

# STONELEIGH & ASHOW NEWS



Apple Blossom in The Orchard - photo by Will Blagburn

**MAY 2014**

## TREES AND FLOWERS FOR STONELEIGH

If you have walked along the riverside in Stoneleigh Village Meadows recently you will have noticed some newly planted trees. These trees - along with all the equipment like protective guards, stakes and ties - were purchased with the generous help of the Environment Agency. On 1st April three volunteers from the Village Orchard Group and two stalwarts from the Environment Agency spent a long day digging holes, planting and supporting the trees. Especial thanks are due to the people in the Biodiversity Office of the EA who initiated and drove this project to enhance our already lovely riverside.

Apart from the amenity value of the trees, the additional aims of the planting are to increase habitats for wildlife, to help stabilise the riverbank in places and to build on the great work that the Stoneleigh Meadows Society has done in previous years. It is good to see the trees they have previously planted doing well.

The newly planted trees are all British natives and include oaks, limes and hazels. Near the village orchard we have planted wild fruit trees - cherries, pears and apples - that will provide blossom for bees. On the Motslow Hill side of the river there are some new wild fruit trees and two young silver birches.

We hope all the trees will provide pleasure for walkers in the meadow for many years to come.

You will also notice that there has been activity in the vicinity of the 'Victory Oak' within the Orchard at the end of Church Lane. This is the Orchard Committee's response to an idea first proposed by Sheila Woolf of the History Society that we should commemorate the centenary of the start of World War One. Members of our group, led by Nora Blagburn, have planted an area of wildflowers here. We even managed to recruit a passer-by who brought his own rake; that's the kind of passer-by we like! We are grateful to local businesses TCL tool hire and Smiths Nurseries for their assistance in preparing the area. The emphasis has of course been on poppies which have become an emblem of the fallen in the Great War. Many other native flowers have also been sown here. Let us hope that nature rewards us with a fitting floral tribute during the summer months.

*Marianne Puxley, Sharron McEldowney, John Churchley, Pete Freeman*

## STONELEIGH VILLAGE CLUB



### An Update

The Committee has been making some progress with building developments at the Club: an application has been made for Listed Building Consent to carry out some essential repairs and structural alterations. These include roof repairs, removal of the leaning (and redundant) chimney and the provision of a door to the garden. We are also pursuing the availability of grant funds from the Local Authority.

By the time you read this, it is hoped that the garden will have been tidied and be in use before the summer ends!

**The Annual General Meeting** will be held on Friday 16th May 2014 (see separate notice in this News). **We need volunteers to stand for the Committee.** We also need members to help on sub-committees and generally provide a group of 'willing hands'. If you are prepared to help in any way please speak to a member of the committee – you will be made very welcome and, yes, we really do need you.

**A Marrow Contest** will be held again this year (kindly sponsored by Smiths Nurseries) with judging taking place at the **Food Fair** on Saturday 27th September. Book your marrow plant on the list behind the bar; plants will be available around the end of May.

June and July will be dominated by the **World Cup**. The England matches and other selected games will be shown in the Club. Please watch the notice board for details.

The **Duck Race** will be on Saturday 19th July and tickets are now on sale behind the bar. Don't delay; buy today!

*Robin Bussell*  
*Chairman SVC*

## STONELEIGH VILLAGE CLUB LIMITED (SVCL)

Company Not Having a Share Capital, Registered Number 8560869  
Notice is Hereby given that the first Annual General Meeting of SVCL  
will be held at the Village Club on Friday 16th May 2014 at 7.30pm.

### AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Presentation of the Chairman's report
3. Presentation of the Treasurer's report on the financial state of the Club and on its Annual Accounts comprising a profit and loss account and balance sheet for the accounting period ended 31st March 2014, including a review of the likely income and expenditure and cash requirements of the Club for the current financial year
4. Election of Officers (Chairman, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary) for the current financial year; Officers currently in office are to retire at this meeting but are eligible for re-election
5. Election of other members of the Committee for the current year; all existing committee members in office retire at this meeting but are eligible for re-election to hold office until the next Annual General Meeting
6. Any other business with the permission of the chairman of the meeting or any other matter which a member or members wishes to be raised provided written notice has been given to the Secretary at least seven days before the date of the meeting and as the Committee shall approve for discussion at the meeting.

