

# The Stonesfield Slate

Issue No 386 October 2009



## Dates for your Diary

### October

1	Craft Club	St James' Centre	7.30pm
3	Pre-School Stay & Play	Pre-School	10am–11.30am
5	Methodist Church Harvest Supper		7pm
5	Village Hall AGM	Village Hall	8pm
8	Darby & Joan Club	Village Hall	1pm
8	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm
8	Allotment Association	Black Head	7.30pm
12	Gardening Club	Village Hall	7.30pm
15	Pre-School Cake Stall	Pendle Court	8.30am
18	Cecily's Fund concert	London Paladium	
20	Women's Institute	Village Hall	7.30pm
21	Stonesfield Society	Village Hall	8pm
29	Bingo	Sports & Social Club	7.30pm
31	British Legion Coffee Morning	13 Longore	10.30am
31	Halloween Party (under-7s)	Sports & Social Club	6–8pm
31	Halloween Disco (over-7s)	Village Hall	6–8pm
31	Halloween Disco (adults)	Village Hall	8pm

## Publishers

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*Editor for this month*  
Mark Saville

*Editor for November*  
Mark Saville (891769)

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*Ride-and-Striders outside  
the Methodist church on  
12 September (see p. 15)*



Photo: Alan Mordue

# Notices & thanks

## Flu clinics at Eynsham and Long Hanborough

This year the seasonal flu clinics for patients registered at these clinics will be starting on Saturday 3 October. Please contact reception on 01993 881330 or 01865 881206 to discuss making an appointment if you fall into any of these categories:

- You are aged 65 years and over
- Have asthma or lung disease
- Have heart disease
- Are diabetic
- Have a kidney problem
- Have a liver problem
- Have had a stroke
- Have an illness or are taking medicine that lowers the natural immune system

Please note that these clinics are for seasonal flu vaccinations only and will not be for swine flu vaccinations.

*Andy Benford, Eynsham Medical Group Practice Manager*

## British Legion Coffee Morning

Our annual coffee morning will be at 10.30am on Saturday 31 October at 13 Longore. There will be a cake stall, a bring-and-buy stall, and a raffle. All proceeds will be given to the Poppy Appeal. Come and support this very worthwhile cause.

Thank you.

*Avis Ushaw (898134)*

## London 10K run (for FSID)

As some people will know, it was James, my younger brother, who ran the race as Mum had not realised I would be away with school when she booked me in. He did brilliantly, finishing in 44 minutes and 42 seconds, faster than my time last year. I think being 'one of the young ones' and pushing up to the front row of 26,000 runners helped! So far we have raised around £250 for the Foundation of Sudden Infant Deaths (FSID), so a huge thank you to everyone who has donated. Next year the FSID is the London 10K nominated charity and they are hoping to get 1000 runners to run for them (a big jump from the 20 this year!). If anyone is interested, visit the British London 10K website or phone us on 891597. It's a great day with a great atmosphere – you get to see the sights of London on the way round while raising money for charity. Thank you again.

*Mark and James Minchin*

## Lost scooters

Lost: two black/red and yellow children's scooters. If you have found them please ring 891978.

*Sue Sansfield*

## Missing lights

Would the person or persons responsible for taking the garden lights from Avalon, Peaks Lane, during the night of 5 September please return them? Just leave

them inside the gate. This is the second time our lights have been stolen and we would be grateful if they could be returned as soon as possible.

*Ron Evins (891205)*

## Rescue news

The last two months have been very busy yet again with rescues coming in from local vets and surrounding counties. It seems that many of the rescue centres in these areas do not answer the phone late at night although they advertise a twenty-four hour service. However, we provide what we say we do and will always go out. We are getting more buzzards, kestrels and sparrowhawks than we used to, but although the year started badly with many barn owls coming in after being hit by cars, things seem to have improved. We will be donating owl and kestrel nest boxes again this time, so anyone who thinks they have a suitable site and have seen owls or kestrels please contact us so that we can come and have a look.

Becky, one of our volunteers who has been helping us for nearly two years and did her work experience with us, is going to college so we are looking for anyone who can help us with general cleaning, painting and maintenance. If you have an hour or maybe a couple of mornings or a day to spare, we would like to hear from you as Tom and I are working non-stop at the moment and really would be grateful of a helping hand. In return I will be happy to teach you how to handle and fly the owls and invite you to come to a show or help at one of the many talks I do all over the country.

