

# *The Stonesfield Slate*

Issue No 483 August 2018



## **Dates for your diary – August**

1,8,15,22,29	Folk Dance Club	Village Hall	8–10pm
6,13,20	SJC Cuppa	St. James' Centre	10–11.30am
9	Over-60s Darby & Joan	Village Hall	2pm
12	ChOC, <i>The Post</i>	Memorial Hall, Charlbury	7.30pm
14,28	Treasure Box	St James' Centre	10.30–12 noon
16	Bridewell Gardens	Wilcote	2–4pm
17	Players' Play reading	Old Bakery, Boot Street	8pm



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

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

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*An exhibit at Stonesfield  
School's Cool Car Show  
on 11 July*

# Notices

## Septemberfest 2018

On Saturday 22 September, Stonesfield.

*Chris Bartle (Music co-ordinator,  
Bartlefilm@gmail.com)*

## Players' Play reading

Stonesfield Players will be holding another of their ever-popular social play readings on Friday 17 August at 8pm. Ros Mengech has kindly offered to host this event at her house, The Old Bakery in Boot Street.

All are welcome; you do not have to be a member to come along. You can look forward to a fun evening with laughs and idle chit-chat. This is not an audition, but the chance to read or just listen in a relaxed atmosphere. Please bring along the drink of your preference and some nibbles. We look forward to seeing you.

*David and Lynn Stevenson  
(stevenson342@btinternet.com)*

## Backup Snowdon Push

As many of you are aware, Samuel and 12 other team members ascended and descended Snowdon to raise funds for Backup. Backup have supported Samuel and our family since his spinal cord injury in 2015.

The challenge was made even more difficult with the unusual high temperatures. The team, Appleton's and Friends, however completed this epic challenge raising almost £5000 in the process.

Thank you to everyone who has donated and to our amazing friends who organised a pop-up tea room in St James' Centre at the beginning of June! We wouldn't have got near this amazing total without the wonderful Stonesfield residents. THANK YOU!

It is still not too late to donate if you would like to. If you do, please go to [mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/aliappleton1](http://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/aliappleton1)

## Treasure Box in the summer holidays

The Treasure Box will open on Tuesdays 31 July, 14 August and 28 August from 10.30am to 12noon in the St James' Centre.

There will be crafts, games, songs and other activities based on a Bible story. All children are welcome.

*Muriel Barrett (891479)*

## Bridewell Organic Gardens – Community Afternoon

The walled garden and vineyard at Wilcote (OX7 3DT) will be open on Thursday 16 August from 2 to 4 pm, and refreshments and plants will be for sale. Suggested donation £4, children are free.

For further information please call 01993 864530 or go to [www.bridewellgardens.org](http://www.bridewellgardens.org). Reg. charity 1158456.

# Politics & local affairs

## Parish Council

**CALA Homes.** Nothing to report.

**Blenheim PYE Homes Phase 2.** No further information.

## North Farm

The application for the erection of 5 dwellings with associated garaging and landscape works and formation of new vehicular access on land west of North Farm on Woodstock Road has been approved.

## Traffic congestion, weekend of Countryfile Live and Wilderness

SPC would like your opinions on how you think Stonesfield is affected by traffic congestion during the weekend of Countryfile Live at Blenheim Palace and the Wilderness Festival at Cornbury Park. These events are due to take place again this year from 2 to 5 August. Please email the Clerk on [stonesfieldpcc@gmail.com](mailto:stonesfieldpcc@gmail.com) as soon as possible, saying what you think based on previous years.

## Speeding in Stonesfield – Twenty is Plenty

You may have already noticed the new 'Twenty is Plenty' signs in Stonesfield. SPC hopes these will act as an initial deterrent to speeding in the village.

## New defibrillator

Attached to the Pre-School building, this new defibrillator has paediatric paddles for emergency cardiac use with small children. It has been registered with the Ambulance Service, which will provide the access code on dialling 999.

## First Responders

Are there any fully qualified First Responders in the village? Please contact the Parish Clerk if you are such a person and would like to be involved in village activities.

