodation in 2003 when it was graded II\* by English Heritage. We are starting to raise the large funds needed to conserve the building and contents so that it will survive for the enjoyment of future generations. However we need more volunteers. Combe Mill Society members do as much as they can to keep the mill and its machinery in working order but there are simply not enough of us to do all the jobs needed to open the mill as often as we would wish. We have most of the practical and professional skills needed to keep the displays working but we are short of volunteers to act as guides, supervise car parking, sell tickets, or serve refreshments. Any relevant training will be provided. If you don't already know what is at Combe Mill, then take a look at our website [www.combemill.org](http://www.combemill.org)

We would like to be open to visitors for viewing the exhibits on a more regular basis and our steaming days would then become special events during the year. Other activities might become a regular feature and we would welcome hearing from other local organizations that would like to base their event at the Mill. We already accept advance bookings from groups and schools to visit on other days.

Our next Open Day is on Sunday 19 July. If you would like to become a volunteer please get in touch with Ron Rutherford (01865 379802) or Tony Simmons (01993 891851). Two-for-one offer – a friend can come free if you bring this article with you and present it at the door. Valid during 2009.

# Clubs & societies

## Stonesfield Craft Club

The Craft Club met on Thursday 4 June 2009 at 7.30pm at the St James' Centre. This month's topic was Sunflower cards. Debbie showed everyone how easy it is to make these cards that look like a sunflower, with twelve individually cut and styled petals glued into the card under a twelve-sided aperture. The card was then finished off with arranging silk flowers or decoupage in the centre. Everyone made at least two cards each; more were available to complete at home.

Once again the members were fascinated by how easy it was to make cards that look so effective. We all had another fun-filled evening. There were fifteen of us at the session, including one new member, who received a very warm welcome. We will be meeting again at the St James' Centre on 2 July at 7.30pm, and would be pleased to see anyone who would like to join us in making cards using another crafting technique.

*Debbie Faulkner*

## Stonesfield Gardening Club

On Monday 13 July there will be a garden walk (members only – who will be notified of the route and meeting time). Afterwards, we are taking refreshments at The Black Head (8.30pm approx.), where non-members are most welcome to join us. There is no meeting in August. Our new season starts in September with a 'social' and seed swap – an ideal

opportunity to use Sandra Davies's practical, helpful advice.

*Wendy Gould (898091)*

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

We began with tea and biscuits, during which the final names and payments for the outing were collected. The coach will leave from the usual pick-up points at 11.30am. We shall be boarding our boat in Windsor, so a packed lunch is suggested. Drinks will be available on board. All we need is a good fine day. We also collected names and payment for the Summer Lunch on 9 July. We shall be serving at 1pm in the Village Hall, and afterwards we are to have a talk and slides by Brian Lowe on 'Intriguing Oxford'. If you have not booked for lunch and would like to come, it's not too late. Ring either me on 898134, or Diana on 891392 by Friday 3 July.

A letter was read from George Hedges, our speaker in May, thanking us for the donations he had received for ROSY. If any other group would like to listen to what he calls a 'has-been cop' (he was a Chief Constable), I can let you have the details. Business over, we settled down for a very noisy afternoon of Beetle. The winning team scored 409 points from a possible 468, and the second team 384. Well done to you all! Finally the raffle was drawn and the prizes distributed. I look forward to seeing you in July, and if there are any over-60s out there, who

might be interested in joining us, please give me a ring. We do enjoy our time together.

*Best wishes, Avis Ushaw (898134)*

## Stonesfield Scout Group

The 12th Annual Duck Race will take place on the River Evenlode from Sandy Bay to the bridge on Friday 10 July 2009. The BBQ will start at 6.30pm with the race starting at 7.30pm. Please come along and support your local Scout group by buying a numbered duck and watching it race. Ducks cost £1 and will be available from any Stonesfield Beaver, Cub or Scout from early June, so please come along, have some refreshments and enjoy the spectacle of over 1000 ducks racing down the river. First prize = £150, Second prize = £75, Third prize = £50, Fourth prize = £20

Everyone is welcome to this long-established village event.

