

# The Stonesfield Slate

Issue No 381 May 2009



## Dates for your Diary

### May

7	Craft Club	St James' Centre	7.30pm
8	Curry Night	Black Head	from 8pm
12	Ladies Cinema Night	Black Head	from 8pm
14	Darby & Joan	Village Hall	2pm
14	Parish Council meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm
16	Christian Aid Sale	St James' Centre	10am-noon
16	Murder Mystery	School	7.30 for 8pm
19	WI Resolutions Meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm
20	Stonesfield Society	Village Hall	8pm
8	Curry Night	Black Head	from 8pm
23	Tennis Club AGM and social	Black Head	8pm
27	Quiz Night	Black Head	
30/31	Open gardens	Combe	2-6pm

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*The Cross photographed  
from the church tower  
on 16 March*



Photo: Bob Lawrence

# Notices & thanks

The Publishers are very grateful to the family of the late Mildred Oliver, who gave a generous donation to the *Slate* in her memory.

## Donald Strudwick RIP

Ruby, Wendy and family would like to thank everyone for their cards and kind messages, after the sad loss of Don.

We appreciate the kindness shown by so many and take comfort in the kind words they have given us at this very sad time.

*Ruby, Wendy and family*

## Rook cull

Dear Evelyn and Charlotte

We write to ask you to reconsider your plan to shoot the rooks that are nesting in the manor house trees. The reasons you have given for the 'cull' are that they are damaging the trees and other bird life – by which we assume you mean song-birds.

Having done considerable research on a wide range of web sites (RSPB, Nature Conservancy, DEFRA and others), we can find no evidence that rooks harm either trees or song-birds. 75% of their diet is worms and other invertebrates like cutworms and leatherjackets which can cause considerable root damage. Rooks do eat recently sown and germinated seeds, but modern seed dressings reduce this to a minimum and looking at both the autumn and spring cereals around Stonesfield this would not seem to be a problem.

Although rooks are not a protected species, shooting them during the breeding season is more inhumane than at other times, as there could be young in the nests.

Having talked to most of our neighbours who are also within earshot of the rooks, none are in favour of the cull. We trust you'll reconsider your proposed action and accept that rooks are a wonderful spectacle as they swirl and soar in the windy skies above Stonesfield.

*Richard and Dale Morris (898210)*

Further to our note in last month's *Slate*, we have received several messages reflecting concerns about the humane aspects of the proposed cull of rooks. In view of these we have taken further advice from the RSPB, in particular about when it is reasonable to expect any young birds to have flown their nests. This indicates that there will be little risk of destroying fledgling birds after the first few days of May.

We therefore intend to postpone the cull till then. We would like to explain that the professional advice we have received has confirmed that the rooks' nests are likely to cause damage to these very old trees, which incidentally are the subject of a local authority Preservation Order, and it is on this basis that we have been given a licence by Natural England to proceed with the proposed cull.

*Evelyn and Charlotte Oakeshott*

## Artweeks 2009

Artweeks in North Oxfordshire this year takes place from 2 to 10 May. Four studios will be open in Stonesfield:

**Karen Burniston**, Austins Farm, High Street. Painting and drawings, cards.

**Claire Fyfe-Jackson**, Sarts Cottage, The Ridings. Jewellery and metalwork, books and cards.

**Hannelore Meinhold-Morgan**, Boot Barn Pottery, Boot Street. Ceramics and pottery.

**Rachael Sherlaw-Johnson**, Grey Cat Studio, Woodlands Rise. Painting and drawings, books and cards.

The dates of the other areas of Artweeks in Oxfordshire are: City exhibitions – 9 to 17 May; South Oxfordshire exhibitions – 16 to 25 May.

*Rachael Sherlaw-Johnson (891318)*

## Thank you

I am planning to leave Stonesfield in order to be nearer to most of my numerous family, and therefore I have put my cottage on the market.

Naturally it is difficult to predict how long the process will take; but just in case it all happens quite quickly, I should like to take this opportunity of thanking all those people who have done me kindnesses while I have been in Stonesfield. All sorts of things: giving me lifts to lectures and other events, giving me lifts to Charlbury Station, feeding my cats when I have to be away for a day or two, and above all inviting me into their homes and offering me hospitality. Thank you all. Especially for someone

living on their own, such kindnesses can make all the difference.

