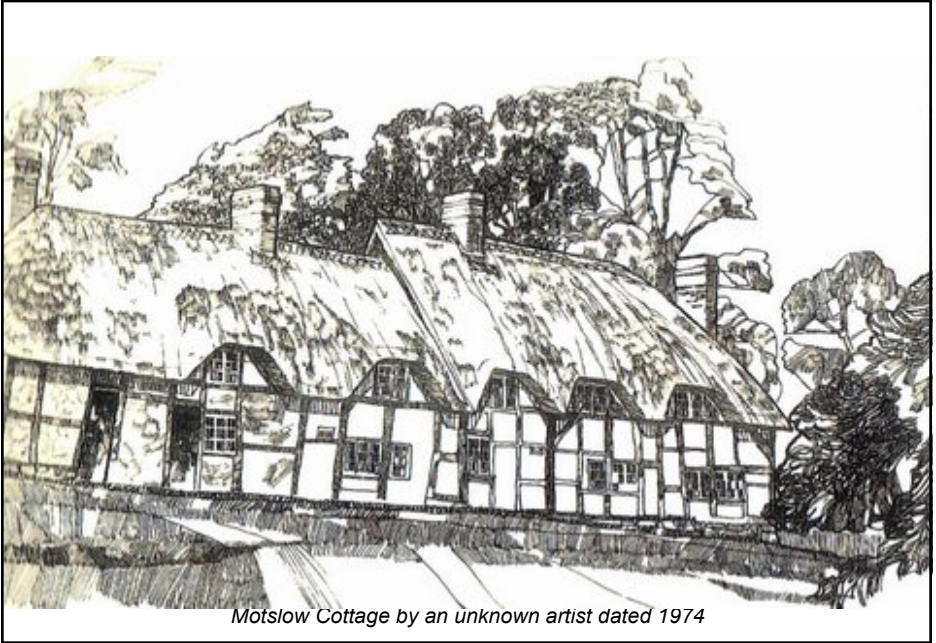


# STONELEIGH & ASHOW NEWS



*Motslow Cottage by an unknown artist dated 1974*

## NOVEMBER 2012

## **Top Tails- Individual Dog Grooming by Vanessa Byrne**

01926 671028    [www.toptails.co.uk](http://www.toptails.co.uk)



All dog grooming is carried out by Vanessa on an individual basis. Appointments start with a consultation where the individual needs of your dog are assessed.

Top Tails offer a range of treatments for your dog from nail clipping, washes and spa treatments to full grooms.

"The health and well-being of your dog is TopTails priority"

## **The Good Goose**



Free range geese raised locally by Richard & Elly at Dial House Farm in Warwickshire.

Order now for this years Christmas table. Our traditional methods of rearing the geese ensure that we produce a wonderful bird, full of flavour for that truly special meal. Email: [elly@thegoodgoose.co.uk](mailto:elly@thegoodgoose.co.uk) or phone Elly on 07721 076207 [www.thegoodgoose.co.uk](http://www.thegoodgoose.co.uk)

Good care, good geese.

## STONELEIGH AND ASHOW NEWS

This issue was edited by David and Jean Vaughan  
The next issue for the two months December 2012 and January 2013 will be edited by:

Lucy Morris of: 26 Ashow, Kenilworth, CV8 2LE  
Phone: 01926 852992  
email: editorsandanews@gmail.com  
Copy deadline: 18th November 2012

We prefer electronic copy, but hard copy can be submitted as an alternative. Acceptable electronic formats: .doc, .rtf, .txt or PagePlus 10. Any graphics should preferably be .jpg and no larger than 150Kb. Users of Word 2007 or Microsoft Works are asked to use the 'Save as' option to convert their documents to .doc or .rtf or .txt before submitting.

