

STONELEIGH & ASHOW NEWS



WINTRY MORNING SCENE FROM WENTWORTH HOUSE

FEBRUARY 2015

Bill Hall 1916 to 2015

We were very sorry to hear of the death of Bill Hall of Stoneleigh Grange Farm on the 13th January 2015, at the age of 98. We send our heartfelt sympathies to Elizabeth his wife and their three sons, Nick, Martin and Rupert. Bill was taken into Hospital shortly before Christmas 2014, but later, discharged into a nursing home where he died. With his family and many friends, we mourn his passing.

Bill came to Stoneleigh Grange, from near Henley in Arden, in 1940, marrying Elizabeth in 1958. Bill lived at and farmed the 270 acres at the Grange throughout his life, latterly alongside his son, Nick. Many of us will remember Bill as an entertaining, interesting, warm and engaging person, always ready for a good talk with all he met.

A private cremation on Tuesday, 3rd February 2015, will be followed by a Thanksgiving Service in Stoneleigh Church at 2:30pm. Family flowers only but any donations to the Addington Charity would be much appreciated.

S&A news

This month's edition of Stoneleigh and Ashow News was compiled by David and Jean Vaughan, who would like to thank all contributors.

It was printed by Warwick Print. The online colour version can be viewed at **www.stoneleighvillage.org.uk**. The March 2015 edition will be compiled by

Sheila Woolf 9 The Bank, Stoneleigh, CV8 3DA **Email:**
Shewoolf@hotmail.co.uk

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We prefer digital A5 copy,
but paper copy may be submitted as an alternative.
Advertisements at £30 (up to full page A5) or £15 (up to half page A5)
accepted at the editor's discretion, subject to S&A News policy.

Treasurer's Notice.

Thank you to all residents who in 2014 made their annual donation, [payable to *Stoneleigh & Ashow News*, either by direct payment [to our bank account Sort Code: **60-12-35**, Account Number: **63535718**], or by cheque or cash sent to: *Alliance Cottage, The Bank, Stoneleigh, CV8 3DA*. Please continue to support the volunteer teams of editors and distributors in 2015, when apart from all sorts of local events, there will be more news on HS2, traffic and other issues affecting our villages. If you are a new resident, or someone who hasn't quite got round to making a donation, please help support this local publication. The printing costs alone for 2014 ran to £1888 for ten editions of 510 copies, either hand delivered by volunteers in Stoneleigh & Ashow, or posted to absent friends.

Clive Watson Honorary Treasurer.

STONELEIGH MALE VOICE CHOIR

Anniversary. 2014 saw the 25th anniversary of the formation of the Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir and the choir celebrated this event in November with a splendid dinner in the Village Hall for members, past members and their wives. Entertainment was provided by the choir themselves with a magnificent DVD (compiled by Pam Baker) of excerpts from 25 years of choir shows. This provided 90 minutes of memories and laughs and some sadness as we watched friends no longer with us.

AGM. At the AGM in November, the treasurer (Robin Bussell) reported that charitable donations totalling £4,754 had been made during 2014; a further £507 from the Abbey Carol Concerts was added to this total in December and a cheque for this amount was presented to Rachel from Molly Olly's Wishes on 7 January 2015. The Treasurer also recorded that, for 2015, £3,000 had already been committed towards the development costs of the Village Hall. He assured members that funds were in a healthy state.

Committee elections also took place at the AGM: Phil Jones was re-elected Chairman and, following the resignation of Robin Bussell, David Critchley was elected Secretary; all other members of the committee were all re-elected.

I would like to add my thanks to Robin for the many years he has served as Secretary of the Choir. He has been a hard working, highly organised Secretary and a great asset. We have been fortunate to have had such an outstanding person, ably supported by his wife Jean, as our Secretary.

2015:

March 12-15th. The choir will be presenting "Songs from the Shows" in the Village Hall. (Tickets from Philip Jones on 01926 853511).

April 18th Joint Concert with a choir from Wales (Bois Goetre Hen a'r Cylch) in Stoneleigh Church in aid of Cancer Research. *(Continued)*

(Tickets available from Rosemary Brown on 01926 855808)

July 12th. Summer Serenade

Further details of Choir events will be published in the S & A News.

Finally: I would like to thank all the friends of the Choir for their loyal support over the past 25 years and we all look forward to many more happy and tuneful times in the future. I wish everyone a happy, healthy and peaceful 2015.

Phil Jones

Chairman

PS. Copies of the Anniversary DVD are available from Robin Bussell, priced £12 each. This is a wonderful record of 25 years of steadily improving performance and features everyone who has ever performed with the choir!

