

STONELEIGH & ASHOW NEWS



MARCH 2015

This month's edition of *Stoneleigh and Ashow News* was compiled by Sheila Woolf, who would like to thank all contributors.

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www.stoneleighvillage.org.uk.

This month's cover photograph is printed by permission of Derek Robinson

The April 2015 edition will be compiled by

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"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.

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Opening hours:

Mon-Fri 8.30 - 4.30

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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.

Stoneleigh and District Ex-Service Persons Social Club

The above organisation has Supper Dances in Stoneleigh Village Hall on a Friday evening, once a month from October through to April, 8pm till 11.15pm. Supper is provided at the interval halfway through the evening. There are varying types of dancing: Ballroom, Modern Sequence, Old Time, Disco etc. Music is provided by Bojangles, a keyboard player and singer.

All profits from these events are given to local charities. Date cards of dances are available on request. The next date is March 27th.

If anyone is interested or requires more information, please contact Dennis Craddock 02476 414214 or Ernie Ball 01926 858094.



Big Breakfast 2015

The Kenilworth Committee of Cancer Research U.K. is holding a “Big Breakfast” at Stoneleigh Village Hall, from 8 to 10.30am on Friday 27th March 2015.

A full “English Breakfast” will be provided and all donations to Cancer Research UK gratefully received.

To help with catering if you wish to attend, could you please fill in one of the forms which are circulating or contact any committee member, or Pat Drummond (Secretary), 30 Birches Lane, Kenilworth CV82AD Tel 01926 854447

or Pat Harvey, Abbey House, Ashow. Tel 01926 852543

or Rosemary Brown, 36 Mayfield Drive, Kenilworth Tel 01926 855808



HS2 LATEST

As reported in the February edition of the News, during January and February the Parliamentary HS2 Select Committee heard the petitions from Warwickshire groups and individuals including Stoneleigh & Ashow Parish Council, Stoneleigh Action Group, Stoneleigh History Society and Jeremy Wright M.P. Petitions from Warwickshire County Council and Warwick District Council were heard before Christmas.

Although very few people want HS2 to be built, pragmatism is essential and strenuous efforts have been made to try to get a better deal in terms of mitigation and compensation. There has been particular local concern about noise and traffic disruption, the A46 and surrounding roads being of great concern for residents.

The Select Committee will continue to meet until Parliament is dissolved on 30 March prior to the General Election. It will reconvene after a new Government is formed in May.

A full record of proceedings of the Select Committee can be found at www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-committees/hs2/oral-evidence This record indicates the likely impact of the project along the route. Although lengthy, many of the presentations make fascinating (and worrying!) reading.

Given the hiatus during the period until May, StAG does not plan to report again until the June or July/August edition of the News.

Margaret Wallis (on behalf of Stoneleigh Action Group)

From the Reverend Sharon Goble

My children are still at the stage of playing where make believe and pretending only requires a stick, a little bit of space and a vivid imagination. A book or a film or an idea will launch them headlong into another world, where they are no longer just a schoolchild in a Warwickshire village, but swashbuckling adventurer; bereft and forlorn orphan (?!); astute detective; fluffy and faithful puppy; magnificent magical creature, or hero of the hour. On a good day, I can find I too haven't lost that ability to immerse myself into the world of story. Momentarily liberated from the more mundane concerns of cooking tea or folding washing, I too can be transported into the altogether more colourful and fulfilling world of the imagination, and enjoy sharing a story in the making alongside them.

After 40 days of Lent, in the closing days of this month of March begins what Christians refer to as Holy Week, which takes us from Palm Sunday through to Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday to Easter Sunday. During Holy Week, followers of Jesus are invited to remember the story of Jesus as they recall his entry into Jerusalem on a donkey, the events of the upper room, and the arrest, trial and passion leading to Jesus' death on the cross. As the events which surround the last hours of Jesus' life are marked in special services and in private prayerfulness, today's disciples of Jesus explore a vast spectrum of human emotion and complex big questions, as the story invites us to explore justice, truth and love; suffering, despair and hope; living, dying and beyond. There are characters in the story who risk all and others who betray everything they hold dear; there are questions about power and vulnerability, responsibility and choice.