## Blackfly (or Blandford Fly) Invasion

SPC was contacted by a resident with concerns about the blackfly invasion which occurs in May to mid-June (see *The Stonesfield Slate*, July 2018). The culprit is one species of blackfly, commonly called the Blandford Fly. SPC sent this information to WODC, which consulted Public Health (England) and the Public Health Directorate at the County. The latter advised that to apply treatment for the blackfly would be 'a disproportionate and unrealistic use of resources in a time of financial constraint for Local Authorities'. While acknowledging that Councils do have certain ditch clearance responsibilities, particularly with regard to land beside or over watercourses and that such work may help locally with the control of fly populations, the District Council concluded that 'there is currently not considered to be a case for intervening in this matter'.

## Overhanging hedges and bushes

Please remember that you are responsible to keep hedges and bushes in trim so they do not restrict the pavement or footpath from your property.

## Message for dog owners

The population of Stonesfield has grown, leading to an increase in dog ownership,

and it is important to be responsible, so please take note of a couple of grumbles. We are fortunate to have a network of footpaths, byways and common land. On behalf of the farmers, please do not allow your animals to chase balls and run wild in the crops on private land, which will obviously hamper harvesting. Also, Hill Barn Lane is rapidly becoming a dog's toilet; it is part of the Oxfordshire Way and used by hundreds of walkers each year who will not want to take a part of your dog home with them on their boots! If your dog defecates on the walkway, please pick it up.

There will be no meeting in August. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 13 September at the Village Hall – all residents are invited to attend.

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

### Your website

A reminder that [www.stonesfield.online](http://www.stonesfield.online) is your website, supported by Stonesfield Parish Council.

At the click of a button it offers you:

- The latest about local events
- Local news and information
- Contact details of local clubs, charities and businesses
- Links to useful local websites (tourism, council and services)
- Copies of *The Stonesfield Slate*
- Parish Council meeting agendas and minutes
- Updates from Sustainable Stonesfield.

There is a simple Contact Us form to complete if you want information about

your club, event or business to appear on the website.

Additionally, if you subscribe (at no cost) then you will receive emails when new information is available. In case you are concerned about a deluge of emails, this has been limited to an average of one email a week. Over 100 households are already receiving this service. Just enter your name and email on [www.stonesfield.online](http://www.stonesfield.online) – this will not be revealed to anyone, and you can unsubscribe at any time.

*Parish Council*

### West Oxfordshire District Council

There are two main areas of discussion for West Oxford District Council in the last few weeks.

Firstly, the Council is supporting an approach to Government regarding the way in which developers who have received approval for their schemes then deal with the variety of conditions which form part of that approval. It has become more common for some conditions to be ignored or dismissed as unviable. Local Planning authorities are therefore seeking further powers to enforce the conditions attached to planning consents. Often these are relative to the construction phase and some relate to infrastructure improvements required as part and parcel of the development. The more stringent regulations will also be applied to sub-contractors.

Secondly, and perhaps of more relevance to us as residents, is the Council approach to the problems with Thames Water and the Environment Agency. The infrastructure of the Thames Water

network is often failing. On the Combe Road, for instance, there have been several occasions when raw sewage has erupted from the manhole due to the pumps being inadequate to the task. This is made a greater problem by the number of new properties entering the system. And the new builds at Charity Farm are not yet on stream. When they are all occupied, the problems will increase.

The Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been aware of the difficulties for some time. It has summoned representatives of Thames Water to appear and give the committee the ways in which it hopes to rectify the situation. The senior officers apologise and promise to do whatever is necessary. They then go away and precisely nothing happens. So the Committee has decided to hold a one-day conference in October with executives of both Thames Water and the Environment Agency. This will be divided into three parts. The first session will deal with environmental pollution to the Windrush, Evenlode and their tributaries, including the Thames. The second will concentrate upon aspects of flooding and how to control its effects. The third will deal with future needs for improvements in infrastructure as a result of the massive building programmes. It is hoped that this emphasis on the failings of the systems and the huge concerns of residents will impress upon the collective minds of the public utilities the need for urgent and positive action.

On behalf of Charles Cottrell-Dormer and myself, may I wish all our residents an enjoyable holiday season.

*Richard Bishop (01993 891414;  
[richard.bishop@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:richard.bishop@westoxon.gov.uk))*

### Have your say on the new Garden Village – URGENT

West Oxfordshire District Council is giving residents, businesses and organisations the chance to have their say on a proposed garden village set to be built to the north of the A40 near Eynsham – but only from 22 June until Friday 3 August.