*June Osborne*

## Combe Open Gardens

Saturday 30 and Sunday 31 May, 2–6pm, £3 adults, children free. Attractive and varied gardens. Cream teas on village green. For details call 01993 898635.

## Owl Nest Box and Conservation Scheme

We have now set up and started a Owl and Kestrel Nest Box Scheme, which has been our dream for the last few years. We will continue to donate five boxes a year to anyone with a suitable site and will be advising landowners and members of the public on the issues affecting these species.

Last year I designed a brochure called Helping Owls in Your Local Area, which will be placed in veterinary surgeries, libraries and taken to our school visits and other talks that we do. It will also be given to anyone having a nest box on site. It has taken me over a year to get funding to print this brochure but thanks to The International Owl Society, of which I am a council member, it has now been printed by Information Press and will be paid for by the IOS from funds donated to the Society.

The Tawny Owls will have chicks in the nest now, Barn and Little Owls will be looking for nest sites as well at this time. Last year was not a good breeding year for our native owls and kestrels, mainly due to the amount of wet weather which prevented them from hunting. We are

hoping that this year will prove to be better but the prediction is not good for the Barn Owl, as the Short-tailed Vole, which forms the biggest part of their diet, is due to have a bad breeding year. Providing nest boxes for these birds is very important and has certainly helped them all in a big way. The loss of elm trees through Dutch Elm disease, barn conversions and heavy pollarding of willow trees have all robbed these birds of natural nest sites. The use of rodenticides also has a bad effect on these birds: a family of Barn Owls will consume thousands of rodents in a year, so many die through secondary poisoning.

John and I spent a whole day at The Barn Owl Symposium, held at the wonderful Kindersley Centre near Lambourne, with over 120 people – some small concerns like us, other large groups of people who work very hard, all with the same aim to help and conserve that wonderful icon of the British countryside, the Barn Owl. Without all these dedicated people and all the work and time they give, this beautiful owl would quite likely not be here today. It was nice to see younger people coming along and showing so much enthusiasm, as a lot of us are getting on a bit and we need to encourage our youngsters to get involved and take over. I hope to carry on for many more years. It gives me a purpose in life, which was somewhat lacking before I became involved with the owls.

John and I are now licensed to monitor owl boxes and John is also licensed to ring the birds, so we hope that the boxes we have sponsored over the last two years will hold some nice surprises for us. We will be ringing all the people who

have nest boxes soon as we need to monitor them at least twice a year.

Since my last rescue report we have had two Buzzards in – one poisoned, which sadly died, and one that had been shot, which after three weeks was released and has been sighted so hopefully will do okay. Two Barn Owls, both so badly injured by collisions with cars that they had to be euthanised, a Sparrowhawk collected from a college in Oxford which seemed to be recovering very well from a head injury but died three days later, and a Tawny Owl which was also beyond help.

CAN I PLEASE REMIND YOU ALL NOT TO PICK UP BABY TAWNY OWLS UNLESS THEY ARE INJURED? AND IF YOU ARE CONCERNED FOR THEIR WELFARE PLEASE MARK THE PLACE WHERE YOU FOUND THEM SO THAT WE CAN RETURN THEM.

If you have any spare time and are interested in any of our work, we are looking for volunteers so do give us a call even if you can only spare a few hours a week.

*Chrissie and Tom Harper (891618)*

### Age Concern

The Dialability helpline, which used to be attached to the Disability Equipment Centre in Oxford, has now closed. If you need information about disability equipment please contact the new centre run by Guideposts Trust on 01993 772886. The new centre is on Madley Park, Witney, just behind the Co-operative shop, but it is necessary to telephone first.

*Gladys Lee, Age Concern Parish Link*

### Stonesfield Directory

I am now planning to update the Stonesfield Directory, with a view to printing in June. There are currently 31 village organisations listed, for the majority of which the details have never changed. We either have some very dedicated committee members or situations have changed.

Now is your chance to ensure that the information in the Directory is correct for your organisation. Failure to inform the Editor of any changes will mean using the information from last year, which may well be out of date.

If anybody else has information that they feel should or should not be in the Directory do let me know.

*Editor: Douglas Rudlin, 11 Greenfield Road (898100; drudlin@stone1.demon.co.uk)*

### Wootton Talks

The next monthly talk in aid of Wootton Village Hall funds is on Friday 8 May in Wootton Village Hall, at 7.30pm. The speaker is Lord Howe, who as Geoffrey Howe was Foreign Secretary, Chancellor of the Exchequer and Deputy Prime Minister.

