

# The Stonesfield Slate

Issue No 485 October 2018



## Dates for your diary – October

1,8,15	Monday Coffee	St James' Centre	8.45–10am
1,8,15,22,29	Cuppa	St James' Centre	10–11.30am
3,10,17,24,31	Lunch Club	St James' Centre	10.30am–3pm
3,10,17,24,31	Folk Dance	Village Hall	8–10pm
4,11,18,25	Book Break	Stonesfield Library	12.30–2pm
7	Treasure Box family walk	St James' Centre start	2.30pm
10	Parish Council meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm
11	Over 60s Club	Village Hall	1pm
13	Shoeboxes	St James' Centre	2–4pm
13	Ladies Night & disco	Sports & Social Club	8pm
15	Gardening Club	trip to Batsford Arboretum	
17	Lawrence of Arabia talk	Stonesfield School	8pm
20	Coffee with a Cause	St James' Centre	10am–2pm
25	Bingo	Sports & Social Club	Eyes Down 7.30pm
27	Band Night FREEFALL	Sports & Social Club	8.30pm
28	An Invitation to Dance	Village Hall	10.30am–3.30pm
29	Flu vaccines	Woodstock Surgery	by appointment

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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**

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*Cloud streets above  
Church Street on 23  
August (see p. 4)*



Photo: Chris Bartle

# Notices

## David Franklin

Ann, Sally, Carole and family would like to thank all our relatives and friends for their kind messages of sympathy following the passing of David. Many thanks also to Roy for a lovely service, and to the bellringers for ringing before the service and for the half-muffled quarter peal in the evening.

*and from neighbours*

The church was full for the funeral of David on 28 August. David was born, raised and spent his life in Stonesfield. He and Ann spent their entire married life of almost sixty years in Peaks Lane. He played football for Stonesfield and rang the church bells for years, as well as winding the church clock and flying the flag. He will be sadly missed by his friends and neighbours and our thoughts are with Ann, Sally and Carole at this sad time.

*Simon and Jenny Haviland*

## Sustainable Stonesfield

CALA Homes have lodged an appeal against WODC's decision to reject their application to build 68 houses on the Woodstock Road.

Stonesfield residents have another opportunity to comment and influence the outcome. Over 200 letters of objection were written to WODC in the initial planning process. We now urge everybody to write to the Planning Inspectorate. The closing date for comments is **11 October 2018**. The WODC planning ref is 17/01670/FUL.

A model letter addressed to the appeal hearing can be found on the Sustainable Stonesfield website. We have been warned not to bombard the Inspector with a repeat of our original objections. We therefore recommend basing your letter on the following recent developments:

1. WODC have had their Local Plan 2031 approved. In the process of examining the draft Local Plan, the Inspector made some key recommendations that relate directly to the Woodstock Road site. Here is a summary: *Major development within an AONB should be refused other than in exceptional circumstances. Exceptional circumstances could be created by demonstration of a clear housing need. The Inspector found that neither WODC's report nor any other information provided substantive evidence for any significant new housing need in the Burford / Charlbury sub-area.*

2. As a result of the Inspector's findings, WODC has removed the four previously allocated development sites within the AONB, including CALA's Woodstock Road site, from their Local Plan. This indicated a clear acceptance by WODC that the protection afforded by the AONB should be respected.

### Write Now

We urge you to write to the Planning Inspectorate before 11 October. Send your letter to [robert.wordsworth@pins.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:robert.wordsworth@pins.gsi.gov.uk)

Be sure to include your name and address

and reference number  
APP/D3125/W/18/3209551

We need to ensure the strongest representation from the village against this unnecessary and unwanted development. We can still win this.

*Caroline Friend  
Sustainable Stonesfield*

## Coffee with a Cause

St James' Centre, Stonesfield: Saturday 20 October, 10am–2pm

All proceeds from the coffee morning will be donated to MacMillan Cancer Support.

In addition to Mac's Café serving tea/coffee, cakes and savouries, there will be

- vintage tableware, glass and kitchenalia
- home produce including 'cakes and bakes'
- candleholders, lanterns and tealights
- a variety of antique and vintage planted-up containers
- 'Autumn Reads' – a selection of nearly-new books

We hope very much that you will come and support this event and look forward to seeing you there. In the meantime, if you would like more information or wish to help in some way, please email Rachel Scott ([rachelfrancismanning@icloud.com](mailto:rachelfrancismanning@icloud.com)) or Trisha Williams ([twynnnewilliams@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:twynnnewilliams@hotmail.co.uk))

## Ladies Breakfast

**Saturday 17 November**

This event is held at St James' Centre, 8.45 for 9am. All ladies are invited to enjoy a healthy breakfast, great fellowship and a talk from Bev Turner, the Rector's wife.

