

The Stonesfield Slate

Issue No 474 October 2017



Dates for your diary – October

2,9,16	Monday Coffee	St James' Centre	8.45–10am
2,9,16,23,30	Cuppa	St James' Centre	10–11.30am.
4	Lunch Club Open lunch	St James' Centre	12.15pm
5,12,19,26	Book Break	Stonesfield Library	12.30–2pm
8	ChOC Sully	Memorial Hall, Charlbury	7.30pm
9	Gardening Club talk	St James' Centre	7.30pm
10	Flu clinic (Woodstock surgery)	VH Clubroom	2–2.30pm
12	Darby & Joan Lunch	Village Hall	1pm
12	Parish Council meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm
14	Christmas shoeboxes	St James' Centre	2–4pm
14	Local band <i>Freefall</i>	Sports & Social Club	8pm
20	FoSS Spooktacular Halloween Disco	Village Hall	4–5.30pm
24	Treasure Box	St James' Centre	10.30am–12noon
29	Andy Crawford match	Playing field	2pm

Publishers

Simon & Jenny Haviland
Peakes House, Peaks Lane,
Stonesfield, Witney,
Oxon OX29 8PY
(tel 891614, email
sj@sjhaviland.co.uk)

Editor for this issue

Dale Morris (898210)

Editor for November

Rosemary Cleaver
(891204)

Printer

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

Please email copy to
slate@stonesfield.com
or hand it in at the village
shop (Suriya Express).
Advertisements to
sj@sjhaviland.co.uk



Photo: Caroline Friend

Villagers demonstrating against the CALA Homes development on 31 August

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Notices

Appreciation

Like our old friends Tony and Sally Vaux, we too would like to say how much we appreciate receiving the Slate every month. We read it avidly and with nostalgia. We came to Stonesfield in 1963 and our four children grew up in the village. Some of the names in the *Slate* we remember, many we do not recognize now, but we send our love and thanks to you all. There is no other village like it!

*Richard and Patricia Chancellor,
Old Buckenham, Norfolk*

Sustainable Stonesfield

WODC Planners were met by a crowd of residents when they arrived in Stonesfield on 31 August. Over 60 people turned out to demonstrate their objection to the proposed development by CALA Homes. The entrance to the site on Woodstock Road was thronged with villagers waving banners and carrying placards: 'Respect the AONB'; 'CALAmity'; 'Unsustainable!'.

Two representatives of Sustainable Stonesfield welcomed the planners and thanked them for taking the trouble to make a second inspection of the site.

We have now heard that the planning committee won't discuss any of the three Stonesfield sites – North Farm, CALA or Pye Phase 2 – until November/December, when the Inspector should have reported on the modified WODC Plan 2031.

Would you like to join Sustainable

Stonesfield to get emails and information? No fee, no hassle. There are already 150 members who have joined because they want to hear the latest news and help if they can. Use the sign-up form at: <http://eepurl.com/cJI4bj>

Caroline Friend, Sustainable Stonesfield

Freddie – black cat

I thank the lady who kindly took Freddie, who was in a car accident on 16 August, to the vet's. After looking for him for several days, I discovered where he was. Thank you.

Muriel Ashdown

Club for classic car owners

If anyone is interested in the idea of joining a club for classic car owners in Stonesfield, would they please get in touch?

*Noel Mantock (noelmantock@gmail.com;
07976 697117)*

Apple Pressing

As many of you may know, for the past two years we have invited people in the village to come to an apple pressing day in the village. Unfortunately this year we are unable to arrange this. However, we still have all the necessary equipment, so if anyone would like to borrow a crusher and press, please get in touch with us.

Contact Mike or Rosemary on 891204 or email: mail@marcleaver.com

Andy Crawford Memorial match

As many of you will know, Andy Crawford was sadly taken from us in May of this year in tragic circumstances. Andy was a great friend of our football club and played an integral part in the Stonesfield INVINCIBLES side of season 2002–03, who won the Witney & District Division 1 without losing a game. Andy was a hard, no-nonsense type of player but was always fair. In fact, he graced the field that he tended with the utmost care and dedication. The quality of our current playing field for both football and cricket is due in no small part to Andy's skills and knowledge as a groundsman, which he shared freely with others.

In honour of Andy's life, friendship and unstinting dedication, the football club will be holding a memorial match on Andy's playing field between a Stonesfield Legends select and a Woodstock select on Sunday 29 October, where a collection will be taken and donated to the charity 'Oxford Mind' in Andy's Memory. The football club would be delighted to see a large crowd in attendance to honour Andy's contribution to sports in our village.

