

STONELEIGH & ASHOW NEWS



MAY 2010

From the Vicarage:

I have just come back home after taking a wedding and now I am sitting in the garden in the sunshine writing this. The sky appears to be totally clear: blue from horizon to horizon except for where the sun is shining brightly. There isn't even the cloud trail of an aeroplane! As you will no doubt guess, this is because I am writing while no flights are taking place because of the cloud of ash from the Icelandic volcano (which I won't even attempt to spell). But where is this cloud? Apparently non-existent, yet real enough to cause total chaos to the normal way of life for much of the continent and, indeed, the world.

At the wedding, I was speaking about Godly Love, as St Paul writes about chapter 13 of his first letter to the Corinthian Church. It is the type of love which 'always protects, always trusts, always hopes and always perseveres'; a love which 'never fails'. Of course, love is something that you cannot see, but we all know the reality of it in some form. God's love for us is like the sun in the sky – always there, always constant, yet often obscured to some degree by the clouds of our rebellion and wrongdoing. It isn't that God stops loving us, but that we become less able to receive that love.

But there is also something else 'out there' which we don't see, but ignore at our peril. Like the ash cloud which might cause such suffering if any plane was to fly into it, the Devil's cloud of spiritual evil seeks to damage and destroy anyone who blindly heads into it. The most dangerous thing is to pretend it isn't there. However, neither should we let fear of it paralyse us. The sun is still shining. The love of God is far stronger than all the evil that Satan can muster.

The marriage service makes it clear that, though problems, pains, bad times and even death will come our way on our journey through life, God's love will never fail us. Not even the darkest clouds can totally obscure the light. Easter reminded us of that. Though on Good Friday, as Jesus hung on the cross, darkness did come in the middle of the day, even then within three days the brilliance of resurrection light and life shone through again.

One assumes that the ash cloud will eventually go and life will return to normal again, but let us be glad that God's love for every one of us re-

mains eternal. May you know that light shining through any clouds that may be blighting your life at this time.

Jim Perryman

3-PARISH SPOTLIGHT

The Holy Week and Easter events were a great time of joy, fellowship and celebration. Sarah and her team made the Maundy Thursday Agape meal a very tasty occasion. Those who made the journey through the Good Friday experiences found themselves very moved by sharing in the emotion of that pivotal day in Jerusalem. And the great celebration of Easter was made even more special by the sunrise service at Coventry Cathedral where, among others from around the Diocese, Hazel from Stoneleigh was Baptised and Confirmed, and Lyndsay from Leek Wootton was Confirmed. We wish them both every blessing as they grow in faith on their journey with God.

In the Churches, the Easter Season continues right through to the end of May, and we have some special events along the way. On May 2nd, at All Saints in Leek Wootton, you are invited to the first of the monthly 'Church Teas' from 3pm. This one is special for all ages as brave Teddy Bears and the like have an opportunity to parachute from the top of the Church Tower! Parachutes are supplied.

The following Sunday (9th) is Rogation Sunday where Ashow and Stoneleigh congregations unite for a mobile service, this year around Ashow. We will begin at 11am at the church and end up at the Village Club for a picnic together (bring your own). May 23rd is Pentecost, when we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples, 50 days after Easter, and seek that same Holy Spirit to come afresh into our lives today. The final Sunday (30th) sees all three congregations gathering together at All Saints, Leek Wootton for a 10.15am United Service. Please note that there will not be a service at either Ashow or Stoneleigh that day.

To keep up to date with what services are happening, when and where across the three parishes of Ashow, Leek Wootton and Stoneleigh, please see the website **www.a-lw-s.org.uk**

Ashow, Burton Green & Stoneleigh

Joint Parish Council

Annual Report- 1st April 2009 – 31st March 2010

Members

The composition of the Parish Council in May 2009 was as detailed below:

Ashow Ward Councillors H. Baker and Mrs J. Clark.

Burton Green Ward Councillors C. Langton, A. Taylor, G. Williams &
I de Worringham.

Stoneleigh Ward Councillors D. Ellwood, Mrs L. Fletcher, G. Gatward &
Ms S. Woolf.

University Ward Councillors D. Botterill, Ms T. Grant, D. Metcalfe and D. Persaud.