At the CLA Game Fair we met some very

dedicated wildlife crime officers. Wildlife crime is a big problem and most of these officers only deal with wildlife crime on a part-time basis. We agreed to promote the work that these policemen do and I have a bag full of brochures which we are giving out at shows and talks. I am also hoping to arrange a talk by Simon Towers, a Wildlife Crime Officer, at the St James' Centre in the near future.

My brochure about helping owls in your local area has now been circulated to veterinary surgeries and I hope to put some into doctors surgeries and libraries as well. We have done more school visits this year than ever, which is very encouraging, as young children are going to be responsible for the future of these wonderful birds and indeed all of our wildlife. If you would like a brochure then give us a call.

*Chrissie and Tom Harper (891618)*

## Children's Halloween party for under-sevens . . .

There will be a Halloween party for children up to seven years old at the Sports & Social Club on Saturday 31 October, 6–8pm. £2 entry.

*Russell Shearer*

## . . . and a Halloween Disco for over-sevens . . .

On 31 October from 6 to 8pm there will be a disco in the Village Hall for children age seven and over. There will be lots of prizes to give away (including ones for fancy dress) and lots of games to play like apple bobbing. Tickets are £2 per person, so why not come along and have some fun?

## . . . and a Halloween Disco for adults

From 8pm onwards in the Village Hall (following the over-sevens disco) there will be a fancy dress disco for adults in aid of Cancer Research UK. Tickets are £5 per person. There will be a raffle on the night and prizes for the best fancy dress, so please come along and support this really worthwhile cause.

Tickets are now available for both events at the Village Hall. For further information please ring Scott on 07976 073764 or Elize on 898681. We would love to see as many of you there as possible!

## Down by the riverbank

What a shame that some of our summer visitors have felt the need to leave used disposable nappies by the riverbank, where they can be easily found by other people's children and dogs. Isn't that just a tiny bit selfish? I don't want to propose a wasp-laden rubbish bin down by the bridge (who would empty it?), but how about asking one of our talented artists to design a visitor-friendly sign for next year to say 'we need your help to keep this place lovely – please take your litter home'? Perhaps the Parish Council would like to sponsor it . . .

*Viv Kendall*

## More land for allotments!

At this time of harvest festival we are delighted to announce that the Parish Council has obtained permission to use a further plot of land as allotments adjacent to the Woodstock Road site.

We would like to offer our sincere thanks to the Parish Council for obtaining this land for the residents of the village. If you are currently on the waiting list for an allotment please come along to a meeting to discuss arrangements at the Black Head on Thursday 8 October at 7.30pm. If you are not currently on the waiting list but would like to be added to it, please let me know.

*Clare Bebbler, Stonesfield Allotment Association (891823)*

## Alexander Technique

NICE has recommended the Alexander Technique to doctors for the treatment of low back pain, in response to last year's publication of a major clinical study in the British Medical Journal. Come and find out more about the Technique at this introductory evening, which will include talks, demonstrations and hands-on 'taster' sessions with local teachers. 7.30–9.30pm, Friday 16 October, at the Friends' Meeting House, 43 St Giles, Oxford, OX1 3LW. More information at [www.alexox.com](http://www.alexox.com); [www.alexox.com/](http://www.alexox.com/) and [www.stat.org.uk](http://www.stat.org.uk); [www.stat.org.uk/](http://www.stat.org.uk/) Entry: £5 including home-baked refreshments. Enquiries to [info@alexox.com](mailto:info@alexox.com) or Patrick Ardagh-Walter on 898959.

## Gershwin's Crazy for You – and for Cecily's Fund

at The London Palladium on 18 October at 7.30pm with coach laid on!!

Thank you so much, all you loyal Stonesfield folk who came to show your ongoing support for Cecily's Fund and the education of AIDS orphans in Zambia. We had a wonderful afternoon

in the lovely gardens of the Manor and the sun shone! Our next venture is a charity performance of *Crazy for You*.

I'd like to explain the background to this London Palladium show. After Cecily died we established an annual prize in her memory at her school in the UK. This was to go to the sixth former who had contributed most to the overall life of the school. Suddenly in January this year a previous prize winner contacted us. Esther Biddle, who was 3 years below Cecily at school and had acted and sung with her, is now a professional actress and singer. Whilst at Bristol University she and her colleagues formed a vibrant theatre group, Eyebrow Productions which produces complete musicals. Since 2004, they have put on an annual one-night charity performance of a full-scale musical. This year it will be CRAZY FOR YOU at the LONDON PALLADIUM, and Esther has persuaded them that it should be for CECILY'S FUND!!!