By Order of the Committee,

*Patrick Sawdon*

*Honorary Secretary.*

#### *Note:*

Under Article 11.8 of the Club's Articles of Association, members present at a General meeting shall have one vote which shall be taken on a show of hands unless a poll is demanded by the chairman of the meeting or by at least two-thirds of the members present, which in either case, shall be held as the chairman of the meeting directs.

**NOTICE CALLING A MEETING  
of Stoneleigh and Ashow Joint Parish Council  
to Pass a Resolution to Oppose the High Speed Rail  
(London-West Midlands) Bill.**

In pursuance of Section 239 of the Local Government Act 1972 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the Stoneleigh and Ashow Joint Parish Council will be held at 6.30 p.m. on Thursday 8th May 2014 at Stoneleigh Village Hall.

The purpose of the meeting is to take into consideration and determine upon the expediency of opposing in Parliament the High Speed Rail (London-West Midlands) Bill deposited in the Session 2013-14 and also for the purpose (if deemed expedient to oppose such Bill) of passing such resolutions as may be necessary or expedient in connection with the opposition to such Bill.

Dated 15th day of April 2014.

*Pat Maddison; Parish Clerk*

Stoneleigh and Ashow Joint Parish Council

For further information contact Richard Hancox,

Chairman of the Parish Council at: [richard.hancox@amey.co.uk](mailto:richard.hancox@amey.co.uk)

Telephone: 02476 693819 / 07766804380

**PARISH COUNCIL NOTES**

Meetings

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 8th May 2014 at 7.30 p.m. This will be followed by the Ordinary Council Meeting. Both are being held at Stoneleigh Village Hall.

HS2 Petitioning

A meeting has been arranged for Thursday 8th May 2014 at 6.30 p.m. at Stoneleigh Village Hall to pass a resolution to oppose the High Speed Rail (London-West Midlands) Bill.

The purpose of the meeting is to take into consideration and determine upon the expediency of opposing in Parliament the High Speed Rail (London-West Midlands) Bill deposited in the Session 2013-14, and also for the purpose (if deemed expedient to oppose such Bill) of passing such resolutions as may be necessary or expedient in connection with the opposition to such Bill.

*Pat Maddison - Parish Clerk*

# **THE CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN STONELEIGH**

**In commemoration of those who fought in the  
Great War of 1914 – 1918  
Proceeds from the evening will go towards  
the repair of the church fabric.**



You are invited to an evening of entertainment, literary readings and local history, including music of the time from the Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir

**Friday 9th May at 7.30 p.m.  
in Stoneleigh Church**

**Tickets £15 including a glass of wine and canapés.**  
£1 from every ticket sold will go to The Royal British Legion.

**Tickets available from:**  
Sarah 02476 715256 or  
Jackie at the parish office 02476 415506  
or email [admin@stoneleighchurch.co.uk](mailto:admin@stoneleighchurch.co.uk)

### STONELEIGH CHURCH BELLS

The church bells will be rung on the evening of Friday 9th May at approximately 9:45p.m.

We hope that many of you will be joining us for the World War One Commemoration Evening in the church. This is to give notice that the church bells will be rung at the end of the entertainment. We hope this will not cause any inconvenience for you.

*Stoneleigh Churchwardens*

### STONELEIGH HISTORY SOCIETY

A great deal of coverage is being given in the media to the World War One Centenary Commemorations, which will continue through to 2018. In Stoneleigh, too, a great deal is happening! The History Society's main display of 2014 will focus on the men who served in the Great War and who, happily, returned. A number of our members have been working hard to gather information which will be available to view over the summer in the Leigh Chapel.

It is not too late to contact us if you have any information about the men whose names are inscribed on the Roll of Honour Board in the Village Hall – we would love to hear from you.

To begin our commemorative events, on Tuesday April 29th our meeting will be a talk on "When Stoneleigh Went to War", examining the life of the village when war broke out in 1914. This will anticipate both the May 9th Commemorative Evening held at the church and the Society's display. Everyone is welcome to come along to the village hall at 7.30pm and discover more about Stoneleigh, the way its people lived 100 years ago, and how they responded to the outbreak of war.