*Ian Hedges (891194) and Zena Rozee (891725)*

## Women's Institute

**(visitors always welcome)**

At the Resolutions meeting in May, the secretary read out this year's proposal to us. It had been submitted by a W.I. in the Wiltshire Federation and urged H.M. Government to increase funding for research into bee health. We could think of no reason to oppose the resolution and voted unanimously in favour. This decision will be taken by our delegate to the AGM of the National Federation of Women's Institutes at the Royal Albert Hall for onward presentation to H.M. Government. The winner of the

competition for six home-made sweets was Brenda.

Jill Prickett introduced Sheila Hallam, who had brought along examples of her patchwork quilts and wall-hangings. Sheila first started teaching patchwork and quilting at Stonesfield Village Hall 22 years ago under the auspices of the Adult Education programme.

Sheila explained the various styles of her quilts. A 'charm' quilt for instance is made up of hundreds of small squares of fabric, none of which is the same as another, and a 'friendship' quilt is created by each member of a group making up a different 'block,' and when all are completed the blocks are exchanged, so that the recipient has a block from each member of the group, and then goes on to assemble them into a quilt, each block being signed by its creator.

Sheila showed us a wall-hanging she had made, which depicted a wrapped and ribboned bunch of flowers and made in the 'stained-glass window' style. This particular wall-hanging was selected to hang at Lords Cricket Ground, and had even been with Sheila to Australia and New Zealand on the back of her husband's motor-bike, for exhibition at various patchwork groups she visited. She is currently working on a wall-hanging showing 'a tree in winter'. Sheila has an innate sense of colour and design, and we are very lucky to have such a talented lady as a member of our Institute.

At the July meeting Sylvie Nichols's subject is 'At Home Abroad'. If you would like to hear this talk, please come along as our guest for the evening.

*Brenda Oliver (891330)*

## Woodstock Music Society

Friday 10 and Saturday 11 July

St Mary Magdalene Church, Woodstock, 7.30pm.

Woodstock Music Society Choir and Orchestra, conducted by Paul Ingram, perform a concert of music by Mozart and Haydn. Soloists Siona Stockwell, Katharine Walker, Jonathan Todd and Patrick Irwin join the choir in a performance of Mozart's *Mass in C Minor*.

The orchestra plays Haydn's *Symphony No. 92*, nicknamed the 'Oxford' symphony, because it was performed when Haydn received his doctorate at Oxford University in 1791.

Tickets cost £11 (£10 concessions) at the door; £10 (£9 concessions) in advance (£5 for those in full-time education) from Val Phillips, Chapel End, Churchfields, Stonesfield (891455) or email [wmsoc@btinternet.com](mailto:wmsoc@btinternet.com).

# Charities & good causes

## London Marathon 2009

I would like to thank everyone who kindly sponsored my son Stephen Evins. Stephen completed the marathon in a time of 3 hours and 32 minutes and raised almost £2,400 for Helen and Douglas House hospice.

Thank you to Salon Copenhagen, The Black Head and Amlu's Store for having collection tins and to everybody who generously donated outside Amlu's Store.

We all had a great weekend in London supporting Stephen. The atmosphere on the day was amazing and we are all very proud of him.

*Ali Evins (898498)*

Research). As many of you will know, my niece died from a 'cot death' seven years ago. If you would like to sponsor me, and any amount however big or small would be greatly appreciated, you can donate by either making a visit to my Justgiving website page ([www.justgiving.com/markminchin90](http://www.justgiving.com/markminchin90)), where donations are given direct to FSID, or by phoning me at home on 01993 891597 (54 Akeman Street, Combe). I will let you know how I get on later in the year!