Tom Flanigan (891979)

Pop-up Folk

The next Pop-up Folk evening will be a joint venture between Pop-up Folk and Finstock's Evenlode Folk. The legendary Gordon Giltrap, who is one of the UK's most respected guitarists, will join forces with Stonesfield's guitarist and composer Nick Hooper in an evening of shared music-making. *Gordon Giltrap is one of an*

elite few who truly have become legendary in their field in their own lifetime. (Brian May)

Saturday 25 November 2017, Finstock Village Hall, OX7 3BU. Doors open 7.30pm for 8pm start. Tickets £10: advance booking is advised, and tickets are available at <http://www.wegotickets.com/event/410608>

Judith Hooper (898604)

Woodstock Surgery Flu Clinic at Stonesfield

Reminder: the **Stonesfield Flu Clinic** will be on Tuesday 10 October at 2–2.30pm in the Village Hall club room. Please advise the surgery beforehand if you wish to attend this clinic.

Christmas Shoeboxes

Come and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and cake on Saturday 14 October, from 2pm to 4pm in the St James' Centre and help fill boxes with items which will bring happiness to a child who would otherwise receive nothing at Christmas.

Please bring along any of the following items: small cuddly toy, ball, skipping rope, toy car, woolly hat, gloves, crayons, notebook, pencils, soap, comb, toothpaste etc. Empty shoeboxes are also needed.

This year our boxes will go to both Operation Christmas Child (operationchristmaschild.org.uk) and Teams4U.

If you would like more details or leaflets, please contact Kathleen Albert (891733) or Muriel Barrett (891479).

Lights at Traffic Calming in Woodstock Road – Sign the Petition

Many of you will be aware that lighting is planned to accompany the new traffic-calming layout at the start of Woodstock Road. Residents have indicated their dismay at the introduction of lights to the village in view of the strong feelings expressed in earlier consultations that Stonesfield should remain traffic light free. The reasons for this include:

- Villagers value their dark skies – especially residents interested in astronomy and wildlife.
- Villagers object to urbanisation – we are not a suburb.
- Villagers object to the unacceptable aesthetic impact of street lights.
- Street lights are not needed and would be an unnecessary waste of resources.
- Light pollution is too prevalent and should be avoided where possible.

I have set up a petition to send to the Parish Council. This can be accessed electronically at <https://sites.google.com/wychward.co.uk/traffic-calming-lights/home> [1] or you can sign it at the village shop.

I have written to the Parish Council asking them to request the County Council to change the type of traffic calming to a light-free style and alerting them that a petition is to be expected. A speedy sign-up from you would be great; I will update the Parish Council on its progress as soon as possible, hopefully by

their October meeting. Thank you for your support.

Sue Corrigan

Half-Term Treasure Box

The Treasure Box will open on Tuesday 24 October from 10.30am to 12noon in the St James' Centre. All children are welcome to come along and join in games, songs and craft activities based on a Christian theme. Children aged 3 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Parents/grandparents of older children are welcome to stay, too.

Further details from Muriel Barrett (891479)

Computer Security

711 million email addresses have been stolen by a 'spambot', a program that collects addresses to build huge mailing lists for spam. It also spreads a malware that steals banking details. When I checked I found that mine had been stolen. To find out whether you have a problem go to <https://haveibeenpwned.com/> and type in your email address, clicking the button to the right of the box. If the response is 'Oh no – pawned!' change your email address password and the passwords for your online banking. The article appeared in the current edition of *Computer Active*, a simple magazine for ordinary computer users.

Since you will often see spoof messages like this on Facebook, please feel free to ring if you want confirmation that this message is genuine.

Patrick Wilmore (891763)

Politics & local affairs

A personal view

I walked the Oxfordshire Way from Blenheim to Stonesfield yesterday. The view from this track is of conspicuous red and black roofs (William Buckland Way – Pye development). In my opinion, it is inexplicable that these inappropriate building materials and house types have been permitted in the Cotswolds AONB, in Stonesfield. Will the houses be screened by trees?

Many people were unaware of the scale and design of the Pye estate until it was too late. If others (e.g. CALA) argue that this has established a precedent, the response should be 'enough is enough'.

Developers appear to be treating this small village like a town, proposing urban anywhere-houses, with little reference to vernacular styles, setting, landscape, or existing properties. Nor do they meet actual local housing needs. There appears little care for the local community, nor sensitivity to nearby residents whose quality of life is impacted by overdominant development.

How to have your say? Share information via the *Slate*, and sign up for alerts directly from Sustainable Stonesfield (<http://eepurl.com/cJI4bj>); from the Parish Council (<http://eepurl.com/bqfvVf>); and from WODC. There is also Nextdoor Stonesfield (email network, c.200 members so far), useful for speedy communication within the village.

Parish Council meetings are open to all,

and are an opportunity to meet Parish, District and County Councillors. Write to Robert Courts, MP. You can read his views at robertcourts.co.uk/housingandplanning.

Ruth Maccormac

Parish Council

CALA & Pye Developments

CALA Homes have submitted amended plans to their application for sixty-eight units off Woodstock Road. These can be viewed by going to www.westoxon.gov.uk and viewing Planning Applications reference 17/01670/FUL. There is no drop in the number of units and the buffer area has been increased on the eastern boundary. A site visit was made at the end of August and we do not yet have a date for this application to come before the Planning Committee. Negotiations are ongoing between SPC, Sustainable Stonesfield and the Chief Planning Officer at WODC.