*Sheila Woolf*

02476 418759

<http://www.stoneleighhistorysociety.org.uk/>

## HS2 LATEST

We now face the final stretch before the parliamentary go-ahead is given for the building of HS2. The second reading of the 'Hybrid Bill' is scheduled for Monday 28 April. When (and if) that Bill eventually becomes law, building can begin. However, after the second reading any individual or organisation who wishes to object to any proposal embodied in that Bill can petition a specially-appointed committee whose role it is to hear evidence and make recommendations to Parliament before the final reading of the Bill can take place. There will be a very brief period after 28 April when petitions can be submitted so the advice is to get in early; the deadline is 28 May. The Secretary of State has already stated publicly that he expects the petitioning process to be so lengthy that the final reading of the Bill in the House of Commons (and thence to the House of Lords) cannot take place before the next general election. So, the suspense will continue for a while yet.

The Parish Council placed a notice in the April edition of the News announcing that a Village Meeting would be held in Stoneleigh on 24 April; a motion against HS2 will be moved at that meeting which will have been held by the time this News is distributed. Readers might therefore like to know that at the Parish Council meeting on 8 May the Parish Council will formally announce its intention to petition. The Stoneleigh Action Group (against HS2) also intends to petition on your behalf BUT that does not stop other organisations, individuals or families from submitting their own petition. 'All' that is needed is a cover sheet, £20 and a willingness to deliver four copies of the petition personally and perhaps eventually to appear before the committee to state one's case in person. N.B. Simple statements such as "I am totally against HS2" are unacceptable. A specific issue (or series of issues) has to be listed with a possible solution or mediation e.g. "I am concerned about the impact of any temporary closure of the A46 in this area; surely it would be cheaper in the long term to take the railway under the A46?" Or "Traffic congestion around this village will be intolerable during construction and will severely hinder normal life and may be a threat to life if emergency vehicles are unable to get through; the implications of the siting of proposed construction sites should be much more sensitively considered." Lengthy submissions are not necessary. A succinctly argued page of A4 on any particular issue is more than adequate.



Briefing notes about petitioning are included in the following websites [www.stophs2.org/](http://www.stophs2.org/) and [www.hs2actionalliance.org/](http://www.hs2actionalliance.org/) as well as the official HS2 Ltd website [www.hs2.org.uk/developing-hs2/hybrid-bill/petitioning](http://www.hs2.org.uk/developing-hs2/hybrid-bill/petitioning)

Other developments in the past month include the announcement of the compensation scheme (see above sites for details) which is considered to be totally inadequate. The summary results of the Environmental Consultation have been announced but full results will not be available until *after* the decision in the House of Commons on 28 April. The House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee has recently exposed numerous flaws in the consultation and these received widespread publicity in the media. Simultaneously, efforts continue to lift the Government's embargo on the publication of the very critical report on the HS2 project by the Major Projects Authority; the only precedent for such an embargo is the decision to withhold the report on the Iraq War!

From the above it is obvious that many aspects of challenging the HS2 proposals are complex and time-consuming but we hope readers will be prepared to take the trouble to make their own submissions. At the very least, it is not too late to let your views be known to our M.P. Jeremy Wright who has agreed to assist with the petitioning process.

*Margaret Wallis (on behalf of Stoneleigh Action Group)*

**STONELEIGH CHURCH FILM NIGHT**  
**'And When Did You Last See Your Father'**

Starring Jim Broadbent, Colin Firth, Juliet Stevenson and Gina McKee

On Friday 16th May at Stoneleigh Village Hall  
6.45 for 7pm start

£3.00 to cover refreshments and room hire

To reserve your place call Sarah Ballinger 02476 715256  
or email: [admin@stoneleighchurch.co.uk](mailto:admin@stoneleighchurch.co.uk)

### SUMMER SERENADE

Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir will be presenting their  
Sixteenth Summer Serenade  
at Wentworth House, Stoneleigh  
at noon on Sunday 6th July 2014  
Tickets, priced at £22.50, are available from  
Phil and Kate Jones,  
tel: 01926 853511, [kathryngjones@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kathryngjones@hotmail.co.uk).

The Stoneleigh Ladies Choir will also be making a guest appearance at this concert and, as is customary, all proceeds from this popular event will be donated to a selected charity.

### A STONELEIGH CALENDAR

Now that the wet and miserable days of winter 2013/14 are behind us (we hope!), don't forget to send the Stoneleigh History Society your photographs for the Village Calendar 2015.

Email them to [woolfsheila@gmail.com](mailto:woolfsheila@gmail.com) by July 31st and a selection will be made; they should be in .jpeg format and of a high resolution.

