

The Stonesfield Slate

Issue No 486 November 2018



Dates for your diary – November

| | | | |
|------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| 5,12,19,26 | Monday Coffee | St James' Centre | 8.45–10am |
| 5,12,19,26 | SJC Cuppa | St James' Centre | 10–11.30am |
| 5 | Poems in a Pub | Rose & Crown, Charlbury | 7.30pm |
| 8,15,22,28 | Book Break | Stonesfield Library | 12.30–2pm |
| 8 | Over 60s | Village Hall | 2pm |
| 9 | Shadow of the Desert | St James' Centre | 8pm |
| 10 | Shadow of the Desert | St James' Centre | 2pm & 8pm |
| 12 | Gardening Club | St James' Centre | 7.30pm |
| 14 | Parish Council Meeting | Village Hall | 7.30pm |
| 15 | Bingo | Sports & Social Club | 7.30pm |
| 17&18 | Christmas Event | Sarts Cottage | 10am–6pm |
| 24 | Methodist Bazaar | St James' Centre | 2–4pm |
| 24 | Ladies' Night | Sports & Social Club | 8.30pm |
| 24 | Pop-up Folk/Evenlode Folk | Finstock VH | 7.15/7.45pm |



Photo: Muriel Barrett

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

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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*Treasure Box family
autumn walk on Sunday
7 October*

Notices

Septemberfest

The rain was relentless – it was probably the only weekend since April when the sun didn't shine – but this bad luck didn't make a jot of difference. The Septemberfest was so beautifully well organised, and so efficiently run, everything happened as planned and we all had a great day.

It did what it said on the tin: there really was something for everyone. I drank champagne, shared a pizza, bumped into old friends, did some zumba (o yes), listened to some poems, got involved in a story, ate delicious cake, and even got up and sang with the ukulele band. What else could I have done with a wet Saturday that would have been half so much fun?

This is not to mention the amazing array of excellent bands, young and old, throughout the day. New talent, old faces: a truly eclectic mix. The Village Idiots were stupendous with their finale; it is so great to be able to rely on them to deliver all our favourites so we can sing and dance together: there was a wonderful sense of the community all joining together to make something really special happen.

It was especially moving to see so many wheel-chair users getting out there in the freezing rain to create an obstacle race – it showed real spirit, and reminded us what amazing charities we were supporting.

I know that this year the team faced some serious challenges in pulling it together, but they can rest assured that it was a triumph. I can only imagine what hard work went in to making every element happen so smoothly. So here's a big Thank You from the whole village. It was great.

Caroline Friend

30 or 20: What do you think?

Speed limits can be an emotive subject. Excessive speed is one of the main causes of road casualties in Britain. People want lower speed limits where they live, yet many still drive too fast generally. Oxfordshire County Council says 'We are committed to reducing the number of people killed and injured in road accidents and improving conditions for all road users, including vulnerable groups such as pedestrians and cyclists. Appropriate speed limits can help us achieve this.'

A group of Stonesfield residents are equally concerned and want to establish **the views of all Stonesfield residents** on the appropriate speed limit for the village. By now all Stonesfield residents should have received a leaflet designed to do this. It is a very short questionnaire and **the survey is anonymous**.

The survey needs to be completed before **9 November**. If you have not got yours, then spare copies are available at the village shop. Alternatively you can

complete it online:
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Stonesfield>

A summary of the results will be shared with the Parish Council.

Paul Bates (paul@bateshome.co.uk)

Aspire Channel Swim

Please Sponsor Me!

I'm swimming 22 miles (the width of the English Channel) in twelve weeks. I've swum 9 miles already – I'm nearly half-way! Just go to bit.ly/2QLAHjS to donate.

Aspire is a charity which supports people with spinal cord injuries. Go to www.aspire.org.uk to find out more.

Thank you.

Clara Simpson

Pop-up Folk in November

Tickets for the next Pop-up Folk/Evenlode Folk joint venture are now available: *Rattle on the Stovepipe*, in Finstock Village Hall, on Saturday 24 November. Doors open 7.15pm for 7.45pm start. To purchase tickets please go to <http://www.wegotickets.com/event/447678>

Rattle on the Stovepipe are: Pete Cooper (fiddle, mandolin, vocals), Dave Arthur (guitar, banjo, melodeon, percussion, vocals) and Dan Stewart (banjo, guitar, fiddle, harmony vocals). These masterful musicians explore the crossover between British, Irish and Appalachian songs.

'There is that same sweetness, ease, subtlety and good humour, every song and tune so well understood, so deftly played and so perfectly paced. They are

all master musicians, but there is no sense of ego, no promotion of themselves as stars, although they certainly can dazzle' (Shirley Collins).