*Andrew Morgan (813016)  
ASMorgan@ukgateway.net*

### Teapot

I recently bought a teapot at a car boot sale. It is made of white china and decorated with a bunch of flowers with 'A Present from Stonesfield' lettered in gold gothic type below the decoration.



There is no maker's mark on the base and nothing to indicate its origin or date.

I would be interested to know whether anyone in Stonesfield owns a similar piece or can throw any light on my new acquisition.

*Eileen Cleaver (898628)*

### May Day and Spring Bank Holiday bin collections

Normal collection	Revised date
Friday 8 May	Saturday 9 May
Friday 29 May	Saturday 30 May

### A frivolity

Three minutes to spare? Get out your calculator and have a go at this:

Key in the first 3 digits of your phone number (not including code)

Multiply by 8

Add 1

Multiply by 250

Add last 3 digits of phone number

Repeat last action

Subtract 250

Divide by 2

Do you recognise the answer?

# Politics & local affairs

## Parish Council

An unusually short meeting preceded the Annual Parish Meeting on 9 April. Council welcomed Phil McArdle, who had been co-opted to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Libby Hartwell. Libby had selflessly stood down to take up the role of Clerk to the Council once again.

Concern was again expressed by all about the inherent dangers of the arrangement of priorities at the junction of the A44 and the Stonesfield/Charlbury road at Judds garage. It was agreed that a concerted approach by both Stonesfield and Wootton Councils should be sent to County Highways.

Both our County and District Councillors reported on their various activities. (See below.)

## Planning Applications

Ridgeways, Church Street – NW extension to first floor and construction of double garage. Council had no objection.

Winterbourne, St James Court – erection of two-storey detached dwelling; alterations to vehicular access and parking. Council expressed strong objections to this proposal and reiterated its original concerns. Several letters of objection had been received by both Council and District.

The next meeting of Council will be on Thursday 14 May in the Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

*Richard Bishop, Chairman (891414)*

## Annual Parish Meeting

Held on Thursday 9 April 2009 with Councillors and three members of the public. In spite of the disappointing attendance from the village, the meeting followed established procedure with reports from various groups.

The Council Chairman reported on the changes in the village over the past year. He welcomed all new arrivals, adults and babies, with particular reference to Mrs Susie Bagnall, who has taken up the Headship of our Primary School, and the Revd Roy Turner, who has become Priest-in-charge of both Stonesfield and Combe Longa.

PCSO Philip Workman reported on the activities of the Thames Valley Police and gave statistics on the levels of crime/anti social behaviour affecting our village.

County Councillor Sue Haffenden reported on behalf of Oxford County. Her report concentrated on the environment and the difficulties following the floods of last year and their effects on highways. Sue also detailed the EU Directive on waste disposal and the problems in Oxfordshire. No decision has yet been reached on the siting of an incinerator for the County. Two sites remain under consideration; Ardley and Sutton Courtney.

Gillian Oldfield gave the District perspective, also elaborating on the floods. Gillian mentioned the ambulance service, in that a better response time was sought for Oxfordshire. She noted that

free parking would continue in West Oxfordshire but that the control of street parking would become the responsibility of the District Council rather than the police.

A comprehensive report from the Chair of the School Governors was well received. It highlighted the changes in the ethos of the school since the arrival of Mrs Bagnall. The report also congratulated the village for its response to the appeals for funds for the new classroom named in memory of Brian Hodgson. The results of the 'Sats' tests were given – highly successful in maths and science, rather less so in English.

The report from the Playing Field Committee was welcomed, as it confirmed a successful year with many compliments on the excellent condition of the field itself. Thanks from Council to all those who have spent much time and effort in achieving this.

The Village Hall Committee presented its report. Refurbishment of the initial stages of the plans are now complete. Bookings are up for the ensuing year. However, the Committee is looking for new members to help with the next stage in redevelopment. Several incidents of vandalism and antisocial behaviour have

caused problems and have resulted in an increased police presence in the village.

The Chairman thanked all who have contributed to the life of the village in so many ways.

*Richard Bishop*

## District Digest

Cogges Manor Farm Museum, Witney, has opened for the new season until the end of August. The Victorian Farmstead and Manor House is offering an exciting programme for all the family for 2009. In addition to the busy day activities, there are also special evening events in May and August, a monthly evening lecture by Dr. J. Wilson and a series of one day Oxfordshire Buildings Record courses.