- At the 14th January 2010 meeting Cllr D. Metcalfe tended his resignation as a Councillor for University Ward. At present this vacancy has not been filled.
 - At the 11th February 2010 meeting Cllr Mrs J. Clark tended her resignation for Ashow Ward.
 - At the 11th March 2010 meeting Mrs Jane Mackenzie was co-opted onto the Parish Council for Ashow Ward.
 - At the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 14th May 2009 Councillor H. Baker was appointed Chairman and Councillor D. Ellwood was appointed Vice-Chairman.

Meetings

During the period 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010 the following meetings were held:

Annual Council Meeting and 11 Ordinary Meetings

Attendance of Councillors at these meetings is detailed below. Councillors with an asterisk after their name were not on the Council for a full year so the number of meetings reflects this position. Maximum possible attendance 12 meetings.

H. Baker	11	92% attended
D. Botterill	8	67 % attended
D. Ellwood	8	67% attended
L. Fletcher	10	83% attended
G. Gatward	9	75% attended
T. Grant	10	83% attended
C. Langton	7	58% attended
J. Mackenzie*	1	100% attended
D. Persaud	7	58% attended

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C. Langton	7	58% attended
J. Mackenzie*	1	100% attended
D. Persaud	7	58% attended
A. Taylor	7	58% attended
G. Williams	10	83% attended
S. Woolf	10	83% attended
I de Worringham	7	58% attended

Finance

Precept levied for the financial year 2009/2010 was £12,656, an increase of 5% on the previous year. Other income during the year was Bank interest of £13.10, concurrent expenditure £1,000. Total income for the year being £13,669.10, which when added to the accumulated balance gave a working total of £24,407.03.

During the year total expenditure was £11,148.03 which results in a surplus of £13,259.00.

The following grants were distributed during the year:

Ashow Church	£500
Stoneleigh Church	£500
Burton Green Newsletter	£250
Stoneleigh & Ashow Newsletter	£250

Planning

All planning applications received from Warwick District Council are considered. During the year a total of 51 new planning applications were considered. The applications can be classified as shown:

Ashow	2 Full – 1 Granted, 1 Refused 1 Listed Building – 1 Refused
Burton Green	16 Full – 11 Granted, 4 Awaiting Response, 1 Refused.
Stoneleigh	24 Full – 18 Granted, 1 Refused, 5 Awaiting Responses, 5 Listed Building – 4 Granted, 1 Awaiting Response
University	2 Full – 2 Granted. 1 Outline – 1 Granted

Roads and related matters

Burton Green

Burton Green School has had a new classroom to replace the temporary one that was in much need of replacing.

Stoneleigh

The new Chief Executive of RASE Brian Warren gave a presentation at one of the Parish Council meetings and is actively working with the local residents. He has cancelled the contract with the Country Festival Show because of all the complaints he received after last year's show. He also has doubts about the new road since Advantage West Midlands has withdrawn the funding.

A new web-site for Stoneleigh has been built which was initiated by Cllr Ms S. Woolf and has been constructed by Mark Bonnett. Cllr Ms S. Woolf agreed to take on the ownership of the web-site and the web master will be Sheila Woolf.

Two Interactive Signs will shortly be fitted along Birmingham Road which hopefully will help to slow the traffic down. New road markings will shortly be put in front of the paths of the almshouses by Warwickshire County Council.

University of Warwick

There was concern about the amount of dangerous street parking along Westwood Heath Road after the University abolished free parking on campus. Double yellow lines have been painted along part of Westwood Heath Road to make the road safer.

Environmental matters

Kenilworth to Berkswell Greenway

The Kenilworth Connect2 Project is going well. The pedestrian and cycling bridge over the A429 Coventry Road in Kenilworth has been out for consultation.

Allotments behind Birmingham Road, Stoneleigh

Stoneleigh Abbey were approached to see if they would be willing to let the allotments to interested residents of Stoneleigh. Unfortunately they were not willing to do this.

The Old Garage, Stoneleigh

A presentation was given by Stansgate Planning, as the agent for the owner, of a proposed single dwelling on this site.

Village Green Stoneleigh

Some new posts and link chain has been installed around the village green to improve the appearance.

Village Swings

The annual inspection was carried out in September.

Pat Maddison

Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer for the period of the report.

The Heroes Run at Stoneleigh Park

On Sunday 23rd May at Stoneleigh Park there will be a 5km run or walk to raise money for the Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance (WNAA). This organisation does not receive any Government or National Lottery funding, so their £1.5m annual operating cost relies entirely on voluntary donations and fundraising events such as this.