Please remember to label your pictures as appropriate with your name and contact details.

If you are under 16, please tell us so!

*Sheila Woolf*

## WARWICK UNIVERSITY ROAD WORKS

Commencing the week of 23rd June 2014 and continuing over the Summer, major road works will take place at Gibbet Hill and the University.

These include:-

- Changing the Gibbet Hill Road / Kenilworth Road / Stoneleigh Road junction to a roundabout.
- Installing a new roundabout at the junction between University Road and Gibbet Hill Road by the Arts Centre.
- Restricting the exit at the top of Library road onto Gibbet Hill Road for vehicles.
- Reducing the width of the Scarman Road / Gibbet Hill Road / University Road roundabout.
- Constructing a right turn lane into Gibbet Hill campus.
- Creating a new bus interchange by the Arts Centre.

Further details at

[http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/insite/news/intnews2/2014\\_road\\_works/road\\_improvements](http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/insite/news/intnews2/2014_road_works/road_improvements)

## MILLENNIUM WISHES

In the year 2000 'Special Millennium Issue' of the Stoneleigh & Ashow News the children of the village were asked what they would like to see happen in the village when they grew up. Here are some of their replies.

"I would like to see more than just swings to play on. Perhaps a proper park with slides and frames so we don't get bored and vandalise private property!"

"I think the river should be cleaned of pollution and rubbish to attract wildlife like otters and more fish."

"Could we plant some public apple trees, perhaps around the edge of the playing field at the village hall?"

"I think we should definitely put speed bumps in along the Birmingham Road and perhaps also those flashing speed lights at the entry to the village."

Some wishes do come true.

*Pam Baker*

## SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DAY EXTRAVAGANZA

The rain kissed tarmac of Vicarage Road provided the venue for the 2014 Stoneleigh Village Club Pancake Race held on Shrove Tuesday evening. Amid the Mardi Gras atmosphere and fuelled by pancakes with the option of maple syrup or honey, expertly cooked by Barry and Trudy Lowe, the sporting contestants took up their staged places as directed by the Race Marshall Malcolm Murphy.

Small light non-stick pans seemed de rigueur and three complete tosses of the pancake were required. Mary Taylor sportingly entered making unorthodox use of the upturned lid of a large stainless steel pan, however lost valuable time trying valiantly to retrieve her pancake from the unyielding tarmac.

The race finished in a melee of participants all managing to miss the cameraman, watchers and each other.

Results were as follows;

Girls (u14)	Lydia Taylor
Boys (u14)	Gary Baston
Adults	John Robson

Thanks to Anne Lowe, Nora and Will Blagburn and all those who organised, helped, took part, and donated prizes.

*John Robson*



Come and join us at the

## **STONELEIGH W.I. TEA PARTY**

in Stoneleigh Village Hall

**Sunday 18th May 2014**



**3.30 p.m. until 5 p.m.**

**£6.50 per person**

Proceeds in aid of Warwickshire Air Ambulance

Tickets available from Rachel Gill 02476 414030

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## LOCAL RURAL OIL SYNDICATE GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

We've had a very exciting start to the year and have three lots of news to share.

Firstly, we decided that 'Warwickshire Community Oil & LPG Syndicate' had become rather a mouthful so have changed this to **Energy Warwickshire** with a dedicated website at [www.energywarwickshire.org.uk](http://www.energywarwickshire.org.uk). Anyone who is interested in cheaper oil can now both sign up and place an order at their own convenience. Look out for new posters too.

Secondly, thanks to the syndicate we have been able to reduce the price of bulk LPG from an already low 43pence per litre to just 41pence per litre with a £100 fuel discount for new domestic members. People power works!

And lastly, when did you last pay less for your oil in the Winter than in the Summer? Well, that's what our members have achieved over the last couple of months, paying just 51.95ppl in March and less than 50ppl in April. We don't think we shall ever get to grips with how the pricing works but so long as it works in favour of our members we'll not be too worried. Over the last 12 months our members have saved an average of over £52 per 1000 litres against the average market price and a whopping £142 against the market high. How does your oil supplier measure up?