Advertisements at £12.50 (half page) or £25 (full page) accepted at the editor's discretion, subject to magazine policy

## STONELEIGH CHURCH FLOWERS

Please help us to provide flowers in Stoneleigh Church by supporting our fund-raising coffee morning:

**FRIDAY, 7th DECEMBER 2012 at 10:30am, this year at Stoneleigh Village Hall**

### CHRISTMAS TABLE

for which all contributions will be gratefully received  
Please come, bring your friends, all will be welcome..

## Stoneleigh History Society

The October meeting of the History Society will take place on Tuesday October 30<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, when we shall be repeating last year's popular evening of sharing old photographs and other memorabilia.

Do come along and see the pictures, and bring some of your own!

*Sheila Woolf*

## ***Stoneleigh Village Club, a Community asset?***

***From its early beginnings to the challenges it faces today, we are indebted to Sheila Woolf for allowing us to reproduce adapted extracts from her history of the Club and to Robin Bussell, the current Chairman of the Club Committee who describes the challenges facing the Club today -***

***Sheila Woolf writes:*** The Club's long history precedes its current premises, probably erected circa 1840, with the four cottages attached to it. These buildings are listed Grade II. The present club site formed part of the land on which an important coaching inn had stood, known as the Swan. Over several centuries the Swan provided substantial accommodation, both for travellers and their live-stock, also for the Leigh family when attending church. The first inn-keeper of whom we know is recorded as early as 1595.

The Swan was the only public house in Stoneleigh. In 1783, it was recorded that it required repairs estimated to cost £13,000 in today's money! That travellers would stable their horses there meant that the Swan was, and had for centuries been, a useful stopping place, with Stoneleigh being at the nexus of roads leading to Coventry, Warwick, Leamington, Birmingham and London. Some time after 1825 the Swan ceased to trade as an inn, the Leigh family having decided not to renew the victualler's licence; the main structure was eventually demolished, perhaps because of its ruinous and dangerous condition. It is perhaps after the death of Chandos Leigh in 1850 that his son, William Henry, formed the idea of opening a Reading Room for the village: he was a known benefactor who expended considerable energy in helping to improve the lot of the working man.

***1856 marks the opening of the Club and Reading Room:*** On November 5<sup>th</sup> 1856, as recorded on the commemorative plaque still to be seen inside the Club, William Henry, Lord Leigh formally opened the Club. An 86-page document records the lecture given by his Lordship on that occasion; he furnished the premises with 750 books and newspapers for use by the villagers. His youngest brother, the Reverend James Wentworth Leigh, was then Vicar of Stoneleigh 1863-1872 and later Dean of Hereford; he records in his autobiography that "*interesting lectures were given during the winter months by well-known lecturers*", and that "*the Reading-room was well attended every night by men anxious to read the*

*newspapers and books provided, and that the lectures on historical and scientific, and other subjects, which were delivered once a month during five months in the year, were well attended and eagerly listened to."* [Other Days, published 1923]

**Significant events:** In 1872, a meeting was convened by the Reverend James, "of farmers and labourers at the Stoneleigh Reading Room, with the view of bringing about an amicable settlement as far as this parish was concerned," [ibid] at the time of the Agricultural Labourers' Strike led by Joseph Arch (with whom the Reverend James sympathised). Many members of the Leigh family performed extracts from various dramas, including Shakespeare, to great acclaim according to the Parish Magazines of the late nineteenth century. For example, in January 1868 the Hon.G.H.C.Leigh and his brother the Hon. Rupert gave a reading from "King John" which was "vociferously applauded" by the "enthusiastic audience," whilst other members of the extended family assisted in the performance and entertained with songs and a travel lecture; other diverse subjects such as as Garibaldi, Darius and Napoleon were dealt with in lectures – all of this for a penny! Indeed the famous actress Fanny Kemble, (the formidable mother-in-law of James Wentworth Leigh), herself performed Shakespearean monologues there, to a packed audience. Stoneleigh's most famous son, Sir Henry Parkes, returned from Australia to the village where he was schooled as a "grand old man" in 1882, and he, too, gave a lecture in the Reading Room.