The event will start at 11am and there will be medals for all finishers plus trophies for the winners. There is also an optional fancy dress where you can dress up as your favourite hero! Subject to missions, the helicopter and crew will be flying in to enable everyone to meet them.

The whole family is invited to compete, and entry is £10 for those aged 16 and over and £5 for under-16s. If you would consider being sponsored, WNAA would raise even more money.

In order to enter the competition you will need to go to www.wnaa.co.uk and register there. As a special feature of the event there is an inter-parish competition, between all the parishes served by WNAA in Warwickshire, so you should write the name of the parish (ie Stoneleigh) in the address section on the entry form. The winning parish will be the one that raises the most money from entry fees and sponsorship.

Why not gather a group of friends together for this event and have fun supporting this worthwhile cause? Remember that the yellow helicopter is standing by to help all of us in a fast life-saving transfer to hospital – 48% of their call-outs are to road-traffic collisions on the roads of Warwickshire and Northamptonshire.

For further information contact me , or have a look on the village website .

Sheila Woolf



The Anchor Inn, Warwick Road, Leek Wootton CV35 7QX

WINES TO GO

Having a party? Unexpected guests?

We can offer quality wines and no need to queue at the checkout.

Tel 01926 853355

Red Wines

Niel Joubert Cinsault / Pinotage 6.85

South African wine with fruit and spice

TerraSur Reserva Merlot 6.95

Chilean with ripe berry fruit and oak

Tanguero Malbec 6.95

Fruity red finishing long and soft, Argentina

Cedar Creek Shiraz Cabernet 6.85

Elegant full bodied Australian with smoky oak

Rosé

TerraSur Reserva Merlot Rosé 6.95

Refreshing soft Chilean with red fruits

WhiteWines

Niel Joubert Chenin / Chardonnay 6.85

Elegant South African with ripe tropical fruit

TerraSur Reserva Sauvignon Blanc 6.95

Dry, Chilean with a fresh crisp finish

Tanguero Unoaked Chardonnay 7.15

Well balanced, long, refreshing from Argentina

Cedar Creek Semillion / Chardonnay 6.95

Easy drinking Australian with citrus flavours

Chablis Simonnet Febvre 10.95

Classic dry French Burgundy with crisp bouquet

Sparkling Wine and Champagne

Willowglen Brut 7.45

Refreshing Australian sparkler with creamy fruit

Mumm Cordon Rouge 22.95

Fine, light bodied champagne with clean finish

ASHOW NEWS

The annual Church Spring Clean and Garden Tidy-up will take place on Sunday, May 2nd after the 9.30 am Service.

The PCC will be grateful for as much help as possible, and after the work a picnic lunch and drinks will be provided.

May 9th. Come and join Ashow and Stoneleigh Church members in the Annual Rogation Service walk around Ashow Village at 11.00 am.

Bring your own picnic lunch to enjoy in the Club gardens afterwards.

There are still a few tickets available for the Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir Concert in Ashow Church on Friday May 14th at 7.30 pm. Tickets price £15 to include canapés and drinks from Stephen Harvey , or David Holt, or members of the PCC.

J L HUTHWAITE

Property Maintenance

Mobile: 07921 842217 Tel: 01926 410910

I am available for a wide range of general property maintenance services, large and small.

Please call for assistance and to arrange a free quotation, with no obligation.

References are available on request.

Jason Huthwaite



Oak Apple Day

Royal Oak Day (Oak Apple Day) was a public holiday celebrated in England on 29 May to commemorate the restoration of the English monarchy, in May 1660.

Oak Apple Day was a time for dancing and parties.

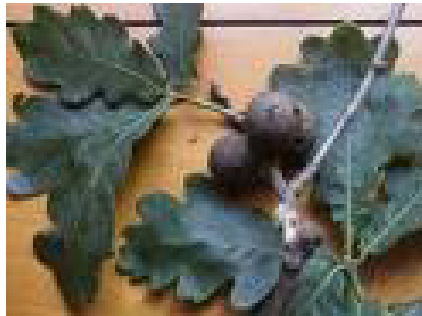
To show their support for the monarchy, people wore sprigs of oak leaves or a sprig with an oak apple on (gall produced in oak buds by wasps).

On 29 May, children would challenge each other to show their oak sprigs or apples, and those not wearing one would face some form of punishment, varying from one place to another.