Visit [www.cogges.org](http://www.cogges.org)

<<http://www.cogges.org>> for opening times, admission charges and full details.

At the end of this season the running of this important Oxfordshire historic site is being handed over to a charitable trust. We do hope many of you will pay a visit this year and support them as they celebrate 30 years as a unique Museum.

*Gillian Oldfield (01993 891565) and Charles Cottrell-Dormer (01869 347110), Your District Councillors*

# 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

## PTA/Players Murder Mystery evening

Stonesfield School PTA invite you to an evening of mystery, intrigue and good food at 8pm on 16 May in the school hall, where the players will perform a murder mystery for you to chew over while you dine in style. Come along and test your powers of deduction to work out whodunnit. Tickets will be on sale soon, £8 each. If you're interested and want to find out more, contact Nicky Holland (891325) from the Stonesfield Players or Ali Saville (891769) from the School PTA.

## The Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock

### Exhibitions

**Garden Gallery.** 2–31 May: *A Wearable Art: contemporary crafts*. A diversity of contemporary art by more than a dozen makers, exploring the sculptural, textural dimensions of garments, accessories and jewellery. A fusion of design and craft, reflecting originality, innovative processes, craft traditions, new technology and inventive forms.

Three personal studio sets featuring Sue Rangeley's embroidery, Bridget Bailey's headpieces and Emily Jo Gibbs' accessories.

In-studio demonstrations on Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 May.

Plus displays from a dozen guest artists.

Part of **Artweeks** the Oxfordshire Artists Festival trail.

**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 show some of the reasons why men joined, and their life during the two World Wars, between and after them, as well as images of the TA soldier today.

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

**Friends of the Oxfordshire Museum Evening Lecture** on Wednesday 6 May. *A History of Firefighting since Roman Times, until the end of WWII* by Michael Kernan, Fire Service Archivist. 7.30pm in the Coach House. Friends free, visitors welcome £2.

**Family Drop-ins.** Saturday 16 May: *Get a head – get a hat.* Make a hat or accessory inspired by the exhibition *A Wearable Art*. £1 per child.

No booking necessary. 10–12 or 2–4pm. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Tuesday 26 May: *Prehistoric Landscapes.* Make a collage of Oxfordshire when woolly mammoths and elephants roamed the land. £1 per child. Drop in any time between 2 and 4pm. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

**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 in your archaeological finds for identification. Telephone 01993 814103.

**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



## The Black Head Stonesfield



YOUR PUB NEEDS YOU!

### Events Calendar

CHURCH STREET, STONESFIELD

#### Quiz Night

Next Quiz 27 May.  
Last Wednesday of each month.  
Maximum six to a team,  
£2 per player entrance fee.  
Rollover Bonus Prize to be won!!  
Plus free food.

#### Ladies Cinema Night

Tuesday 12 May from 8pm.  
Free glass of champagne  
if you dress as a character  
from this month's film,  
*Dirty Dancing*  
Free admission!

#### Curry Night

Fridays 8 & 22 May from 8pm.  
Choose from a selection  
of fine curries &  
accompaniments.  
Buffet style,  
£6 per person.

#### Next Darts Competition

Continues Tuesday 5 May,  
7.30pm sharp: 'The Black Head Cup.'  
Call or pop in for details  
to get on the Darts Ladder.

#### Saturday Set Breakfast

Full English Breakfast  
served from  
10am till 12noon  
every Saturday.

#### Aunt Sally League

Every Thursday evening  
for practices or matches.

*And Don't Forget – Traditional Roast served Sundays 12.30pm–4pm. Booking advised!*

Tel: 01993 891387

Opening hours from 16 April: Monday to Friday 12noon–2pm/4–11pm Saturday 10am–11pm, Sunday 12noon–10.30pm Food served 12noon–2pm/7–9pm except Sunday 12.30–4pm

# Clubs & societies

## **Stonesfield Society**

On 20 May at 8pm in the Village Hall Clubroom we will have a talk, 'Lord Nuffield and the Cowley Airfield in wartime', given by John Besley. Come and hear about a time of which many of us only have vague recollections, and some local history. There will be tea/coffee and a raffle. Everyone welcome. Visitors £2.