During the First World War the premises became the focus for village activity to help the war effort. Lord Leigh and his sister, Cordelia, held meetings there to encourage the young men of the village to enlist and to sign up for shooting practice organised by Lord Leigh's gamekeeper. Appeals for help accommodating Belgian refugees, and for sending Christmas presents to the troops, were pinned to the door. Women, again recruited by Cordelia Leigh and her sister Agnes, met there to organise sewing projects such as the construction of sandbags.

**Drinks Licence:** Although Temperance Meetings were initially held at the Club, the Reverend James being a committed teetotaler. (coffee and cocoa only being available), some time after 1900 the supply of liquor was permitted, though closely controlled, as recorded by Harry Edmunds, a Stoneleigh villager, in his *Reminiscences*: "...later on the members used to be allowed to purchase two pints of beer or two bottles of stout but it was not allowed to sell any spirits or wine...it was not till after the first world war, about 1928, that the Club was allowed

*to open after church at eight o'clock – no midday opening till 1930 and then from twelve till two o'clock....."* Harry also recorded that the large girder supporting the roof of the club was hauled up from the old mill by the weir at the flood gates in the late eighteen hundreds, and the words now to be seen, on one side, Friendship, Love and Truth and on the other, Faith, Hope and Charity were then painted on the girder. Women were apparently admitted as members some 50 years ago.

**Of the future:** The club continues to be the focus of many key village activities. Does it remain a vital community asset, a hub for the social life of the village? Undoubtedly, loud and clear, 'Yes!' is my answer. Long may it be so.

*Sheila Woolf*

**And Robin Bussell write:**

### **Is there a Future for SVC?**

It was some ten years ago that Club members set-to and gave the Club a makeover, organised many social events and managed to achieve some healthy financial results. But then a number of things happened: the smoking ban in public places became the law, drinking and driving laws affected the many non-village members and the long serving and hard working committee inevitably ran out of steam and few new volunteers were forthcoming. The Club's fortunes declined and then, last year, the landlord demanded a significant rent review.

A Village meeting in March concluded that the Club is an important asset for the village and every effort should be made to retain it. Eventually, in June, a new committee was put together and this committee has since worked hard to achieve that objective.

And where are we today? Readers of the News will know that a wide range of regular activities are being arranged: fish and chip nights, films, quizzes and special events, for example, and more members are turning up to enjoy these. These participants will also see that the Club has been brightened up, opening hours have been adjusted

slightly to suit user's needs and there have been changes in our purchasing to reduce costs. The Club also has its original "Reading Room" role as we have a book exchange where you can pick up a book for a 50p donation. The licence is being slightly extended to allow the Club to be used for afternoon events (such as funeral receptions and post-match refreshments for the football teams). We have also de-registered for VAT as turnover is now well below the VAT threshold.

Today, we are trading at near a break-even level but the spectre of a rent increase is still there. The landlord has made it known that a sale of the property would be considered and, if this could be achieved, it would be possible to extend the activities that we might pursue. We would like to see the premises in the ownership of all the members and the legal structure of the Club arranged so that member liabilities (in the event of a disaster) are limited. There are a number of ways of achieving this. But, firstly, we wish to ascertain if we might be able to raise the money for a purchase and, to this end, members have been asked the question: "do you wish to contribute towards the possible purchase and, if so, how much?"

A frequent question is: "If I give money to help to buy the Club, what happens if the Club fails"? I cannot say, of course, you will get your money back in full or in part when the building is sold but it may be possible to arrange things in that way. But (and it is an important 'but') the intention is that the Club will not fail so the question should not arise. Those who wish to contribute should do so in the belief that their donation is just that: a donation. As I write (On 14<sup>th</sup> October), some 35 people have pledged a total of just short of £10,000. So, those of you who have yet to decide please do so soon and, remember, your offer is not a final commitment; it will, however, give us an indication of whether we should pursue the purchase option and continue to evaluate the various legal arrangements. Can we reach £30k?

Please support your Village Club.