"Pinch-Bum-Day" - a pinch on the bottom

"Nettle Day" - whipping with nettles

"The wise boy wore his oak leaves, armed himself (sic) with a stinging nettle and carried a few dock leaves for first aid just in case"



A Plea for Information.

In last months' Stoneleigh and Ashow News, the second installment of the reminiscences of Mr Harry Edmunds referred to two barn fires in 1908 and 1909 at Kingswood Cottages. This prompted Fred and Wendy Pauling, who now live there, to write:

"It was very interesting to read amongst the reminiscences of Mr Harry Edmunds, the dates of the fires in the barns at Kingswood Cottages. We had always been able to see that a fire had occurred, and wondered when it had happened - not realising that it had been so long ago.

The older of the cottages, now known as 'Kingswood Farmhouse' (and to many as 'The Riding School' or 'Stables'), appears to have been built between 1690 and 1710. We have acquired quite a bit of information since then about the buildings and inhabitants since this time. We would, however, be most grateful for any other reminiscences or information that anyone else can spare the time to share with us.

If anybody with information would like to telephone us on 024 76 418121 we would be delighted to hear from you.

One of the next possible changes of course, is the bisecting of our drive and curtailment of our side field courtesy of HS2!"

Since writing this piece, Fred and Wendy had a surprising and entirely coincidental visit by two people who were visiting from Canada, an Eric & Janet (nee Silk) Ward. Janet was able to recall living here as a young girl (from 1946 - 56) - house layout, gardens etc, and they spent a happy afternoon showing them round, drinking tea and reminiscing.

Fred and Wendy have contact information for Eric and Janet for anyone who remembers them and who would like to make contact.

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Meetings

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 13th May 2010 at 7.00 p.m. This will be followed by the Ordinary Council Meeting at 7.30 p.m. Both are being held at Stoneleigh Village Hall.

Pat Maddison - Parish Clerk

Continuing the reminiscences of the late Mr Harry Edmunds, who was born in 1897. Later this year it is hoped that the complete collection will be printed and made available.

It was in 1915 when I was working at the ordnance works that we had an explosion in the boiler house, and when I came round I was lying in the manager's office and all the men had been sent home for a few days. While at home all the young men from the village volunteered for the army, except my pal and I failed: they said they wanted men not lads, so we came back and joined Lord Derby's Scheme and were called up 3 months later. During that time the Zeppelin came over and dropped bombs on Whitley Aerodrome and killed 3 cows.

After the war Lord Leigh gave the village a piece of land to be called Stoneleigh Village Sports Centre and some of the unemployed were given some work to level it, and volunteers used to go and put a fence round it. We made a bowling green, tennis courts and a football field and then some people went to Derby and bought a large army hut and Lord Leigh sent his Sentinel to cart the hut home. Everybody in the village worked on it for many weeks. All those who came back from the war used to go round the village and planted the gardens for all the widows and the cripples; also we used to get up whist drives and dances for those who had lost relatives in the war.

I remember in the olden days we used to have a real good dinner at the Club. The Committee used to take the meat and one or two in the village used to boil legs of lamb and members' wives used to cook potatoes and Brussels in the school and carry them over to the club. It used to be the Saturday after November the 5th that was the anniversary of the opening of the Village Working Men's Club and the Club used to have free beer that night. And then we went round Carol Singing to help get brass band instruments which we eventually got and our first engagement was at Baginton helped by some members of the Coventry Silver band. After that we used to play for our own Flower Show and Sports.

In that year my late wife and I got married and lived in the Old Almshouses. The following year we were blessed with twins, a girl and a boy, and about 5 months later Lord Leigh and his American bride came to see them. Lord Leigh congratulated us as they were the only twins to be born in the almshouses, at that time. The old people there, the men had L.L. on their sleeves and the ladies had L.L. on their cloaks.

Continuing Harry Edmund's reminiscences.....

About the same time some were struck by lightning on the front lawn at Stoneleigh Abbey. One was killed on the spot and the other two were maimed for life; it thundered and lightened all that day.

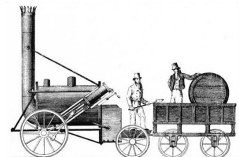


Photo courtesy of Shirley Ball.

Politician becomes the first railway casualty.

William Huskisson, a politician, MP for Liverpool, President of the Board of Trade and Secretary to the Colonies is thought to be the **first** recorded person to be killed by a train. It was George Stephenson's rocket, on its inaugural excursion, which struck him as it passed on the Liverpool to Manchester railway on 15 September 1830.