## **Stonesfield Gardening Club**

Last month's very interesting talk, by Sheena Patterson, gave us a real insight into the development of garden design and ways to enhance our own gardens.

On 11 May a speaker from Brideswell Organics will be at the Village Hall, 7.30pm. Raffle and refreshments. Everyone welcome. Visitors £2

*Rachael Naylor (891322)*

## **Women's Institute**

**(visitors always welcome)**

The Annual Meeting was held in March. Minutes of the 2008 Annual Meeting and the February 2009 meeting were read and signed.

The committee remains as for last year with only one resignation but with the addition of two new members. Officer posts of president, secretary and treasurer remain as before, with Anne Bishop acting at vice-president. Brian Plumridge has agreed to be our Independent Examiner for 2009-10 and we thank him for that.

It was decided that we are in a position to provide members with free 'News and Views' newsletters again this coming year. The treasurer presented her financial statement, which showed that we are in a stronger position at year ending 2008 than we were in 2007. The statement was adopted. The secretary read the committee's annual report detailing speakers and events over the last year. The report was adopted. The president's address thanked all those who had in any way helped to make it another successful year.

The winner of the year's competitions was Avis. The treasurer explained to the members that the money raised by voting on the competitions goes to CWW (Associated Countrywomen of the World) and helps those women in need around the world, for example providing a water pump or digging a well to gain access to clean water. Members were urged to consider entering the competitions. The meeting ended with a very noisy game of 'beetle', won by the president's table.

The May meeting is the resolutions meeting. Sheila Hallam will be explaining the one resolution to us and our decision will be taken to the National AGM by our delegate. Sheila will be bringing along samples of her patchwork to show to us in any time remaining after discussion of the resolution. You are welcome to attend this meeting should you so wish.

*Brenda Oliver (891330)*

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

At the invitation of the head teacher, staff and pupils, members visited the village school for afternoon tea and entertainment. We were met at the gate and escorted to the hall by the children. It was lovely to see the tables prepared ready for us, each with a beautiful flower arrangement made by the children. The tea, sandwiches, scones and cakes which everyone enjoyed were served by a young group of waiters and waitresses of a very high standard. After tea we were entertained by the school choir and also the dance group. Both were very enjoyable and it has to be said you could hear every word. Mrs Bagnall, her staff and the children are to be congratulated for giving us such a wonderful treat on the afternoon of April Fools Day. I would like to say a very big THANK YOU to everyone concerned. It was a joy to be present and to see such happy children. I am sure we all went away thinking how lucky Stonesfield is to have such a great village school.

On 9 April we met for our Easter Parade. It was good to see fourteen ladies with Easter bonnets and two gentlemen also wearing decorated hats (not bonnets). The winner of the bonnet parade was Jenny Buckingham and we were unable to separate the gentlemen, so both Cliff Godfrey and Graham Holloway were given a prize. Congratulations to you all and to all the other entrants. Well done. Final names and payment for the outing on 3 April were collected.

The winners of the egg search were Pam Bishop, Bridget Butler and Monica

Lambert and the lucky membership winners were Doreen Martin and Hebe Godfrey. This was the last lucky number for 2008/2009.

It is good to know that our treasurer collected 55 subscriptions for 2009/2010. If you are over 60 and would like to come along for a visit, you would be most welcome. Our May meeting on 14 May will be our Annual Meeting and our speaker will be George Hedges, a retired chief constable who will tell us a little about his police life, which started in Oxford. He will also tell us about ROSY, an Oxfordshire charity 'Respite Care for Oxfordshire Sick Youngsters'.

A busy April meeting ended with a delicious Easter tea, complete with hot cross buns prepared by the 'A' team. Thank you all again. What would I do without you? After the raffle we wended our way home after another happy afternoon.

*Best wishes to you all, Avis*

## **Stonesfield Craft Club**

The Craft Club met at the St James' Centre on 19 March (too late to post in the April Slate).

I showed everyone how to make pyramid or pyramage cards, which is done by cutting out the shapes and sticking them one on top of another in a pyramid fashion to make a card. The members were fascinated at how easy it was to make a really great card so easily. There were fourteen of us at the session, including two new members, whom we welcomed very warmly, and everyone went home with at least two cards which they had made.