We have no more information relating to the new Pye Homes Phase 2 scheme.

The North Farm development is unlikely to receive permission in its current form and may involve a larger scheme to include affordable homes. This is still very much at the drawing-board stage.

Mobile Phone Mast

We are awaiting approval of the planning application for the new position of the mast.

Changes to DIY Charging at Household Waste Recycling Centres

From Sunday 1 October, the charges for the disposal of non-household waste are changing to a small fixed fee of £1.50 per item for most non-household or DIY items. For further information go to www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/chargeablewaste

What is non-household waste? Non-household or DIY waste items are generally materials created from the construction, demolition, alteration or repair of a home or garden. For example, sink, bath, kitchen unit, radiator, fence panel, bag of soil or rubble etc. These items are classified as construction waste, not household waste.

The disposal of these items is expensive and a small charge is made to cover the costs. Household Waste can still be disposed of free of charge at any of the county's Household Recycling Centres.

Remember from 1 October to use your new blue top recycling wheelie bins! Recycling and garden waste will be collected every other week, alternating with the household waste bins. The old black box is to be used for glass bottles and jars and will be collected on the recycling day. If you have not yet received your new bin, please tell WODC online at www.westoxon.gov.uk/bins2017 or by calling 01993 861025. For further detailed information please visit www.westoxon.gov.uk/bins

New Bus Service into Stonesfield

The S7 running via Water Eaton for Parkway Station and Banbury Road, Summertown, as well as the S3 bus are servicing Stonesfield. Please remember to check both S3 and S7 service timetables

when planning your journey into Oxford as the new timetable is not combined.

Reminder to register with the Clerk to receive SPC alerts by email

The next Parish Council Meeting will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 12 October at the Village Hall. All residents are invited to attend.

*Gill Hill, Parish Clerk
(stonesfieldpc@gmail.com)*

West Oxon District Council

Firstly, I must thank all those villagers who represented the views of Stonesfield residents on the occasion of the WODC site visit by members of the Uplands Planning Committee. It was good to see so many with the official 'CALAmity' banners and posters. It may have seemed as though the councillors were indifferent to you all because of the very distinct protocol surrounding such occasions. Let me say now that we on the planning forum are very aware of the views and objections which attach particularly to development proposals within the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The strength of feeling apparent on that morning cannot but help to reinforce the over 200 objections which District has received. Incidentally, it also makes my task of introducing the application on your behalf so much easier. Although I speak as only one of twelve councillors responsible for the eventual decision, the sitting member's views do carry weight, especially if they are seconded by the other sitting member, Charles Cottrell-Dormer. Members of the village community will be speaking at the planning meeting and, I am sure, will

pull no punches in elaborating on their views regarding the strength of opposition.

In my last report to the villages of Stonesfield and Combe I stated my intention of proposing a moratorium on developments within the AONB. This I have done with limited success. I have been assured that the application by CALA will not be put to the committee before the Inspector has commented on the emerging Local Plan. This is expected sometime in October. However, he has indicated that he has taken note of the views expressed by village representatives at the relevant consultation meeting. So, in a nutshell, there is some hope that the wishes of the majority of the village will be given due weight.

The other planning application for land adjacent to North Farm is at present still under consideration by the applicant and the final details are undetermined at present. You can be assured that when it does come up for determination, it will be subjected to the same scrutiny as the CALA application. The same applies to the 'second phase' application by Pye Homes for land below the current development on Charity Farm.

As with all these speculative applications both in our villages and elsewhere in West Oxfordshire, I am exercised with doubts as to the necessity for the huge development programme. I wonder where all the new prospective tenants are coming from, whether the applications do in fact service the need for housing which is suitable for first-time buyers, and where the newcomers will find employment opportunities. District councils are subject to government edicts

regarding the levels of building needed by the country. I have to admit to misgivings that these projections are even close to the reality.

I think I have banged on enough to give you all some food for thought.

I apologise to residents in Combe for relating this report to Stonesfield. Be assured that when Combe starts to figure in the planning/development proposals, I will concentrate my mind on Combe's problems with similar assiduity.

Finally, keep in mind that I am here to help if I can – you only have to contact me either at the Wood Green office or more easily at home.

*Richard Bishop (891414
Richard.bishop@westoxon.gov.uk)*

Council offers unemployed a home and job under new scheme

Jobless people looking to learn a trade and put a roof over their head at the same time are being offered help by WODC. Councillors agreed a pilot version of a Community Self-Help Project which would see 'hard to let' larger properties turned into shared accommodation for single under 35-year-olds, particularly those out of work. The individuals will work on transforming the buildings into houses in multiple occupation, learning new skills as they go before living in the property. Two apprenticeships will also be made available to those involved. Homes operated by Cottsway Housing Association have already been identified. Having been approved by Cabinet, the proposal is subject to call-in by full Council.