The Rocket had a top speed of 29 miles per hour when running light, 12 miles per hour when loaded, and was the "state of the art" train of its time, heralding the first railway age.



Stoneleigh Neighbourhood Watch

It has not been a good month. Nothing very serious but worrying vandalism, starting with a house in Acorn Close being pelted with eggs on Saturday evening 21st March by a teenager who had earlier said he would do this. The police were told. Then on Friday 2nd April, the Village Hall was broken into, vandalised and three fire extinguishers were stolen. Subsequently fire extinguisher powder was sprayed on a house in Birmingham Road and on three cars by the Almshouses on The Green. The police would obviously welcome any information on this crime and we must be grateful to Joe Ball for the speed with which he rectified the damage.

Sadly on 25th March a lady pensioner had her handbag stolen whilst in a shop in Kenilworth. This was a distraction burglary with a woman distracting the lady's attention whilst the handbag was stolen. Money, vouchers, bank cards, keys, etc., all went and unfortunately the closed circuit TV in the shop was not working. These distraction burglaries are becoming all too common.

There are 31 police areas in Warwick District and in all of these except 6, Anti-social Behaviour has fallen in 2009 compared with 2008. Stoneleigh had the second highest increase at +26.2% with 82 incidents. Perhaps that is reflected again this year with the incidents reported above. I hope not, of course, Stoneleigh is a very large police area.

Roger Gilbert

Local news

Councillor Bertie MacKay is Chairman-elect of Warwick District Council and takes

office on 19th May. The Independent Member for Stoneleigh Ward, he was first elected in 1999 and re-elected in 2003 and 2007. He was also a Parish Councillor for 8 years for Baginton. He represented the Ward at two Public Inquiries into the expansion of Coventry Airport and has contributed extensively to the work of the Council in many aspects.

Bob Foster

Our small community in Ashow is deeply saddened by the loss of one of its most popular and devoted residents, Bob Foster, who died on 11th April.

An engineer by profession, he came to supper several years ago and decided to stay here for the remainder of his long and industrious life. Among his many varied achievements he designed and subsequently managed a successful factory in India.

Bob Foster ultimately found great happiness in Ashow by becoming a valued contributor to the life of the village, entering with enthusiasm all the various ways by which we raise money for the preservation and maintenance of the church in which he often read the lesson.

Claudia Taylor.

I first met Bob Foster in the last three hours of 2002. He was my house guest for the night. Much later he moved back to my home on 20th June 2004.

I was completely unprepared for the man and a half he was intellect second to none, very exacting at times: it was a bit like living with Professor Higgins- I have to admit I learnt so much. He enriched my life in so many ways with wonderful holidays to India, Italy and Malta amongst others.

He loved life, enjoyed every minute of it, worked all over the world, was a keen fisherman, played bridge and was particularly fond of his many social outings with his friend Patrick Moore.

Last, and certainly not least, he was blessed with a wonderful family of whom he was very proud, especially his five grandchildren and his four great grandchildren.

He not only earned respect: he commanded it.

Rita Peacock.

THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY ASHOW.

The state of the finances at the end of 2009.

The financial year ended 31st December 2009 was a difficult one for the church in Ashow. With income of £14,701.83p and expenditure of £25,117.99p there was an excess of payments over income of £10,416.16p.

The main contributing factor was the £10,230 needed to complete essential building repairs and to carry out the work on the windows. The improvement of the heating system and a general overhaul of the electrics were completed to enable the system to cope with the improvements that needed to be carried out. This has left the church funds at a relative low level with a balance of £9,514.70 in the investment and current accounts.

The prospects for 2010

Although it is dangerous to predict the future cost of maintenance of church buildings the prospects for 2010 are good and no major costs are foreseen.

On the income side the prospects are much brighter with encouraging outcomes from the response to the appeal for funds and the setting up of the "Friends of Ashow" group; the 8 members will contribute £840 a year to the building fund. We have received £1,350 in donations and there is an increase of £1,560 a year to the regular direct debits to the church.

Of significance is the fact that all these monies, whether gifts or direct debits, are all gift aided and will add 25p in the pound to the amount the church receives.

If you have not yet made a contribution your gift will be very welcome and whatever the amount is it will help your church.

Syd Creed
Treasurer

St. Mary the Virgin Stoneleigh.

A good year!