Tickets are £5 and may be obtained from Kathleen (891733), Muriel (891479) and Janet (891566)

## Christmas Shoeboxes

Come and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and cake on Saturday 13 October, from 2 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.

This year our boxes will go to both Operation Christmas Child ([operationchristmaschild.org.uk](http://operationchristmaschild.org.uk)) and Teams4U.

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

## Voluntary Transport Scheme needs helpers

When they can't get to the doctor's surgery in Woodstock, Charlbury or Long Hanborough, villagers can and do call our number, which is advertised in the *Slate*. It's a lifeline for those who can't get around so easily, and it's an easy way to give some simple help to others.

Don't hesitate to use it! It's good that the number of trips we have made has declined from a peak of over 100 to less than 30 just now. But our team of helpers has declined from a dozen to only four active ones, so give some thought – you

don't need it, but can you help? From the figures you can see that you won't be asked to take someone very often. The insurance will cost you nothing, and we arrange it.

At some times we get our back to the wall, like holiday periods. It hurts to tell someone we can't help, but that has happened twice. So – can you help?

*Peter Clifton (891956)*

### **Treasure Box**

There will be a Treasure Box family walk on Sunday 7 October starting at the St James' Centre at 2.30pm. Anyone is welcome to come along. Children must be accompanied by an adult. We will be finishing with refreshments at the St James' Centre.

There will also be a half-term Treasure Box session on Tuesday 23 October from 10.30am to 12noon in the St James' Centre. There will be games, songs and craft activities based on a Christian theme. All children are welcome. 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).

### **Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust Ride & Stride**

Many thanks to all who participated in this year's Ride & Stride on 8 September – the Riders and Striders, those who sat in the two churches in the village welcoming visitors, and the sponsors. Six people took part this year and between

them they raised over £300. Half of this goes to support the work of OHCT and half goes to St James's.

*Simon Haviland (891614)*

### **Poems in a Pub**

The Stonesfield-based 3Score Publishing writers' cooperative is celebrating nine years of success with Poems in a Pub, on 5 November. Described as a Publication Celebration, it will offer everyone the chance to read two or more of their own compositions, while showcasing some of the company's recent books. Details from Peter Clifton at 891956 ([info@3scorepublishing.co.uk](mailto:info@3scorepublishing.co.uk)).

### **Cloud streets spotted in southern England**

Those fortunate to be outside after dark on Thursday 23 August would have seen remarkable cloud formations known as 'cloud streets', which were visible in Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire.

BBC weather presenter Simon King said the clouds are not uncommon in the UK but these stood out against the fading light of the sky. 'Cloud streets are essentially long rows of cumulus cloud aligned in the sky with the wind direction,' he said.

Warm air on the surface rises, cools and condenses into cloud. In certain situations a warm layer of air in the lower atmosphere, called an inversion, acts as a lid preventing air from rising any further. This means at the top of the cloud, the cooler air is forced out horizontally where it will then start to sink back to Earth

## *Politics & local affairs*

### **Parish Council**

CALA Homes have made an appeal to the Secretary of State against the decision of WODC to refuse planning permission for the residential development consisting of 68 dwellings, public open space and new vehicular access at land east of Woodstock Road. SPC has sent a strong letter objection to this appeal.

### **The Common and Glebe Land**

SPC has a responsibility to keep the land on the Common in conjunction with guidance from Natural England, and at the Glebe since SPC now holds the lease, in a neat and tidy condition. SPC has employed Tudor Stone to manage this task and he will be working on both sites on a regular basis. SPC and Tudor Stone recognise the flora and fauna in the area. There is also a need to keep the prolific blackthorn at bay.

### **Broadband in Stonesfield**

You may have noticed orange cables in the area. Gigaclear are in the process of laying the cables for UltraFast Broadband in the rural areas of West Oxfordshire. Work is currently supposed to be in the Fawler cabinet which includes Stonesfield. We hope to have more details next month.

### **Grants Available for 2019–2020**

If any local organisation is planning a project, please let SPC know and you may qualify for a Grant. Application forms available from the Clerk on [stonesfieldpc@gmail.com](mailto:stonesfieldpc@gmail.com).

### **Please drive carefully**

SPC is aware of the parking and speeding issues in Stonesfield. Please drive carefully through the village and ensure that you park your car in a safe place and preferably not on the verges.

### **Dog Waste Bins**

There are several dog waste bins in Stonesfield. Can all dog owners make sure that the poo bag goes in one of the bins and is not left on the verge.

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 10 October at the Village Hall. All members of the public are welcome.