Molly Olly's Charity

The aim of the Charity is to support, emotionally and financially where appropriate, the lives of children with terminal or life threatening illnesses throughout The Midlands and the UK and to advise and assist their families. More information available at www.mollyolly.co.uk.

The money raised will help support children and their families who need additional help beyond that given by the NHS and its supporting bodies. For this the Charity will discuss individuals needs with the relevant health professionals.

Here Mike Murray of the Choir presents the cheque for £507 raised at the Choir's Christmas Carol Concert at the Abbey to Rachel from the Charity.



The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2014

The final collection total was not available in time for the December/January edition of the *News*, but I am delighted to report that the year's total was £3122.43. This included money collected outside of Remembrancetide, since there were, of course, village events to commemorate the centenary of the start of the Great War. I should like to reiterate my thanks to all involved in this year's collection; our "star collectors" this year were the children of Finham Park Primary school, who alone contributed £229.22!

Sheila Woolf

Stoneleigh Village Club - February Programme

Friday 6th February: 6 Nations Rugby, Wales v England on the big screen.

Monday 9th: Darts v Kenilworth Sports.

Tuesday 10th: Pool v The Engine.

Saturday 14th: 6 Nations Rugby, England v Italy.

Tuesday 17th: "Pancake Night". See notice board for times and race details.

Saturday 21st: Quiz Night, 8.00 pm - Stoneleigh Orchard Group.

Tuesday 24th: Pool v The Engine 'A'.

Thursday 26th: Crib & Dominoes v Berkeswell 'B'.

Saturday 28th: Fish and Chip Night.

Please keep an eye on the notice board and emails for further details and any changes.

Social Committee

"Thank You"

I offer the grateful thanks of the Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance to all those friends and neighbours who contributed the magnificent total of £658 to my "Flag Flying" initiative last year. This was £3 more than the previous year and I thank everyone for their generosity.

Robin Bussell

www.stoneleighvillage.org.uk

The present village website has now been up and running for over five years. If you originally submitted information on behalf of a village organisation, you might now like to think about updating it, perhaps with photographs of recent activities, or with news of forthcoming ones? Maybe you are part of a new activity group and would like to publicise your events or recruit new members? If you run a business you might like to consider advertising. Please contact me if any of these categories apply to you! My email address is shewoolf@hotmail.co.uk

The website is regularly visited both by local people and those from all around the world, providing a noticeboard for “all things Stoneleigh”. A colour version of the *Stoneleigh & Ashow News* is also uploaded each month.

www.stoneleighvillage.org.uk is funded by the Parish Council, and designed and administered voluntarily by Mark Bonnett and myself.

Sheila Woolf

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Meetings: The February Ordinary Council Meeting will be held at the **University of Warwick, University House, Kirby Cross Corner at 7.30 p.m.** on 12th February 2015.

Parish Councillors: I wish to advise all residents that in May of this year there will be the election for all Parish Councillors. Parish Councillors are elected for four years and the last election was in May 2011. Posters will be placed on the notice boards in February advising residents how they can apply. The nomination period commences on the 16th March and the last day for receipt of nomination will be on the 9th April at 4.00 p.m. at Warwick District Council. Polling day will be on the 7th May.

If there are any queries please get in touch with me either on 01926 491482 or maddisonsgandpa@fsmail.net

Pat Maddison - Parish Clerk

Stoneleigh History Society

Sales of the Stoneleigh 2015 Calendar were a great success for the Society, with all 200 copies being sold before Christmas. Many thanks to everyone who bought one – or several! – as this has enabled the Society to fund this year's celebration of the Sir Henry Parkes Bicentenary. More information will be given about this in future editions of the *News*, but suffice it to say that Parkes was undoubtedly one of the greatest "sons of Stoneleigh", rising from humble beginnings here, to becoming Premier of New South Wales, Australia, no less than five times. Our 2015 exhibition will focus on the great man.

In December some of our members enjoyed a trip to Baddesley Clinton under the auspices of the Warwickshire Local History Society, where we heard a talk by Nat Alcock and were given a tour of the house, which was beautifully dressed for Christmas. We had been promised a sumptuous tea to round off the afternoon, and we were not disappointed! Our January meeting was an informal get-together in the Club to share knowledge about using the internet for research, but our new programme for 2015 will begin on **Tuesday February 24th at 7.30pm at the Village Hall**. There will be two short presentations: Pete James will be speaking about the skills of the Kenilworth Combmakers and Lisa Reay will be speaking about some long-standing Stoneleigh families. Do come along, when you will receive a warm welcome. You can always find details of our activities at www.stoneleighhistorysociety.org.uk.