We had a very successful year in 2009 with much achieved with completion of key building work to ensure the church is water tight. We hope that we will have a respite from another major scheme but as with all old buildings there is always something to be done. An example of this is the leak in the tower roof that had occurring over a period and been undiscovered until driving rain drew it to our attention; it has now been repaired

Our priority for 2010 is the church clock which needs a thorough overhaul and a new face; this is in hand and we are obtaining tenders to enable us to arrive at the cost and make a decision.

The financial report for 2009 has now gone through its various stages and cleared by our Examiner.

The income of £138,561 reflects the near completion of the finances of the roof repairs and the further sums received from the roof appeal (£21,191); the refund of VAT money (£16,455); and the English Heritage grant (£48,906). Planned giving was up £4,200 on the 2008 figure and we had £10,500 from bequests.

On the expenditure side the biggest figure is the cost of repairs with £120,522 nearly all of which was spent on the roofs. We sent £3,424 to our monthly nominated charities with profits on social events added to our normal collections and our monthly allocation from church funds.

The payments exceeded our income by £25,071.

I would like to send you the thanks of the P.C.C. for all your financial support and the great amount of practical help you give the church in so many areas. It is very much appreciated; long may it continue!

Syd Creed.
Treasurer

Stoneleigh Village Club

The Club has been busy over the last few weeks hosting a number of very successful events:

The Easter Egg Hunt & Bonnet Competition proved very popular, thanks to all who kindly helped out, in particular the Committee, and the church for providing the hiding places for the eggs.

The Grand National, another successful event, with some more lucky than others!

Forthcoming Events:

16 May	AGM – all welcome
22 May	Bell Ringers Quiz
May	Fletch's Cocktail Evening – date to be confirmed
May	Members Night – date to be confirmed

There is a list on the Noticeboard for anyone who wishes to be nominated for the Committee, nominations are particularly required for the positions of Chairman and Secretary. All volunteers very welcome. This is your opportunity to get involved in running the Club, and making a difference to the social life of Stoneleigh village

Finally, anyone who wants to take part in Fred's annual 'Massive Marrow' competition, please add your name to the schedule, which can also be found on the Noticeboard.

Sue Brooks

Sewage Pumping Station

Work continues on the station at the end of Vicarage Road. The essential repairs to the pumping station are apparently because the walls and concrete liners have started to collapse deep inside the chamber. This has caused disruption to local residents both as a result of breakdowns to the system and by the repair works. Hopefully, a more detailed update will appear in the next issue of the Stoneleigh and Ashow News.

Time Marches on....

Have you ever wondered who keeps the lovely Stoneleigh church clock in order? Well for 20 years it has been wound weekly by Cec Wh ite and more recently by his young “apprentices” Robin Bussell and Rod Wheat in Cec’s absence. Once a week Cec climbs the 64 steps up and down and turns the large mangle-like handle 30 times to wind up the clock and 100 times to wind the chime! He explained that he needs to be very careful winding the handle as, if the attached ratchet doesn’t “catch”, the handle can whizz round out of control – this once happened to a maintenance engineer who broke his jaw! Of course in addition to the weekly wind up, the hour needs to be adjusted forward and back each year. The temperature can affect the speed of the clock and Cec has to correct this on particularly warm or cold weeks.

Cec came to do the job by having a moan at John Hunter, then church warden, about how irritating it was to have a clock that didn’t keep time. John arranged for Cec to meet Ken Hancox who was currently winding the clock who explained that he hadn’t the time to do it, with his other commitments. The job was left to Cec and John to do, and after 2 years, Cec alone when John died.

In 20 years Cec has climbed a total of 66, 650 steps up and down, he has wound the handle 31, 200 times to wind the clock and at least 100,000 times to wind the chime. When the bells are rung the clock hammer is disengaged, otherwise it would smash on the bell.

Well done and thank you Cec !

From the FightHS2 Action Group

Hopefully by the time you've read this many of you will have had chance to come along to the meeting at the Village Hall on the 22nd and have had a view of some of the activities that we have been up to, but also an indication of the work ahead needed .

I know that much of the village has spent years fighting various proposed developments at Coventry Airport, with much success and so to start all over again will be incredibly hard.

However, the impact of trains passing every 4 minutes on a viaduct 80ft high at 250 mph will create a phenomenal level of noise and vibration which can only be destructive to our entire village and way of life. So I, and the rest of the team, can only ask for you all to dig deep and help out where you can, we'll need all we've got. There's a chance that HS2 may well be a political flight of fancy particularly with a General Election around the corner, but can we afford to risk the fact that it isn't?