Support by the Boot Band – Susanna Starling, Nick Hooper and Judith (Henderson) Hooper

Poems in a Pub

3Score are presenting Poems in a Pub on 5 November in the Rose and Crown, Charlbury, at 7.30pm. As in previous years, it is open to everyone to read their favourite poetry, and there will be another competition for the three best poems written by the reciters. As an experiment, all are invited to read poems around the theme of place, but this is optional. Will it work?

3Score is an Oxfordshire writers' cooperative that has published the books of its members since 2009, and will be showing books launched this year. Peter Clifton can answer queries at info@3scorepublishing.co.uk or 01993 891956, but there is no need to book for an evening of lively indoor pyrotechnics and superb beer.

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2018

This year the annual Poppy Appeal house-to-house collection will run from the 25 October. It runs until Armistice Day, 11 November, so please be aware that authorised collectors may come to your door collecting on behalf of the appeal. Also look out for the Poppy boxes in our local businesses, school, shops and pubs.

Stonesfield has always given fantastic support to the Poppy Appeal and I would ask the village to do so once again, as your contributions, no matter how big or small, really do make a difference and are greatly appreciated.

Remembrance Sunday is also on 11 November, when we will have our service at the village war memorial at 11am.

David Brown Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal Organiser Stonesfield (01993 898193)

Methodist Church Bazaar

The Christmas Bazaar will be held at St James' Centre on Saturday 24 November, from 2 to 4pm. This annual event is one that greatly benefits the church and its yearly upkeep. Kind donations such as raffle prizes, cakes, unwanted gifts, and tom-bola items will be very much appreciated.

Do come and join us on the 24th. There will be refreshments, and transport can be arranged.

Kathleen Alb  rt (891733)

Claire Fyfe-Jackson and My Visible Object

Christmas Event on Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 November at Sarts Cottage, The Ridings, 10am–6pm. Jewellery and flowers and Christmas decorations made from recycled metal. Lots of great gift ideas for home and garden.

Claire Fyfe-Jackson (898337)

Christmas Art Show

Colourful paintings, prints, books,

textiles, jewellery, crafts and cards all make wonderful gifts. Come and join Rachael and Becki Sherlaw-Johnson, Kerry Burniston, Jenny Lines and Ann Lowe at Grey Cat Studio, Woodlands Rise, Stonesfield, for a glass of wine, a chat and a browse at our Christmas Art Show on 1 and 2 December, 11am–5pm.

For more info contact rebeccasj@btinternet.com or Becki and Rachael on 01993 891318.

Christmas Coffee Morning

Everyone is very warmly invited to come along to a Christmas Coffee Morning on Saturday 8 December, 10–11.30am, St James' Centre. Organised by the Parish Church, all the money raised will be given to Cecily's Fund (our own local charity which makes education possible for orphaned and vulnerable Zambian children).

Apart from coffee and mince pies and time to chat, there will be both cake and Christmas gift stalls. We look forward to seeing you there!

Safari Supper

Stonesfield Players are organising another Safari Supper on Saturday 8 December. If you enjoy good food, good company and lots of fun please join us. The evening will begin at 7pm at The Old Bakery, Boot Street, and from there you will move around the village to different hosts for your main course and pudding, ending all together in one venue for cheese and coffee. The cost per person will be £15 – bring your own drinks.

If you would like to join us please

contact Ros Mengech (898276; ros_mengech@yahoo.co.uk).

Fundraising concert for New Yatt Riding for the Disabled

Fiddle/guitar duo Henderson:Hooper will be putting on a fundraising concert for the New Yatt Riding for the Disabled. It is at Stonesfield Church (St James the Great) on Saturday 15 December; doors open 7.15pm for 7.45pm start. We will be playing tunes from our new album 'Pete's Trees', as well as some new repertoire. In the second half we will be joined by the fabulous singer and bass player Susanna Starling, with whom we form The Boot Band.

New Yatt RDA is close to our hearts as our daughter Rose has been riding there for several years, and has benefitted hugely from the support she has received there. We are very happy to be supporting this fabulous organisation with a fundraising concert.

Tickets £10 for adults; no specific charge for children, but a donation would be appreciated. Tickets are available on the door on the night, not in advance.

Judith Hooper

Bells to be rung for WW1 Beacons of Light

All the towers in the country have been asked to ring their bells on Sunday 11 November at exactly 7.05pm. Organised by 'A Nation's Tribute & WWI Beacons of Light', one thousand beacons will be lit at 7pm throughout the UK and the Overseas Territories a century after the guns fell silent. The beacons will symbolise the 'light of hope' that emerged from the darkness of war. A few minutes later, at 7.05, every bell in the country should be ringing.