It is incredible what they do. In April they advertise the plan and notify all the drama schools. In July for three weekends hundreds of young (and not so young) come for auditions. The final week of July is the recall and parts are given out. Huge organisational and individual learning activity takes place, but that's it, until 16 October – just 48 hours before the curtain goes up for the one performance. Everyone meets together on that Friday evening and works like MAD for 48 hours till they finally perform on the stage on the Sunday evening to all of us gasping in amazement at their extraordinary energy, skill and commitment.

Do not think the production will be amateurish. All give their services free,

but many of the cast and orchestra are professionals, and all have been carefully selected. It will be a fully staged, fully choreographed, fully costumed and utterly amazing performance of one of Gershwin's most loved shows for one night only. Last year the performance was in aid of the Anthony Nolan Trust, equally at the London Palladium. It took £50,000. This year all profits will go to Cecily's Fund. Tickets for the show itself cost £25, £30 or £35 and are available from [www.showtimechallenge.co.uk](http://www.showtimechallenge.co.uk) or 0844 412 4657 or the Palladium itself. If you are really stuck contact us!

I have organised a coach. The cost will be £10 return. It will start in Somerton, near Bicester at 4.30pm and will then pick up at 5pm at the Little Chef car park near the Pear Tree Park and Ride on the northern edge of Oxford and then at the bus stop on the A40 opposite Thornhill Park and Ride. If you are interested in supporting this evening do email or ring me. We have 2226 theatre seats to fill! It promises to be FANTASTIC and all profits will go to change children's lives. So we hope you can join us to celebrate this wonderful venture for the benefit of Zambian children whose lives will be transformed by an education.

*Alison Eastwood, Church End, Church St, Somerton OX25 6NB, tel 01869 345792 [stableyardalison@aol.com](mailto:stableyardalison@aol.com)*

## Christmas gifts

Gifts for 7 years and under may be found at Beech Glade (Manor Drive) any day after 10am. Make sure you are the first, with the largest choice.

*Olive Rudlin*

# Politics & local affairs

## Village Hall AGM

Just a reminder that the Village Hall Committee will be holding their AGM on Monday 5 October at 8pm in the Clubroom. As I said in the September *Slate*, we hope very much that users of the hall will attend, as we are looking for new recruits for the committee. We are looking for people who can help us reinvestigate our fundraising. We would particularly like to ask if there are any under-25s in the village who could suggest how best to open up the hall for better provision for our young people.

*Jenny Woolley*

## Parish Council

Council welcomed three members of the public, Mr Cliff Godfrey, Ms Ruth McCormac and Mr Dennis Beasley. Our County Councillor and District Councillor were both present.

The Chairman reported on the successful negotiations with Mr Pat Hunt regarding Council obtaining extra land for allotments. An area of cultivated land had been identified adjacent to the allotments off the Woodstock Road as potentially suitable. The Chairman and the Secretary of the Stonesfield Allotments Association inspected the site and expressed their pleasure. The Association will take possession of the plot at the end of the month and will be responsible for its allocation to members from their waiting list. Most, if not all, on that list will be accommodated.

## Planning Applications

*At the extra Council meeting on 13 August:*

Roselands, Woodstock Road: two storey side extension, removal of garage. Council had no objection.

Chipping Banks, Churchfields: two storey and single storey extensions. Council had no objection.

*10 September:*

Square Cottage, The Ridings: erection of detached carport/cycle store and change to access. Council had no objection.

3 Churchfields: front extension and first floor alteration to window. Council had no objection.

It was noted that the failed application for development of land behind Tyne Lodge would be subject to appeal. Council agreed that its initial report should be copied to the Inspectorate.

It was noted that three of the four boys responsible for damage of the stile on the Common had replied with their proportion of the cost of repair. The fourth would be contacted once more.

Council agreed unanimously to support the Community Trust in its attempts to prune/cut down conifers which have grown to a size which affects the safety of a Trust property.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Thursday 8 October in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

*Richard Bishop (891414)*

## Nominate a Neighbour

An initiative to protect vulnerable residents from bogus callers is being rolled out by the West Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership. The scheme involves people using a unique card if an unexpected caller comes to the door of an elderly or vulnerable person. The card refers the caller to a 'Nominated Neighbour' who can check if their identification is genuine. They will also be able to supervise the visit.