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

Forthcoming Friends of Stonesfield School (FoSS) fundraising events

FoSS' Fabulously Festive Christmas Gift Fayre & Pop-up Café is back!

11am–4pm, Saturday 11 November, Village Hall, £2 entry fee.

Come along and enjoy Christmas shopping, raffle, mulled wine, tea and cake, all on our doorstep! Local stallholders already confirmed include: author Bobby Days, signing his children's books; crafted art, design and sculptural objects for outdoor and indoor settings by My Visible Object; handmade fudge from the Woodstock Fudge Company; hand-rolled beeswax candles by Rose & Mum; fair-trade Alpaca scarves, wraps and snoods from SagoJago; bespoke light-up pictures by DR Light Frame Designs; and book art and cards by #HandmadebyGill. If you would like to have a stall at this lovely festive village event, please do get in touch: jesshuband@hotmail.co.uk

New for 2017: FoSS' Mulled Wine Stall

at the Woodstock Christmas Market

10am–7pm, Saturday 25 November, St Mary Magdalene Church, Woodstock

FoSS are excited to be hosting the mulled wine stall at the Woodstock Christmas Market this year, with all profits from the mulled wine sales going towards FoSS' fundraising for Stonesfield Primary School. The Market features artisan food producers, crafts and gifts from across the county. Please pop by and enjoy a cup of mulled wine from FoSS whilst browsing the stalls.

Stonesfield Library

Summer Reading Challenge 2017

The awards ceremony for the Summer Reading Challenge took place on Wednesday 13 September at the Village Hall. The room was packed to bursting with the participating children, their families and the Friends of Stonesfield Library.

This year's theme was Animal Agents and children were asked to read six books of their choice over a period of six weeks, being rewarded at two-weekly intervals with stickers for their record card. 41 children completed the challenge and were presented with a gold medal on a ribbon (awarded Olympic-style) together with an official named certificate. Tony Scott, Chairman of the Friends, made a speech and a group photo was taken outside the Library to mark the occasion.

Prizes were also presented to 11 children

The Medal Winners from this year's children's summer reading competition, outside the library on 13 September



who entered the Make a Mask competition. The entries, which are of a very high standard, will be on display in the Library until such time as their creators wish to take them home. Well done all!

Many thanks to the Library Service and FoSL members who assisted with this initiative over the summer, and to those who hosted the awards celebrations and provided the afternoon tea.

Most importantly, congratulations to all our readers! We hope you enjoyed your reading choices and will soon return to the Library for more.

Trisha Williams on behalf of FoSL

ChOC – Sunday 8 October at 7.30pm: Sully Cert.12A / 96mins.

On 15 January 2009, Capt. Chesley 'Sully' Sullenberger (Tom Hanks) attempts an emergency landing in New York's Hudson River after US Airways Flight 1549 strikes a flock of geese. Miraculously, all 155 passengers and crew survive the harrowing ordeal, and

Sullenberger becomes a national hero in the eyes of the public and the media. However, despite these accolades, the famed pilot faces an investigation that threatens to destroy his career and reputation. Memorial Hall Charlbury (doors & bar from 6.45pm) Admission £5/U15s £3.

Community Education at the Marlborough School, Woodstock

We run an extensive programme of courses for adults within the school all year round (apart from school holidays). Many weekly courses can still be joined and paid for pro rata – subject to availability.

We are running two Saturday workshop days this term, in many subjects: 14 October and 18 November. Early booking is recommended, some workshops fill up very quickly.

A full copy of our NEW 2017–18 brochure is now available to download on the Marlborough School website www.marlbrough.oxon.sch.uk/commed.

If you would like a free printed copy of our brochure or to book a place please telephone 01993 813592 or email comed.4560@marlborough.oxon.sch.uk.

The Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock

Until 31 March: *20 Years of Treasure*. Stories behind 30,000 archaeological objects reported to The Portable Antiquities Scheme in Oxfordshire.

Until 29 Oct: *Peter Ross*. Paintings by a local Oxfordshire artist featuring churches in West Oxfordshire.

7 Oct–12 Nov: *Nick Schlee*. Discover how artists transfer what they first see to paper and then to oils.

30 Sept: *Chinese Animals with Snowflake Books*. Free event. 2–4pm, suitable for 3–10yrs. Interactive traditional Chinese story-telling with dragon dancing, a giant animal race board game, animal zodiac

face painting and an animal trail around the museum. No booking required.

Talk: 4 Oct, 7.30pm. Pam Manix: *Updating Oxford's Medieval Jewish Quarter, new digs, new finds*.

Museums Resource Centre Open Day – Cotswold Dene, Standlake OX29 7QG Sunday 8 Oct, 10am–4pm. A unique opportunity to go behind the scenes and discover what we collect, why we collect it and how we use it. Free admission and free parking.

