

The Stonesfield Slate

Issue No 496 October 2019



Dates for your diary – October

1	Sew and Chat Group	St James' Centre	10am–12noon
2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Country Dancing	Village Hall	8–10pm
2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Book Break	Stonesfield Library	12.30–2pm
3	Bingo	SSSC	Eyes down 7pm for 7.30pm
5	Harvest Celebrations	St James' Centre	3.30–5pm
6	Harvest Festival Service	St James's Church	11am
7, 14, 21	Monday Coffee	St James' Centre	8.45–11.30am
9	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm
12	Christmas Shoeboxes	St James' Centre	2–4pm
14	Gardening Club	St James' Centre	7.30pm
19	Ladies Breakfast	St James' Centre	8.45 for 9am
20	Wood Crafts	Combe Mill	10am–5pm
22	flu Clinic in Stonesfield	Village Hall	2–2.30pm
23	Village Hall Committee Meeting, Clubroom		7.30pm
25	Pop-up Café	SSSC	9.30am–12noon
25	Halloween Disco	FOSS (Venue and time to be confirmed)	
26	Halloween Fancy Dress Band Night	SSSC	9pm
26	Men's Breakfast	Cock Inn, Combe	8.15 for 8.30am
28	Monday Coffee	St James' Centre	10–11.30am
29	Treasure Box	St James' Centre	10.30am–12noon
31	Children's Halloween Party	SSSC	5–7pm

Dates for your diary – November

2	Quiz Night Fundraiser	SSSC	8pm
14	Bingo	SSSC	Eyes down 7pm for 7.30pm

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Printer

Windrush Press, Witney

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

Please email copy to
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shop (Suriya Express).
Advertisements to
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Notices

Jim Eaton

Shortly before his 90th birthday in August, Jim Eaton died comfortably in his sleep in the nursing ward at Richmond Village, Witney, where he'd lived since he left Stonesfield in 2017. His family had visited earlier that day; back in July he had held his first great-grandchild.

Jim was a devoted family man, well informed on many subjects, interesting and interested in conversations, caring, generous, and with a sparkle in his eye. He enjoyed life, and the people he met, including many villagers on the way between his house and Stonesfield's village shop. Realizing recently that his time in this world was drawing to a close, Jim was undaunted; he knew he'd had a pretty good innings! He was our neighbour, and a good friend.

Dale Morris

Prescriptions at Village Shop

Would customers, who have prescriptions delivered to the village shop please make sure they collect their medicines within two weeks of prescription requests. The shop has very limited storage facilities, and for safety reasons, all medicines have to be stored securely.

We are very happy to provide this service for the villagers, but would appreciate your cooperation in collecting your medicines promptly. Thank you.

Village Shop

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2019

This year, the annual Poppy Appeal house-to-house collections will run from 26 October to 10 November, so please be aware that authorized 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.

Important dates:

Remembrance Sunday 10 November
Armistice Day/Poppy Day Monday 11 November

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

Woodstock Surgery flu Clinics at Stonesfield

We can confirm that the Stonesfield flu Clinic will be on Tuesday 22 October, from 2–2.30pm at the Village Hall.

Please advise the surgery beforehand if you wish to attend this clinic in order that we can provide the appropriate amount of vaccines. This year's vaccines are age specific. Those eligible for a flu jab are:

- Anyone aged 65 on 31 March 2020
- Anyone with a chronic condition, e.g. Diabetes, COPD, Heart, Liver, Neurological, or Kidney disease
- Asthmatics who are on steroids
- Anyone who is immunosuppressed, e.g. had an organ transplant or on chemotherapy
- Pregnant women
- Carers in receipt of a carer's allowance
- People in residential homes

To book an appointment at Woodstock Saturday flu clinics, please telephone 01993 811452

Combe Mill Steaming Sunday 20 October – Wood Crafts

This month, from 10am to 5pm, we will have a wide selection of wood crafts and associated skills on show: Pole lathing, Basket making, Whittling, and Green wood working. Enjoy talking to the 'Oxfordshire Bodgers'. Visitors this month will also be entertained by the Charlbury Morris.