Sheila Woolf

STONELEIGH MALE VOICE CHOIR

Spring Entertainment

The Spring entertainment from the Choir will be a Selection of Songs from the Shows presented by the SMVC in the Stoneleigh Village Hall on Friday, Saturday and Sunday 13th, 14th and 15th March 2015. A hot two course supper will be served. The show will start at 7.30 pm on Friday and Saturday and 5.00 pm on Sunday.

Tickets; £20. Obtainable from Phil Jones, tel: 01926 853511 or through any choir member.

There will be a **Preview Night** on Thursday 12th March at 7.30 pm and to which the Senior Citizens of Stoneleigh are invited as our guests. Others may purchase tickets for £5. Light refreshments will be served.

David Critchley Secretary SMVC

SPECIAL SUMMER EVENTS
to be planned by STONELEIGH VILLAGE CLUB

OPEN GARDENS WEEKEND

It is hoped to hold an Open Gardens Weekend Saturday 27th June & Sunday 28th June 2015.

If anyone would like to take part and open their garden, or help in any other way, please phone Jan Whitehouse 02476 413213 or Tim Sawdon 02476 415771.

VILLAGE FETE & DUCK RACE

This popular event will be held on Saturday 18th July 2015.

FOOD & CRAFT MARKET - Saturday 18th September 2015

For these events to go ahead successfully, a core of volunteers are needed to plan and help on the day, in various ways.

Anyone who could give even a small amount of time would be so welcome, so PLEASE VOLUNTEER !

Contact Nora Blagburn 02476 415405 or Robin Bussell 02476 416183.

J.L.Huthwaite



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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.

Ready... Steady... GROW!...



On New Years' Day I planted one of our Christmas gifts, an amaryllis bulb. By tea-time the green shoots were appearing and by the next morning we were starting to measure its rapid progress! So much potential was just bursting to start growing towards the light. Move over Jack with your beans! It really is the most heartening project, especially for someone whose track record with house plants

is, shall we say, the wrong kind of green! Naively underwatering or overwatering, neglecting or smothering, some kind of more informed and disciplined approach to growing would be more fruitful, I think.

Lent is the period of time which stretches from Ash Wednesday, which this year is on 18 February, when replete from too many pancakes, the Anglican tradition encourages self-examination and preparation before we celebrate Easter. Lenten discipline can be expressed by abstinence, and also by setting aside time to focus our attention to resource our spiritual growth.

Like the bulb in the box, I believe each one of us has so much potential which in the right conditions will flourish. As churches in Stoneleigh and Ashow we are always hoping to create places and spaces with the right resources to help us all grow towards the light. During Lent 2015 we are offering two possible times to come together outside of our regular pattern of worship.

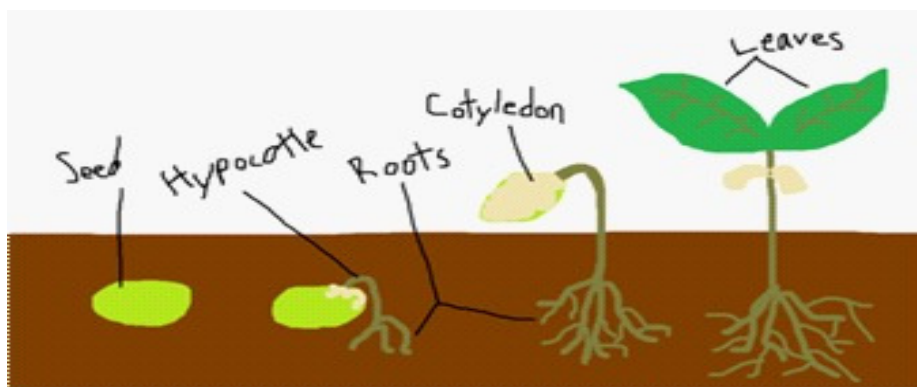
On Tuesdays from 6 – 7:30 in Stoneleigh church starting 24 February and every Tuesday in March we are offering the next Pilgrim course which is exploring how Christians know and worship God through looking at the words of the Lord's Prayer. The Pilgrim course approaches the great issues of faith not through persuasion, but participation in a pattern of contemplation and discussion with a group of fellow travellers.