*Robin Bussell*

# **Stoneleigh Bonfire and Fireworks Display!**



**Saturday 3rd November 2012**  
**Bonfire 6pm onwards**  
**Fireworks start at 7pm**

**Suggested donation, £5 per family,  
£2.50 per individual**



**Bar-b-q and  
drinks  
at the bar**





# Stoneleigh Village Club Elizabethan Fayre

**24th November 3pm- late**

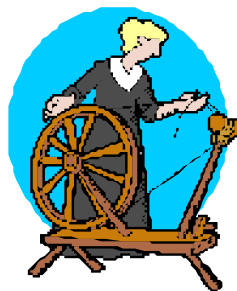
Come and enjoy lots of stalls, events and demonstrations  
to include:

**Lute Player**  **Spinner** **Handbells**  
**Wood Turner** **Stone Mason** **Bees**  
**Herbs and Potions** **Crafts**

**THE DEFEAT OF THE SPANISH ARMADA**

**Christmas decorations, presents, sweets**

**Breads and cakes**  
**Hot potatoes**  
**Game to buy**  
**Mead and mulled  
wine**



**Elizabethan village  
Setting**



**Come and meet William Shakespeare,  
Mary Queen of Scots, Sir Francis Drake,  
Lord of Misrule and Sir Robert Dudley!**

## **THE GATEWAY PROJECT**

Many readers will be aware of the current planning application by the developer Roxhill for 'The Coventry & Warwickshire Gateway Project' which is causing consternation in the local affected area. This involves a warehousing/distribution and 'technology hub' covering a wide area, based around Coventry Airport. The planning application (W/12/1143) currently lodged with Warwick District Council is extremely long but some people (notably Alan Roe and Mark Symes from Bubbenhall, and CPRE staff) have highlighted some serious and basic flaws, including much inaccurate or misleading information, and have pointed out that there are only oblique references to planned activity at Coventry Airport. Possible development at the Airport is of particular concern as the developer, Sir Peter Rigby, is on record elsewhere as wishing to 'create a true regional airport....offering a full service with appropriate operational capabilities, including a full Air Traffic Service'. So, a return to passenger and night freight flights is envisaged!

The application depends on the use of a large area of green belt land. Even if planning permission is granted and the project fails (as has happened with another Roxhill Gateway in Peterborough), this green-belt land will be lost for ever. This proposal, together with plans at Stoneleigh Park, the likelihood that HS2 will be built irrespective of all the objections, means that Stoneleigh/Stareton/Ashow (together with our neighbours in Bubbenhall and Baginton) are facing an unprecedented attack.

Please lodge your objections as requested in emailed information which has been distributed to about 100 residents of Stoneleigh and the Abbey, whose email addresses are known to us. It is important that letters/emails are personalised otherwise they will be discounted as group input. If you don't have a computer, or haven't received any information because your email address is unknown to us, then please contact John Astle (Stoneleigh Abbey, 01926-850413) or Rod Wheat (Stoneleigh village 02476-414427) ASAP.

The closing date for comments was officially 26<sup>th</sup> October, but WDC have said they will accept submissions until 9<sup>th</sup> November .

*Please help to save our area from this ill-conceived project.*

*Richard Hancox, Stoneleigh Parish Councillor*

## Stoneleigh Community Orchard Update

The late summer and early autumn months have seen a number of developments including the receipt of equipment required to process fruit into a beverage.

This arrival focused the groups attention upon trying to locate premises suitable to accommodate the equipment. Work has now commenced on suitable premises and I would like to thank local resident Chris Bayston for an excellent piece of tiling work that will ensure the plant meets cleanliness standards in the future.

A harvestable crop of cider apples from the Community Orchard may be some years away. It is however, a little known fact that many commercial ciders contain up to 40% juice derived from cooking apple varieties. With this in mind and as cooking apple trees abound throughout the village, the group intends to canvass local residents to donate a portion of their crop, in exchange for a share of the beverage at the end of the next growing season.