The Craft Club met again on 2 April at the St James' Centre and this month's topic was exploding boxes. I showed everyone how easy it is to make these multi-layered cards, held together with a series of lids (a bit like Russian dolls). Everyone made a set of square boxes, followed by a set of triangular pyramid, square pyramid or hexagonal boxes. Once again the members were fascinated at how easy it was to make something that looks to

complex. We all had another fun-filled evening. There were nineteen of us, including one new member, whom we gave a very warm welcome.

Next month we will be meeting again at the St James' Centre on 7 May at 7.30pm and would be very pleased to see anyone who would like to join us in making cards using another crafting technique.

*Debbie Faulkner*

## Charities & good causes

### Milkman comes down to earth

On 31 May I am doing a parachute jump in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care. If you would like to sponsor me, please contact me either by phone or by email.

Thank you in anticipation.

*Tony Noble (milkman), mobile 07970 971996, email noble.windmill@virgin.net*

### Christian Aid

Christian Aid Week provides everyone in the village with an opportunity to support this worthwhile charity. Working through local, on-the-spot organisations, Christian Aid funds long-term development work, responds to emergencies and challenges the unjust systems that make and keep people poor. It gives help in more than 50 countries. Please support the following events:

**Christian Aid Service: Sunday 10 May, 11am, St James' Church**

A Christian Aid representative will speak about the charity's work.

**Sale: Saturday 16 May, 10am–12noon, St James' Centre**

Stalls of plants, cakes, new stationery and jewellery. Enjoy a cup of fairly traded coffee and decide what to buy!

Contributions of plants, cakes, jewellery and stationery/pens/CDs/new books will be gratefully accepted – please bring them to the Centre either on Friday 15 May between 6pm and 7pm or on Saturday 16 May from 9am.

**House-to-house Collection: 10–16 May**

Envelopes will be delivered at the beginning of Christian Aid week, and then collected a few days later.

If you are a taxpayer, please consider completing the Gift Aid form on the envelope – Christian Aid claims Gift Aid on donations of £2 or more.

*Lindsey Sellar*



**THE OXFORD SCHOOL OF DRAMA**

# As you like it

by William Shakespeare

**Wed 10–Sun 21  
June 2009, 7pm**

**The Pleasure Gardens**



**BLenheim PALACE**  
Britain's Greatest Palace

**Book tickets at: [www.blenheimpalace.com/tickets](http://www.blenheimpalace.com/tickets)**

**Enquiries: 01993 811091**

**Full price £14/concessions £10/children £7**

# Sport

## Stonesfield Tennis Club

Stonesfield Tennis Club is very friendly, and the standard of play is definitely non-threatening, so whether you fancy dusting off your old Green Flashes and Dunlop Maxply or polishing the latest carbon fibre racket we'd like to see you. The club offers coaching for children on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Friday night is adult Club night for 16 years old and above.

Not sure about joining? Why not come along and have a go on a Friday night and chat to some of the members. Membership is the lowest of any of the local clubs in the area at a measly £30 for adults! See the application form for full details. For all existing or lapsed members it's now time to renew your membership.

## AGM and social

The AGM will take place on Saturday 23 May at 8pm in the lounge bar of the Black Head. The committee operated in a very low-key way last year, and it is our intention to continue unless there are new, keen, members wanting to join the committee and organise events. The current committee are prepared to stand again. The AGM will be very short and will be followed by a social to kick off the season with a light-hearted quiz. Karen and Chris from the Black Head will be cooking up a scrumptious curry for just £5 per head. Please contact Richard Morris 898210 to say if you're coming so we have an idea of numbers.

## Wychwood League fixtures for 2009

We play in a very informal summer league, the Wychwood League, against local villages and are always looking for new players. Please contact Andy Tacon if you'd like to play.

- Sun 10 May: Moreton home – start 2pm
- Sun 7 June: Charlbury home – start 2pm
- Sat 13 June: Moreton away – start 2pm
- Sun 21 June: Shipton away – start 2pm
- Sun 5 July: Charlbury away – start 10.30am
- Sun 19 July: Ramsden home – start 2pm
- Sat 5 Sept: Shipton home – start 2pm
- Sun 27 Sept: Tournament at Shipton – 11.30am to 5pm

For more information contact any of the following:

### Membership secretary

Jill Rowlinson 01993 891346

### Secretary

Dennis Beasley 01993 891261

### Treasurer

Richard Morris 01993 898210

### Wychwood League

Andy Tacon 01993 891217

## Playing times

Courts are available on a first come first served basis for club members, on any day except Tuesday and Thursday afternoons between 4 and 6pm, which is reserved for junior coaching, and Friday evening after 5pm, which is adult club night. The courts are also open to non-members for a fee of £5 per court per hour.