The consultation focuses on key issues such as transport, housing, jobs and the environment which will form part of the Oxfordshire Cotswolds Garden Village Area Action Plan. The proposals were initially discussed last summer as part of the Local Plan examination. The Planning Inspector has since informed the Council that subject to some further changes, the Local Plan is likely to be approved, and the Garden Village Area Action Plan is the next step in the process.

Responses will be taken into account as the proposals are developed in more detail ahead of further consultation in the autumn. To access the consultation material and for further information on how to respond, see [www.westoxon.gov.uk/gardenvillage](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/gardenvillage).

### What happens to our food waste? Free tour but be quick . . .

A free tour of the Agrivert anaerobic digestion plant near Cassington has been organised by the District Council with staff on hand to answer questions on how the weekly food waste collection is transformed into fertiliser and electricity.

The plant processes food waste from across Oxfordshire and creates fertiliser for local farmers to use, along with enough electricity to power more than 4,000 homes.

The tour will take place on Tuesday 31 July at 10.30am and booking is essential; please email [sian.edwards@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:sian.edwards@westoxon.gov.uk) or call 01993 861000.

### **Garden waste is doing well**

The District Council has congratulated West Oxfordshire residents for their growing dedication to ensuring their garden waste is recycled. Between 1 April and 10 July, 31,410 garden waste licences were issued, compared to 31,192 for the whole of the 2017–18 financial year. A garden waste licence costs £30 per bin.

*West Oxfordshire District Council  
Communications (01993 861615 / 861616  
or [communications@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:communications@westoxon.gov.uk))*

### **From our County Councillor Highways update**

The bad winter has taken its toll on road conditions across the county, so OCC has welcomed the additional £2.7m the Government has provided for this year; additional gangs have been employed to ensure we utilise the funds during the summer. Last month 6,236 defects were repaired showing progress is being made.

A fact sheet has been produced giving details about the condition of the county's highways and the actions being taken to maintain them. [Note from the Editor: This can be seen on the Stonesfield Village Website; see <https://stonesfield.online/highway-maintenance/>. It makes interesting reading, including that the number of reports of road defects, including potholes, street lighting, traffic signals, general highway requests, which was 26,772 for the whole of 2017, rose to 40,630 for just January–June 2018.]

### **Domestic abuse service**

A new domestic abuse service for Oxfordshire was launched in June in partnership with District Councils and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley. The service is designed to be highly inclusive to address emotional and practical support needs for any victim in Oxfordshire suffering or fleeing from domestic abuse. Access to the service is on the A2Dominion ODAS helpline (0800 731 0055) or [oxfordshiredomestic@a2dominion.org.uk](mailto:oxfordshiredomestic@a2dominion.org.uk).

### **NHS health checks**

OCC-funded NHS Health Checks are available to anyone aged between the ages of 40 and 74 who has not already been diagnosed with an existing cardiovascular condition. They are designed to spot early warnings of stroke, kidney and heart disease, Type 2 diabetes and dementia. They are free, take 20–30 minutes and applicants will automatically be invited by GP surgeries to have one once every five years. If an invitation is not received, residents should contact their surgery and make an appointment. Further information on [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/nhshealthcheck](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/nhshealthcheck).

*Cllr Ian Hudspeth (07956270 318,  
[Ian.hudspeth@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Ian.hudspeth@oxfordshire.gov.uk))*

### **Be Water Aware this summer**

A reminder comes from the County Council Community Safety Services.

With long sunny days and summer holidays there is a temptation to cool off in one of Oxfordshire's many rivers and inland waterways. But unfortunately rivers and waterways can be very

dangerous – 255 people accidentally drowned in the UK in 2017.

That's why, at this time of year, Oxfordshire's Fire and Rescue Service is reminding all residents to Be Water Aware to help everyone stay safe this summer.

Knowing what to do when someone gets into trouble in the water could help save someone's life. Would you know what to do?

- Call: 999
- Float: tell them to float on their back
- Throw: something that floats . . . and
- Don't jump in yourself.

Find out more at [www.365alive.co.uk/BeWaterAware](http://www.365alive.co.uk/BeWaterAware).

### **From our Member of Parliament New rural crime reporting line**

Rural crime is on the rise, and it is a serious issue for farmers, businesses and those who live in the countryside. It is vital that those who are responsible for rural crime, from fly-tipping and hare coursing to livestock and machinery theft, are brought to justice. NFU and CrimeStoppers have launched a new phonenumber, which is a quick, easy, anonymous way for people to report and give information about rural crime.