This is our last Steaming Day of the year, but the restoration work continues over winter. As always, our volunteer team will be ready for all your questions about the Mill – catch up with the latest developments regarding further restoration, and ask us about volunteering at the Mill. Enjoy delightful, seasonal offerings in the tearoom. Dogs are welcome as usual. Keep up to date with events by visiting our website at <https://www.combemill.co.uk/>

Tony Simmons (01993 891851)

Christmas Shoeboxes

Come and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and cake on Saturday 12 October, from 2–4pm in 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, etc. This year our boxes will go to both Operation Christmas Child (operationchristmaschild.org.uk) and Teams4U.

If you would like more details or leaflets, please contact Kathleen Albért (01993 891733) or Muriel Barrett (01993 891479).

Treasure Box at half-term

Treasure Box will open on Tuesday 29 October, from 10.30am to 12noon in 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.

If you need further details, please contact Muriel Barrett (01993 891479).

Transport for same-day doctors' appointments

Under the Stonesfield Voluntary Transport Scheme, we normally take a day or two to arrange transport, as it may be necessary to contact several volunteers for each request before we can find a driver who is available at the right time.

However, we have been talking about how we could help in the case where you need to phone the doctor's surgery first thing in the morning to get an appointment, and may then need transport at short notice. Most of our drivers have agreed that unless they have other commitments, they would be able to offer lifts at short notice; that is, the same morning or the same day. We will therefore be offering this service from the beginning of October, and will review it at the end of the year, or earlier if it becomes unsustainable.

I hope this is a useful extension of our service and we will do our best to make it work. If we are unable to help you on a particular day, please understand that it is because we are only volunteers and have other demands on our time.

Viv Kendall (01993 891803)

Stonesfield Community Trust

Thank you to all those who have responded offering to help with our community Christmas lunch, your kindness is overwhelming. At the moment, we have had very little interest from anyone potentially being on their own on Christmas Day who may want

to come along, so it looks like something that isn't needed?

If you do know of anyone who will be on their own on Christmas Day and would like to join a community Christmas dinner at the Village Hall, we really need people to come forward and register their interest as soon as possible.

Please contact me on 07896 847722 or jacquelinecarthew@gmail.com

Stonesfield Village Hall

As the summer holidays have passed, the evenings have drawn in, and the weather starts to turn, we have to start thinking about more indoor pursuits. We are very lucky to have lots of different activities on offer within our little community, but if you think there is something missing and would like to start your own class, please do let us know.

We also welcome back the flu clinic in October, which is held in the clubroom for those who can't get to the Woodstock surgery for their jabs. This year it is booked for Tuesday 22 October, from 2 to 2.30pm. As always, please do contact the surgery directly if you want to attend the clinic on the day.

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 OCTOBER please ring

Margaret and Peter Hill (898823) or Viv Kendall (891803)

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.

We also have our Stonesfield Village Hall Committee Meeting on 23 October at 7.30pm in the clubroom, and are still hoping someone would like to join us as our Chairman – could that be you?

If you would like to come along, or require any information, please do contact us on 01993 898919 or stonesfieldvh@gmail.com. Thank you for your continued support.

Jacqueline Carthew, Secretary & Booking Clerk for Stonesfield Village Hall (facebook.com/stonesfieldvillagehall; stonesfield.info/stonesfield-life/venues/village-hall.php)

Friends of Stonesfield School

To start the half term holiday we're celebrating Halloween with a Disco on Friday 25 October for primary aged children and their parents only (prize for best dressed adult!). Hot dogs and drinks will be available.

The venue and time still to be confirmed. Volunteer helpers will be needed nearer the day – love FOSS! (Friends of Stonesfield School)

Helen Moore (07756 019546)

Ladies Breakfast

All ladies are invited to a breakfast on Saturday 19 October, 8.45 for 9am at St James' Centre, High Street, Stonesfield. Our speaker will be Martine Huvers-Smith, who has been part of our community for many years. Her subject will be *How music has affected my life*. Do join us for a healthy breakfast, relaxation, and an absorbing talk. The cost is £5. The cost is £5. Could you please let Kathleen (891733), Bina (891295), Muriel (891479), or Janet

(891566) know if you will be joining us, otherwise just come along.