Bill Butcher, Crime Reduction Adviser for West Oxfordshire, said: 'The idea is that when an unexpected caller comes to the door the card should be passed through the letterbox, shown at a window or through the gap in a chained door. The occupant will be encouraged not to enter into a conversation with the caller but to just hand over or show the card. It is hoped this will deter a potential bogus caller immediately and they will leave the area. A genuine caller will not mind following the instructions on the card.'

Some of the excuses used to try and gain access to someone's home include:

- 'I need to check the water/turn the water off (I'm laying pipes up the road).'

- 'The water is unfit for drinking.'
- 'I've lost my football/kite/pet.'
- 'Can I use your toilet?'
- 'My car has broken down. Can I use your phone to call the recovery service?'
- 'Can I have a glass of water?'
- 'My mother's sick and I need money for a taxi.'
- 'Can I borrow a pen/a piece of paper to write a note?'
- 'I'm interested in buying books or antiques.'
- 'You've won a prize in a raffle – can I write down your details?'
- 'I'm from Age Concern – can I take down the number of your pension book?'

This list is just a sample and anyone who thinks the caller at their door isn't genuine should ring the police immediately. For more information on the Nominate a Neighbour scheme please telephone the Safer Communities Partnership on 01993 861640.

*Danielle Hilton, Partnership Communications Officer (01993 861640)*

# 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

## Pre-School news

### 'Stay & Play' Saturday

Are you a mum, dad, grandparent or carer at home on a Saturday morning looking after a baby, toddler or pre-schooler? Why not come along to Pre-School's 'Stay & Play' Saturday? On the first Saturday of each month commencing 3 October, Pre-School will be having an open morning from 10 to 11.30am for families with children up to the age of 11. There will be a variety of activities for the children and refreshments will be provided, so come along and join in the fun. You can socialise with other parents and carers over a coffee/tea and homemade cake! There will be a small charge of £1 per child to cover the costs of resources and refreshments. We look forward to seeing you there!

### Pre-School's outside area

Being outdoors allows the children to have plenty of fresh air and exercise, which is vital for their healthy development. We are continually

thinking of ingenious ways to make the most of our small outdoor space. For example the children enjoy large construction with milk crates, tyres and guttering, and they make dens, enclosures, towers, vehicles and obstacle courses. Have you noticed the green tarpaulin by our double gates? This often serves as an outdoor den on rainy days or a sheltered book corner in the summer. The list is endless and continues to grow with the children's interests.

We would like to create a small natural area in the garden with raised beds for planting, including a smelly bed with lavender for a multisensory experience, insect houses and a natural seating area with a storytelling seat. This would give the children a quiet place to sit, watch, read, hide or talk with their friends. We are keen for the improvement of our outdoor area to be seen as a community project. Most of the children who attend Pre-School live in the village and Pre-School is their first experience into the big wide world. Can you offer us any guidance or resources to help? Our children deserve the best environment we can give them to grow and develop.

*Lizzie Wharton*

### Information from the Committee

In order to assist in our staff's vision for the children's outside area, our aim this autumn is to replace the outdoor surface area at Pre-School. This will provide a tidier, safer surface that will be easier to maintain and enable children to play

outside all year round. We would like to border this with some railway sleepers and plants – can anyone help with these? We are also looking for a taskforce to help on the weekend of 23, 24 and 25 October to remove the old carpeted surface and prepare the area for the new wet pore surface. If you would like to help please contact Jenny Woolley ([jenny@stonesfield.com](mailto:jenny@stonesfield.com)) or phone 898517.

## Ofsted's visit to Stonesfield

As many of you in the community are aware, Ofsted, the school inspectors, arrived at Stonesfield School at the end of June. After a most rigorous inspection, I am delighted to report that the school was judged to be a good and improving school and I thought I would include the following quote from the inspection report:

'A particularly noteworthy feature of the school is the pupils' outstanding personal development and well-being. The strong family feel that permeates all aspects of the school's work stems from the very effective promotion of pupils' social awareness and the excellent quality of the pastoral care provided. Pupils' impeccable behaviour contributes strongly to the culture for learning that is a feature of all classes. They work and play together very well. The school's high attendance rate reflects pupils' real enthusiasm for all aspects of school life.'