You can give information about rural crime on 0800 783 0137, or through [www.ruralcrimereportingline.uk](http://www.ruralcrimereportingline.uk).

### **Business Rate relief**

More than 300 businesses in West Oxfordshire have been awarded business rate relief as part of a transitional scheme to help those facing increased bills following last year's revaluation. Many

businesses occupying premises with a rateable value of less than £15,000 may be eligible for Small Business Rate Relief. Please see <https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/business/business-rates/rate-relief/> for more information and to make sure you don't miss out.

### **Playing Field**

The Playing Field Committee are desperately looking for additional people to help us maintain the high quality of our Playing Field. In addition, we need to fill the vacant positions of Chairman and Vice Chairman to enable the Committee to continue our work and support the management and running of the field.

Please join me also in thanking Mark Hatton for his labour of love on the field over the last 10 years, allowing County Cricket to be played in our village and providing excellent pitches for both Senior and Youth football.

Please contact Alan Bryon (07535 281 998) if you are interested and want to know more about how you can help.

*Alan Bryon, Project Manager*

### **OHCT Ride & Stride**

Don't forget that we hope to have cyclists or walkers take part in the Ride & Stride on Saturday 8 September. Money from your sponsors will go to keep up the churches in Oxfordshire, including our own St James'. I have sponsor forms or you can download them from [www.ohct.org.uk](http://www.ohct.org.uk)

*Simon Haviland (891614)*

# 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

Manager: Debbie Wilson

## National Summer Reading Challenge

It's not too late to join this year's National Summer Reading Challenge, for both children and adults. It lasts for eight weeks, ending in mid-September.

So parents/grandparents/carers: bring your children to the library to sign up, collect a map of Beanoland, and choose their first two books on ANY subject. The Challenge is to read six library books, collecting stickers at each visit, which will gradually reveal the site of the treasure on the Beanoland map.

The prize for completing the Challenge is a certificate, a gold medal, and an invitation to the celebration in the Village Hall on Wednesday 12 September, from 3.30 to 4.30pm. FoSL (Friends of Stonesfield Library) will host a presentation of medals, some light refreshments, and plenty of creative activities.

The Adult Reading Challenge runs at the same time. Fill in a postcard which will

enable you to enter a draw for many prizes, including visits to Blenheim, Cotswold Wildlife Park, Crocodile World, Wychwood Brewery, several restaurants, and many others. More details at the library.

*Val Phillips (891455)*

## Stonesfield School – End of year summary from the Governors

No one can say that this has been a dull year for the governing body of Stonesfield School. Beginning with the appointment of new co-chairs, Sandy Hayes and Gillian Clarke, with Harry Holland as deputy chair, we also gained two new parent governors and one co-opted governor. The rest of the board consists of parent and teacher governors, plus long-standing community and co-opted governors, who all provide unfailing support for the school.

The work of the governing body encompasses many areas: ensuring our school policies and procedures are fit for purpose (23 reviewed or developed); health and safety (3 walkabouts); reviewing finances and resources; and monitoring school data. In all, excluding the recruitment meetings, the governing body and its sub-committees have held 23 meetings since September.


A full Ofsted inspection in November resulted in a lengthy report which found that, for the second time running, Stonesfield School is 'good' in all areas. Achieving such a pleasing result is

testimony to the dedication of every single person associated with our school, from the youngest to the oldest, no matter how big or small their role.

Staff recruitment has been a big focus for governors this year, with complex arrangements for maternity cover and multiple meetings for the appointment of a new Headteacher, Ben Trevail, who takes over in September. Our challenges for 2018–2019 will be to continue to balance the budget despite the fluctuating school roll, and to complete the never-ending list of urgent projects, such as the ongoing wall repairs, the replacement of a rotting shed, and continuing to address the crucial issue of security at the school.

In order to raise awareness of the financial struggle facing small rural schools, we have met with our MP, Robert Courts, made our views known to the County Council and have completed national surveys.

THE READING AGENCY AND LIBRARIES PRESENT




**MISCHIEF MAKERS**  
SUMMER READING CHALLENGE 2018  
@DC Thomson Ltd (2018)

Get ready for mischief and mayhem in our FREE reading challenge at your local library...

14<sup>th</sup> July to 15<sup>th</sup> September

Oxfordshire children can join Dennis, Gnasher and friends in libraries this summer for an epic adventure in Beanotown!