Janet Melrose (01993 891566)

Men's Breakfast

All men are invited to a breakfast on Saturday 26 October, 8.15 for 8.30am, to finish promptly at 9.30am at The Cock Inn, Combe. Our speaker will be Mike Wooldridge, OBE, formerly BBC Chief World News Reporter and Religious Correspondent.

eTickets are available in advance from Andrew and Victoria at The Cock Inn, Richard Francis in Combe, or Rev Roy in Stonesfield.

Please contact Richard Francis for more information on 01993 891237 or via twitter: @combe_mensbreakfast.

Richard Francis

Woodstock and District U3A

Our monthly meetings are at Woodstock Community Centre, New Road, Woodstock, OX20 1PB. Visitors are welcome to our Speaker Meetings which start at 2pm. The cost is £2. Our speaker on 1 October is James Mitchell and the subject is *Magic Music*.

For more information, please phone 01865 580688 or www.u3asites.org.uk/woodstock

North Leigh History Society

1 October *Ridge and furrow – what's it all about?* A talk by Dr Deborah Hayter. We meet in the Turner Hall, Church Road, North Leigh, OX29 6TX at 7.30pm. Visitors £4, Members free. Further details: *Diana Power 01993 882301.*

Politics & local affairs

Stonesfield Parish Council (SPC)

Road signs

The signs at Greenfield Road and Farley Close are damaged. Replacements have been arranged and are imminently due to be done with West Oxfordshire DC, who are covering the cost.

Allotments

Annual rent invoices for the allotments in the parish will be sent out during the coming weeks to those who have them.

WODC / Arts / Stonesfield common

The clerk has been in contact with WODC and is meeting with them next week to move the sustainable arts plans forward. More updates will follow.

SAFER

Reports for the SAFER working group, from Cllr Ian Hudspeth and Council minutes (including clerk's report) are available to read in full on the council website: <https://stonesfield.online/cagory/meetings/>

CALA Appeal

CALA Homes' appeal has been dismissed by the inspector, but is now being put to the High Court. The SPC are putting together a response to the court, but Barrister costs will be significant and it is unlikely that SPC will be able to send legal representation. Updates will follow as we have these. Cllr David Brown (Chair), the Clerk, and Councillors, with support,

are prioritizing this and this month's council meeting was brought forward to 4 September to accommodate urgency of this review.

The Parish Council has a new email address: clerk@stonesfieldpc.uk

Next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting is on Wednesday 9 October at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Parish Clerk (clerk@stonesfieldpc.uk)

West Oxfordshire District Council

At the time of writing with the Brexit debate in full spate, the District Council is hard at work reviewing its provisions for the fallout from a 'no-deal' scenario.

Combe, politically, is peaceful with no real controversies to divert from the pleasures of early autumn weather.

Stonesfield, on the other hand, is bubbling with anxiety following the news that Cala Homes Ltd have appealed to the Secretary of State for a Judicial Review of the decision of the Government Inspector to dismiss their appeal against refusal to develop land off the Woodstock Road.

The WODC legal team and the Sustainable Stonesfield Group have submitted strong witness statements and legal arguments to support the decisions to refuse. The Review Judge, if past precedent holds

good, will question the various protocols followed by the Inspector and ascertain whether due weight had been given to all the evidence from both sides, should rule in favour of the Inspector's decision.

Whilst it is not possible to prophesy the end result – it's out of all our hands now, the village as a whole must recognize how well served we have been in the efforts of Jim Astle and the entire committee of 'SUSTO'. The evidence given on our behalf was cogent, direct, forceful, and completely truthful. Stonesfield can now only await this final throw of the dice.