## 2009 membership fees:

Juniors (under 16) £9, Adults £30, Families £55

## Membership renewal form

Please return the form below plus payment (cheques made payable to Stonesfield Tennis Club) to Jill Rowlinson, 5 Cockshoot Close, Stonesfield, OX29 8ED.

## Stonesfield Football Club

Avoidance of the use of the word 'relegation' is the footballing equivalent of the thesbian superstition of referring to Shakespeare's Macbeth as 'the Scottish play', in that its utterance is akin to tempting fate. Nonetheless, the so-called r-word has been stalking the corridors of The Football Club and lurking in the darkest recesses of The First Team dressing room in recent times as they've struggled at the foot of the table. Current results however, suggest that any worries of them dropping down a league (r-word

avoidance) seem to be easing as their form improves. The recovery seemed to begin with a very welcome victory (4-1) against Marston Saints. They were then plunged into the pit of despair once again, following a home defeat (3-2) to OUP. However, they then dispelled their demons with three hard-fought victories at home to Garsington (2-1), away at OUP (1-0) and at home to arch rivals Enstone (1-0) to raise themselves off the bottom and into mid-table. I have it on good authority that circulating rumours that this good fortune coincided with Steve Brookes, Paul Knight and Martin Hall dressing as witches and mixing an anti-r-word brew in the home dressing room are totally unfounded. Then again, those three never miss the opportunity to dress up . . .

'Recovery' is an appropriate r-word to describe the efforts of The Reserves in recent weeks. The month started with an all too familiar defeat (2-1) away at Broughton. Then came victory at home

### Stonesfield Tennis Club membership renewal form

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to Oakley (4-2) followed by a draw (1-1) with Charlton. This may seem like a mild recovery and indeed it is, but the win against Oakley was only their second in the league since the end of October and they are now well clear of the bottom slots in the league. The green shoots of recovery . . . ?

So, is there an r-word to describe the Vets efforts this month? I could pick several like 'rotten' or 'rubbish' but that would be cruel: 'reverse' would be more appropriate. After last month's all-conquering headline appearance in The Slate they occupy their usual slot following two defeats against Milton (4-1) and Chinnor (3-1) and a draw (0-0) with Witney Royals for the 'over 40s', while the 'over 35s' finished their

campaign with defeat (3-1) at Chinnor. Yes, they've finished the season in reverse, though they are still the village's favourite grumpy old men!

Finally, The Football Club would like to wish two of our stars well as they head off on their travels to New Zealand. Steve Smith is taking his young family to start a new life and fulfil a long held dream. Smudger, Tracey and Isla, you will be missed and everyone at Stonesfield FC wishes you every success and hope that all your aspirations and dreams come true. Pete Searle is also off to tour the same beautiful country: good luck Pete and we look forward to welcoming you back to The Shire in late summer.

*Tom Flanigan (891979)*

## 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

I hope you all had a wonderful Easter and that the celebrations went well for you and your family. The Easter church services were a great joy for me to take for the very first time and I believe there was a terrific sense of family that pervaded our worship together.

Easter of course is a time of new beginnings and on Easter morning at St Laurence in Combe we had the privilege of welcoming a new baby into our church community through baptism. Easter-day was always a traditional time for children to be baptised. Many thanks to the Gilleard family and particularly, too, to little Luc Christopher for allowing us to carry on such a splendid and meaningful tradition.

Little Luc's baptism reminded me that family, relationship and friendship are at the heart of our Christianity. Jesus came

at Christmas-time to join a family. His ministry amongst us was to establish the family of God, the church, and He assures us in the scriptures that we can expect, if we wish, a home and a family, in heaven in the future. In fact I am sure, just as we welcomed little Luc on Easter morning, so does God welcome us as we turn to Him as 'Our Father in Heaven'.

Some of us might have just joined the church and some may have been part of it for many years. For all of us it's certainly not easy at times, to be an ambassador for God's family in this world! It's sometimes difficult to stand and be counted for truth and for equity in these days of materialism and greed. So how can you and I do it? Well, the great thing about the church calendar is that it reminds us of so many truths about God's love for us. Christmas is God coming to live with us in the Christ-child. Easter is about The Lord repairing

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our lost relationship with the Father by dying for our sin on the cross. Pentecost, which is just around the corner on Sunday 31 May, reminds us that God has sent His Holy Spirit to give us the 'way with all', the strength to be ambassadors for Him in a world that sorely needs hope, love and care.