*Gill Hill, Parish Clerk*

*([stonesfieldpc@gmail.com](mailto:stonesfieldpc@gmail.com))*

### **West Oxfordshire District Council District Jottings.**

To all residents who are apprehensive about the level of speculative house building in West Oxfordshire, the relief that the District Local Plan is at long last being accepted is widespread.

The Council is meeting on 27 September to ratify the Plan. Our two Planning sub-committees will now have the teeth to refuse inappropriate applications free of the fear that an appeal to the Inspectorate might succeed.

This, of course, has implications for the appeal by Cala Management Ltd. Residents and interested groups have until 11 October to submit comments to the Planning Inspectorate (address and

email details on <https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk>). All previous comments and representations will be considered.

Council was advised that the figures quoted recently in the local press of the numbers of households applying for affordable homes on the council lists were exaggerated. The true figures are that there are 81 families in Urgent Need (the gold band), 242 in need but not considered urgent (the silver band), giving a total of 323. The remainder of up to in excess of 2000 have applied but have not demonstrated housing need.

On a personal note, may I remind all who are considering building, either new builds or extensions to existing property, to submit plans in good time. Retrospective applications are often viewed with some suspicion. They often appear to be attempts to circumvent the system and contain difficulties in one form or another.

I should like to confirm that your two District Councillors, Charles Cottrell-Dormer and I, will continue to serve you all to the best of our abilities and will respond to questions and concerns as quickly as possible.

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

#### **Rare butterfly returns**

A rare butterfly has returned to a West Oxfordshire beauty spot after a 30-year absence. The Black Hairstreak was seen on North Leigh Common – the first time it has made an appearance there since 1988.

The sighting was particularly significant

as the Black Hairstreak has a very limited range, with most colonies limited to Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. It is only seen in June and early July.

It was spotted by Stuart Hodges of Butterfly Conservation at the site, which is maintained by WODC, after reports the hot summer was encouraging increasing numbers.

The butterfly relies on the presence of blackthorn to lay its eggs

#### **Updated waste and recycling calendars**

Annual waste and recycling calendars, starting from October 2018, will be available to download from West Oxfordshire District Council's website from mid-September.

These calendars will remind you which bins to put out on what days and are especially helpful to find out any changes over the Christmas period and Bank Holidays.

For more information:  
[www.westoxon.gov.uk](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk)

#### **Affordable homes to rent**

Applications are invited for four newly built affordable homes that are the first to come forward as the result of a unique partnership between Blenheim Estate Homes and West Oxfordshire District Council. A further 55 affordable properties are being built as part of the Hanborough Gate development, which is on the western side of Long Hanborough.

The first four properties comprise two 2-bedroom houses and two 3-bedroom houses and they will be available during October and November.

Rental levels will be priced at 60 per cent of the current market rate and so a two-bedroom house will be £173 pw and a three-bed house will be £214 pw.

Priority will be given to local residents, but all applicants must have been assessed in need of affordable housing and be registered on the Homeseeker Plus website.

Blenheim Estate Homes, working in partnership with West Oxfordshire District Council, is intending to offer at least 300 affordable homes on future sites.

Anyone interested in applying for a socially rented home should visit [www.homeseekerplus.co.uk](http://www.homeseekerplus.co.uk) or contact West Oxfordshire District Council on 01993 861000.

#### **'Life changing' scheme promises a brighter future for young people**

A project designed to give West Oxfordshire residents a fresh start in life has been launched.

Two under-35-year-olds have moved into their own home thanks to the Our House project run by West Oxfordshire District Council and Cottsway Housing Association. But this is much more than shared accommodation – it's a community housing project which will involve the tenants renovating the Witney property and being given the opportunity to learn different trades at the same time with the help of experts.

The occupants are currently on out-of-work benefits but could take on an apprenticeship which will pave the way to full-time employment.

Other partners in the project include Ace Training in Kidlington and the Aspire charity in Oxford, which provides commercial services delivered by people facing barriers to securing employment.

Further information: Communications:  
01993 861615 / 861616 or  
[communications@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:communications@westoxon.gov.uk)

*Andrew Smith, Communications Officer*

#### **Wychwood Project**

In October the Wychwood Project is running a Dry-Stone Walling Day near Witney and a day teaching pole lathing at Combe Mill.

#### **Dry Stone Walling**

Tuesday 9 October 10am–3pm at  
Foxburrow Woods, Witney, OX29 9UN.

#### **Wood Turning: Pole Lathing for Adult and Child Pairs**

Monday 22 October 10.30am–1pm, or  
1.30pm–4pm at Combe Mill, near Long  
Hanborough OX29 8ET.