Before my next report to our villages, WODC will be holding another 'Water Day', when Thames Water and the Environment Agency will once again be required to justify their actions (or lack of action) with regard to sewage disposal and the lamentable state of the water quality of the Windrush, the Evenlode, and other tributaries of the Thames in West Oxfordshire. Also, hopefully, by then the abandoned car in the Evenlode below Swan Bridge will have been successfully removed. I am at present in consultation with the relevant agencies to that end.

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

From our County Councillor

St James' Centre Lunch Club

I joined some of Stonesfield's residents at the St James' Centre Lunch Club, which not only provides an excellent lunch, but has speakers and games to help keep them occupied during their visit. This is organized by volunteers, however, funds are needed so I was delighted to be able to use some of my Priority Fund on this good

project. There is still funding available, so please contact me if you have a project in mind.

Police move into the Woodstock fire Station

Woodstock's neighbourhood policing team has relocated to their new base at Woodstock fire Station, where they will share premises with colleagues from Oxfordshire County Council fire and Rescue Service.

Woodstock Library

As you are aware, there have been structural issues with the walls of the former Woodstock Library, which were uncovered during routine maintenance and health and safety inspections last year by Oxfordshire County Council operations team. Further extensive surveys revealed that the building on Hensington Road was damaged beyond economic repair and since then the County Council has been preparing the site for demolition.

Work is about to start on demolishing the Woodstock Library very shortly. The current plan is that works are due to start during the week beginning 16 September 2019, however, the start date could be brought forward on the advice of surveyors who are monitoring the condition of the structure.

The county council remains committed to finding a permanent home for the provision of a library. In the meantime, a full library service will continue to be temporarily provided in The Oxfordshire Museum. This includes books, public access internet, activities (stay, play, and learn), Wi-fi, printing, and photocopying.

Electric blankets

Free electric blanket testing is offered over a two-week period during October at different locations around the county. Book your electric blanket in for a free check:

- Oxford: Tuesday 8 October 2019
- Banbury: Wednesday 9 October 2019
- Witney: Thursday 10 October 2019
- Oxford: Monday 21 October 2019
- Bicester: Tuesday 22 October 2019
- Chipping Norton: Thursday 24 October 2019

To pre-book an electric blanket safety check, please phone 01865 895999 or email communityengagement@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

*Cllr Ian Hudspeth 07956 270318;
Ian.hudspeth@oxfordshire.gov.uk*



Stonesfield Common

Now that the summer is over and the wild flowers have set their seeds it's time to graze the common. Unfortunately the shepherd who has let his sheep graze the common the last few years isn't prepared to put them on the common because of the number of uncontrolled dogs. This is very unfortunate. We need the common to be grazed by livestock – it's how the special flora and fauna were created and the means to maintain it.

In place of the sheep we will have a couple of cows. It isn't ideal, we really need a much larger number of either sheep and/or cattle to really improve the common. This is a trial and hopefully it will be a success so we get more next year.

To all those who walk on the common please ensure the gates are firmly closed behind you. If you walk a dog on the common please keep it on a lead and clear up and remove all dog poo.

Richard Morris 898210

Education & culture

Stonesfield Primary School

The start of a brand new academic year is now well under way and I'm pleased to say it's been a really positive start. Personally, I am 100% committed to oversee the school's future direction: building on our strong foundations of a friendly, nurturing ethos and positive relationships with pupils and parents, by raising standards academically and preparing our children to step out into the world as confident and resilient citizens, prepared to face any hurdle in their way.

The two Inset days were an opportunity for staff to collaborate and shape our vision and priorities for the year ahead. Our staff are experienced and dedicated and it was striking how aligned our vision for our school and pupils is. Here is our revised mission statement, which illustrates our commitment to our pupils, staff, and wider community:

We are a school with a warm, nurturing atmosphere where ambitious expectations and high standards are set for all. We will empower our pupils to succeed on life's journey by developing a life-long love of learning where confident and resilient children become active citizens who look after the planet. We are inclusive, we celebrate individuals and we promote respect of ourselves, others and our locality. We value the wellbeing of our staff and pupils by promoting good physical and mental health.