*Mark Minchin (aged 16 yrs)*

## 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*

## London 10km Run

I have been lucky enough, for the second year running, to be allocated a place in the London 10km run on Sunday 12 July. I will be running to raise money and awareness for the Foundation for Sudden Infant Deaths (formerly the Cot Death



## The Black Head

Stonesfield



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### Events Calendar

CHURCH STREET, STONESFIELD

<b>Quiz Night</b> Quiz Night is being popped on hold for the summer and will resume on the last Wednesday in October (28 October) from 8pm.	<b>Ladies Cinema Night</b> Tuesday 14 July from 8pm. This month's film: 'Love Actually.' Free glass of champagne if festive/Christmassy clothing is worn!	<b>Curry Nights</b> Fridays 3, 17 & 31 July from 8pm. Choose from a selection of fine curries & accompaniments. Buffet style, £6 per person.
<b>Next Darts Competition</b> Continues Tuesday 7 July, 7.30pm sharp: 'The Black Head Cup.' Call or pop in for details to get on the Darts Ladder.	<b>Traditional Sunday Roast</b> Served on Sundays from 12.30 till 4pm. £5.95 adults, £3.50 children. Booking advised but not always essential.	<b>Aunt Sally League</b> Every Thursday evening for practices or matches.

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

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# Sport

## Cricket

After missing last month's edition due to an internal problem, it's a pleasure to be back reporting on the 2009 season. It's been a season of much change in the Stonesfield camp, with some players retiring, some moving to pastures new, and some just too lazy to play. This has brought in new faces under the leadership of Jamie Burns – in fact the 1st X1 could easily be renamed Begfield or Stonebroke .

The 1st team start suggests they will be 'there or there about' among the leading pack in Division 3, with Skipper Burns and new recruit Tim Wyatt starring with the bat. Adam Lambert is the leading wicket-taker, while Sam Hibberd continues to impress. The 2nd X1 is a case of 'some things never change'. Kevin

Sherbourne is still the captain, and most away matches are played with only 10 men, but on their day they can give anybody a good game in their division, and the familiar names of Steve Masters, Craig Richards, Mark Hatton, David Skidmore and Robin Hanks are all showing good early-season form .

Well I can't sign off without mentioning the Mike Ogden Stand, which, despite the recession, has increased its membership, and the new gate which was erected at the Wootton end of the ground to help control match-day support.

The club would also like to thank the companies that still support the club with the advertisement boards which are on display on match days

*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

Well, the summer holidays are almost upon us. As a child, of course, the summer stretched out in front as a time of new adventures. The anticipation and run-up to summer was always a time of great excitement. Particularly looking forward to that wonderful release from the classroom was always a joy, so I could never understand my mother's slight dread! What was she going to do with her children getting under her feet and demanding attention and feeding every five minutes!

Perhaps times were easier, in some respects, in the 1950s. None of my friends had televisions to be glued too. We didn't have electronic gadgets to service with endless updates. All we had was each other, a cricket bat with a dubious shape and handle to match that made us vibrate as we hit the ball. We had a couple of tennis rackets that were

in permanent need of restringing. One I remember had been run over by a car, and the racket for the rest of its existence remained in the shape of a spoon. Very useful, however, for those deceptive twisting forehand passing shots!

Living as we did on the edge of the Sherwood Forest area, once the summer holidays had arrived, it seemed easy to imagine that we were 'Robin's Merry Men'. We played out our games as though we were living a life of adventure in the 'Green Wood', fighting against the much dreaded Sheriff of Nottingham. It was always a tricky decision, however, as to who would play the different parts; a goody or a baddy. I remember girls were in short supply to play Maid Marion. Girls, for some reason, never seemed to appreciate the finer things in life like staging a mass battle scene outside the imaginary gates of Nottingham Castle! But for all that they were halcyon days; hardly a care

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Days in August: 13th and 15th, 10am–4pm.

New classes start

Tuesday 8 September for 12 weeks and Wednesday 9 September for 12 weeks.

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in the world – apart from how I was going to explain to mum the fact that my wellies were filled with river water, having had to beat a hasty retreat from the Sheriff's men. Drastic times demanded drastic measures, although mum, I remember, did not seem to appreciate it!