The Stonesfield ringers will be taking part in this poignant event. And on the morning of 11 November, before the Sunday church service at 10 o'clock, instead of the normal ringing, the tenor bell will be tolled in memory of the fallen.

The Stonesfield Bellringers

Thanks

I would like to thank everyone for all their lovely cards, flowers, gifts and well wishes after my trip up the garden path. I'm well on the way to recovery.

Judy Oliver

Politics & local affairs

Parish Council

Mobile Phone Mast

By the time this issue of the *Stonesfield Slate* is published, the new mobile phone mast will be in position and operational. Thursday 1 October is the anticipated start date. This is primarily for 02 users; however it is expected that other suppliers may join up in the future.

The CALA Homes appeal is due to come up for consultation in April 2019. SPC in conjunction with Sustainable Stonesfield will ensure it is represented to oppose the appeal.

SCT. Bill Oddy has been appointed as a new trustee to Stonesfield Community Trust.

Farley Corner. A new grit bin has been ordered for Farley Corner.

Grants Available for 2019–2020. A reminder that Grants are available for local organisations. Application forms available from the Clerk, please send your email to stonesfieldpc@gmail.com

Parking in the Street. Please try not to park your vehicle on the verges and pavements in the village.

Footpaths and Pavements. These should be kept clear at all times.

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 14 November at the Village Hall. All members of the public are welcome.

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

Village Hall News

It's been an exciting few months over the summer, with lots of maintenance jobs being completed, before the autumn darker evenings draw seasonal clubs back through our doors.

We have sadly had to say goodbye to Volleyball, who, despite trying to rally numbers over the past few months, have had to cease the weekly games.

We are still very busy midweek but we now have vacancies for new weekly clubs if anyone was thinking of starting one up.

We have a strong group of proactive trustees in place, but are still hoping that someone would like to join us as our new chairman. We only meet 4 times a year so it's not time-consuming or a highly demanding role, and we would welcome new ideas and enthusiasm.

If you think you would like to help, please get in touch!

Jacqueline Carthew, Secretary & Booking Clerk (2 Friends Close Stonesfield OX29 8PH; 01993 898919; [facebook.com/stonesfieldvillagehall/](https://www.facebook.com/stonesfieldvillagehall/); www.facebook.com/)

West Oxfordshire District Council District jottings

A strange month in many ways. Few routine matters affecting our villages, but one event which affects all West Oxfordshire.

On the 4th of the month, we held a

'Water Day', which included the Environment Agency and Thames Water. There was an exceptionally good presentation by WASP, Windrush against sewage pollution, following the Countyfile report on the state of the Windrush and adjoining rivers, including the Evenlode and the Glyme. All the usual promises about future action and remedial work on the issues raised were trotted out by the representatives of the two bodies. There was a good crowd of the public there and no punches were pulled. The public utilities were left in no doubt about the strength of feeling. As a follow-up, the District Council will convene another meeting with the two bodies in a year's time to ascertain the progress and how many of the promises have been fulfilled. The representatives agreed to attend again.

Early in December the planning committees are holding a special meeting to discuss the application by Gladman to build 3000 houses, with infrastructure and amenities, on the proposed site at Barnard Gate. This would, if agreed, be in addition to the construction of the new Garden Village at Eynsham. I have been asked what chance there is that it will receive approval. I really cannot hazard a guess. They have powerful allies and the outcome is uncertain, whereas some months ago it seemed to be doomed.

The appeal by Cala will be decided in the fairly near future – exactly when we do not know. Again, I cannot foresee the decision except to say that the signs are in favour of those many of you opposing the scheme.

My good wishes to you all for the

celebrations for Walpurgis night. Don't let the fires or fireworks overcome your caution.

Richard Bishop (01993 891414; richard.bishop@westoxon.gov.uk)

Warning issued over council tax scam calls

Residents in West Oxfordshire are being warned to beware of bogus callers offering a council tax refund. The Council has received several reports of people receiving calls from individuals claiming to be from the Valuation Office Agency or 'Tax Recovery Bureau'. The caller claims the resident is owed a council tax refund as their council tax banding has been too high in the past and can arrange a refund in exchange for a fee. The telephone number of the bogus company is 0203 4767710.

Residents are being urged not to enter into any discussions with the caller and not to disclose any personal information such as bank details. Trading Standards have been made aware. Residents wishing to appeal against their council tax banding can do so by contacting the Valuation Office Agency on 03000 501 501.

Council Tax Reduction scheme

Some residents in West Oxfordshire could see their council tax payments reduced or even cut completely if changes to a key scheme are given the green light.