Parents have also had a vital role to play in instigating improvements for the year ahead. We held a series of forums before the summer holidays to gather the views of parents on certain aspects of the school which we were looking to improve. The feedback has been extremely valuable and we have made changes which we feel will enhance the learning of our pupils and strengthen the vital connection between home and school even further.

We have places available in all year groups and would warmly welcome new children to our school. If you are new to the village or are interested in having a tour of the school, please contact the school office: office.2353@stonesfield.oxon.sch.uk

Mr Ben Trevail, Headteacher

The Oxfordshire Museum

Lectures:

19 October: *The Wardle Family*

Discover the story of the Wardle family who had strong connections with William Morris and find out how rivers played a part in their combined histories. Thomas Wardle, master dyer, introduced William Morris to the craft of natural dyeing, and his wife Elizabeth shared Morris's passion for embroidery. George Wardle managed Morris & Co for 20 years at a crucial stage in the firm's development and oversaw production at Merton Abbey. This lecture is given by Dr Brenda M King, Chair of The Textile Society (UK).

9 November: *William Morris: A Life in 10 Objects*

William Morris was one of the most prolific and influential figures in British design history. Best known as a writer during his lifetime, Morris's designs and political beliefs continue to be relevant and inspirational today. This lecture by Ainsley Vinall, a curator at the William Morris Gallery, London, will chart Morris's life and work through ten key objects, focusing on what they can tell us about his art, his ideas, and his enduring global significance.

Tickets £8 available from the museum reception.

Adult TOM-ART drop in

Thursday 31 October

Explore the museum's William Morris exhibition using our creative trail. Then drop in to the Coach House and discover your creativity with print and collage. Free activity supported by the Friends of the Museum

A Star is Born

Friday 4 October

Outdoor cinema in the museum garden

For more details visit <https://www.fireflyevents.co.uk/portfolio/astarisborn-woodstock/>

October half term activities

TOM-TOTS: Tuesday 29 October, 10.30–11am Stories, songs, and activities for under- fives. Free activity.

TOM-ART: Tuesday 29 October, 2–4pm Print fun drop in craft session, create your own repeat pattern in the style of William Morris. £2 child / £5 family.

TOM-ART: Thursday 31 October, 2–4pm

Letters and lines, using collage and print to create your own letter designs. £2 child / £5 family.

Those were the days - Reminiscence sessions

A monthly group for people to meet, reminisce about the past, bring photos and objects, and share memories. Meet on first Friday of each month, 2–3.30pm, £1 per person. Tea and coffee will be served.

Friday 4 October: 1970s – *What can you remember?*

Friday 1 November: *Shops and shopping – How our high streets have changed, what do you miss?*

For further information phone: 01865 300639

Friends of The Oxfordshire Museum: monthly lecture

2 October: Stephen Barker talks on *Saints, Soldiers and Sinners; Civil wars in Oxfordshire 1642-1651*

6 November: Roy Cox, Estates Manager, Blenheim Palace talks on *The Blenheim Palace lake dredge and bridge repair*

Lectures are free for Friends or £4 for visitors. Doors open 7pm. Lecture starts 7.30pm

Museum's Resource Centre Open Day

Sunday 6 October, 10am–4pm

Don't forget! On Sunday 6 October our Museum's Resource Centre at Standlake will be opening its doors once more for a chance to see the stored collections and marvel at treasures from Oxfordshire's past. Visitors can enjoy a tour of the stores and workrooms. Staff and volunteers will be on hand to shine a light on some obscure and surprising objects and their

stories. Admission is free. Level access and convenient free parking. Cotswold Dene Road, Standlake, OX29 7QG, please phone: 01865 300557.

Summer Reading Challenge 2019

The tea party and awards ceremony for the Summer Reading Challenge took place on Wednesday 11 September at the Village Hall and was well attended by the participating children, their families, and the Friends of Stonesfield Library.