October School Holidays

Tuesday 10.30–11am: Tom Tots, Music, stories and rhymes for under-fives. £1 per child, £2.50 per family

Tuesday & Thursday 2–4pm: Fun and creative crafts for all ages. £2 per child, £5 per family

For more information on exhibitions, events and activities please visit: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/museums

Clubs & societies

1st Stonesfield Scout Group

You may have noticed work has started on a new accessible path and gates next to the steps below the Scout hut! This has been on our wish list for quite some time.

We are very fortunate and grateful to the

Blenheim Palace Forestry Team who cleared the path and cut back the overgrown bushes and shrubbery, necessary work to allow us to arrange deliveries of building supplies and equipment to carry out the work to the path and the preparation work towards the new Scout hut.

The path will allow accompanied wheelchairs, pushchairs and others to have access to this beautiful part of our village – no more lifting over the stile – and all members of our Scout group can continue our activities in the woods and next to the river. Next to the stiles on either side of the field there will be spring-loaded gates too.

This month Cubs are working on their Scouting values, helping others and doing a good turn every day, while also making jam and working on our map-reading for our night hike in late October. Scouts are planning and training for their expedition challenge award in October, while Beavers are working on their tracking, firelighting and outdoor cooking skills.

We always welcome volunteers, whether to help us with fundraising, to organise meetings with the young people or to help out with admin., so do please get in touch via info@stonesfield-scouts.org.uk if you, or anyone you know, would like to get involved.

Stonesfield Lunch Club

Our special monthly lunch will be on Wednesday 4 October at 12.15pm. Please telephone Anne Bishop (891414) or Mary Plumridge (891697) by the previous Friday, 29 September, to book a place.

Here are extracts from Anne Bishop's talk on 13 September to members of the Lunch Club:

It is because of the generosity of volunteers – a body of between 35 and 40 people – that the Lunch Club has

existed for the last 20 years. The small steering committee (Jennifer Powell, Hazel Smith, and Wendy Collier were members) worked for a year setting things up, along with Hilary Eaton, before the club opened in September 1997. Mary Evins cooked each week, whilst a group of helpers gained the confidence to take on the task. Other volunteers eventually became Day Organisers and so the tasks were shared.

Over the years close on a hundred villagers have come to the centre to enjoy the company of others, have a chat and be spoiled one day a week by the helpers, who have shown unfailing kindness and courtesy. They have been brought to the centre and taken home again by volunteers, who have taken nothing but thanks in payment.

In the background has been the committee, always working to keep the show on the road: making rotas, remembering birthdays, keeping records, filling in returns, organising activities, managing the money, visiting prospective new members, filling in forms of one kind or another and seeking funding to keep things going (for this we are grateful to OCC). All this is something of which the village can be justly proud.

Stonesfield Gardening Club

Our speaker in September was Chris Day from Buckingham Nurseries; he gave an enthusiastic talk based on plants and bulbs he brought with him. He discussed the merits of various types of bulbs and

demonstrated layer-planting of an outdoor pot for continuous interest throughout the year starting right now!

The next meeting will be on Monday 9 October at 7.30pm in the St James' Centre as usual; Sue Bedwell will give us ideas on how to make the garden less demanding. The committee are finalising the programme of speakers and events for 2018 now; any ideas would be welcomed; please contact me and I will pass them on for consideration.

Bags of composted horse manure will be purchased in bulk by the club in the next few weeks; if you would like to order any, please email me and I will add you to the list – this crumbly, black, non-smelling product is ideal for spreading around roses or bedding plants to enrich the soil and as we will order over 200 bags, they will be £4.50 each.

*Sybil Barton (891590;
sybil.a.barton@gmail.com)*

Sports & Social Club

Come along to the Club on 14 October and listen to the local band *Freefall*. Non-members welcome. Start 8 pm to late.

Women's Institute

August saw some friendly competition amongst members with a table centrepiece competition. Members chose flowers and foliage from the variety provided. We were then given the same bases and amount of time to see who could create the best one. There may have been more enthusiasm than expertise in some cases (my own included) but there was a lovely display

of arrangements at the end of the night.

September's meeting was a challenge to become a choir for the night – more in the next *Slate*. October will see us trying something new, making chocolate truffles. Visitors are welcome to join us.

Katy White

Over 60s Darby & Joan

In September we met once again on the second Thursday. As always there was lots of happy chatter as we arrived and found our places. As we settled down members were pleased to hear that Kath had phoned and left a message to thank us for the card and flowers we had sent to her at her son's home for her birthday. It was good to know she is progressing and being well looked after.