For full details of both events visit:  
[www.wychwoodproject.org](http://www.wychwoodproject.org) or contact  
Toby Swift on 07981 134804

*Matthew Lee, Wychwood Project  
([info@wychwoodproject.org.uk](mailto:info@wychwoodproject.org.uk))*

#### **Plastic bag fund from the Editor**

Mat and Rekha have generously been handing money collected from the sale of plastic bags at the shop to the Lunch Club since the scheme started. They are now going to give the money each month to PreSchool.

Thanks to Mat and Rekha.



# 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

## Stonesfield Primary School

I'd like to introduce myself as the new Headteacher of Stonesfield Primary School. Two weeks into the post I've been bowled over by the kindness and positivity of the pupils, the dedication of the teachers, and the lovely welcome by parents and families. This is my first headship and I couldn't have asked for a more receptive start. And what a busy two weeks we've had . . .

The school has a clear vision to nurture pupils and foster a holistic and inclusive approach to education. This year we are implementing a new approach to PE which develops personal and social skills alongside more traditional physical skills. Teachers have received fantastic training this week thanks to Create Development and children have responded with great enthusiasm. Another aspect of our curriculum which embodies the school's ethos is Forest School and thanks to the Community Trust we are able to extend our provision this year. We are lucky enough to not only live in a beautiful

village, but to have a wonderful field for the children to play in all year round, and a wild area which children can visit to engage with nature. Children of all ages across the school will have opportunities to build dens, investigate life in our pond, create art using wild materials, and drink hot chocolate around a camp fire.

Of course, improving standards in Maths and English will always remain a high priority. We are involved in an exciting project to embed Mastery Maths which promotes deep and sustained learning through the use of resources and images. I'm also grateful for the support of The Woodstock Bookshop in our aim of promoting a love of reading by having quality books at the heart of our curriculum.

I've always considered our schools to be at the heart of our community and I'm looking forward to working closely with the wide array of organisations which thrive in Stonesfield.

*Mr Ben Trevail, Headteacher*

## Backing into the Limelight: The Enigma of Lawrence of Arabia

On 17 October at Stonesfield School at 8pm the Stonesfield Players are hosting a presentation and discussion in advance of their November production *Shadow of the Desert*, a radio play by David Lines. The speakers will be David Lines and Becki Sherlaw-Johnson, the play's director. Entry is free.



In advance of the November production of  
*Shadow of the Desert*

## Backing Into the Limelight

*An illustrated talk about Lawrence of Arabia  
and the man behind the icon  
With David Lines (author) and  
Becki Sherlaw-Johnson (director)*

**Wednesday 17 October, 8pm,  
Stonesfield School.  
Admission free.**

Many of us know something about T. E. Lawrence, probably from seeing David Lean's film *Lawrence of Arabia*. Perhaps you have managed to read Lawrence's famous book, *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, widely regarded as the definitive work when attempting to understand the Middle East. But beyond that, who was this enigmatic hero and icon of the twentieth century?

As we researched and prepared the script for production, we found a brilliant Oxford scholar, archaeologist, tactician and adventurer alongside a shy, very private man who lived the life of an ascetic. The popular image of Lawrence revolves around two intense years of fighting in the desert, behind that lies a man who was, and largely remains, an enigma despite the many attempts that have been made to understand who and what he was.

For further information:  
rebeccasj@btinternet.com or  
david\_lines@btinternet.com.

## Shadow of the Desert: a radio play by David Lines.

Come and see the Stonesfield Players autumn production at St James' Centre. Evening performances are 9 and 10 November and on 10 November there will also be a matinee followed by a question and answer session with the writer, director and cast. Tickets are on sale from 15 October at the village shop and from our box office: 01993 891217, 07795 441986 or [andrew.tacon@outlook.com](mailto:andrew.tacon@outlook.com).

## Summer Reading Challenge 2018

The tea party and awards ceremony for the Summer Reading Challenge took

place on Wednesday 12 September at the Village Hall. An estimated 86 people attended the event, including the participating children, their families and the Friends of Stonesfield Library.

This year's theme was Mischief Makers in celebration of The Beano. Children were asked to read six books of their choice over a period of six weeks and were rewarded with stickers each time they had finished reading two books. This year 74 children registered for the Challenge and 56 completed it successfully – this is a record! Tony Scott, Chairman of the Friends, presented those completing the challenge with a 'gold' medal, an inscribed certificate and a Beano-themed goodie bag. Following the presentations, a group photo was taken outside the Library. Many congratulations to all our readers.

A big thank you is extended to Oxfordshire 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.