A consultation has been launched by West Oxfordshire District Council about amendments to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

Proposed changes include:

- The introduction of a banded scheme

which would see a simple flat rate percentage discount awarded, depending on a person's total weekly 'net' income

- Ignoring all child maintenance payments when calculating weekly income

Residents identified as vulnerable or in receipt of a state pension will not be impacted by any of the changes.

The consultation is open to everyone and details can be found at www.westoxon.gov.uk/CTRS

Paper copies of the survey are available for those without internet access. These can be picked up from the Council reception points in Witney and Chipping Norton. The consultation deadline is 9 November.

Know your plastics

Residents in West Oxfordshire are being urged swot up on their plastics in a bid to boost recycling rates in the District.

With a greater public awareness of the devastating effects of plastic pollution, the Council has launched a dedicated guide highlighting what can and cannot be recycled.

Plastics that can be recycled include pots, food trays and bottles, most of which are in everyday use in the kitchen and bathroom. But about 18 per cent of what is collected in the Council's blue-lidded recycling bins is non-recyclable, with one of the most common incorrect items being flimsy plastics such as carrier bags and cling-film.

To check acceptable items for recycling access the guide:

www.westoxon.gov.uk/plastics

*Andrew Smith, Communications Officer
(01993 861615/861616;
communications@westoxon.gov.uk)*

Empty homes

A letter has been sent to the owners of long-term empty properties in West Oxfordshire outlining the grants and low-cost loan schemes available to meet costs of bringing a property back into occupation.

In West Oxfordshire there are currently 317 residences identified as vacant and unused, 50 of which have been for over two years. It is estimated that such a property can cost the owner up to £10,000 per year in security, repairs, insurance, and council tax.

The local authority charges a 50% premium on council tax for any house left empty for more than two years. The Government has agreed to double the total cost from April 2019 on owners who refuse to address the issue.

It should be noted, however, that the Council Tax system provides statutory exemptions for properties left empty for a specific purpose – for example, when a person goes into care or during probate.

Anyone interested in letting a property through the Council's waiting list can contact our Private Lettings Officer on 01285 623346 or email chauncy.seed@publicagroup.uk.

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

Half-term is fast approaching and it feels fitting to draw breath for a moment and reflect on a crazily busy yet satisfying seven weeks. As well as the beauty of our school grounds in autumn, one of my most striking impressions has been on how quickly and apparently effortlessly our new arrivals have settled in to our Reception class. There is a buzz of excitement whenever I enter their room with children engaged in a wide variety of activities, with big smiles on their faces. This is testament to the communication between Stonesfield Pre-school and Mrs Anne Ede, our Early Years leader, which allows children to flourish from the outset.

We've spoken a lot in our assemblies about the ingredients to great learning, including challenging ourselves and being out of our comfort zones. Our Year 6 pupils certainly did just that during their recent week-long residential to Yenworthy in Devon. Squeezing through

tiny gaps while coasting, wild swimming in plunging temperatures, surfing the north coast swell ... they returned brimming with tales to tell (and lots of dirty washing!).

Our younger children enjoyed a fantastic visit to Birdland, which has inspired lots of brilliant writing and art work since. We have used National Poetry Day and World Mental Health Day to engage with nature and recognise the happiness which simple pleasures can bring.

If you have a child who is starting school in September 2019 then you are most welcome to come and have a tour of the school. Please contact the school office on 891687.

Lunchtime supervisor wanted

We are looking for someone in the village to work as a lunchtime supervisor for an hour a day Monday to Friday. Please spread the word and if you are interested contact the school or email me on head.2353@stonesfield.oxon.sch.uk

Ben Trevaill, Headteacher

Stonesfield Players

present 'Shadow of the Desert', a Radio Play by David Lines

T.E. Lawrence achieved international celebrity almost as soon as he returned from the desert. Thanks to his tireless work attempting to bring the Arabs self-rule he also created enemies in the establishment. But haunted by his experiences in the desert and considering

Lawrence of Arabia to be a failure, Lawrence sought to escape the icon he had become.

With the threat of another war growing, media harassment, politics, government agents, doomed relationships and a man who cannot escape his past contribute to a powerful play about personal freedom.

Along with the performance there will be an exhibition and a chance to relax in the Clouds Hill bar.

Friday 9 November at 8pm (doors open at 7pm); Saturday 10 November at 2pm (doors open at 1.15pm) and 8pm (doors open at 7pm).

There will be a question and answer session with David (author) and Becki (director) after the matinee.

St James' Centre. Tickets £10. Box Office: andrew.tacon@outlook.com; 01993 891217; 07795 441986 or the Village Shop.

Oxfordshire Museum

Exhibitions

Until 4 November: *The Diversity of Silver.* JASSO – The Jewellery and Silver Society of Oxford. Only a few days left. Many items for sale.