If we give ourselves time through Holy Week to immerse ourselves into the "greatest story ever told" of Jesus' death and resurrection, in the company of others, we discover that the hope of resurrection is rooted in knowing a God who is not immune to suffering, but whose story enters into the human condition and changes it forever. We can't have a Happy Easter without Good Friday – we cannot celebrate the empty tomb unless we've been to Golgotha –

We can live the fullness of life Jesus brings when we know his story and make it our own – and we can celebrate that life together.

Do join us in Holy Week and at our Easter services.

God bless



Reverend Sharon Goble

07799220407

sharon.goble@btinternet.com

CHARITY RAFT RACE TO FUND SPECIALIST CHILDREN'S FACILITIES

Participants in this year's Wellesbourne and Shakespeare Lions clubs' raft race are looking to raise more than £10,000 to fund specialist services at The Shakespeare Hospice's bespoke Young Persons Hub recently opened by H.R.H. Prince Charles. The Shakespeare Hospice is a local charity that serves people and their families affected by life limiting illness. They help any such individuals and families to live in as full and creative way as possible, by offering them holistic and family centred care.

The race, which takes place over seven miles and across two weirs along the River Avon between Wasperton and Stratford, is on Sunday July 26.

Full details of how to enter, and what to expect on the day, are on the dedicated website at www.rafrace.org.uk and entries are accepted up to two weeks before the date of the race.

Further information from:

Lion Peter Fisher, 01789 842031 or email info@rafrace.org.uk

Shakespeare Hospice Marketing Officer Hannah Chapman, 01789 266852 or email hchapman@theshakespearehospice.org.uk

Peal at St Marys, Stoneleigh

Those of you who were in Stoneleigh on the afternoon of Friday Feb 6th may have heard the bells ringing out as advertised in a previous edition of this magazine. The peal was to mark 50 years from Sir Winston Churchill's funeral and the details as published in the journal "The Ringing World" are as below

Coventry Diocesan Guild

Stoneleigh, Warwickshire

St Mary the Virgin

Friday, 6 February 2015 in 2 hrs 46 m (10–2–14)

5040 Cambridge S Minor

7 different extents

1 Peter C Randall (C)

2 Gail L Randall

3 Anthony J Cox

4 Peter J Williamson

5 Rebecca J Cox

6 Geoffrey W Randall

Arranged to mark the 50th anniversary of a half muffled peal of Cambridge Minor rung on these bells on 5th February 1965 for the death of Sir Winston Churchill, which was the first peal for Tony Cox and the late Paul Reading. The ringers of 1,3 and 6 rang the same bells as 1965.

On a personal note, I was very glad to return to Stoneleigh after a gap of many years having been born there in 1958 and learning to ring in 1967 before leaving for Somerset in 1968 with the rest of my family. My parents ran the bell ringing while bringing up a young family and taught a number to ring. Included among these were Nick and Edward Fardon and I was glad to meet their mother, Miriam Fardon for coffee before the peal. I also enjoyed a walk up Motslow Hill and round some local footpaths.

In the church, the font I was baptised in has of course been re-located from just inside the West door and the new pew cushions make the church look very welcoming and cheerful.

Many thanks to all the Stoneleigh residents for allowing us to ring. I wonder how many of the group will be fit to return in 2040 to mark 75 years?

Peter Williamson, Fife, Scotland



Stoneleigh History Society

January's meeting in the Club was a very successful evening , designed to help those who were interested in pursuing their own family history research. We shall be using the Club again on Tuesday 30th June for a similar meeting.

In February we heard about the history of well-known Stoneleigh families and also about the forgotten Kenilworth occupation of comb-making.Plans are well advanced for our summertime display and commemoration of Sir Henry Parkes, and we recently made contact with Australians who have similar plans in the Antipodes!

Our March 31st meeting will be a fascinating one: Jan Cooper of the Kenilworth History and Archaeology Society will speak about "The White Monks" - Cistercians of Stoneleigh Abbey and elsewhere. This will be followed by our AGM.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE STONELEIGH HISTORY SOCIETY

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Stoneleigh History Society will be held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 31 March 2015 in Stoneleigh Village Hall.

Bertie MacKay, our Independent Ward Councillor

Not long after the Gateway Inquiry drew to a close, and only a couple of weeks after his 80th birthday, Bertie was diagnosed with terminal cancer and given 6 to 12 months. Like the troupier he was, Bertie carried on with many of his Ward Councillor duties and in the meantime underwent intensive treatment sessions of various debilitating kinds. He continued with his long walks and seemed to be coping extremely well - but the cancer kept on spreading.