Find buried treasure, solve clues and collect stickers as you read six library books of your choice. Finish the challenge to get your own Beano wristband, medal and certificate.

Bananaman says...  Join up at your library!

Go Bananas for Books!

Look out for fantastic new books and activities at your library and try out the [mischief-makers.org.uk](http://mischief-makers.org.uk) website to add to the fun!

Psst... Adults - Look out for the "Oxfordshire Reads" postcards to enter a prize draw!

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND Supported by public funding from OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL **BEANO** SUMMER READING CHALLENGE THE READING AGENCY

We congratulate Beth Binnian on doing an outstanding job as Acting Head. Not only has she managed to hold the fort but, with typical quiet efficiency, she has done her utmost to ensure a seamless transition for the incoming Head. Finally, we should like to express our gratitude for the continued support from the community in Stonesfield, in particular FoSS, the Community Trust, the Social Club and the Parish Council.

*Gillian Clarke*

## Stonesfield School's Cool Car Show

The first thing we saw was a Williams F1 car . . . and that was just the beginning!

At Stonesfield School on Wednesday 11 July we organised a car show to inspire young minds to become mechanics, scientist and engineers. It was fun for all the family to see cars from vintage cars all the way to the newest model of F1. There were many car-related activities that children in years 3,4,5 and 6 had made to entertain the younger children.

Children could pay one pound to buy a strip of tickets to join in with the activities that KS2 had created. 'It was interesting to see cars from a tractor to an F1 car,' said a year 6 pupil. Many children also said that one of their highlights was to be able to sit inside the cars, especially the old cars and racing cars. At the car show we also had the opportunity to have a go on a hand pedal accessible bike which many children AND adults enjoyed riding.

We would like to say thank you to all our teachers who have helped organise this event, and to all the people who gave up the time to bring their fantastic vehicles to our car show.

*Year 6, Stonesfield School*

## Book Break's break

Book Break is taking an August break and will start again on Thursday 6 September. It has been another year of good reading and lively discussion. Our continued focus has been upon reading aloud and in full, shorter novels including *A Month in the Country* and Marghanita Laski's

extraordinarily gripping novel, *Little Boy Lost*. In recognition of his achievement as winner of the Nobel prize for Literature, we are currently reading Kazuo Ishiguro's *The Remains of the Day*.

We are grateful for the use of Stonesfield Library as our venue. We are currently at full capacity and are therefore, sadly, unable to make any offers of places for the time being, but we would be happy to pass on information to anyone who might be interested in joining us at some future date.

*Wendy Lynch (01993 891107)*

## ChOC

Sunday 12 August at 7.30pm: *The Post*; Cert.12A; 115mins.

Katharine Graham (Meryl Streep) is the first female publisher of *The Washington Post*. The editor, Ben Bradlee, is Tom Hanks. Admission: £5 / U15s £3. Memorial Hall, Charlbury (doors & bar from 6.45pm).

## Woodstock Museum

Summer is a great time for children at the museum, with special sessions for the school holidays:

**Tuesdays:** Tom Tots: 10.30 to 11am.

Family fun drop-ins: 2–4pm.

**Wednesdays:** Workshop and assorted sessions, including activities with Science Oxford and Wild Science.

**Thursdays:** Family fun drop-ins: 2–4pm.

For the full programme of these and other activities please visit <https://www2.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/oxfordshire-museum>

# Clubs & societies

## Stonesfield Folk Dance Club

If you feel in need of a good night out during the week, good company, lovely music and, importantly, exercise, then a warm welcome awaits you at the Village Hall on Wednesdays from 8 to 10pm.

We are busy practising hard for the visit on 28 October of Vicki Swan, Jonny Dyer and John Dipper, who perform together as Purcell's Polyphonic Trio. They are the 'Top' band on the Folk Dance Circuit and have appeared at all the major festivals and other prestigious Folk Dance Clubs around the country, after starting as a group at the Stonesfield Folk Dance Weekend in 2016. Even for non-dancers 28 October is a must.

With the Summer Folk Dance Festivals now in full flight, our club members, when missing from Stonesfield, will be found from Whitby down to Sidmouth and Broadstairs, enjoying the music and dancing. A whole new world awaits you if you join in the fun we have on our Wednesday Club Nights!