17 November – 31 December: *The Oxfordshire Craft Guild, Christmas selling exhibition.* We are excited to welcome the guild back for their annual Christmas exhibition featuring many of the county's leading contemporary craft designers and makers.

Lecture: *Votes for Women in Oxford and Oxfordshire* by Dr Katherine Bradley. Saturday 1 December, 2.30pm, tickets £8

available from the museum (01993 814106)

ChOC

Sunday 4 November at 7pm: *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri* Cert. 15/ 1hr 55 mins. The multi award-winning film is written, directed and produced by Martin McDonagh and stars Frances McDormand as a mother who rents three billboards to call attention to her daughter's unsolved murder.

Three Billboards is a controversial, unflinching and deeply touching film. But it also operates as a blistering satire of small-town America and contains some genuinely hilarious dialogue. Please note strong language throughout.

Memorial Hall, Charlbury (doors open from 6.15pm). Admission £5.

Community Education at the Marlborough School, Woodstock

Our next day of Saturday workshops on 24 November is always our most popular with many people using it to prepare for Christmas. Our sewing, wet felting, beaded jewellery and herbal classes all focus on making festive gifts, and you can learn how to make an alternative Christmas dish using ravioli in Italian cookery.

Please check availability on our website or call the office for more information, or to book a place.

Celia Clark, Coordinator
(01993813592; comed.4560@marlborough.oxon.sch.uk;
www.marlborough.oxon.sch.uk/commed)

Shadow of the Desert

What happened to Lawrence after Arabia?

STONESFIELD PLAYERS

Present a new Radio play at the St James' Centre on

9 November at 8.00pm
10 November at 2.00pm & 8.00pm

Tickets £10 available from the box office:
01993 891217; 07795 441986; andrew.tacon@outlook.com
and from the village shop (Suriya Express)



7th Woodstock Poetry Festival

Friday to Sunday 9–11 November

Friday 9 November
7pm: Wendy Cope. £10

Saturday 10 November
12noon: Niall Munro introduces three poets published by ignitionpress: Mary Jean Chan, Natalie Whittaker and Belinda Zhawi. £6
2.30pm: Christopher Reid – *Old Toffer's Book of Consequential Dogs*. Family event, followed by tea. £5
4pm: Liz Berry and Esther Morgan. £10
6pm: James Harpur and John F. Deane. £10
7.30pm: Treelines launch, introduced by Esther Morgan. £5

Sunday 11 November

3.30pm: Sean O'Brien and Jamie McKendrick. £10
5.30pm: Isabel Galleymore, Abigail Parry and Imtiaz Dharker. £10
7.30pm: Jenny Lewis of The Poets House, Oxford, will introduce open mic, following the launch of *Gilgamesh Retold*. Open mic is open to all but should be booked in advance. £5

Tickets and information: 01993 812760 or info@woodstockbookshop.co.uk

You can pay for individual events, or there is a Festival ticket giving entry to all events for £60; children and students are half price.

Tea and cakes are included in the price of all afternoon events.

Friday's reading is held in St Mary Magdalene Church; Saturday and Sunday readings take place upstairs in Woodstock Town Hall.

Full details of the festival are on our website. We are so grateful to all the poets who have read here over the years and helped us to create a very special small festival, where audience and poets can meet and talk and make new connections.

I look forward to seeing you at the festival!

Rachel Phipps (*The Woodstock Bookshop*;
01993 812760;
www.woodstockbookshop.co.uk)



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Concert announcement

Chipping Norton Choral Society, with the Cheltenham Chamber Orchestra, will be performing Elgar's *The Music Makers* and Vaughan Williams's *Dona Nobis Pacem* at St Mary's Church, Banbury OX16 0AA, on Saturday 15 December at 7.30pm, conducted by Peter Hunt.

Tickets are £15 – from tickets@cncs.org.uk, Jaffe & Neale Bookshop Chipping Norton (nearer to the concert date), or on the door. (Under-16s free). More information about Chipping Norton Choral Society can be found at www.cncs.org.uk

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Clubs & societies

Stonesfield Gardening Club

Our get-together in October was a very pleasant walk round Batsford Arboretum to admire the autumn colours. Followed by tea and cake and a visit to the garden centre to tempt ourselves, of course.

This month we have local butterfly enthusiast Martin Gascoigne-Pees coming to talk to us on Monday 12 November. Don't forget that we welcome visitors to all our talks, so if you'd like to pop along to hear about the butterflies that you can spot on the Common or those that you can encourage into your own garden, we'd love to see you at 7.30pm in the St James' Centre.

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

1st Stonesfield Scout Group

If you would like to add your child to our waiting list, please go to <https://www.facebook.com/stonesfieldscouts/> to find the link at the top of the page.