With regards to the orchard itself, all the trees are thriving though of course we have yet to experience the impact of a "Great flood" event. We have every confidence that the trees will be resilient ! The wild flower meadow element of the project has demanded a lot of resource and energy, though I hope that those residents who took the time to walk down to the meadow during the summer months were pleased with the colourful floral vista on display. We were sufficiently encouraged by this to continue with this aspect of the project.



Thanks to all those who have contributed and become a "Friend of the Orchard", the list of members of which can be found on the Stoneleigh Village website developed courtesy of Sheila Woolf. Thanks also for the efforts of John Craine for end of season grass cut.

Picture is of cider pressing plant under development

To become a "Friend of the Orchard" please contact: 07791 303764

*Pete Freeman (Chairman)  
5 Church Lane, Stoneleigh.*

## HIGH SPEED LATEST

HS2 remains high on the news agenda, not least due to the fact that the much-criticised figures prepared for the Department for Transport in connection with the ill-fated bid for the WCML franchise are based on a similar model to those used to justify HS2. Despite this, after the party conferences, the Secretary of State, Patrick McLoughlin stated that he and the Government remained in favour of the project.

The Stoneleigh Action Group has another bilateral meeting with HS2 Ltd on 24 October at which attempts will be made to get feedback on our mitigation proposals and answers to our questions on numerous technical matters. The next Community Forum is scheduled for 21 November. It is now recognised by all concerned that this Forum is too big, that the interests of the different areas differ widely, and that much time is wasted repeating questions that HS2 Ltd either cannot or will not answer. It is likely that the Forum will be split in future but details have yet to be announced.

On 20 October there was an information day at Kenilworth School, organised by the Kenilworth Group/Stop HS2. Representatives of HS2 Ltd spoke about mitigation plans for Warwickshire, and other speakers referred to 'the crumbling business case', what homeowners and landowners should be doing, and future campaigning strategy.

There are now several Judicial Reviews scheduled to hear objections on a number of grounds. These are likely to be heard on 3 December. An announcement has yet to be made regarding compensation arrangements.

*Margaret Wallis on behalf of the Stoneleigh Action Group*

## PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

**Meetings:** The November Ordinary Council Meeting will be held at the Warwick University, University House, Kirby Cross Corner, on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2012 at 7.30 p.m.

**Parking Outside the Almshouses** It has been brought to the attention of the Parish Council that there are problems with parking outside the almshouses. The central issue is with people who leave their cars outside the almshouses for several days at a time without

moving them. It is perfectly ok for visitors to the Village to park there, of course, whether they're coming to look round the Village, go to the Club or Church or whatever. Similarly, family and friends of residents in the almshouses must have the opportunity to park close by. If you are one of the residents who parks outside the almshouses for several days we would like to ask you to consider parking somewhere else. Your co-operation will be very much appreciated.

### ***Parish Councillor Vacancy – Stoneleigh Ward***

I am pleased to inform you that the new Parish Councillor for Stoneleigh Ward is Mrs Eva Mancini. She can be contacted at 2 Dudley Terrace or email [jimeva29@gmail.com](mailto:jimeva29@gmail.com)

***Pat Maddison - Parish Clerk***

### **Stoneleigh Neighbourhood Watch**

Winter nights drawing in please think about security, leaving lights and a radio on is a great distraction if you are out.

Doorstep pedlars –targeting the homes of the elderly and the vulnerable across Warwickshire and neighbouring counties selling inferior household products such as cloths and dusters. **KNOW YOUR RIGHTS:** Any member of the public selling door to door needs a pedlars licence. These licences or certificates are issued by the Chief Constable of the pedlars home county, are valid for a 12 month period and allow the pedlars to operate anywhere in the country. If the caller on your doorstep does not produce a pedlar's certificate then they should not be selling goods and maybe up to no good! Some pedlars have produced a laminated card with their picture on it and will tell you that the law requiring them to have a Chief Constable issued pedlar's certificate has been repealed and they no longer need a licence/certificate. THIS IS NOT TRUE.