Before we had our Tea Party Julie presented me with a card, some lovely flowers and a gift from everybody for which I am truly grateful and I do say a big 'Thank you' to you all. Our club is small compared to what it was but we are still going and as I have said before, new faces are always welcome. This year has been a year of celebrations in many ways and so the cuppa and cake became a very enjoyable afternoon tea. The 'A' Team looked after us well, even a second cuppa. No need for supper tonight. In my mind I feel as if I was 21 all over again and I have been really spoilt. As we were finishing our Tea, 'Michael' who delivers our tablets from Charlbury called in to make a delivery, a reminder that it is the tablets that make a difference. Thank you Michael, it was good to see you.

In October we will be having our Autumn/Harvest Lunch; as always those who haven't booked up please give me a ring by 6 October. Remember 1pm start. There will be a Bring & Buy stall so please try to bring something along for this. Also I have a 91-year-old friend coming who will talk to us; she has had and still is having and enjoying a very busy life. Hope to see you there.

*Best wishes and thank you again, Avis
(898134)*

Witney Music Society

The opening concert of Witney Music Society's new season is to be given by the Ruisi Quartet, who'll be performing works for string quartet by Haydn and Britten, and will then be joined by the pianist Dina Duisen for a piano quintet by Dvorak. The concert will be at High Street Methodist Church, Witney, at 7.30pm on Friday 13 October. Tickets – £12 (standard), £11 (senior concession) and £1 (under 18) – will be available at the door from 7pm. For more information please telephone 01993 702296 or visit the Witney Music Society website www.witneymusicsociety.org.uk

Woodstock and District U3A

A warm invitation to our Coffee Morning at Yarnton Village Hall, The Paddocks, OX5 1TE on Thursday 26 October from 10am to 12noon. Come and find out what we do in our interest groups, such as recorders, play reading and walking. More information 01865 580688 or www.u3asites.org.uk/woodstock

The Glyme Valley Probus Club for Ladies

... meets once a month for lunch at Sturdy's Castle and is for the surrounding villages. If any ladies are interested in finding out more please contact our Secretary Sandy Rasch at 812025 or our President Avis Ushaw 898134.

GreenTEA (Transition Eynsham Area)

1. Swapshop Sat. 7 Oct 10–11.30am at the Sports Pavilion, Oxford Rd., Eynsham OX29 4HG. Bring household goods, toys, clothes, books, DVDs and take what you please. No televisions or computerware please. Larger furniture by advert card on our board at the swapshop.

2. GreenTEA Festival Saturday 14 Oct 2–4.30pm at the Village Hall, 46 Back Lane, Eynsham OX29 4QW. Apple & Juice giveaway, Apple expert, local and seasonal food and tasting, games & quizzes for all, and stalls about Energy - including thermal imaging; Waste; Food, Peace Orchard and Transport.

Ros Kent, Secretary, Transition Eynsham Area (GreenTEA)

North Leigh History Society

3 October: *Snippets from Witney's past* – A talk by Derek West. Meetings take place at 7.30pm in the Turner Hall, Church Road, North Leigh OX29 6TX. All welcome. Visitors £4, Members free. Further details from Diana Power (01993 882301)

Sport

Stonesfield Cricket Club

Autumn is here and sadly a super season is over. But I'm happy to report a good finish by both sides meant both easily stayed up in their respective divisions of the Oxfordshire Cricket Association, a terrific achievement again by our little club!

Since last month's *Slate*, Sam Hibberd's 1st XI narrowly lost to league champions Charlbury, but then won a thriller vs Yarnton & Cowley, before losing at home vs Wolvercote. In the final match Sam took a weakened side to 2nd placed Faringdon, and triumphed by a sensational 66 runs. The ego of the opposition's star players was apparently somewhat hurt and some over zealous 'competitiveness' resulted! 5th place (of 8) was our final position, securing top flight cricket again for 2018.

I managed to lead the 2nd XI to a joint 5th finish in Division 7. We were gifted the points by Stanton Harcourt 2nds, then lost at home to Eynsham 2nds. The team then responded with a sensational home victory against Division 7 champions Yarnton & Cowley 2nds, where youth bowlers Michael Franklin, Rowan Moss & Josh Davies all excelled to take crucial wickets. Finally, we lost a nail-biter game by 3 runs to 3rd placed Chesterton – despite an astonishing last man counter-attack by Tim Davies on debut!

Both Sam and myself now step down as respective captains to allow fresh hands to take the reigns next year. Next month

I'll report on our end of season awards night at the White Horse.

Stewart Moss (07866 278685)

Stonesfield Football Club

So, finally, after a gruelling pre-season of games in the sweltering summer heat (eh?) and arduous training sessions, our brave lads in The Firsts and Reserves have finally kicked-off the new season in Divs 1 & 4, respectively. The Firsts travelled to Bampton United and plundered their first three points in a 10-goal thriller (6–4) with Jordon Newman notching a rare double. An entertaining start for manager Mike Phipps whose gung-ho, attacking style reaped dividends and reminds me of a quote from the late great Jock Stein's attacking philosophy for the famous Lisbon Lions: 'If the opposition score 4 we'll score 5!' If it was good enough for Big Jock and his Lisbon Lions then it's good enough for me!