So what are we up to :

- We are creating a Value case for Stoneleigh, the Impact that HS2 will have on us and the losses that will be incurred, both historical and environmental
- We are also examining the engineering employed. To both challenge HS2's need for speed, which is the factor moving it out of the existing transport corridors, but also to review any alternative options that may be available to us, move the line, tunnels etc..
- Reviewing the overall case for HS2, seeking to challenge the premise of the business case for that volume of passengers at that speed.

We will need all the help the village can offer from straightforward administration and beyond, so please if you can spare some time, please let us know.

We have a unique opportunity with the General Election to lobby our potential MP's as to how they intend on supporting our community.

Although they all support high speed rail in principle, there are differences in their opinions! Talk to all the candidates, voice your concerns. We will be lobbying them, but the more people the better.

Phil James-Bull on behalf of the Group

E-mail: FightHS2@me.com

tel: 07517 041 937

Ashow Summer Gathering

A decorative graphic featuring stylized flowers, leaves, and bubbles. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, some fully open and some as buds. Bubbles of different sizes are scattered around the floral elements. The design is split horizontally by a band of three horizontal stripes (grey, white, grey).

Sunday
13th June 2010

2.00pm Family fun & cream teas
5.00pm Barbecue

BBQ tickets
available from the Club
(£10 adults / £5 children)

Stoneleigh Village Website

www.stoneleighvillage.org.uk ...

latest developments

There is now a special link to information about the High Speed Rail Link on the website, including a map of our area and a copy of the DfT's Exceptional Hardship Scheme document.

Many more photographs from Shirley Ball's collection have now been added to the website – do take a look.

Bus timetables for the X17 between Coventry and Warwick via Kenilworth have been added to those for the 539.

Information about a helpline for the NSPCC is available, as are details of the "Heroes Run" – see elsewhere in this issue.

Don't forget that you can read Parish Council Minutes and Agendas for forthcoming meetings on the site, as well as follow links to Warwick District Council. You can also read the past three issues of the *Stoneleigh & Ashow News*!

Keep coming back- there's always something new!

Sheila Woolf



Stoneleigh WI

Tony Boullemier, the speaker at the monthly meeting, gave a fascinating talk about Leone, his great grandmother, and her friendship with Napoleon III. He has written a book about this – after he found Leone's diary in the attic.

We held our annual dinner a few weeks ago at Guy's Cliff. An excellent evening, with good food and company.

A large group of members (plus husbands) visited the library at the NAC. It was a very interesting afternoon – on the doorstep.

We had a skittles evening – with much rivalry and a good supper, and a group went to the Loft Theatre to see Hay Fever. A number of members attended a lecture in the 'Serious Science' series – this one on the planets.

The usual activities have occurred – the book club, craft and walking.

The lunch next month will be on May 4th when the menu will bangers and mash. Please contact either Rachel or Liz if you wish to come and haven't informed us or if having put your name down you're unable to attend.

The monthly in May is on the 10th (due to the bank holiday) when we will be joined by Baginton WI to discuss this year's resolutions.

High Speed Train Protest

A group of villagers gathered at short notice to highlight the proximity of the village to the proposed route of the High Speed Train for a photographer from The Coventry Evening Telegraph on a beautiful spring morning on Saturday 17th April. An article was published shortly after.

Stoneleigh Village Hall and Playing Fields Charity

Chairperson Report April 2009 – March 2010

Once again the Village Hall has had a successful year with plenty of bookings. Thanks go to all those organisations, many represented on the committee, who continue to support the Village Hall year on year both financially and by choosing to use the facility.

Reviewing the year – We purchased a new shed to help with storage capacity. Routine maintenance work was completed including painting the kitchen, repairs to the kitchen ceiling and strengthening of the tennis court fence. The WI donated a coffee machine to the Hall which we accepted with thanks.

New Projects – The extension to the car park which was successfully completed prior to the last AGM was marked out for spaces including disabled parking. This control of parking has increased capacity

The hiring rates were revised and a charge for the use of the kitchen established. Annual rates for the organisations that use the Hall were renegotiated. Increases took effect from July 1st 2009. The increase has not resulted in a loss of custom.

We have been asked to provide details of the Hall for the new village website and are interested to see if this attracts new users to the Hall.