The documents they produce may have Connexions or Probation Department on them and again, these are not the required document that they should be using.

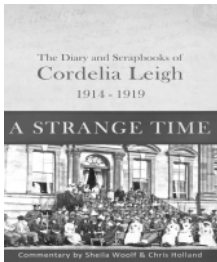
We need you to call 101 or 01926 415000 to tell us where these pedlars are operating.

Please ensure all sheds and outbuildings are locked and secured as there has been a spate of crimes in surrounding areas.

Tony Hanselman - Tel: 024 7641 5060

## **A Strange Time**

November will see the publication of a new book (the front cover of which is shown) with considerable interest to Stoneleigh & Ashow residents:



**A Strange Time - The Diary and Scrapbooks of Cordelia Leigh 1914-1919** will be available in the shops from early November, priced £9.95.

Cordelia Leigh's War Diary is published for the first time with a commentary by Stoneleigh resident Sheila Woolf and her co-author Chris Holland; it is accompanied by extracts from over two hundred letters written to Cordelia by men at the Front. It offers a fascinating glimpse into life in the two villages and at the Abbey, at the start of the twentieth century. Copies can also be purchased directly from Sheila.

### **Have you been bereaved? Would you like the opportunity to remember a loved one and to give thanks for their life?**

The pain of bereavement never truly leaves us because the love we have for those we let go never leaves us either.

All Souls is a time to remember –  
not with overwhelming sadness at what we have lost,  
but with gratitude for what we have known.

It is a time to express our continuing love for those  
who we no longer see in this world.

It is a time to remind ourselves of God's promises  
and to renew our Christian Hope of eternal life.

Whether your bereavement is quite recent – or many years past –  
we would love you to come to our special annual service,  
this year on Sunday November 4<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm in Stoneleigh Church,  
where there will be an invitation to light candles in memory of  
loved ones.

We will have time to reflect, to remember  
and to receive God's love and comfort for us.

**Please join us – and pass on the invitation to others.**

## **Stoneleigh WI**

The speaker who had been booked for the October meeting was indisposed and at very short notice Sheila Woolf came to the rescue! Her talk 'The Leighs and travelling' was entertaining and very interesting.

A number of members went to the Spa Centre to see the Leamington Operatic Society's excellent production of the 'Sound of Music' during the month and we also had a games evening in the village hall – some members can be very competitive!

Waddesdon is the venue for the Christmas outing on December 6<sup>th</sup>. This is open to non-members and will cost £15 per person plus entry to the house for non-National Trust members. Please contact me if you would like to go.

The November lunch is on Tuesday the 6<sup>th</sup> when the menu includes a sausage casserole and the coffee morning is on the 20<sup>th</sup> November in the club. Please let me know if you wish to come for lunch.

*Liz Sykes*

## ***Leek Wootton Link-up:***

We've seen a fresh start to a couple of our regular events at the Church in Leek Wootton. Wednesday has become our special day midweek rather than Thursday. Our monthly "First Thursday Holy Communion" is now the "First Wednesday"! And we also now have a time of prayer at 8.30am each Wednesday – normally at Church, but when "smALL Saints" meets (which is our group for babies, toddlers and their carers) on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month (next one is November 21<sup>st</sup>), the prayer meeting is held at the Vicarage. Stoneleigh & Ashow News readers are welcome to join us at for any of these: 8.30am each week for prayer, 10.30am for Communion on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 9.00am for smALL Saints on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

***Jim Perryman***

## ***Report from Stoneleigh and Ashow Church***

Don't forget 'Sparklers' at Stoneleigh, a group for 3 – 7 year olds, meeting in the Leigh Chapel during the 11.00 a.m. Service on the first and third Sundays of the month. This is an activity group related to the church's theme for that month with singing, crafts, stories and games. So if you would like to come to these services and bring your children to Sparklers we would be delighted to see you. Please see posters for further details.