I think this sums up what the Governing Body feel is special about Stonesfield School and what we believe is at the heart of a good school. If you would like to read the full report, there is a link to it

from the school website, [www.stonesfield.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.stonesfield.oxon.sch.uk)

Thank you to all the staff for their hard work and dedication, which this report has recognised. I will leave you with an extract from the letter that the Lead Inspector wrote to all pupils:

- You learn well in lessons and make good progress because you are taught well.
- This year, the standards of work produced in Year 6 are above average. Well done, you should be really proud of your achievements!
- You develop your personal skills extremely well. This is important in helping you to become good citizens in the future.
- We were impressed by your excellent behaviour and the way you get on really well with each other.
- You enjoy and learn a lot from the interesting and exciting activities your teachers plan for you, such as the 'Dragons' Den' project for Year 6.
- All of the adults in your school make sure that you are well looked after.
- Your headteacher and the people who help manage your school are doing a good job.

*Helen Dancer, Chair of Governors*

## Oxfordshire Museum Garden Gallery

Until 18 October: *Some Like it Hot!* The British Society of Enamellers exhibition features jewellery, panels and vessels of the highest quality made by the country's

leading enamellers. Many items are for sale.

### Art in Woodstock

24 October to 15 November: *The Uncommon Reader: Fifty Years of Textual Intercourse* (Tom Phillips RA). Tom Phillips is well known for works that combine text with image. Also included in the exhibition are portraits of some modern writers.

### Treasures Gallery

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

### Picture Gallery

From 26 September: *Soldiers of Oxfordshire: Winston Churchill – Oxfordshire Hussar 1901–1965.* An exhibition of largely unpublished material.

### Friends Lecture

*The History of Thatch and Bread:* John Letts. Monthly evening lecture in the Coach House. Wednesday 7 October at 7.30pm.

### Finds Identification Service

On the first Wednesday of each month, Anni Byard, Finds Liaison Officer will be in the Learning Centre, 2–4pm. Telephone 01993 814103.

### Dinosaur Garden

Dinosaur footprints found at Ardley Quarry plus a full size replica Megalosaur, set in the walled garden with lush Jurassic planting.

### Workshops for 8–12 year-olds

Monday 26 October 2–4pm: *An Illustrator's Storyboard.* Illustrate part of a ghost story using pen, ink and wash techniques.

Wednesday 28 October 2–4pm: *Mona Lisa Portrait Workshop.* Collage workshop reinterpreting the portrait of the Mona Lisa.

Thursday 29 October 10–12noon: *Aboriginal Designs.* Choose an animal, make a design.

Friday 30 October 10–12noon: *Landscape Painting.* Learn the techniques to turn your favourite views into a painting.

Saturday 31 October 10–12noon: *Pop-up Poetry.* Illustrate part of a Roald Dahl poem in a surprising pop-up way.

### Workshops for 13–18 year-olds

Tuesday 27 October 10–12noon: *Working the Surface.* Explore textured surfaces and use them to create a fantasy landscape.

Friday 30 October 2–4pm: *Graffiti Portraits Workshop.* Working in pairs, on 4'x5' paper, trace each other's outline.

Saturday 31 October 2–4pm: *A Mysterious Landscape.* Set up your own mysterious landscape.

### Adult Workshops

Monday 26 October 10–12noon: *Come and Draw.* No experience necessary.

Wednesday 28 October 10–12noon: *The Costumed Figure.* Develop your skills to capture a likeness from a clothed model. Please bring a drawing board and easel if you have one.

All workshops £5 per person. Booking form on the Art in Woodstock website or telephone 01993 814106.

### Free Family Drop-ins

Free – no need to book just drop in between 2 and 4pm. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Tuesday 27 October 2–4pm: *Galleries to Go.* Create your own mini art gallery.

Thursday 29 October 2–4pm: *Full of Character.* Create a funny face – invent your own character.

### Museum Opening Times

The museum opening hours are Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 5pm, Sundays 2 to 5pm. Last admission 4.45pm. Closed on Mondays. Free admission. For further information telephone 01993 811456.

### A Concert for Saakshar

On Saturday 3 October at 7.30pm in St Mary Magdalene Church, Woodstock, The Cambridge Chamber Consort will present a concert in support of Saakshar, an inspiring initiative to raise the quality of life for young people in the slums of Delhi (see September's *Slate*). The programme will include Fauré's *Requiem* and the five negro spirituals from Tippett's *A Child of our Time*, as well as close harmony and folk song arrangements. For the Fauré *Requiem* the choir will be joined by Judith Henderson (Violin) and Ben Sheen (Organ).

For further information please call Tanya Simpson on 891903. Tickets are also available from The Woodstock Bookshop (812760). Ticket prices include a glass of wine in the interval and a viewing of photography by Ralph Williamson. Prices: in advance £10 (£8 concessions, £5 under 16s); on the door £11 (£9 concessions, £6 under 16s).