If they were halcyon days, how about now? Halcyon days, by definition, mean a happy period of peace and prosperity! With the credit crunch and jobs being hard to find for many of us, what could we call these times? At first glance they are anything but halcyon. However, if I asked my mum how she felt about life in the early 1950s she would probably say that they were tough too. Rationing was still around after the war, and money was in short supply for most. Perhaps, then, it's all to do with perspective. As children we felt well looked after and cared for. We didn't have many holidays by the coast, but there was always Sherwood Forest. Perhaps, for

us today, we need to invest our time in the simpler ways of life; in family, friendship and community. Certainly, living in Stonesfield and Combe, we have a head start. We have our friendly community based on sport, schools, clubs and our churches. Speaking of church, why not check out the times and services and pop in to see us this summer. There's always a warm welcome for all. Given it's Stonesfield and Combe, I am sure, you don't find that surprising either. Hope to see you soon, have a great summer, and God bless.

*Rev Roy*

#### **Summer Tea Party for children**

Scramblers, Explorers, all children up to age 11 and parents are warmly invited to a Summer Tea Party on Saturday 11 July, from 3 to 5pm, in the Rectory Garden. Come along for games, a bouncy castle, tea and lots of fun! RSVP to Helen Dancer (891150).

#### **Sunday 5 July [Fourth Sunday after Trinity]**

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

#### **Sunday 12 July [Fifth Sunday after Trinity]**

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [BCP/said]
10.30am	Combe Longa	United Village Service at Methodist Chapel
11am	Stonesfield	Parish Communion [CW/sung]

#### **Sunday 19 July [Sixth Sunday after Trinity]**

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

#### **Sunday 26 July [Seventh Sunday after Trinity, St James (transferred)]**

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

#### **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

#### *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,

I was thinking about stone throwing the other day. 'Why', you might well ask, 'was he thinking about stone throwing?' The answer is that I had earlier in the day arrived at another of my churches to be met with the news that a group of young people had invaded the premises the previous night, ransacked one of the rooms, and broken a couple of windows.

When I actually investigated the incident the real story was somewhat different. One young person was spotted going into the building while his/her mates remained outside. Some church members returning to the building saw the young person enter and gave chase. That might actually be an exaggeration of mine, for it implies great speed and knowing the people concerned. The young people who had remained outside threw some stones at the window to warn their friend and cracked two small panes of glass. The young person was ejected from the building.

The story, as told to me, depicted a scene of chaos and carnage and I went into the supposedly ruined room with some

trepidation only to discover no damage whatsoever. Oh, how we like to make a crisis out of a minor drama – especially when young people are involved. This brings me back to my musings. I recall as a young lad being bored one evening, going out into the street, picking up some stones and throwing them at some shop fronts. I broke the window of the local cobbler (yes, I know, that tells you how long ago it was!). I can remember the fear now. My memory tells me that I did the right thing and went and told my father who, next morning, marched me down to see the cobbler and apologize. I also think my pocket money seemed a little short for a while. The point is that we accuse young people of things, sometimes forgetting what we were like as kids.

I attended the Stonesfield Scout Group AGM the other evening. We heard about ordinary young people, you know the sort we moan about, and their achievements. I am proud to be associated with them. I thank those who give up their time to work with them. I ask for your support of them. Do not fall into the trap of assuming all young people are bad. They are not. The vast

majority are no worse and sometimes better than we were.

*Yours, with love,  
Richard*

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

### Methodist Summer Fayre

A Summer Fayre will be held at 'Avalon', Peaks Lane, on Saturday 18 July, from 2 to 4pm. There will be all the usual stalls. Anyone who is able to help, or donate to the stalls, please telephone 891733.

### SERVICES FOR JULY

Sunday 5 July  
11am Local Arrangement

Sunday 12 July  
11am Revd Ian Duffy

Sunday 19 July *Chapel Anniversary*  
11am Revd Rohama Karam  
Holy Communion  
6pm Revd Asif Karam

Sunday 26 July  
11am Mrs Evelyn Bannister

### Roman Catholic Worship

**St Teresa's, Charlbury**  
Sunday Mass 11am  
Holydays 9.30am  
7.30pm

**St Kenelm's, Enstone**  
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