Once again the village hall has had a good year and the facility continues to be enjoyed by the whole community.

Jean Fardoe resigned from the committee after many years as a valued member. We would all like to thank Jean for her dedication and hard work over the years. In particular for the leadership she has given to the committee in her years as Chairperson and the encouragement she has given to new members helping to ensure the future of the Hall.

Stoneleigh Village Hall and Playing Fields Charity Chairperson Report April 2009 – March 2010 (continued)

Finally, many thanks to Sue for her continuing hard work as secretary, to Joe for his time and commitment in his dual role of treasurer and bookings administrator, to David for the invaluable support he has given to me as vice chair and many thanks to all the members of the committee for generously giving their time and support.

Amanda Gibbs

Committee for 2010 – 2011 are as follows:

Amanda Gibbs	Chairperson
David Gibson	Vice Chairperson
Sue Marshall	Secretary
Joe Ball	Treasurer and Bookings Administrator

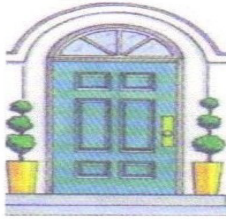
Elected members:

Sarah Attwood
Shirley Ball
Sue Marshall
Tony Samouelle
Liz Sykes

Representatives:

Dennis Craddock	Ex Serviceperson's Association
Iris Donachie	PCC
Lynne Fletcher	Parish Council
Lynda Hobbins	Hand - Bell Ringers
Colleen Oldham	WI
Gary Attwood	RASE
Amanda Gibbs	Tennis Club
David Gibson	Male Voice Choir
Joe Ball	Football Club

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High Speed 2:

The Government's Exceptional Hardship Scheme.

*Many people will be aware of this but others may not. It's hard to summarise it, but a copy of this is available for inspection on the Village website. The important thing to remember is that anybody who wishes to register an interest or comment on this needs to have submitted their applications **no later than 20th May**.*



ASHOW BIG BREAKFAST

The Kenilworth Committee of Cancer Research U.K. Would like to thank everyone who supported the "Big Breakfast" on Wednesday 14th April at the home of Pat and Stephen Harvey in Ashow, or generously gave donations. The event, which was very well attended, raised £840 for Cancer Research.

TREASURER'S REMINDER

May I remind **all** of our readers voluntary subscriptions for the year January to December 2010, [payable to *Stoneleigh and Ashow News please NOT me*], may be sent to:

**Honorary Treasurer, Alliance Cottage, The Bank,
Stoneleigh, Warwks., CV8 3DA.**

To those who now pay directly into our account or have already sent a payment many thanks; for those new to the area, or those who forgot to pay last year, please consider sending a small payment. You can of course transfer funds direct [with name or anonymously], to: Branch Code: **60-12-35** Account Number: **63535718**. **Sorry, I don't do credit cards, but cash payments will all be receipted.** Could our postal recipients also try to send a minimum sum of £7.50 to cover our costs please?

Clive Watson

This month's edition was compiled by
Kim and Martin Smith.

Grateful thanks to Shirley Ball for the use of the photographs of
Old Stoneleigh including the magnificent front cover photo.

Next month's editor will be:

Margaret Wallis

ms.wallis@virgin.net

Deadline for articles, 18th June 2010.

**THE UNITED BENEFICE OF THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY
ASHOW AND ST MARY THE VIRGIN STONELEIGH**

SERVICES FOR MAY 2010

Date	Ashow	Stoneleigh
Sunday 2nd	9.30 a.m. Holy Communion	11.00 a.m. Sung Holy Communion
Sunday 9th	11.00 a.m. United Rogation Service at Ashow, followed by 'Bring Your Own' Barbecue or Picnic.	
Thursday 13th		10.30 a.m. Holy Communion
Sunday 16th	9.30 a.m. Holy Communion	11.00 a.m. Fellowship Holy Communion <i>With Oreche</i>
Sunday 23rd	9.30 a.m. Village Service	11.00 All Age Worship
Thursday 27th		10.30 a.m. Holy Communion
Sunday 30th	10.15 a.m. Three Parish All Age Holy Communion at Leek Wootton	

FROM THE REGISTERS

Sunday 28th March the Holy Baptism of
LUCY VICTORIA BALLIN COUSINS
AND LUCIAN WILLIAM HAYNESS SPENCER

Thursday 22nd April, Funeral Service of TREVOR JAMES