*Trisha Williams, on behalf of the Friends of Stonesfield Library*

### **An Evening with Gordon Giltrap**

Friday 5 October at 7.30pm, Woodstock Social Club (44 Oxford St, Woodstock OX20 1TT) Tickets £10 from The Woodstock Bookshop, please book in advance: 01993 812760; [info@woodstockbookshop.co.uk](mailto:info@woodstockbookshop.co.uk)

We are holding an unusual book launch on Friday 5 October, when composer and guitar legend Gordon Giltrap comes to Woodstock Social Club to celebrate his

# Shadow of the Desert

By David Lines

November 9 & 10

*What happened to Lawrence after Arabia?*

Tickets on sale from 15 October.

01993 891217, 07795 441986, [Andrew.tacon@outlook.com](mailto:Andrew.tacon@outlook.com),  
or from the village shop (Suriya Express).



Photo: Mike Pollitt

*'Mischief Makers' Summer Reading Challenge winners. Children at the Medal Ceremony that took place in the Village Hall on 12 September celebrating their success.*

new biography, *Perilous Journey*. Gordon will discuss his life with author Steve Pilkington and will also play solo guitar. *Heart song*, a three-track single, will be released on the same date. This promises to be a wonderful evening – Gordon Giltrap is an outstanding musician and it is wonderful to have someone of such calibre playing in Woodstock and to have the opportunity of chatting with him informally during the evening – there will be an interval when drinks can be purchased from the Social Club bar.

*Rachel Phipps, The Woodstock Bookshop, 23 Oxford Street, Woodstock OX20 1TH (01993 812760; [www.woodstockbookshop.co.uk](http://www.woodstockbookshop.co.uk))*

### **Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum 1066: A Medieval Mosaic Exhibition**

This is a Guinness World Record-winning exhibition which has toured a number of locations in the UK before arriving at Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum (SOFO Museum), Woodstock.

The mosaic took its creator, Michael A. Linton, 33 years to complete after he started work on the piece in 1979. Made from 33 million individual pieces of spring steel, the mosaic now measures 64 metres long and weighs 350kg. This earned *1066: A Medieval Mosaic* the title of the world's largest steel mosaic and a place in the Guinness Book of World Records.



The mosaic re-creates the entirety of the original Bayeux Tapestry, including the depiction of the Battle of Hastings, but also expands on it with additional historic scenes. In 2005 Michael added an 8-metre 'Finale Section' which depicts events leading up to the crowning of William the Conqueror on Christmas Day 1066.

In 2012, a further 22-metre section was added to cover the Battle of Fulford and the Battle of Stamford Bridge. These added scenes bring this re-creation close to twice the length of the real Bayeux Tapestry.

To coincide with arrival of the mosaic, SOFO Museum will also hold a mini-exhibition of objects that tell the story of World War II as the Bayeux tapestry does for the Norman Conquest. Visitors will be able to see these objects on display until February 2019.

*1066: A Medieval Mosaic* is on display from 5 September 2018 to 1 February 2019, throughout the museum's regular opening hours and is included in the admission price.

SOFO Museum is open Tuesday – Friday 10am to 5pm, Saturdays 11am to 5pm, and Sundays 2pm to 5pm. Changes to regular opening times are always added to the museum website.

*Duncan Parsons, Front of House and Marketing Supervisor SOFO (810211)*

### Witney Music Society

The next series of Witney Music Society concerts starts in October. Details of all

the concerts are on the Witney Music Society website and in its new brochure, copies of which may be obtained via the website or from the Visitor Information Centre and other locations throughout Witney..

The opening concert of the new season will be given by the Carducci Quartet, who will be performing works for string quartet by Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Arvo Part and Dvořák. The concert will be at High Street Methodist Church, Witney at 7.30pm on Friday 12 October.

Tickets (£12, £1 for under 19s) will be available at the door from 7pm or in advance online or in person from Greenway Antiques or Rapture in Witney. For more information please telephone 01993 702296 or visit the Witney Music Society website [www.witneymusicsociety.org.uk](http://www.witneymusicsociety.org.uk)

*Jean Richards, Programme Secretary*

### Community Education at the Marlborough School, Woodstock

This time last year, 170 people attended our one-day Saturday workshops learning things like Italian cookery, reflexology, stained glass, drawing, and using your iPad or iPhone. This year, on 13 October and 24 November.

We still have places on some of our weekly singing, badminton, yoga, pilates, and Zumba Gold classes. Please check availability on our website or call us.

*Celia Clark, Coordinator (01993 813592; [comed.4560@marlborough.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:comed.4560@marlborough.oxon.sch.uk); [www.marlborough.oxon.sch.uk/comed](http://www.marlborough.oxon.sch.uk/comed))*

## Clubs & societies

### Stonesfield Gardening Club

After our usual summer break, the gardening club met again on 10 September to hear a talk on Garden Design Techniques by Graham Pavey. He emphasised that we should bear in mind the practicality of any scheme, making sure paths are wide enough to walk down (and allow plants to spread naturally) and that edges are easy to mow round, preferably with 'mowing strips' of paving lower than the lawn. Depending on the size of your garden, you can create mystery by planting to break up views or making rooms with hedging. He also talked about the importance of considering the shapes of plants and using all available – tall, spiky, round, etc. and that an area with just a few plants repeated can be very effective.