On Wednesdays from 11 – 12:30 in Stoneleigh church starting 25 February and every Wednesday in March we are inviting discussion

based on material produced by the Arthur Rank Centre called Ready, Steady, Grow. This course encourages the church to look at its context, the place and the people where it is and consider how effective it is being at witnessing to God's love here and now. We hope to gather those who would like to strengthen the relationships between church and community, who want to explore what it means to be together and how the church can serve those around them. There will be plenty of opportunity for blue sky thinking, a refreshing sprinkling of prayerful planning and hopefully some seeds of ideas we can tend.

You are welcome to just to turn up but it would be helpful to have an idea of who to expect (so I bring enough milk and biscuits!). So if you are thinking of coming to either course, please ping me an email or text or give me a ring.

Ready?.... Steady?.... GROW!



Reverend Sharon Goble

sharon.goble@btinternet.com

01608 682 282; 07799220407



Photo by Sheila Woolf's kind permission



The WI Report

The meeting on 1st December was our Christmas party. We played party games, including our old favourite the left/right game, which were followed by supper and carol singing. On 2nd December the Christmas lunch was attended by 36 villagers. The menu was soup, roast turkey and Christmas pudding. The meal was accompanied by a glass of wine and followed by tea or coffee and mince pies. The lunch was generously sponsored by the Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir who provided entertainment after lunch.

A group of members visited the Christmas Market at Chester. The market had lots of colourful stalls, including one selling goods from Bethlehem. The following day they visited Chatsworth and came home via Bakewell and the Peak district.

The speakers at the meeting on 5th January were Ben Devine from the Warwickshire Wild Life Trust and Sally Majoram from Happy Hedgehog Rescue. Ben explained that hedgehogs are in rapid decline in Britain and that the Warwickshire Wild Life Trust aims to raise £ 250,000 to increase awareness of the issues facing hedgehogs. He also explained how we could make our gardens more hedgehog friendly. Sally spoke about the rescue centre that she and her husband have set up in their garden. She brought along a hedgehog called Red which she had cared for and was almost ready to be released.

The Book Club met on Thursday 20th January to discuss "The Novel in the Viola" by Natasha Solomons and "This Boy" by Alan Johnson. There was a games afternoon on Tuesday 20th January at Highfields, Cubbington.

The next meeting will be on Monday 2nd February. Tony Hale's talk is called "A Short History of Pottery". The next lunch will be on Tuesday 3rd February in the Village Hall. The menu will be Turkey and Leek Pie followed by Chocolate Gateau. The next coffee morning will be on Tuesday at the Village Club 17th February.

Rachel Gill

Promises of spring; Stoneleigh Community Orchard Update.

It is perhaps too early to look for real signs of spring in bleak January. However the tight red buds on the trees in Stoneleigh Community Orchard promise a good show of blossom, if weather permits.

The native trees donated by the Environment Agency and planted along the river last spring by volunteers from the Orchard Group all appear to have survived their first year, despite some dry spells in summer. (The EA ensured they were disease free.) We hope that all the developing trees will continue to provide enjoyment for villagers and passers-by, and habitat for wildlife.

The Environment Agency also gave us several bird-nesting boxes of different sizes. After doing research about the best sites for them, John Churchley (pictured) and Pete Freeman braved a very wintry Saturday to put the boxes up in discreet corners around the meadows. The RSPB has recorded more than 60 species of birds using boxes to nest and roost in, so hopefully ours will encourage more species to the meadows. As we try to improve the meadows for those walking through, the Parish Council has noted that there is still a lot of dog-mess left 'unscooped'. This accumulates unpleasantly - and indeed unhealthily- in popular dog-walking areas. Please dispose of your dog's mess considerately. Villagers will remember the show of wild flowers in the orchard last year. We plan to continue and perhaps extend this planting, providing volunteers can once more be persuaded to show enthusiasm for hoeing and sowing!

Finally, I am delighted to be able to report that there has been a reliable sighting of an otter on the banks of the river Sowe in recent weeks. This is a testament to the health of our river and I cannot be alone in thinking that the otter is surely the most charming of our native mammals.



Noth-east facing and away from predators. John Churchley erects bird boxes. (Photo: Pete Feeman)

Among our activities in the next few months we plan a Quiz in the Village Club on 21st February. There will be some Orchard-related questions but also much scope for the generalists among you. This will be a good opportunity to come and talk to members of the Orchard Group and consider becoming a 'friend of the orchard' - for an annual fee of £10. We rely on volunteers and welcome new friends.