This year's theme was Space Chase, inspired by the 50th anniversary of the moon landing. Children were asked to read six books of their choice over a period of six weeks and were given small rewards each time they completed reading two

books. This year 48 children registered for the Challenge and 37 completed it successfully. Tony Scott, Chairman of the Friends, presented those completing the Challenge with a 'gold' medal, an inscribed certificate, and a goodie bag. Following the presentations a group photo was taken outside the Library, see below.

Grateful thanks and appreciation to the Oxfordshire Library Service and FoSL members, who assisted with this initiative over the summer, to Smurfit Kappa for kindly sponsoring the goodie bags, and to the Friends who organized the awards celebrations and provided the afternoon tea.

Trisha Williams on behalf of the Friends of Stonesfield Library



Clubs & societies

Stonesfield Gardening Club

Our meeting last month was our postponed talk from Chris Day of Buckingham Nurseries on *Gardening Under Cover*. He showed us how we can make best use of our greenhouses and cloches if we have them, and encouraged those without to consider the extra help they give the gardener. The ability to raise seeds, to overwinter exotic or more tender plants, to extend the season by growing lettuce and micro crops in autumn and even to grow our own new potatoes for Christmas – with luck! As he said, it's also somewhere to go to potter when the weather is too bad to be outside and we do all love to potter...

Our next meeting will be on Monday 14 October at 7.30 in St James' Centre, when Chrissie Harper will be telling us all about her charity 'Chrissie's Owls'. I do hope you will join us, whether a member or not. Just £3 entry for non-members.

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

Stonesfield Sew and Chat Group

We are an informal, friendly group who use stitch, threads, textiles, etc., in various ways, for both art and crafts, but also to enjoy chatting about and sharing our ideas with one another. If you have similar interests or would just like to see what we do, you would be welcome to come and join us. Bring a current project if you wish, or just come for a coffee and a chat.

We meet monthly in St James' Centre on the first Tuesday from 10am–12noon. Dates of the meetings to the end of the year are: 1 October, 5 November, and 3 December. Any queries, please contact Ann on 01993 898837.

Stonesfield Folk Dance Club

The Club is very lucky to have two resident bands that are amongst the finest folk dance bands in the UK. The work of one of the leaders, John Graham, over a great many years has been recognized by The English Folk Dance & Song Society with the prestigious award of their Gold Badge. John has been playing accordion much of his life and was in fact instructed by the famous William Kimber, who was a contemporary of Cecil Sharp who set up the EFDSS many years ago. Why not come and listen to John and his friends playing for us on 16 October, when Doreen Crewe, from Oxford, will be calling a selection of English Folk Dances.

For further information see www.stonesfieldfolkdance.danceorg.uk, or visit Facebook.

*Stewart Nicholls (01295 730271 or
stewart.nicholls@virgin.net)*

1st Stonesfield Scout Group

Have you got any old beaver, cub, or scout uniforms, neckers or woggles gathering dust in a cupboard? We'd love to have them back to 'recycle' them and help new

members save money. Please get in touch or pass them on to a leader, so that we can recycle them. Don't forget to remove all your badges and sew them on that trusty camp blanket for memory's sake!

Cubs Pack

Our Cub leaders are standing down and at the moment we're covering pack meetings with leaders from other sections. Long-term this is not a sustainable way to run the pack, so if you know anyone from within or outside the village who'd be keen to take over, please get in touch!

Scout Troop

The first weekend in October, two patrols from our scout troop will be entering CPCW, the county camping competition weekend. This is our 6th camp in the last 12 months, so our patrols are well prepared and ready for the challenge! We have had a large number of younger scouts join us from cubs in the last few months, which is a great opportunity for our older scouts to work on their leadership and team-building skills.

Beaver Colony

This month the Beavers are making the most of the last light evenings outdoors, with a busy programme of activities including fire lighting, nature walks, and wide games in the woods.

Scout Hut

And last, but definitely not least, we're very pleased to announce that by the time you read this, work should have started on clearing the lane down to the scout hut, for surveying and demolition work to begin.