The churches are starting to prepare for the Christmas Season and you will find details of the Christmas services on our schedule of services within the magazine. We are delighted to report that Susan Spencer feels well enough to organise a group of singers for the Ashow Advent carol service on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December and for the Ashow village carol service on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December. There is to be a meeting of all interested singers, at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November at Ashow church and all being well, rehearsals will take place on Thursdays during November from 7.30 p.m to 8.30 p.m. If you enjoy singing and would like to be a part of this group please do come along to the meeting and join in.

The pastoral group at Stoneleigh would like to hear of any newcomers to the village, so that someone from the church may visit and welcome them. Please contact Sarah Ballinger or Elizabeth Penlington. Stoneleigh church is open between the hours of 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. every day. You are welcome to call in, take advantage of the silence and pray if you wish. The prayer table at the back of church will guide you and hopefully give you inspiration. If there is anyone on your mind who you feel you would like us to pray for, please write their names in the prayer book, or contact Dr Elizabeth Penlington who organises our prayer cascade.

### ***Stoneleigh Nave Roof Appeal***

Despite the refusal of funding for the new church roof from English Heritage, fund raising has continued and at the end of September the total reached was £25,126 – only about another £225,000 to go!. The PCC would like to express their thanks to Sheila Woolf for her extremely entertaining talk on 6<sup>th</sup> October. This was entitled 'Who Do You Think We Were?' and was a look at characters from Stoneleigh's past. A massive £800 was raised. Thank you Sheila.

We have also received a donation of £200 from the Jubilee Committee, very many thanks to all involved in these efforts.

A personal donation of £2,000 has also been received which is a very welcome boost to the fund.



There is, at last, a clarification of the promised new arrangements on the reclaiming of VAT on church building work. It started on 1st October 2012 and it enables us to claim back VAT on all such future bills. The rules are very similar to those that existed when we carried out the last major repairs in 2009/10. In the estimates prepared for the roof and stonework repairs the estimated figure for VAT was £43,882!

### ***Dates For Your Diary***

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November**, 6.45 for 7.00 p.m. **Film Night** in Stoneleigh Village Hall – Film '**Made in Dagenham**'

**The talk on Tanzania** by Tim Brookes has been postponed until the New Year.

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December**, **Quiz Night**, Stoneleigh Village Club  
*Tickets available from Sarah Ballinger 02476 715256 or the Parish Office 02476 415506 or email [admin@stoneleighchurch.co.uk](mailto:admin@stoneleighchurch.co.uk)*

### ***CONTACTS***

Priest in Charge, The Reverend Jim Perryman  
Phone 01926 850610 or email: [jim@a-lw-s.org.uk](mailto:jim@a-lw-s.org.uk)  
Ashow Contact: Stephen Harvey 01926 852543  
Stoneleigh contact Ian Smith 01926 853238.

To arrange a baptism, wedding or a funeral please contact the Vicar, for Pastoral Care please telephone Dr Elizabeth Penlington on 02476 41 9707, for any other matter please contact the Parish Administrator, Sue Wareham, 02476 415506, [admin@stoneleighchurch.co.uk](mailto:admin@stoneleighchurch.co.uk)  
<http://www.a-lw-s.org.uk>

### **The Coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support**

May I once again, thank everyone who came to the coffee morning on the 28th September and everyone who helped to make this occasion such a success. We were able to send £337.00 to Macmillan. To quote from the Macmillan letter: *'In making that time, we made Macmillan time, and somewhere there are people whose lives were touched by the effort we made.'*

Thank you all very much indeed for your support.

*Jayne Brooks*

## ***From the Vicarage:***

*"If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied."* This is how St. Paul described Christians in chapter 15 of his first letter to the Corinthian Church. Without a firm belief that life continues beyond physical death, the Christian message has nothing to say apart from 'be nice to one another'. It becomes just another pointless human philosophy – and there are many of those around today.