*Stewart Nicholls (07855 022813; [Stewart.nicholls@Virgin.net](mailto:Stewart.nicholls@Virgin.net), [www.stonesfieldfolkdance.danceorg.uk](http://www.stonesfieldfolkdance.danceorg.uk))*

## Stonesfield Gardening Club

With exquisite timing, Rosy Hardy from Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants came to talk to us in July about late flowering perennials, with an emphasis on those that would cope with drought conditions. As we were in the middle of a prolonged spell of dry weather, this was very

welcome and none of us could resist buying at least one of the beautiful examples she had brought to show us. These ranged from stately 'prairie' *Veronicastrum* and *Thalictrum*, to the more well-known *Alstroemerias* and *Verbenas*, *Gaura* and *Salvia*. All we have to do is keep our new plants alive while being sparing with our watering.

As we go to press we have a visit to Burford Gardens planned, then a month off in August. We next meet on 10 September, when Graham Pavey will talk to us about Garden Design Techniques. All visitors welcome!

*Diane Bates, Secretary*  
([diane@bateshome.co.uk](mailto:diane@bateshome.co.uk), <http://stonesfieldgardening.info>)

## Stonesfield Lunch Club

At the Lunch Club AGM on 4 July. I resigned as Chairman of the club.

I would like to thank all the volunteers and members who have always given me such positive support. It is what has made the responsibility such an enjoyable experience over the past twenty years. Thank you also for the generous gift and messages I received.

Kate Harris is taking over my role and I am hoping she will receive the same level of help and commitment I was so fortunate to enjoy. Over the past months Kate has been involved as a cook and committee member, becoming familiar with the people involved and the way things work.

I hope she will enjoy her role as much as I have.

*Anne Bishop*

Thank you to everyone who came to the Lunch Club tea party, and thank you to all those who contributed towards it but were unable to be with us to thank Anne for twenty years of splendid leadership and to welcome Kate as our new Chairman.

*Mary Fraser Hughes*

### Over-60s Darby & Joan Club

It was a very hot day when we met for our Summer Lunch in July. We did our best to keep cool as we enjoyed the delicious lunch prepared and served by the brilliant 'A' Team; beautifully fresh and tasting as good as it looked. It was Wimbledon week, so the sweet had to be strawberries and cream with a shortbread finger, and a cold drink with the meal.

We then listened, joined in or just chatted as Kathleen operated the CD player and provided some old favourites brought along by Joyce.

Avis thanked the helpers for all their hard work, both the shopping and preparation before and on the day. Before listening to Joyce's second CD the raffle was drawn and a happy relaxing afternoon came to a close. Thank you Kathleen and Joyce, and to everyone who helped clear away.

The August meeting will be a tea party to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Royal Voluntary Service. The club has been associated with them since day one. We will be entertained by music and song from Herbie and Doey, so I hope you will be there. We would love to see visitors at our meetings, and of course new members would be most welcome. Why not pop in and have a cuppa? See you on 9 August at 2pm.

*Avis Ushaw*

### Sports and Social Club

The sports and social club would like to thank all those who supported the club and of course ENGLAND during the World Cup – a good time was had by all.

*Brian Clark*

### Woodstock U3A coffee morning

Woodstock & District U3A (University of the 3rd Age) is holding a coffee morning on Wednesday 15 August, from 10am to 12noon, at Kidlington Baptist Church, OX5 2DS (at the corner of Kidlington High Street and Foxdown Close).

Please come and meet us to find out about our forthcoming programme of monthly talks and our varied interest groups, including walking, play reading and art. For more information, please see [www.u3asites.org.uk/woodstock](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/woodstock).

### STONESFIELD VOLUNTARY TRANSPORT SCHEME

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

**If you need a lift for a medical visit in AUGUST**

**please ring Peter Clifton (891956) or Jenny Haviland (891614).**

*Every effort will be made to find a volunteer driver for you, but please give as much notice as you can. This is a free service, but donations to costs are welcomed.*

## Sport

### Stonesfield Football Club

Training has started for the 2018–2019 season, on Tuesday nights from 6.30pm at the playing field. Both new and old players are welcome. Manager is Mick Phipps (Rooney) and new players should report to him.

*Brian Clarke*

### Stonesfield Cricket Club

A lot can change in a month! Since the last *Slate*, we've enjoyed incredible cricket weather and the 1st XI have hit top form in the league – runs galore – thrashing old enemies Faringdon, winning at high flying Oxenford, beating East & West Hendred and then Westcott in a last ball thriller. The only defeat came against Wootton & Boars Hill – blamed on the distraction of England's World Cup game! The lads also defeated Yarnton & Cowley in their Airey Cup quarter final to set up a home semi-final against Watlington on 5 August – lots of support needed for that!