### October at the Woodstock Bookshop

Several customers have asked whether we know of any local bookgroups they could

join. There are a great many, some of which are private groups and some already have many members and a waiting list. The Woodstock Bookshop will hold an open evening on Monday 5 October at 7pm for anyone interested in forming a new Book Club. Everyone is welcome – please ring or email before to let us know if you are planning to come or if you are interested in being part of a Book Club but are not able to attend that evening.

The Woodstock Bookshop is organising two readings during October: Mini Grey, the children's illustrator and author, will give an informal reading of her latest books at The Oxfordshire Museum in the Coach House on Sunday 11 October at 3pm (£2 per child), and Patrick Gale, whose *Notes From an Exhibition* has been such a huge success, will talk at the shop on Monday 12 October at 7.30pm. Tickets for Patrick's talk are £4 and should be booked in advance at the shop; the £4 is refundable if you buy a copy of any of Patrick's books on the night.

Rachel Phipps (812760)

### Marlborough Community Learning

Our autumn programme is now available and we are once again running many courses at various times and on various days – evenings, afternoons and weekends. These include painting and drawing, pottery, mosaics, business, IT, adult literacy and numeracy, sport, dance, languages and many other subjects. Have a look at our autumn brochure available in shops, post offices and libraries. Most of the courses still have places available. If

you would like a free copy please telephone 01993 813592 or email comed.4560@marlborough.oxon.sch.uk

We also run a School's Out programme for every school holiday (apart from bank holidays). The cost is £15 per day or £70 per week. Family tickets (up to four

children from the same family) are £40 per day and £160 per week. Financial help is available, and we accept childcare vouchers. A large number of activities are on offer.

*Jenny Bodinham, Administrator - Extended Services (813592)*

# Clubs & societies

## Stonesfield Society

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 21 October at 8pm in the Village Hall Clubroom. Dr Simon Townley will give an illustrated talk about Burford and its buildings. Tea and coffee will be served after the talk, and there will be a raffle. Everyone welcome. Entrance £2.

*Jennifer Powell (891303)*

## Stonesfield Gardening Club

Timothy Walker, Director of Oxford Botanical Gardens, is our speaker for Monday 12 October. His interesting presentation is on *Tales from a Small Garden* at the Village Hall at 7.30 pm. There will be refreshments and a raffle. Visitors £2, everyone welcome!

*Wendy Gould (898091)*

## Women's Institute

(visitors always welcome)

The evening of 18 August was one of the better ones in this disappointing so-called 'barbecue summer' and for the first time in years we were able to enjoy our supper outside in the President's garden. The President cooked the barbeque food and the committee provided salads and desserts. Muriel Penry did sterling work serving the wine and soft drinks and we were able to linger outside eating, drinking and chatting until the light faded. We rounded off the evening in the conservatory, where the raffle was drawn, with Avis's ticket being the first out of the hat.

We had enjoyed a very pleasant evening and thank Avis and Alan, their helpers and the committee for making it possible.

The speaker at the October meeting will be Derek Parkes who will present a talk entitled 'An Actor's Life for Me!'

*Brenda Oliver (891330)*

## Over 60s Darby & Joan Club

Our September meeting was a busy one. We began by collecting the payments for the various forthcoming events. Please note the Harvest/Ploughmans Lunch on 8 October will begin at 1pm. If you have not already booked please let either Avis or Diana know by 5 October. Our visit to Bashley Park in Hampshire for the Music Hall is on Tuesday 3 November, not as shown in the September Slate. Final payments for this outing will be collected in October.

We then heard about circle dancing from Mary Perryman, who was able to tell us about her visits to other countries and their ways of dancing. Members were invited to join in and have a go. Some of us were brave enough to try and we managed a few dances of the gentle variety – nothing too energetic. Imagine dancing in different languages! Well done ladies.