Marianne Puxley

Ashow Church News

Stephen and Kate and all the PCC would like to thank everyone who helped to make the Advent and Christmas Carol Services such a success again this year. We are very pleased to say the church was packed for these popular services. The music was organised by Susan Spencer and the Ashow Parish Singers were excellent on both occasions. The handbell ringers from Leek Wootton added to the musical accompaniment, as did Bob Taylor and the Stoneleigh bell ringers before the service. Barbara Lewis provided lovely home-made mince pies at Advent, and Pat provided the mulled wine after the service.

We had a presentation before the Advent service for the charity “Molly Ollie’s Wishes”, who aim to support emotionally and financially, where appropriate, the lives of children with terminal or life threatening illnesses throughout the UK. We are pleased to report that from the donations at the Advent and Christmas Services, a cheque for £500 has been sent to this charity.

The church looked wonderful over Christmas with flower arrangements by Diana Holt and Margaret Cotton, and we are grateful to all who helped decorate the candle poles, and Stoneleigh Estate managers who again generously donated the Christmas tree.

We are a small church, but we have a lot of excellent support. Philip Jones organises the Sidesperson’s rota and readers, and Bob Burdett the hymns. Thanks also to our organists, Barbara Lewis, Peter Bernasconi, and Susan Spencer. Diana Holt organises the flower and cleaning rotas, and we would like to thank all those people who took part in these activities. Neil Collett continues to wind the clock which has chimed in the village for numerous years. Lastly, our vicar Sharon, continues to inspire us and we are very pleased to see her such well behaved children often in Ashow Church.

Stephen Harvey



Ashow Church from across the river

HS2 LATEST

HS2 continues to receive plenty of media coverage. It remains to be seen whether it is mentioned in any of the Party manifestos but in any case it is an issue to be raised with every candidate for whatever Party so that expressions of local concern can be fed back to their headquarters.

The Parliamentary Select Committee continues to hear the petitions submitted by numerous organisations, action groups, and individuals.

On 19th January, petitions submitted by Stoneleigh and Ashow Joint Parish Council, the Stoneleigh Action Group, Stoneleigh History Society and some local residents were heard. Briefly issues raised were concerns over the loss of, and damage to, the historic landscape of Stoneleigh Park, the impact on the setting of Stare Bridge, the operational noise, the disruption to our road network during construction, the access to the construction compound off the B4115, the potential disruption to traffic on the A46 and how that could impact on the community and keeping construction traffic off Stoneleigh Bridge, and hopefully then out of the Village. There was also a petition on compensation issues. After these petitions were heard, in the evening session, legal representatives for the Mars Pension Fund/ RASE reached an agreement with HS2 outside the Committee Room and then presented what had been agreed to the Select Committee, unfortunately not including a 'cut and cover' tunnel.

That is a brief summary and if you wish to know more transcripts are available to read on Parliament's website, just search for "Select Committee HS2". On the opening page you will see a column headed 'Latest Publications' containing summaries of proceedings before the Committee in date order in which the uncorrected version of the proceedings for 19th January will appear.

The Select Committee seemed genuinely interested in the historical features of the area and gave petitioners the time to present their cases. It is hoped that they will encourage HS2 Ltd to re-consider its stance on many of these matters raised, but route wide issues such as noise, will be looked at in more detail later.

Meanwhile, apparently Dorset MP, Christopher Chope, has put forward a private member's Bill before Parliament calling for a referendum on whether taxpayers should pay for HS2.

Martin Smith on behalf of Stoneleigh Action Group



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



SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2015

Sunday 1 st	11.00 a.m. United Holy Communion at Ashow
Sunday 8 th	9.30 a.m. Holy Communion at Ashow 11.00 a.m. All Age Worship at Stoneleigh
Thursday 12 th	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion at Stoneleigh
Sunday 15 th	9.30 a.m. Holy Communion at Ashow 11.00 a.m. Fellowship Holy Communion at Stoneleigh
Ash Wednesday 18th	
	12 noon. Ash Wednesday Service at Stoneleigh
Sunday 22 th	9.30 a.m. Village Service at Ashow 11.00 a.m. Sung Holy Communion at Stoneleigh
Thursday 26 th	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion at Stoneleigh

From the registers

Funerals

Monday 1st December- Pamela Joyce Isabel Weaver- Burial

Wednesday 17th December – Isabel Garscia – Burial

Wednesday 17th December – Vera Mary Nancy Lewis - Burial

Contacts

Vicar: Revd. Sharon Goble 01608 682282 or 07799220407

Email: 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 or 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 or email: admin@stoneleighchurch.co.uk