*Sarah Brooke-Taylor*

**Energy Warwickshire** (previously Warwickshire Community Oil/LPG Syndicate)  
Warwickshire Rural Community Council - serving rural communities for over 75 years

**Warwickshire Rural Community Council**

Warwick Enterprise Park, Wellesbourne, Warwickshire CV35 9EF

Tel: 01789 842182

[www.ruralwarwickshire.org.uk/](http://www.ruralwarwickshire.org.uk/)

WRCC is a registered charity No.1081017 and a Company Limited by Guarantee in England and Wales No. 3930819



## STONELEIGH EVENTS

### **Kit Car**

Sunday 4th May - Monday 5th May 2014

The world's largest Kit Car Show will use parking within the event centre. There are no road closures or diversions planned as a result of this event, but there will be around 4,760 additional vehicles expected in the area. Parking will be on site. The event is being held over the bank holiday weekend. Admission prices start from £12 in advance, £15 on the door or free if you are a Kit Car driver in your Kit Car. [www.nationalkitcarshow.co.uk](http://www.nationalkitcarshow.co.uk)

### **British Pig & Poultry Fair 2014**

Tuesday 13th May - Wednesday 14th May 2014

As the only dedicated pig and poultry industry event in the UK, this event is an essential source of information to help producers improve and develop their businesses. Traffic in the area may be busier than usual with around 10,000 vehicles expected over the two days. Parking will be on site. There are no road closures or diversions planned. [www.pigandpoultry.org.uk](http://www.pigandpoultry.org.uk)

### **Grassland & Muck**

Thursday 22nd May - Friday 23rd May 2014

Boasting more than 190 acres of machinery demonstrations, sown grass plots, trade stands and technical forums, this is the premier grass, forage and muck event. No road closures or diversions are planned, but with around 14,500 visitors expected, local traffic will be slightly heavier than usual. The event and its parking will be in Car Park 3. [www.grasslandevent.co.uk](http://www.grasslandevent.co.uk)

### **New Frontiers**

Saturday 24th May - Tuesday 27th May 2014

New Frontiers is a large festival, which includes camping on site at Stoneleigh Park. No road closures or diversions are planned for the event and around 3,000 vehicles are expected over the three days. Parking will be on site.

### **Contact Stoneleigh Events**

Tel: 02476 696969 Out of Hours Contact Number: 07557 651704

Email: [info@stoneleighevents.com](mailto:info@stoneleighevents.com) [www.stoneleighevents.com](http://www.stoneleighevents.com)



**Kings Hill Nurseries**

**Kings Hill Lane**

**Coventry**

**CV3 6PS**

**02476 690835**

**[enquiries@kingshillnurseries.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@kingshillnurseries.co.uk)**

**[www.gardencentrecoventry.co.uk](http://www.gardencentrecoventry.co.uk)**

*"Kings Hill Nurseries is a plant nursery situated near Coventry, within easy travelling distance of Kenilworth, Leamington and Warwick.*

***We sell seasonal hanging baskets, planted containers. Bedding plants, vegetable plants, fruit trees, shrubs and perennials.***

*We work with people with learning difficulties to provide them with work and training opportunities.*

Do you have a few hours you could spare to volunteer for us at the nursery? If so we would love to meet you.

Opening hours:

Mon-Fri 8.30 - 4.30

Sat: 9.00—4.00

Sun: 10.00—4.00



## **DO YOU KNOW WE HAVE A FUNCTION ROOM ON SITE?**

We offer a wide range of services to ensure that whatever type of function you are looking for we can meet your requirements. We have many groups and societies who hold their regular meetings with us and we are also able to accommodate workshops, Speakers etc. for you.

**We cater for Christenings, Weddings, Funerals, Birthday Parties, Anniversaries, Business Meetings in fact any event that you may have in mind.**

Why not make an appointment and have a look around at our facilities and we will be happy to provide you with more information.





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[www.shortland-horne.co.uk](http://www.shortland-horne.co.uk)



# STONELEIGH AND ASHOW JOINT PARISH COUNCIL

## Annual Report- 1st April 2013 – 31st March 2014

### Members

The composition of the Parish Council in May 2013 was as detailed below:

Ashow Ward	Councillors Mrs H. Fryer and Mrs J. Mackenzie
Stoneleigh Ward	Councillors Mrs L. Fletcher, R. Hancox, Mrs E. Mancini and D. Wintle
University Ward	Councillors .D Botterill, Ms T. Grant, P. Lam and J. Smith

- At the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 9th May 2013, Councillor R. Hancox was appointed Chairman
- and Councillor Ms T Grant was appointed Vice-Chairman.
- At the County Council elections in May, Councillor W. Redford was the new Councillor for Cubbington Ward.
- At the February meeting Councillor Mrs E. Mancini tendered her resignation from the Parish Council which was accepted.