Pentecost, or Whit Sunday, many people would say, is the birthday of the church. God realised that we need help and encouragement and so He sent His Holy

Spirit. Pentecost completely changed the lives of the disciples then and has continued to change lives through to this very day. I am really looking forward to celebrating another major calendar event in God's church, with my new friends in Stonesfield and Combe. After all there's nothing like a good party. See you soon, and if you see me first, give me a wave. I will return the favour!

Yours in Christ

*Rev Roy*

### Sunday 3 May [Fourth Sunday of Easter]

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

### Sunday 10 May [Fifth Sunday of Easter & Christian Aid Sunday]

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

### Sunday 17 May [Sixth Sunday of Easter]

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 24 May [Ascension Day transferred]

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

### Sunday 31 May [Pentecost]

10am	Combe	United Benefice Communion Service [CW/sung]
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### Sunday 7 June [Trinity Sunday]

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

## Stonesfield Methodist Church

Dear Friends,

I am writing this in Holy Week because I shall be taking a few days off after the Easter weekend to recharge my batteries after a very busy time. I am also going to take a Sunday off, in common with many clergy who also take the Sunday after Easter as a holiday.

The Sunday is known as Low Sunday and marks the end of the Octave of Easter. You see, it's not called Low Sunday because there are no ministers around to take the services.

In fact there are some really interesting traditions around about the particular Sunday. In France it is associated with Quasimodo, the Hunchback of Notre Dame. It is on this day that he is found abandoned on the steps of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, taken in by the Church and named Quasimodo after the day, 'quasi modo' being the first words of the traditional introit for the day.

Although a work of fiction, by Victor Hugo, and a much abused story by Hollywood and Disney, it is in part the story of a church that cares for people and opens its doors to those in need.

In the Eastern Orthodox and Coptic churches it is known as Thomas Sunday. This commemorates the person we, in the West, know as Doubting Thomas for his refusal to believe in the resurrection of Jesus unless he had seen with his own eyes. For us Thomas becomes an example of our desire to always have things proved rather than being able to accept through faith.

In the East they think about Thomas in a

very different way. For them it is not about his doubting but much more about his confession of faith. He says to Jesus, 'my Lord and my God' and becomes the first to proclaim the two natures of Jesus – human and divine.

Also in the East the period between Easter Day and the following Sunday is known as Bright Week. It is seen as one continuous day, with church doors thrown open wide to celebrate the open and empty tomb. In Russia all the taverns were closed for the week, which may well account for the decline in maintaining the celebration.

The word 'low' is probably a corruption of the Latin 'Laudes' which means praises. So, even if I'm taking some time off I must not forget the importance of the day. To remember Thomas, sing my praises to God for all he has given to me and for all his blessings. To be reminded that I am called, along with us all, to be as much of Jesus as it is possible for me to be, reaching out into our world with the Good News of Jesus risen, alive and making a difference on our lives and the life of the world.

*With love, Richard*

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

### SERVICES FOR MAY

3 May	11am	Revd Michael Langley
10 May	11am	locally arranged
17 May	11am	Mr Keith Crawford
24 May	11am	Mr Philip Shaw MBE – Wesley Day
31 May	11am	Mr Anthony Richards – Pentecost

The 'Songs of Praise' Service, which took place on Sunday 29 March, produced some rousing and spirited singing. It also raised £300 for Osani-UK. An amazing result. Thank you.

### Roman Catholic Worship

#### St Teresa's Charlbury

Sunday Mass	11am
Holydays	9.30am
	7.30pm

#### St Kenelm's Church Enstone

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*Canon David Evans (01608 810576)*

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# Salon Copenhagen

3 Pendle Court, Pond Hill, Stonesfield OX29 8PZ  
Telephone (01993) 891101

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## **Unisex hairdressing salon in Stonesfield**

- *Styling, treatments and hairdressing advice*
- *Kathrine, Cheryl & Harriet, our fully trained professional stylists*
  - *A very friendly and welcoming atmosphere*
  - *The salon is modern and with the latest techniques*
    - *Ladies, gentlemen and children catered for*