One of our members, Joyce Beveridge, had her 90th birthday the day before our meeting and a celebration tea was served by the 'A' Team and enjoyed by all. Joyce cut the birthday cake, which was then



## The Black Head

Stonesfield



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**YOUR PUB NEEDS YOU!**

*Events Calendar*

**CHURCH STREET, STONESFIELD**

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<p><b>Quiz Night</b> Wednesday 28 October from 8pm. Two quiz rounds plus picture round to do during the evening. Cash prizes. Free supper. Quiz entry: £2 per person.</p>	<p><b>Ladies Cinema Night</b> Tuesday 13 October from 8pm. This month's film: <i>Bridget Jones – Edge of Reason.</i> Free glass of champagne.</p>	<p><b>Curry Nights</b> Friday 2, 16 and 30 October from 8pm. Choose from a selection of fine curries &amp; accompaniments. Buffet style, £6 per person.</p>
<p><b>Next Darts Competition</b> Continues Friday 9 October, 7.30pm sharp: 'The Black Head Cup.' Call or pop in for details to get on the Darts Ladder.</p>	<p><b>Saturday Full English Breakfast</b> Will recommence in November</p>	<p><b>Look out for 'Chinese Nights'</b> (coming soon)</p>

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Tel: 01993 891387

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

*Lunches & evening meals (excluding events) suspended until further notice.*

passed round. A big thank you to Derek for his generosity. We had a lovely party which we hope they both enjoyed.

It was a pleasure to welcome Ruby Strudwick to our meeting and I am pleased to say she is coming again next month. It was lovely to have you with us Ruby. As usual we ended the afternoon with the raffle. Another happy afternoon. Don't forget the Lunch is at 1pm and will be followed by a talk and slides about Deer in Britain given by Ronald Perkins.

*Avis Ushaw (898134)*

### **North Leigh History Group**

On Tuesday 6 October at the North Leigh Memorial Hall at 7.30pm there will be a talk by Richard Andrews entitled New Archaeological finds at Burford Priory. Visitors £2, Members free. All welcome. Contact Diana Power on 882301 for further details.

### **Craft Club**

The Craft Club met on Thursday 3 September at the St James' Centre. This month's topic was to make a card with an embroidered bell. The seven of us at the session began by attaching a piece of card to a pricking mat, then attaching a laminated pattern to the card. We then pricked the dots through the laminated pattern to transfer the shape. We chose the embroidery thread and stitched the card, counting the holes as we went from the instruction sheet. When the stitching was finished we matted and layered the card, then finished it with a bow at the top of the bell. It really was quite easy and fascinating to watch the bell take shape.

Everyone made at least two cards each, and once again we were mesmerised at how easy it is to make cards that look so very effective. We all had another fun-filled evening.

Next month on Thursday 1 October we will be meeting at St James' Centre 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*

### **Bingo**

Eyes down at 7.30pm on Thursday 29 October at the Sports & Social Club. Advance notice for the next Bingo on 26 November.

*Russell Shearer*

### **Stonesfield Players Safari Supper**

We're holding a Safari Supper on Saturday 21 November – we'll meet for starters at 7pm then begin our Safari around the village, splitting up into different groups for main courses and puddings at different venues, before all meeting up again for coffee to round off the evening. Tickets cost £12 – phone Ros Mengech on 898276 if you'd like to join us. We welcome members of the Players, ex-members, prospective members and anyone else who'd like to take part!

Membership subscriptions are due and have been advertised in our newsletter to members. If your membership has lapsed and you'd like to rejoin, please contact Becki Sherlaw-Johnson on 891318.

*Nicky Holland*

# Charities & good causes

### **Operation Christmas Child**

We will soon be collecting for the Shoe Box Appeal. Any gift – whether it's a tube of toothpaste, a knitted hat, a small toy or a full shoe box – will help to bring the joy of Christmas to a child, a family, and a community. Please take your donations to High Street Methodist Church, Witney (tel: 01993 709874). A box will be provided in the coffee shop area.

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

24 October to 7 November

I have the privilege of relieving Frank Hall in the role of Royal British Legion Honorary Poppy Organiser for Stonesfield. No doubt many of you will be aware that Frank has been the organiser for some forty years and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for the magnificent job he has done. He has given me great encouragement and support during the changeover and is on hand should I need help. Therefore it is very much business as usual.

As you are no doubt aware our troops continue to suffer heavy losses in Afghanistan. Whilst the numbers killed are relatively low, the numbers of seriously injured are very high. Sadly the numbers continue to increase.

Whatever people's personal feelings are about this and other conflicts I would urge you all to consider that soldiers do

not start wars. Wars are started by politicians and as we all subscribe to the democratic process the soldiers are, ultimately, carrying out our wishes. That the troops should expect and receive our support should be a given.

The Royal British Legion continues to support our troops and their families as they have done since 1921. I would therefore ask that the people of Stonesfield support this year's Poppy Appeal and give generously to our collectors when they pay you a call. Thank you.