The Reserves under new management of the splendidly named Keith Laird and the stalwart legend that is Darren Grant also started off away from home, this time at Ascott, and lost out in a 5-goal thriller where Mick Phipps abandoned his zimmer frame to create history by becoming the oldest person (at almost 102 years old) to score for Stonesfield.

The regular reader will be aware that each of these monthly reports normally ends with The Fredo Award. The Fredo is a small lump of quality chocolate in the shape of a frog and is much coveted by

all our players as THE monthly accolade and is keenly contested. You'd expect that this first of the season might have gone to old-man Phipps for his dedication to duty. It may be a tad harsh on poor old Mick, but, as is often the case, this month's Fredo is a joint award, to our most distant supporters Tony and Sally Vaux, previously of this parish who now hail from Caldbeck in sunny Cumbria and receive the *Slate* by post; your kind words of praise in May's edition were much appreciated. Next time you are visiting the village your joint award can be collected at the bar in the sports and social club!

If you are a new reader to the *Slate*, welcome, but please bear in mind that the only facts in this section are the actual scores (even those are sometimes wrong). Everything else (especially *anything* slanderous) is mere fanciful fiction.

Finally, please keep the afternoon of Sunday 29 October free and come along to support the Andy Crawford Memorial match at 2 pm between a Stonesfield Legends Select and Woodstock, where there will be a collection in aid of the charity 'Oxford Mind'.

Tom Flanigan (891979)

Church news



Anglican Worship in the Parishes of Stonesfield with Combe Longa

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www.stonesfieldparishchurch.org

Stonesfield Churchwardens: Neil Melrose (891566) and Martine Smith-Huvers (898425)
Combe Longa Churchwardens: Julian Freeland (891223) and Andrew Hobson (891273)

BCP=Book of Common Prayer: CW=Common Worship



From your Parish Priest

Here we are in Harvest Festival time already. Please look at the service schedule and make a date to come along and join us as we celebrate the new harvest and therefore the food on our tables. We do it traditionally of course, so if you want to bring some produce to the services please feel free.

Before I get into my subject for this month can I thank you all for your generosity with regard to the Gift Days at Stonesfield and Combe. It is very heart-warming to me and the respective congregations that you value the Parish Churches and their upkeep. It is a joy to have such wonderful buildings to worship in and I am sure that the next generation, as they come to use them for their weddings, baptisms and their saying goodbyes to loved ones, will appreciate our commitment in our day.

So do you like autumn? Are you ready to put away your summer clothes and get

out your woolly sweaters and warm coats? I do. I love to crunch around and feel the crispness underfoot. To look forward to Remembrance and to the celebrations at the end of the year.

It always seems to me that it gets more family-orientated towards the end of the year as we plan our get-togethers around hot meals and warm fires. I hope it will be a blessed time for you through the last quarter of the year.

What I love about the church year is that we always have something to join together for. We have the different colours on the font of the Communion Table and Lecterns. Of course in the old days the dressing of the church was more vital than now. Folks did not have as many ways to tell the time through the day and the seasons through the year. One of the indicators was the colours that the church was dressed in. Purple for Lent and Advent. Gold for Easter and Red for Saints days. Green for the time we are

in now before we get through our time of Trinity. Then on into Christ the King in November with its colour of Red or White.

I suppose with our food coming from all around the world to a 'supermarket near you' we have lost the marking of the passing of the seasons and the foods that would have been available to us just at that time of year. Whatever or however you feel about that, the church still indicates the way through the year for us and I for one love the markers that we have.

Why not join us at St Laurence or St

James to celebrate with us the wonderful times of year that we have here in our villages?

Why not join us to sing the seasonal songs of praise? I know for me I would really miss joining in song together and thanking God for all his love, not only shown in the harvest but right through the year and of course for our lives together.

Hope to see you soon, and of course D.F.T.W.

Rev Roy

SERVICES FOR OCTOBER

Sunday 1 October [Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity]

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

Sunday 8 October [Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity]

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

Sunday 15 October [Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity]

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

Sunday 22 October [Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity]

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

Sunday 29 October [Last Sunday after Trinity]

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [BCP/said]
10am	Stonesfield	Benefice Communion Service [CW/sung]

Sunday 5 November [Fourth Sunday before Advent]

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [BCP/said]
9.30am	Combe Longa	All Age Worship
11am	Stonesfield	All Age Worship
5pm	Combe Longa	Service of Remembrance for the recently departed

Mid-week Communion Service [said]

Wednesdays 9.30am at Stonesfield – everyone is most welcome

Stonesfield Methodist Church

The days are growing shorter, the temperatures are dropping and the trees are beginning to clothe themselves with the rich hues of autumn. We move into a time celebrating the goodness of God through the harvest. No doubt you are looking forward to harvest festival with the wonderful smell of produce filling the church, the sight of the colourful display and the sound of the familiar harvest hymns being sung.