Our meeting in October will be a trip to Batsford Arboretum to see the autumn colours.

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

### Sports and Social Club

Folk night every Tuesday evening from 9pm, an informal gathering. Come along and join in.

*Brian Clarke*

### Stonesfield Lunch Club

#### New Members Wanted!

Running every Wednesday at the St James' Centre from 10.30 to 3pm, the

Lunch Club provides company, activities and a fabulous home-cooked two-course meal

Currently we run on a membership basis, which means that we get to know our guests very well and it is a lovely warm and welcoming place to be. We are however aware that today's 'Oldies' tend to be very active, still driving and travelling to all ends of the earth and perhaps do not want to commit to coming every week – although once you have been a few times it may well be too good to stay away! We would love to see some new faces and perhaps you or someone that you know might benefit from the social contact and a good meal.

If you would like to join as a regular Day Member we charge just £5 a day. For those who would like to visit on a more informal basis, or perhaps just for lunch, you need to book by the Friday before.

*Contact Kate Harris (01993 898781 [kateharris58@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kateharris58@yahoo.co.uk))*

### Stonesfield Folk Dance Club

Wednesday evenings from 8pm in the Village Hall is the liveliest place to be in Stonesfield. Live music most times and as many as nine musicians play traditional folk tunes for us to dance too. With a refreshment break for tea or coffee and some home baking it all sounds too good to be true! Please come and join us to find out for yourselves.

On Sunday 28 October we have three of

the finest professional folk musicians in the country. Vicki Swan, Jonny Dyer & John Dipper, who play as Purcell's Polyphonic Party, and they will be playing all the tracks from their latest CD 'An Invitation to Dance' and we will be dancing to some beautiful tunes from 10.30am through to 3.30pm with a break for lunch. Both the morning and afternoon sessions are 2 hours and cost £12.50. Just one session will be £7.50. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy this event and you will be supporting the Village Hall as well by doing this!

Throughout October we are scheduled to have either The Donkey House Band or John Graham & The Quarry Turners playing. Our Guest Caller on 3 October is Ted Morse, who is a much respected Caller who regularly runs weeks at the National Centre for Folk Arts in Somerset and has appeared at all the major folk festivals nationally.

*Stewart Nicholls (01295730271;  
Stewart.Nicholls@virgin.net;  
www.stonesfieldfolkdance.danceorg.uk)*

### **Stonesfield Over 60s Club**

It was lovely to see so many at our September meeting. We enjoyed lots of fun and laughter as we played our once a year Beetle. There was definitely no cheating but 4 of the helpers made up the winning team. Fortunately there was a small prize for everyone. While the ladies organized The Tea and Cakes a card was circulated which we all signed for Judy sending her our love and best wishes after her fall. We missed you Judy and hope you will soon be able to come again.

There was a large table full of gifts

brought in by the members for our Bring & Buy stall and having had a breather and refreshments the sale commenced. Thanks to all who brought in the goods and to the buyers. Unlike the January sales this was not a mad rush, just a leisurely visit to the stall and then pay for your goods.

Our October meeting on 11th will be our Harvest/Autumn Lunch at 1 o'clock followed by an amusing speaker. Names were taken for this and choices noted..

In November (8th) we will have our Bingo with the suggestion of Christmas is coming in the prizes.

In December (13th) our Christmas Lunch with entertainment is already booked.

We ended our afternoon with the raffle before making our way home. I hope to see you all for lunch in October.

*Best Wishes Avis*

### **North Leigh History Society**

2 Oct *The Ascott Martyrs*. Talk by Carol Anderson. 7.30 p.m. in the Turner Hall, Church Road, North Leigh OX29 6TX. All welcome. Visitors £4, Members free. Further details from Diana Power 01993 882301

### **Woodstock Natural History Society**

This month's meeting is on Tuesday 9 October at 7.30pm in the Community Centre, New Road, Woodstock, OX20 1PB. Conor Jameson will give an illustrated talk entitled 'Goshawks'. Visitors £2. All welcome.