In contrast, the 2nd XI's promising early season form has petered out a little with a run of recent defeats to Chippy 2nds, Deddington 2nds and Stanton Harcourt 2nds. The Deddington defeat was especially undeserved as we were incredibly sporting to loan our opponents a fielder for 25 overs (while one of our

players drove their captain to hospital with a badly cut hand) – when ultimately they then needed just 3 runs from the last over of the game, with only 1 wicket in hand. Fielding 5 youth players against a team of all adults, we played very well and can hold our heads high.

*Stewart Moss (07866 278685)*

### Stonesfield Tennis Club

At the time of writing, we are halfway through this year's Wychwood League matches. No wins so far, but no humiliations either – the Stonesfield team is competing well. Coaching sessions are every Thursday; there have been two junior sessions and one adult session (now finished). If there is sufficient interest, we might offer further coaching sessions in September.

Now that we have refurbished courts with a great new surface, membership is up – around 40 people. There's room for more – contact [Richard.morris@zen.co.uk](mailto:Richard.morris@zen.co.uk) to join and get the key code and the means of booking.

Friday nights is Club Night, from around 5pm. It's worth phoning a friend to ensure you'll have a partner, but sometimes you need to wait your turn!

*Dale Morris (898210)*

*The Stonesfield Slate is a village amenity produced and distributed by volunteers. It cannot be held responsible for any of the views expressed in its pages nor does it endorse any of the products or services advertised. The editor and the publishers reserve the right to edit or shorten any article submitted for publication.*

# Church news



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

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[www.stonesfieldparishchurch.org](http://www.stonesfieldparishchurch.org)

Stonesfield Churchwardens: Neil Melrose (891566) and Kate Harris (898781)

Combe Longa Churchwarden: Andrew Hobson (891273)

BCP=Book of Common Prayer: CW=Common Worship



### From your Parish Priest

I have just been to Venice on a working holiday. Union Lido in Cavallino, just outside Venice, is a massive campsite with over 10,000 people. The site owners ask for chaplains every year, to come and do services for them and to be on hand for English-speaking tourists and expats for pastoral issues. The services were well attended on both Sundays that Bev and I were there and it was a good time had by all. The temperature got up to 40 degrees C, but we had lots of cold drinks and shade to help. I have to say that their grass was remarkably green in contrast to when I returned and looked at my sorry looking garden.

The browned lawn did give me an idea though for my assembly at the school in Stonesfield. Although the grass was browned off, in more ways than one, the weeds were still thriving in the middle of the lawn. I decided to talk to the leavers in year six, about the weeds. Why did the weeds do so well when the grass was in

such a state? Of course it was to do with their roots.

The weeds were able to draw nourishment deeper down from the parched earth. I wanted to assure them that what they had learned and the way that they had developed whilst at junior school could be drawn on when they went to 'big school'. I guess it's a lesson for us all that we need to make sure that we rely on the roots that go deep into our families, our friends, our faith even when meeting new challenges.

How do we all make our decisions? How do we meet the challenges that life brings up? We all need to have something to rely on within ourselves when making our way in life. It's never easy but using the roots that we have developed through our lives is a good way to meet these challenges.

We finished the assembly with the song *One more step along the road I go*, which really seemed to encapsulate what we

were trying to talk about. Life, it seems to me, is indeed a collection of steps day by day as we experience whatever the day brings. Sometimes it's good and sometimes it's not so good, but meet the challenges we must.

It's the way life is. If you are experiencing challenges in your life at the moment let me encourage you that all of us are really in the same boat. We all need help, whether through our roots that we have developed through the years or recent friends who have become part of our lives.

That's really part of what the church is. The church is a place to put down roots and to gain the wisdom needed and indeed friendship to help us all through; the main friendship of course being with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. I am so thankful for the roots I have. I am so thankful for the church and my faith.

Well, see you soon and as always,  
D.F.T.W.