This term Cubs have been busy with map reading, navigation and compass work, which will set them up for many future adventures, including their full moon night hike at the end of this month. Sixers and Seconders attended a District camp in October, walking 7 miles to their campsite where they cooked dinner and sang campfire songs on one of the coldest nights the leaders have ever experienced.

Beavers have been beavering away on their outdoor and adventure challenge badges before moving indoors for the winter. They welcome a new leader, Spruce, to their team of Ash, Birch, Cherry and Oak!

Scouts took part in the county camping competition at Horley, where patrols camped, cooked and organised themselves for the whole weekend without their leaders. Both Stonesfield patrols were commended for their excellent teamwork, leadership skills and creative cooking – move over Jamie Oliver – and won 3rd place out of 7 in their different camping zones. Our troop has welcomed 7 new members up from Cubs and will be taking part in a range of activities over the next weeks, including pioneering, wheelchair sports, finding out about local policing, a trip to the SoFo museum and a virtual trip to the Himalayas!

Don't miss our Christmas Bingo, Friday 7 December – more details to follow!

As always, if you'd like to join the scouting adventure or would be able to spare some time to support us, please email: info@stonesfield-scouts.org.uk

Stonesfield Scout Group

Over 60s Darby & Joan Club

Once again our October meeting saw us sitting down for our Autumn/Harvest Lunch. There was a touch of autumn in the air outside but a friendly warm

feeling in the hall. The lunch prepared and served by the 'A' Team was enjoyed by all. We were joined for lunch by Mary Sitch, a young 92-year-old who was visiting again to talk to us about some of the interesting things that had happened on some of her many travels. Mary has visited many places and has a good memory of things that she encountered, particularly on railway journeys. She was thanked for being with us and apologised that she couldn't stay to have a cuppa with us as she was off to meet another group. The club members settled down for their cuppa and shortbread. There were a few announcements and the raffle was drawn. Our November meeting on the 8th will be our Annual Bingo and names will be taken for our Christmas Lunch on 13 December.

A lovely way to spend an afternoon, we missed the friends who were unable to be with us and hope to see you all next month. Bring your own special Bingo Pens.

Best wishes to you all, Avis

Sports and Social Club

This month at the club:

15 November: Bingo – Eyes Down at 7.30pm

24 November: Ladies' Night – come along to the club and listen to the brilliant jazz singer Kim Osmond, 8.30pm.

Brian Clarke

Witney Music Society

The next concert in Witney Music Society's new season will be given by

Giacomo Susani, who'll be performing works for solo guitar by composers including Frescobaldi, Sor, Rodrigo and Walton.

The concert will be at High Street Methodist Church, Witney, at 7.30pm on Friday 9 November. Tickets are £12, with subsidised tickets at just £1 for under 19s. Tickets will be available at the door from 7pm or in advance online via the website 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

Woodstock Natural History Society

This month's meeting is on Tuesday 6 November at 7.30pm in the Community Centre, New Road, Woodstock, OX20 1PB.

Martin Wainwright will give an illustrated talk entitled 'Moths'. Visitors £2. All welcome.

Brian Jones (01993 891710)

North Leigh History Society

6 November: *Friends Ambulance Unit*, a talk by Sue Smith.

At our meeting on 6 November 6 we remember the two World Wars through the experiences of the Friends Ambulance Unit.

All meetings take place in the Turner Hall, Church Road OX29 6TX at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome. Visitors £4, Members free. Further details from Diana Power (882301).

Sport

Stonesfield Football Club

The seasons have well and truly changed, Autumn is here and it's all 'go' for the football club! The Firsts opened their league campaign at Bourton Rovers where a Carry Rice double helped our lads to a hard-fought win (3–2). However, the joy of that win was short-lived as they crashed out of the Oxon Junior Shield in deepest, darkest Middle Barton (2–1) in a match which they should have won with ease, but only had a solitary goal from the veteran buzz-bomb Pete Searle, to show for their valiant efforts. Mind you, they certainly atoned for that shock defeat at home to Hook Norton in The Fred Ford Cup where doubles from the Rice brothers helped secure an emphatic win (5–0).

The Reserves are having a fabulous time of it as their league campaign sees them sitting in second place after 4 successive victories! Their games have been jam-packed full of goals with young Jamie Gardener setting the heather on fire. Successive hat-tricks in stunning all-action, thrill-a-minute wins at Wootton Res (4–2) and Spartan 'A' (9–4!) begs the question: is our Jamie ready for the first team? They also edged out Eynsham Res in a 10-goal thriller (6–4) to make it the perfect start to the season.