### Meetings

During the period 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014 the following meetings were held: Annual Council Meeting and 11 Ordinary Meetings.

Attendance of Councillors at these meetings is detailed below. Maximum possible attendance 12 meetings.

D. Botterill	8	67% attended
L. Fletcher	11	92% attended
H. Fryer	11	92% attended
T. Grant	10	83% attended
R. Hancox	12	100% attended
P. Lam	6	50% attended
J. Mackenzie	9	75% attended
J. Smith	10	83% attended
D. Wintle	10	83% attended

District Councillor B. Mackay attended 8 out of 12 which equates to 67%  
County Councillor W. Redford attended 5 meeting out of 10 which equates to 50%.

### Finance

Precept levied for the financial year 2013/2014 was £15,765.

Other income during the year was Bank interest of £16.87, concurrent expenditure £180.

Total income for the year being £15,961.87, which when added to the accumulated balance gave a working total of £29,689.23.

During the year total expenditure was £11,934.11 which results in a surplus of £17,755.12.

The following grants were distributed during the year:

Ashow Church	£500
Stoneleigh Church	£500
Stoneleigh and Ashow Newsletter	£300
CPRE	£500
Against the Gateway	£537

### Planning

All planning applications received from Warwick District Council are considered. During the year a total of 40 new planning applications were considered. The applications can be classified as shown:

Ashow	1 Full - 1 Refused.
Stoneleigh	23 Full - 17 Granted, 2 Refused, 1 Withdrawn, 2 Awaiting Decision, 1 Not Required. 4 Listed Building - 4 Granted.
University	8 Full - 8 Granted.

### Stoneleigh Village Play Equipment

The annual inspection of all the play equipment was carried out in September.

*Pat Maddison*

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

The title of Julie State's talk at our April meeting was "A History of Fragrance". After a brief introduction, she concentrated on the famous names of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. She had a large collection of perfume bottles, many of which were instantly recognised by members of the audience.

On Friday 11th April, 47 members and friends attended the Stoneleigh WI Dinner at Haigh's Hotel in Balsall Common. A three course meal was followed by a quiz.

There was a games afternoon on Tuesday 15th April.

The Book Club met on Tuesday 29th April to discuss 'Gone Girl' by Gillian Flynn and 'A Long Walk Home' by Judith Tebbutt.

The Craft Group topic for April was plastic canvas work.

A small group of members and friends visited the Law Courts in London on a trip organised by the Warwickshire Federation.

The next village lunch will be on Tuesday 6th May and the menu will be roast gammon followed by trifle. If you would like to book a place, please ring Liz Sykes on 02476 418301.

The next coffee morning will be at the Village Club on Tuesday 20th May.

At our next meeting on Monday 12th May we will discuss the Resolution on organ donation which will be voted on at the WI AGM in Leeds in June. This will be followed by a presentation on The Air Ambulance.

*Rachel Gill*

## BIG BREAKFAST

The Kenilworth Committee of Cancer Research UK held a Big Breakfast at Stoneleigh Village Hall on Wednesday 26th March. The Breakfast was very well attended and made a wonderful profit of £1,130 for Cancer Research. Thanks to all those who attended, or made donations, and to Joe Ball for all his help.

*Pat Harvey*

Research scientist at local university seeking to buy modest home in Stoneleigh vicinity. Anything considered, including quirky or requiring renovation. Tel. 07909 600341

## STONELEIGH & ASHOWN NEWS

The June 2014 edition will be compiled by

**Billie Phipps**

Address: 3 The Bank, Stoneleigh

[editor.sandanews@gmail.com](mailto:editor.sandanews@gmail.com) or [billieaphipps@gmail.com](mailto:billieaphipps@gmail.com)

Copy deadline: 18th May 2014

This month's edition was compiled by Pam Baker

and printed by Warwick Print at the University

The online colour version is viewable at the Village website

[www.stoneleighvillage.org.uk](http://www.stoneleighvillage.org.uk)

We prefer digital A5 copy

but paper copy may be submitted as an alternative

Advertisements at £30 (full page A5) or £15 (half page)  
accepted at the editor's discretion, subject to S & A News policy.