Yet November is a time of Remembrance. We think of those who died in the wars of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries – especially the first and second world wars – and we can just remember them as dead people who played their part in preventing the worst excesses of evil from taking hold of Europe and spreading its poison around the world. And that is a perfectly good reason for all of us to remember them with gratitude and to honour their sacrifice. But for Christians and those who cling to the hope that the message of Christ brings to us, that season of Remembrance goes further and deeper and leads us to Christ's promise of 'life in all its fulness'.

November begins with "All Saints' Day" when we remember and celebrate the lives of those great figures of Church History whose names are held in honour by the worldwide Church – especially those who were so certain of the hope they professed that they were willing to have their earthly lives taken from them rather than deny their faith in the one who had given them eternal life. This we follow with "All Souls' Day" where we remember especially those who have been part of our own lives: family and friends who lived, loved and died. We hold a special service at Stoneleigh each year for this purpose, and there is information about this year's service in this magazine. We can see this as just a continuing act of grieving for those we feel we have 'lost'. If we have no belief that there is any life beyond physical death, then that is all it ever can be. Or, if we have that belief but are deluding ourselves then, as St. Paul noted, we really deserve to be pitied. Ah, but St. Paul knew better. He, along with those who had met with Jesus AFTER the resurrection, knew that they were not deluding themselves, and so he continues: *"But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep."*

So our All Souls service and the other parts of our season of Remembrance is not about grief because of death and loss. It is about hope and about thanksgiving for life and for love which continues eternally.

***Jim Perryman***



The annual "Festival of the Harvest" took place on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October at Stoneleigh Park Showground. This is an event for the older children at local Primary Schools – mainly village schools, though it would be an excellent event for town schools to join too.



Simmental Bull – hornless and unusual colour. 50kg to 1.5tonnes in 5 years!

Eight schools came this year, bringing in the region of 300 children. They (and the teachers and other helpers) learn about and experience



Apple pressing by Pershore College. The juice tasted great.

many aspects of farming and agriculture, together with beekeeping, butter making, pasta making, apple pressing and composting. Experts (amateur and professional) volunteer to help enthuse a generation to appreciate all that goes into the production of the food and drink we enjoy – and so learn to care



Up close and personal with a Combine Harvester

for our environment which supports it. This was my third time there – each year slightly different.

As always, all the children have a fantastic experience and leave with an excited buzz (or was that the bees?)

Jim Perryman



**THE UNITED BENEFICE OF  
THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY  
ASHOW**



**and  
ST MARY THE VIRGIN, STONELEIGH**

***SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER 2012***

Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 a.m. United Holy Communion at Stoneleigh 6.30 p.m. All Souls Memorial Service at Stoneleigh
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion at Stoneleigh
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 a.m. Remembrance Service at Ashow 10.50 a.m. Remembrance Service at Stoneleigh
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 a.m. Holy Communion at Ashow 11.00 a.m. Fellowship Holy Communion at Stoneleigh
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion at Stoneleigh
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 a.m. Village Service at Ashow 11.00 a.m. All Age Worship at Stoneleigh

***CHRISTMAS SERVICES***

**December**

Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	5.00 p.m. Advent Carols at Ashow (followed by mulled wine and mince pies)
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 p.m. Traditional Carol Service at Stoneleigh (followed by mulled wine and mince pies)
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	4.00 p.m. Village Carol Service at Ashow
Christmas Eve	5.00 p.m. Crib Service at Stoneleigh 11.30 p.m. 'Midnight' Communion at Stoneleigh <i>We are delighted to welcome the Bishop of Warwick, the Right Reverend John Stroyan to Stoneleigh to take this service</i>
Christmas Day	9.30 a.m. Holy Communion at Ashow

Information about services and events at Leek Wootton can be found at **[www.a-lw-s.org.uk](http://www.a-lw-s.org.uk)**

**FROM THE REGISTERS**

***Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October***

Holy Baptism of William Robert James Other at Stoneleigh

***Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October***

Marriage of Stephen Muldowney and Layla Engleman at Stoneleigh