*1st Stonesfield Scout Group (info@
stonesfield-scouts.org.uk)*

Stonesfield Sports & Social Club

The Sports and Social Club are holding their monthly Bingo on Thursday 3 October, a Pop-up Café on 25 October, and a Fancy Dress Band night on 26 October. A special event for the children of the village will be a Halloween party on 31 October, from 5–7pm.

An enormous amount of effort goes into arranging these events for the people of this lovely village, so please try and support some or ALL of them. While you are there you may also like to support the Sports and Social Club by becoming a member. It only costs £5.00.

Brian Clarke

Witney Music Society

The next series of Witney Music Society concerts starts in October. Details of all the concerts are on the Society's 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 Primrose Quartet, who will be performing works for piano quartet by Frank Bridge, Schumann, Saint-Saëns, and Fauré. The concert is on Friday 11 October at 7.30pm.

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

Jean Richards, Programme Secretary

Stonesfield Football Club

Yes, it is that time again and after a summer break from football, another long, hard season of trials, tribulations, tantrums, blood, sweat and tears has just begun, and we all love every second of it! Just to recap, having won Div 1 last season, our firsts now play in the Premier League, but the big shock of pre-season is that league reconstruction has led to our Reserves being promoted to Div 3! A big step-up in quality of opposition for both our teams this time round. That reality struck home when The firsts were handed a tough opening day fixture away at Hailey, who have been installed as the Bookie's favourites to be Champions next May. Hailey didn't disappoint as they beat our boys 3-0. An early warning, perhaps, that our heroes from last season need to perform at their best to live with the opposition in this league.

At the time of writing The Reserves had yet to start their league campaign, so there's no Fredo Award this month. However, the lack of an early-season hero has given me an opportunity to delve into the history books and recall the very first trophy that our beloved football club won. The year was 1921 and Europe was recovering from World War One and a Spanish flu pandemic, both of which cost the lives of millions of people. These were tough times and our small village suffered along with the rest of the world. Anyway, that's enough perspective: Stonesfield had reached the final of the Howe-Browne

Cup and the village was buzzing with excitement. Watched by a crowd of 2,000 (!) at Newlands in Witney, we beat Witney Swifts 2-1 in a replay (after a 1-1 draw) to lift the trophy! This was sweet revenge for the previous season where Swifts had beaten us in the final, again by 2-1 in a replay after a 1-1 draw: clearly these two teams were evenly matched. It turns out that in those days, carrier pigeons were used to relay the scores back to the village. True or not, who really cares? My mind's eye imagines the scene, with our Stonesfield heroes returning victorious on their clapped-out old Charabanc with the Cup held high and the party started early (due to pigeon-post) and continuing long into the night. A welcome respite from the worries of the day. Fredo's weren't around then, but if they had been, I'm sure the village would've had a whip-round and presented our victorious heroes with a whole box! I asked Brian Clarke if he knew anything about us winning The Howe-Browne Cup, but he said he was too young at the time to remember! I have no idea if The Cup still exists, but Witney Swifts are now a cricket team, so maybe it followed them into the local cricket arena. Thanks for reading this far, more drivel next month.

Tom Flanigan (01993 891979)

Stonesfield Cricket Club

Our season ended on 15 September with a delightful friendly at Apperley CC near Cheltenham, which ended in defeat, but it was heart-warming to see the progress made by our young bowlers, with almost all our bowling being performed by U15, U14, and U13s – not phased one bit by taking on adults.

In the OCA league, Jamie Burns's 1st XI finished mid-table 6th – although this could have been 3rd if they'd won their last match. Burns, Tim Wyatt, and George Redknap all scored 300+ runs and Tom Gubbins, Steve Litten, Sam Hibberd, Scott Thomas, and

Dan Farrant took 20 plus wickets.

The 2nd XI led by yours truly, finished 3rd – our best finish for 12 years. Ben Hayes and myself were the main run scorers with 300 odd each, whilst Dan Taylor and Dave Skidmore took 20 wickets or more.

Both the U15 and U13 teams enjoyed really productive seasons, with some serious home grown talent coming through.