Rev Roy

### SERVICES FOR AUGUST

#### Sunday 5 August [Tenth Sunday after Trinity]

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

#### Sunday 12 August [Eleventh Sunday after Trinity, St Laurence transferred]

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion	[BCP/said]
9.30am	Combe Longa	Parish Communion	[CW/sung]
11am	Stonesfield	Parish Communion	[CW/sung]
7.30pm	Combe Longa	Feast Day Open Air Service on the Green	

#### Sunday 19 August [Twelfth 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 26 August [Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity]

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

#### Sunday 2 September [Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity]

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

#### Mid-week Communion Service [said]

Wednesdays 9.30am at Stonesfield. Everyone is most welcome.



## Stonesfield Methodist Church

### SERVICES FOR AUGUST

Sun 5	11am	Rev'd Rose Westwood Holy Communion
Sun 12	11am	Graham Faulkner
Sun 19	11am	Eddie Fowler
Sun 26	No Service in Stonesfield 10.30am Service at Charlbury (Rev'd Michael Sawyer)	

## Roman Catholic Worship

### St Teresa's Charlbury Strength in adversity

Apparently, Harold Macmillan said when asked what a prime minister most feared: 'Events, dear boy, events'. If life is not 'plain sailing', how then do we manage the uncertainty, fear, anxiety and confusion that adversity brings with it? With difficulty, is probably the short answer for most of us.

However, we are not without resources to help guide and support us through the 'bad times'. The Gospels provide us with a clear message of how we can survive the inevitable adversity, difficulties and challenges of life. Jesus had much experience of adversity: *This is the carpenter, surely, the son of Mary, brother of James and Joset and Jude and Simon? His sisters too, are they not here with us?* And they would not accept him. And Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is only despised in his own house'; and he could work no miracles there...' Mark 6:1-6.

Rather than try to persuade them to

accept Him, he demonstrated the principle that St Paul writes about in his second letter to the Corinthians 12:7-10: 'My grace is enough for you; my power is at its best in weakness.' Adversity is a predictable element of our external human condition, but how we respond is an indication of our inner strength and fortitude: *Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so you may be mature and complete, and not lacking anything* (James 1: 2-3). Wise words if we choose to listen to them.

### MASS TIMES

#### SUNDAYS

**St Teresa's, Charlbury:** 9.15am

**St Kenelm's, Enstone:** 9am, second Sunday of every month

#### WEEKDAYS

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

**Confession:** Confessions are at 10am after morning Mass on Saturdays, and on request.

**Father Tony Joyce** can be contacted on [holytrinityrcchippy@gmail.com](mailto:holytrinityrcchippy@gmail.com) or telephone (01608 642703).

For parish updates and any further information please see: <https://stteresaschurch-charlbury.com/> or contact Clare Carswell, Chair, Parish Committee: [chair.stteresaschurchcharlbury@gmail.com](mailto:chair.stteresaschurchcharlbury@gmail.com)

*Roman Catholic Community in Stonesfield*

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**Informed guidance on University entrance,** courses and A level choices from experienced teacher and A level/GCSE examiner. Advice on exam techniques and coaching for English at A level/GCSE also available. Contact Ginnie Redston, MA, PGCE, via 01993 868697.

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It is led by local Chiropractor and Pilates instructor Clare Nuttall. Clare has also studied Tai Chi for 15 years.

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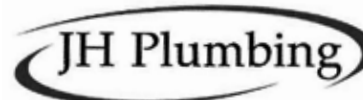
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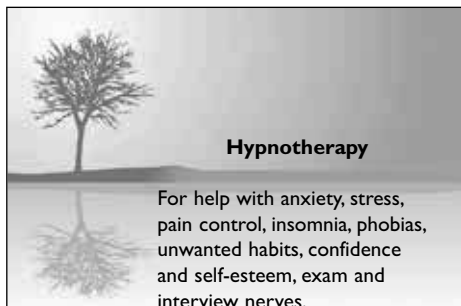
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We will be opening on August Bank Holiday Sunday evening and Monday lunchtime so look out for the A Board on the triangle for news on what events we will be holding that weekend.

We will also be hosting a 'Meet your local MP' event at the pub (date to be confirmed) which will give you the opportunity to have an informal chat with Robert Courts about any issue you wish. Could be interesting!

#### ***Bar opening hours***

Tuesday–Thursday	5pm–Close
Friday	12noon–3pm
	5pm–Close
Saturday	12noon–3pm
	6pm–Close
Sunday	12noon–3pm

#### ***Food served***

Tuesday–Thursday	6pm–9pm
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Saturday	12noon–2.30pm
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