With last month's Fredo not awarded, it means there's two this month. The first one is a no-brain as the goal machine that is Jamie Gardener takes it with consummate ease! With goals raining in

from all sorts of players who first laced their boots with The Stonesfield Strikers, including both Raffa and Carry Rice, the second Fredo goes to Young Katie Appleton of the Ladies Football Team! Katie is a graduate of The Strikers and has just created Stonesfield history as being the first player to score a goal for the Ladies team though sadly it was in a defeat at home to Summertown Stars (4–2). Interestingly, the other goal was scored by Megan Pemberton, who has followed Katie through the ranks from The Strikers. History books always record 'The First Ever . . .' so The Fredo, quite rightly, goes to the living legend that is Katie Appleton! Well done to The Ladies team, by the way, they are making great progress and although they haven't won a game yet, the margin of defeat gets narrower by the week. That illusive first win is just around the corner, I can feel it in my bones.

Tom Flanigan (891979)

Stonesfield Tennis Club

On a perfect late-September sunny Saturday afternoon, Stonesfield Tennis Club played host to the end of season Wychwood League tournament. Two teams of mixed doubles from each of the following clubs turned up to play: Charlbury, Ramsden, Bourton-on-the-Water, Moreton-in-Marsh, Chipping Camden and of course Stonesfield the hosts.

Each pairing played each village up to

eight games, with every game counting towards the final score for the Club – so nothing like Wimbledon. Stonesfield lived up to our motto, 'You cannot be serious', a much remembered quote from the club's President in absentia – John McEnroe. We sadly came last, BUT only by one game! We won 31 games; the tournament winners, Charlbury, only won 44.

Whilst those playing slogged away in the bright sunshine, especially difficult when you're serving into the sun, the rest of us lounged on the bank looking down on the action. At the end of play we all retired for a splendid tea in the Village Hall, where winners were declared. Though we didn't win the tournament I reckon Stonesfield won courts of the year. Everybody was very complimentary about our new court surface – sadly no prize for that :(.

The Wychwood League is a very friendly competition between local clubs fielding players of all ages and all at about the same non-threatening standard. We're always looking for new players, but you'll have to wait until next year now – however, you can play on the fabulous courts all winter.

Richard Morris (898210)

Stonesfield Cricket Club

David Burns, Secretary of the Cricket Club, would like to hear from anyone who has any information on the now

defunct Stonesfield Ladies cricket team. David can be reached on 07919-566514 or email david.burns@hachette.co.uk.

Awards Night: Nearly 50 players, wives, girlfriends and supporters assembled at the White Horse Pub in early October for our end-of-season dinner and awards night, an evening much enjoyed by all. Trophies were awarded as follows:

1st XI Batting – George Redknap.

1st XI Bowling – Tom Gubbins.

1st XI Players Player – Tom Gubbins.

1st XI Champagne moment – James Grist-Perkins.

1st XI Bucket – Michael Franklin.

1st XI Duck – Sean Holley.

2nd XI Batting – Stewart Moss.

2nd XI Bowling – Dave Skidmore.

2nd XI Players Player – Rowan Moss.

2nd XI Champagne moment – Mark Hatton.

2nd XI Duck – Tim Davies.

2nd XI Bucket – Paul Jackson.

SCC Fantasy cricket – Stewart Moss.

Andy Crawford Clubman of year – George Redknap.

Ben Redknap Young Player of year – Rowan Moss.

Stewart Moss (07866 278685)

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 Kate Harris (898781)

Combe Longa Churchwarden: Andrew Hobson (891273)

BCP=Book of Common Prayer: CW=Common Worship

For pastoral help please contact the Rector

From your Parish Priest

Harvest celebrations have just passed in October and now we look forward to Bonfire night to come, but before then we have All Saints Day on 1 November and All Souls Day on 2 November. Of course we have our Remembrance Sunday on 11 November and indeed Armistice Day, where this year we remember that it is 100 years since the end of the First World War. This special time, of course, enables us to think of the sacrifice of those lost in the two great wars and the struggle for freedom that others have died for since.

It's a sombre time in many ways but a time not to be forgotten or dismissed!

For me, I believe that our connection with our forebears, the ones we have loved and lost and the ones for which we owe a great deal too for our freedom, should always be remembered. So do join with us, at church and at the various

memorials, to pay our respects and to join in thanking God for the fact that there are those who gave all that they had so that we could have a future to look forward to together.

Of course it's not a time to celebrate war and its attendant violence; who, in their right mind, would want that. It is a time of quiet reflection and humble thanks marked by a commitment never to have to experience such things again.

It's a balance that we seem to get just about right in this country and I am so thankful it's not a triumphant time of festival but one of quiet resolve.

For me, it's also the mark of the end of the church calendar and the start of a new one which is ushered in by the season of Advent and, therefore, the building excitement towards our Christmas festivities.