The players pitched in with a big work party to put the cricket ground part of the field 'to bed' for the winter and in October we'll have our end of season awards night.

Stewart Moss (07866 278685)

Church news



Anglican Worship in the Parishes of Stonesfield with Combe Longa

Rector: The Revd Roy Turner

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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

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

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

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

out your woolly sweaters and warm coats? I am. I love to crunch around and feel the crispness underfoot, to look forward to Remembrance and to the celebrations at the end of the year. It always seems to me that it gets more family orientated towards the end of the year as we plan our get-togethers around hot meals and warm fires.

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

then on into Christ the King in November with its colour of Red or White.

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

Why not join us at St Laurence or St James

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

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

Rev Roy

SERVICES FOR OCTOBER

Sunday 6 October [Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity]

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

Sunday 13 October [Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity]

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

Sunday 20 October [Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity]

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

Sunday 27 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 3 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 6 11am The Reverend Rose
Westwood, Harvest Service with
Holy Communion
There will be a collection box for
food bank donations.

Sun 13 11am Mr Keith Crawford

Sun 20 10.30am Mr Martin Hannant,
Service at High St. Methodist
Church, Witney.

No Service at Stonesfield

Sun 27 11am Mrs Margaret Broadberry
Kathleen Albért (01993 891733)

Roman Catholic Worship

The Cross

Roman Catholics have a feast called the Exaltation of the Cross (celebrated on 14 September). This Feast has a long history and commemorates three historical foundation elements related to the emerging legitimacy of the Church in the 4th Century. However, transcending time and place, is how we view the Cross today. Life burdens are seen as a 'cross', but the real valuable meaning of the Cross, is that it was the medium that brought us all everlasting life and offered us redemption. St Paul, in his letter to the Galatians: *the only thing I can boast about is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom the world in crucified to me, and I to the world.* The Cross on which died for us is a portal through we may choose to enter another world. That world is configured around the model of life that Jesus Christ gave us – all we have to decide is to decide to enter it.

MASS TIMES SUNDAYS

St Teresa's, Charlbury: 9.15am
St Kenelm's, Enstone: 9.00am, second
Sunday of every month

MASS TIMES WEEKDAYS

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

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

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

For parish updates and any further
information, please see: stteresaschurch-
charlbury.com or contact Clive Dytor,
Chair, Parish Committee: chair.
stteresaschurchcharlbury@gmail.com
Roman Catholic Community in Stonesfield

St Laurence's Church

Members of the St Laurence's Church,
Combe congregation are establishing a
small home group this autumn. We will
meet over 8 weeks on Thursdays from
7.30–9pm, at Horns Close, Horns Lane,
starting on 3 October. Please join us as
we study the Lord's Prayer and engage
with the answers Jesus gives to life's big
questions. For further information contact
Rev Roy, or our Licensed Lay Minister
(LLM), at St Laurence's Combe and St
James's Stonesfield, or Helen Walker
helen.walker67@gmail.com, (01993
891519).

*Richard Francis, Benefice Office, Parishes
of St James's Stonesfield and St Laurence's
Combe (01993 891237) richard-francis@
btconnect.com*

St James' Church, Stonesfield

WELCOME TO NEW RESIDENTS and Harvest celebrations

Everyone – new residents and not-so-new –
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between 3.30–5pm in St James' Centre



Harvest Festival Service

Sunday 6 October 11am – a special service for all ages!

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It's been a bit of a mixed Summer and now the nights are drawing in and it'll soon be time to light the log burner

There have been some changes here in the kitchen. Brett has moved on to pastures new and I'm pleased to say we now have Tara cooking for us. She has a great deal of experience and has been preparing some delicious 'home cooked' dishes.

I especially must mention her absolutely amazing Sunday lunch!

As usual, we will be having our Fancy Dress Halloween Party on Sat 26th October (more details to follow in next month's ad) so start planning your costume.

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 1pm and one at 3pm. And if you want to hold your Christmas Party here, we'd love to have you.

Bar opening hours

Wed-Thursdays	5pm-Close
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Food served

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