*David Brown (891433)*

### **The Ride and Stride**

Once again we were blessed with glorious weather for the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride on 12 September. A total of ten riders and striders took part and between them they raised the magnificent sum of £1175 in sponsorship money in aid of the upkeep of our historic churches. This includes £577 raised by two riders for the Methodist church, John Evins and David Markham, the latter riding for the Trust for the first time. Thanks are due to the riders and striders who took part, those who sat in the two churches in the village welcoming visitors and above all the sponsors who gave so generously – in spite of the difficult economic climate. Many thanks to you all.

*Simon Haviland, Parish Organiser (891614)*

# Sport

## Ladies' Volleyball

Looking for an hour of relaxation/fun and sport? Try volleyball! All you have to be is over 18 and not take the game too seriously. If this is you then please come along to the Village Hall at 7pm on

Thursdays. Cost £1.50. Previous experience is not essential as we are all different standards, and it is a fairly easy game to pick up.

*Helen Taylor*



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# 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 almost feel like saying this is from your correspondent in Singapore! It may be getting cooler in the UK but here in Singapore sitting in my brother's house it's very hot. Bev and I are here for two weeks to catch up with my brother and his wife Carol and re-live some old memories and visit new sights and places. The temperature is around 30 degrees, but I am not complaining. Our thoughts back home of course are beginning to turn towards harvest time and thanking God once again for making our crops grow as we reap the harvest for yet another year.

My brother tells me that the rainy season will be here soon and then they will know that Christmas is getting nearer. The first monsoon rains come from the south-west and this heralds the winter. In the first quarter of next year the

monsoons will return from the other direction and deluge Singapore once again to herald the coming of spring. I have already seen it rain here and it's almost like walking into a power shower but again, I have to say, I am not complaining!

As I began thinking about all of God's seasons here in Singapore, a piece of scripture came to mind where we are reminded that there's a season for everything in our lives. Ecclesiastes chapter 3 verses 1–7 reminds us that there's a time and season for every purpose under heaven and reads as follows:

1: There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens. 2: A time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot. 3: A time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to

build. 4: A time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance. 5: A time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain. 6: A time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away. 7: A time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak.

Monsoons are not mentioned but sometimes in our lives we may feel as though we are getting drenched with troubles or difficulties. But let's be reminded, comforted and even encouraged by what the scriptures tell us, that there is a time and season for every purpose under Heaven. God bless.

*Rev Roy*

## SERVICES FOR OCTOBER

### Sunday 4 October [Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity]

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

### Sunday 11 October [Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity]

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

### Sunday 18 October [Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity]

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [BCP/said]
11am	Combe Longa	Harvest Festival [sung]
11am	Stonesfield	Morning Prayer [CW/sung] with Scramblers and Explorers

### Sunday 25 October [Last Sunday after Trinity]

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

### Sunday 1 November [All Saints' Day]

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,  
 'It's a wonderful world', so sang Louis Armstrong in the famous song. It's true of course but so often we don't realise the truth. The latest pictures from the Hubble Telescope remind us of how ignorant we really are about the nature of creation. Every time I look at them I am reminded of how wonderful it all is.

I do not know what you believe about the climate change issue. There seem to be many differing stances that we can each take. There is, for me, a sense in which it doesn't matter if we believe the worst possible predications or if we are sceptical, even unbelieving. Here is a truth that we can all surely sign up to. We are members of the human race living on a planet of finite resources. David Attenborough says that the population of the world has tripled in the 50 years he has been a broadcaster.

We each have a responsibility for our bit of the planet – what I believe to be God's creation. To care for and nurture it so that this wonderful world continues to provide not just for us but for all people.

What better time to remember the state of our planet than at harvest. As we enjoy the bounty that is ours let us

commit ourselves to the future of our world for all the human race.

Happy harvest,

*Richard*

*Richard Donoghue, Methodist Minister (01993 703178)*

*richard.donoghue@methodist.org.uk*

## SERVICES IN OCTOBER:

Sunday 4 October, Harvest Festival

11am	David Sarbutts
6pm	Revd Roy Turner

Sunday 11 October

11am	Revd Elgin Crewe
------	------------------

Sunday 18 October

11am	Phil Shaw
------	-----------

Sunday 25 October, Holy Communion

11am	Revd Richard Donoghue
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## Roman Catholic Worship

### St Teresa's, Charlbury

Sunday Mass	11am
Holydays	9.30am
	7.30pm

### St Kenelm's, Enstone

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

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