## SIGNPOSTS OR WEATHERVANES...

The late Tony Benn described his fellow politicians as falling into two basic groups: the weather vanes, whose focus and direction fluctuated with the wind of change; and the signposts, who were steadfast in their focus and unswerving on their course. I don't know the context in which he was speaking, but to my mind, the best way forward is probably to have an element of both. We need the flexibility of a weathervane, able to adapt to the current climate and not drive through unfavourable or even dangerous conditions; but without the correctly placed signposts, we would be liable to wander aimlessly and fruitlessly, never reaching any destination.



Early in May I am going on a guided retreat in Exmoor and will be very much relying on the signposts to help me find my way! The last time I went walking in Exmoor was in extreme conditions on my hike for the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme, spending an unforgettable night which was the closest I intend to get to knowing what it's like to try sleeping in a river!

Whilst on retreat, I will be reflecting and praying and planning what directions we might head in together as churches and communities in Stoneleigh and Ashow. In the context of a retreat I hope to be open to the wind of change prompted by God's Holy Spirit and also strengthen my resolve of faithful discipleship in Jesus Christ through whom I come to know the God who loves me.

Already in Stoneleigh and Ashow churches we have planned some opportunities to consider significant points in our lives where, like signposts or weathervanes, they have, do, and will mark out for us the direction our lives could be taking. On 11th May at 11a.m. in Stoneleigh church, we will be celebrating baptism; on 17th May the six couples getting married in our churches in the coming year will be gathering for a day set aside for marriage preparation; on Sunday 25th May, (weather permitting!) the church services will take a walk outside of our buildings and into our communities and beautiful surroundings, please see our website and notice boards for details.

In a recent conversation, a retired person was describing to me how at this point in their lives they were attending a course exploring Christianity in their local

church because they wanted to awaken the reasons they got confirmed in their teens. When asked in the first session why they were attending the course, they answered: "I am here to try to find out why I am here".

Perhaps there is a wind of change blowing in something new into your life, as the moving story of P L Travers told in the film 'Saving Mr. Banks' might put it. Perhaps looking back at past markers, the signposts that influenced the course of your life will help you on your journey of exploration.

If you would like to explore Christianity in your local church then please do not hesitate to contact me and we can hopefully work out the most helpful way of accompanying you in your exploration.

God bless

*Rev'd Sharon Goble*

07799 220407 01608 682282 [sharon.goble@btinternet.com](mailto:sharon.goble@btinternet.com)

We would love you to come and celebrate your baptism with us!



You are invited to remember your baptism  
at our All Age Worship Service  
at 11 a.m. on Sunday 11th May in Stoneleigh Church.

Bring your Baptism candle (spares will be available), photos, Christening gown, godparents and anything else that helped make your baptism special and memorable.

Bring a picnic to stay and enjoy fun and games afterwards!

RSVP to Jackie Cubitt, [admin@stoneleighchurch.co.uk](mailto:admin@stoneleighchurch.co.uk)  
so we can be ready to welcome you!



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



**SERVICES FOR MAY 2014**

Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 a.m. United Holy Communion at Stoneleigh
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion at Stoneleigh
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 a.m. Holy Communion at Ashow 11.00 a.m. All Age Worship at Stoneleigh
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion 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>	Rogation Day Service with walk (weather permitting) please refer to pew sheets and website for details
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion at Stoneleigh

***From the registers***

***Funerals***

*Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March – Brenda Jessica Bellamy- Burial at Stoneleigh*

*Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March – Irvine Frank Edward Bench – Burial at Stoneleigh*

***Contacts***

**Vicar:** Revd Sharon Goble 01608 682282 or 07799220407

email :- [sharon.goble@btinternet.com](mailto:sharon.goble@btinternet.com)

**Churchwardens :**

**Ashow:** Stephen Harvey 01926 852543. Kate Jones, 01926 853511

**Stoneleigh:** Ian Smith 01926 853238. Sarah Ballinger 02476 715256

For Pastoral Care, to arrange a baptism, wedding or a funeral,  
please contact Revd Sharon Goble.

For any other matter please contact the Parish Administrator  
Jackie Cubitt, 02476 415506

email: [admin@stoneleighchurch.co.uk](mailto:admin@stoneleighchurch.co.uk)