How hard it is, in the modern western world, to remember a time when a good harvest signalled not only prosperity in the coming days, but perhaps the very survival of a community.

Of course, as we celebrate harvest festival across the Circuit, we are surely mindful of the devastation caused across the Caribbean with the destruction of homes, farms, businesses, not to mention injury and loss of life. Please remember our brothers and sisters in Christ in your prayers.

*Longing for food, many are hungry,
Longing for water, many still thirst,
Make us your bread, broken for others,
Shared until all are fed.*

Bernadette Farrell

Every blessing, Rose

*The Reverend Rose Westwood, Methodist
Superintendent Minister, Witney and
Faringdon Circuit*

SERVICES FOR OCTOBER

Sun 1	11am	Owen Carney Harvest Service
Sun 8	11am	The Revd Melanie Reed Holy Communion
Sun 15	11am	Owen Carney
Sun 22	11am	No service
Sun 29	11am	Margaret Broadberry

The Flower Festival held in September was a splendid occasion. The displays were beautiful and the visitors plentiful. A huge thank you to all the arrangers who so generously gave of their time and flowers. Thanks too, to everyone who came and helped make it all so very worthwhile.

Did the flowers inspire you to come and join a Service sometime? We would love to see you, all are very welcome.

We continue to try and find ways in which we can keep this beautiful Church open. Do get in touch if you have any suggestions or ideas that may help.

Kathleen (891733)

Roman Catholic Worship

St Teresa's Charlbury

What is our purpose? Why do we exist? These are easy questions to answer for some, very hard for others. These are hard questions to answer for some as we know that material achievement is only temporary. So those who strive for wealth, acknowledgement, status or recognition as their method of answering those questions will always find themselves on a treadmill of some satisfaction followed by dissatisfaction. That's because for those driven by such needs there is never enough and someone else will always be richer, younger, more attractive, more talented or more popular, so a full and lasting sense of purpose accomplished is elusive. However, for Christians, there are much easier questions to answer. The Roman Catholic Catechism tells us, as in response to the question 'Why did God make you?', the answer is 'God made me to know Him, love Him and serve Him in this world, and be happy with Him forever in the next.' This gives us an enduring framework of how to shape our lives with meaning. It offers direction and thus purpose, by satisfying our need to know where we are going and why.

MASS TIMES

SUNDAYS

St Teresa's, Charlbury: 9.15am

St Kenelm's, Enstone: 9am, second

Sunday of every month, commencing in October, date to be confirmed
(building works permitting)

If you need a lift to mass on Sunday, please contact Peter Clifton on 01993 891956).

WEEKDAYS

St Teresa's, Charlbury: 9.30am,
Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays,
preceded by Morning Prayers at
9.15am.

Confession: Confessions will be at 10am after morning Mass on Saturdays, and on request.

Father Tony Joyce can be contacted on:
holyltrinityrcchippy@gmail.com or
telephone: 01608 642703

For parish updates and any further information please see:
<https://stteresaschurch-charlbury.com/> or
contact Mike and Clare, Joint Chairs,
Parish Committee: chair.
stteresaschurchcharlbury@gmail.com

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Friday 17 November 7.30pm: Morris Room, Charlbury: *Do Popes still have power?* A talk and discussion led by Jonathan Luxmore and Suze Mathews

For further information about the above please contact Suze Mathews
(suzemathews899@btinternet.com, 01993 8791720)

*The Roman Catholic Community in
Stonesfield*

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The White Horse, Stonesfield

We are now gearing up for our Autumn and Winter nights. Come join us around the log burner for some good hearty food, great ales and much more!

Weekly Events and activities

- Tuesday night is Quiz Night
- Wednesday night is now Pie Night
- Thursday night is Curry Night
- Friday and Saturday, chef's specials board with a wide choice of local fare
- On Sundays we offer our popular roast lunch choices with all the trimmings

Upcoming Events

- 28 October Halloween (optional fancy dress) Party with Live Music
- 9 December Pre Christmas Community Celebration
- Christmas Party bookings now being taken (max 30 persons per booking)
- Christmas Day Lunch bookings now available.

Take-away Service now available between 6pm and 8.30pm from Tuesday to Saturday. You can find the menu options on our website (see below). Please call to pre-order.

OPENING HOURS

Bar opening hours

Tuesday–Thursday	5pm–Close
Friday	12noon–2pm
	5pm–Close
Saturday	12noon–2pm
	6pm–Close

Food served

Tuesday–Thursday	6pm–9pm
Friday	12noon–2pm
	6pm–9pm
Saturday	12noon–2pm
	6pm–9pm

Dogs also very welcome in the bar area or garden!

Phone 01993 891063

Web: www.whitehorsestonesfield.com

Email: info@whitehorsestonesfield.com

Also, search for The White Horse Stonesfield and follow us on Facebook!