*Brian Jones (891710)*

## *Sport*

### **Stonesfield Football Club**

Well, what can I say? That was a fabulous summer of sweltering heat and blazing sunshine that left our playing field hard-baked and devoid of green grass for our brave lads to do their pre-season training. However, the arduous under-foot conditions didn't deter them from putting in the hard graft to get them all fit and into tip-top condition for the long and tough football season that lies ahead. The Firsts are well-prepared to make another assault on The Division 1 Title in the Witney & District League and every twist and turn of the new season will be reported here until May of next year. Some of the reportage will be just made-up nonsense, some will be tinged with a hint of fact mixed in with juicy gossip. Whatever remains will be a true and accurate account of every result: good, bad, indifferent; you'll find it all here! As an example, I can shed absolutely no light whatsoever on the rumour that not only Tom but also Nick Higgs will be playing for us this season. Brian Clarke has been tight-lipped on the club's star signings but I have it on good authority that The Twins are keen on a return to the hallowed turf of Longore. More on this drivel in next month's Slate.

At the time of writing our lads had played only one game with The Reserves opening their account away at Ascott, who are the Bookies favourites for promotion this season. We fielded a strong team and goals from Raffy Rice, Shaun Kemp and Jordon Newman saw

our lads get their first win in a 5-goal thriller! Could our boys get themselves into Division 3 next season? It'll be a tough challenge as it is unlikely they'll have regular first team players to help them out every week, but you never know. Good luck to both teams as they strive for success in League and Cup competitions.

The regular reader will be aware of the monthly Fredo Award that is given to the player or manager who performs above and beyond the call of duty. The frog-shaped lump of chocolate is the ultimate honour that our club members strive for and is undoubtedly an accolade that bestows pride and recognition on those fortunate enough to be the recipient. We've only had one game, so this month's award will be held in reserve and maybe (though not necessarily) awarded as a 'double' in the coming months.

If you are new to the village, welcome! There's usually a match at home every Saturday afternoon with kick off at 2pm (League) or 1.30pm (Cup). Why not come along and support your village football teams? We can't guarantee success but can guarantee laughs, controversy and a warm welcome! The Club are always on the lookout for players and you are welcome at training (no limits on age or ability, honest) which takes place every Tuesday at the playing field with a 6.15 start.

*Tom Flanigan (891979)*



## Stonesfield Cricket Club

Sadly, Autumn is here and an excellent season for the club has concluded. The 1st XI put up a fight in the Airey Cup final but sadly lost to the overwhelming favourites, Witney Swifts (who completed a clean sweep of league & 2 cups). Stoney's finest finished a creditable 6th in OCA Div 1, with top batsmen Jamie Burns & George Redknap both scoring more than 450 runs for the season, and off-spin bowler Thomas Gubbins taking a sensational 49 wickets!

My 2nd XI also finished a comfortable mid-table 6th in Div 7. In late August we won a thrilling match at Westcott 2nds, notable as the opposition were eventually

crowned division 7 champions. We proved we can beat any team in the division on the day, our bowling attack in particular being quite formidable – e.g. leg spinner Dave Skidmore finishing on 35 wickets. We are blessed with half-a-dozen very talented young cricketers at present, who attract much praise from umpires & opposition teams alike. Expect more spectacular deeds from boys like Fred Holloway, Rowan Moss, Josh Davies & Tristan Stringer in 2019.

Our end of season dinner and awards night at The White Horse wraps up our 2018 season at the start of October.

*Stewart Moss (07866-278685 or [stewmoss@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stewmoss@hotmail.co.uk))*

## Church news



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



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The Rectory, Stonesfield, Witney, Oxon, OX29 8PR

Telephone: 01993 898552 – Email: [revroystonesfield@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:revroystonesfield@hotmail.co.uk)

[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

Have you ever tripped over in public and gone down on all fours? Well it happened to me a few weeks ago. I was coming out of B & Q a few Fridays ago. I had my arms full of sandpaper, paint brushes and other DIY stuff and bang over I went! You will know that at B & Q they have a curb down from the shop level to the car parking bit. To negotiate the difference in levels and to get your trolley to the lower level they have, helpfully, provided a ramp. Not a big ramp, and the ramp has a yellow line painted on its edge so that you can spot it easily. Well I must have been in a world of my own because the first I knew about my miscalculation of the ramp was that I launched myself full length on to the hard tarmac. My purchases went up in the air and fell head long to the ground. A chap with his young son spotted my mistake and rushed over to help me up and check that I was OK. He

then started to pick my scattered purchases up for me.

Thankfully, although I cannot fly unassisted, I do bounce well. I thought afterwards I must be getting old because the chap showed that sort of care towards me that young people show to the old when they have an accident. Other than the realisation that I must be getting on in the world's eyes, I was OK apart from skinning my knees.

It reminds me of another accident that my friend J. John had when going on stage at the Theatre Royal Windsor. He was being a compère for a celebration of his close friend Gary Grant, founder and owner of The Entertainer toy shops. When he was instructed to go on the stage, it was very dark and he couldn't see where he was going. Visibility wasn't helped by spotlights beaming down at him. Undeterred, he bounded onwards only to trip over a black speaker and

St James' Church, Stonesfield

### WELCOME TO NEW RESIDENTS and Harvest celebrations

Everyone – new residents and not-so-new – is warmly invited to tea!