It's a kind of corner to turn and, having

turned the corner, to look for the celebration of new hope and the Messiah born at Bethlehem.

Maybe, like you, I've not always been so moved by these things but as I get older I guess I appreciate these markers in our year more and more.

Again I think the Church, particularly, is helpful in giving us space and time to experience these 'signposts of our year' and I am thankful for it and indeed keen to share it with others.

So do join us, as much as you are able, to share these experiences. You will be made

most welcome at our churches of St James in Stonesfield and St Laurence in Combe, and no doubt there will be some seasonal refreshments along the way for us to enjoy too!

So see you soon and keep safe, as the weather becomes more challenging on the roads. Perhaps, 'take a little more time to get where you need to be', at this time of year could be our watchword so that Advent and Christmas time will be a time of joy and safety for all of us.

God bless and D.F.T.W.

Rev Roy

SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER

Sunday 4 November [All Saints' Day]

| | | |
|--------|-------------|--|
| 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 |

Sunday 11 November [Remembrance Sunday]

| | | |
|------|-------------|---|
| 8am | Stonesfield | Holy Communion [BCP/said] |
| 10am | Combe Longa | Remembrance Service followed by service at War Memorial (10.45am) |
| 10am | Stonesfield | Remembrance Service followed by service at War Memorial (10.45am) |
| 5pm | Stonesfield | Service of Remembrance for loved ones who are no longer with us |

Sunday 18 November [Second Sunday before Advent]

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

Sunday 25 November [Christ the King]

| | | |
|-----|-------------|---------------------------|
| 8am | Stonesfield | Holy Communion [BCP/said] |
|-----|-------------|---------------------------|

| | | |
|--------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| 9.30am | Combe Longa | Parish Communion [BCP/said] |
| 11am | Stonesfield | Parish Communion [CW/sung] |
| 4.30pm | Combe Longa | Evensong |

Sunday 2 December [Advent Sunday]

| | | |
|--------|-------------|---------------------------|
| 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 NOVEMBER

| | | |
|--------|------|--|
| Sun 4 | 11am | The Revd Rose Westwood Holy Communion |
| Sun 11 | 10am | At the Parish Church |
| Sun 18 | 11am | Margaret Bradberry |
| Sun 28 | 11am | At High Street Methodist Church, Witney |

On 11 November, Remembrance Day, we share worship at the Parish Church at 10am.

The 'One Hundred days of Peace and Hope' which began on 4 August will end on this day. There are many remarkable stories, reflections and prayers to be found on the website:
www.remembrance100.co.uk/100days.

On the 25 November at 10.30am the Secretary of the Methodist Conference, The Reverend Gareth Powell, will lead the service at High St Methodist Church, Witney.

All are warmly invited to this service.

Help with transport can be arranged.

Kathleen Alb rt (01993 891733)

**Roman Catholic Worship
Remembrance**

**'Eleventh hour of the Eleventh Day of
the Eleventh Month'**

November is our month of remembering those fallen in wars, some a while ago and others more recently. They died so that we may continue to live and lead our lives in freedom. It's always a poignant time at this closing period of the year. The leaves are falling, the days shortening and coldness increasing. Summer is far behind us and spring a long way ahead, with the cold months in between. However, we know instinctively that eventually the days will lengthen, the cold retreat and the sun will shine on us once more. We can be even more certain that another agonising sacrifice made long ago and far away gave us the hope of eternal spiritual summer. In dying for us on the cross, Jesus Christ with sacrificial death gave us everlasting life, if only we could remember it all the time, not just on Sundays, but every day.

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.stteresaschurchcharlbury@gmail.com

Roman Catholic Community in Stonesfield

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Christmas Card Stencil Workshop

Saturday, 3 Nov, 10 - 1 pm, Stonesfield St James' Centre

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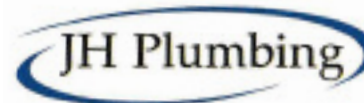
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Our October Folk Night was another great success thanks to all the musicians, singers and poets who attended. The Folk Night really is a lovely evening, which is enjoyed by participants and audience members alike. We're very much looking forward to the next one, on Wednesday 7 November.

Before then, we have our Fancy Dress Halloween Party on Saturday 27 October from 8.30pm. If last year is anything to go by it will be a great night! Come in fancy dress and we'll buy you a drink. The restaurant will be open for food as usual from 6pm to 8pm.

We still have some availability for Christmas lunch, although the 2.30pm sitting is nearly fully booked, so if you'd like us to do all the work for you on Christmas Day give us a ring or pop in to book. We also have a Pre-Christmas menu available. All details are available on our website.

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| | |
|------------------|---------------|
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