**Saturday 6th October  
between 3.30pm - 5pm  
in St James' Centre**



Harvest Festival Service

**Sunday 7th October 11am** – a special service for all ages!

*Gifts of money for Send-a-Cow, or goods for the Foodbank, will be gratefully received at the service*

tumbled over and fell several feet off the stage. Thankfully he was OK too. He assured everyone later that, no, he wasn't drunk. No, it was not a deliberate stunt. Equally, given Gary's courageous stand on Halloween and Sunday Trading, it was not – as far as he was aware – the result of the Invisible Banana Skin Spell conjured up by the evil one. Uncharacteristically what J. John needed was a bit more light to show him the way!

Which brings me quite nicely to the party that we are putting on this year, as the nights get darker. A 'Light and Bright

Party' on 31 October in the St James' Centre. It will be from 5:30pm until 7:30pm for the children of our villages. For more information check out the notices in the church and around the villages. Free hotdogs and drinks will be provided.

So don't think that you have to go out in the dark where you could trip up on Halloween; instead come to the St James' Centre, where it will be warm bright and fun.

See you soon and D.F.T.W.

*Rev Roy*

SERVICES FOR OCTOBER

**Sunday 7 October [Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity]**

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

**Sunday 14 October [Twentieth Sunday after Trinity]**

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

**Sunday 21 October [Twenty-first 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 28 October [Last Sunday after Trinity]**

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

**Sunday 4 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**

SERVICES FOR OCTOBER

Sun 7 11am The Revd Rose Westwood  
Harvest Service

Sun 14 11am David Sarbutts

Sun 21 11am Keith Crawford

Sun 28 11am The Revd Melanie Reed

The autumn season is here and with it the harvest. What a glorious season it is. Even after a summer of fierce and constant heat, fruits are abundant and radiant colours dance through the hedge rows. It reminds me of past Harvest celebrations, when the Church was full of every kind of vegetable, sheaves of corn stood like 'Onward Christian Soldiers' and windows were hidden by huge chrysanthemums and michaelmas daisies. The aroma of apples and onions filled the air, and the loud and hearty singing could be heard far away.

At the beginning of Ecclesiastes 3, it says 'To every thing there is a season.'

So it seems we must consider our own seasons, and nourish them carefully with God's Word, so we too can be blessed with the radiance of harvest.

Come and join the harvest service here on 7 October, All are very welcome.

There will be a box for any food bank gift items you may wish to donate.

*Kathleen Albért*

**Roman Catholic Worship  
Repentance, forgiveness and reconciliation**

Almost the last words that Christ spoke before He died on the Cross were about forgiveness: Forgive them Father, for they know not what they do (Luke 23–34). In so saying Christ signalled to us the importance of forgiveness, perhaps also acknowledging how hard it is to genuinely forgive when someone has done us wrong. Pope Francis said in his recent extended letter to the entire Roman Catholic Community worldwide, in which he asks forgiveness for the pain and anguish caused by some members of the Church: 'Let us beg forgiveness for our own sins and the sins of others.' [<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2018-08/pope-francis-letter-people-of-god-sexual-abuse.html>.] Pope Francis, in order to seek forgiveness leading to reconciliation, shows repentance for the deeds of others, reflecting that although we are individuals we are one in Christ: 'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do

nothing.' (John 15:5). In Matthew 19:22 Jesus says that church members should forgive each other 'seventy times seven times', a number that symbolises boundlessness; St Paul in his Letter to the Ephesians 4: 32: 'Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.' Pope Francis understands that for some forgiveness and reconciliation might be impossible, but we should never stop repenting and asking forgiveness for the wrongs, big or small, we have done, as God's own forgiveness to us is infinite and eternal.

#### 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 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.stteresaschurch charlbury@gmail.com

*Roman Catholic Community in Stonesfield*

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It's been a lovely Summer and now the nights are drawing in and it'll soon be time to light the log burner. It's also time to start planning our Halloween Fancy Dress Party and to start thinking about Christmas . . . Eeeeeek!

Don't forget our next folk evening will be on Wednesday 3 October from 8pm. The evenings have been a great success with more and more people coming along to join in or to just listen.

Much as I hate to use the 'C' word we're getting booked up fast for Christmas Day lunch, so if you would like us to take all the stress out of cooking for you, give us a ring or pop in. We'll be having two sittings, one at 12pm and one at 2:30pm. And if you want to hold your Christmas Party here, we'd love to have you.

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

Tuesday–Thursday	5pm–Close
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