Eventually, he became seriously ill over the course of only a week or so, and died in Walsgrave hospital late on the evening of Thursday 5th February. As some have already commented, metaphorically, Bertie “died with his boots on” as he always hoped to serve his full term as our Ward Councillor until May's elections.

His funeral took place on Wednesday 18th February, beginning with a private committal for the family at Oakley Wood, followed by a Service of Commemoration for his life at Baginton church, and then a party of celebration in his honour at The Oak in Baginton. Bertie did love a good party ! It is a measure of his standing that so many people attended his Commemoration Service, including relatives, friends, constituents and colleagues of all political persuasions, from WDC, the local area, and well beyond.

Since first being elected in 1999, Bertie was a truly diligent and conscientious Ward Councillor for us and, being an Independent, he did not have to toe a party line. He could best represent his constituents' interests directly. That is not to say that everyone was always happy with his views on everything, all of the time, but then that is in the nature of offering to serve the public democratically. It is probably true to say that Bertie knew more about planning than most, if not all, of our local councillors. He served on the WDC Planning Committee with distinction for 8 years, including 4 years as its Chairman.

He was also elected as Chairman of WDC for a fixed term of a year during 2010/2011, and subsequently served as Chairman of the Warwick Rural East Community Forum.

As he was such an experienced all-rounder, one senior councillor from another party has recently happily acknowledged that he learnt a very great deal from Bertie MacKay. With his long experience as an Independent, he was invited to address many gatherings of other Independent councillors around the UK, and was nominally head of the group of 7 Independent councillors within WDC when he died.

Idiosyncratically perhaps, Bertie will probably be best remembered locally for being the **only** WDC Councillor to have formally fought against WDC (in his constituents' best interests) at **any** public Planning Inquiries, let alone 3 of them (including winning the two largest and most important ones).

He earned great respect from the opposition at these Planning Inquiries for his gentlemanly, measured, but ultimately incisive behaviour, and successfully managed to garner willing and active support for our case from councillors of the other main political parties.

At this very sad time our thoughts are therefore with Val, his two daughters, son, and five grandchildren. We shall all miss Bertie's presence, in local government life in particular, but the many who worked directly with him will miss him very much indeed.

Val would like, on behalf of herself and the family, to thank everyone for their many kind wishes, and for attending his funeral and sending him off so well. This clearly demonstrates how well Bertie was regarded by everyone.



The Gateway Decision

As most of you will have seen in the media already, on the morning of Friday 13th February 2015, the Secretary of State (SoS) for the “Department of Communities & Local Government” Eric Pickles, released the Gateway decision. This took the form of a single document containing the “Inspector’s Report” and the SoS’s “Decision Letter”, and confirmed that we had won. The huge, completely unjustified, and unjustifiable, Gateway application has been turned down.

For this decision we can all be very thankful, and indeed celebrate for a while. This is now the second time that government has turned down the Gateway proposals, the first time being when it was bid as an “Enterprise Zone”, at which time it was squashed for precisely the same reasons that were as valid this time around. Regardless of what now follows, this decision will serve as a permanent memorial to Cllr. Bertie MacKay who sadly passed away before learning of it.

WDC have been preparing for this potential setback, within their newly Adopted Local Plan, by proposing to take the Gateway area out of the Green Belt. It has now been dubbed a “Sub-Regional Employment Site” (SRES) by WDC – presumably hoping that we won’t notice it ! So WDC intend that we get Gateway dumped on us by the back door. However, this completely ignores the fact that SRES type facilities should have rail links and an excellent road network. Gateway has neither, and is simply a great big cul-de-sac, whose access road passes close to a runway end and is easily severed in the event of a plane or lorry crash (you doubtless remember the big fire on Siskin Drive that closed access to the entire business estate for several hours).

So Gateway is by no means over for us yet. The next milestone is the “Examination In Public” of the new WDC Local Plan in front of another Planning Inspector. The arguments must again be put for keeping our Green Belt lungs in place, and protecting our local villages from being swallowed up into Coventry – especially for a wholly unnecessary purpose which simply duplicates, in an inferior way, what is already available elsewhere in the area.

Huge thanks to Rod Wheat, John Astle and all those who have fought so hard on this issue on our behalf. Editor.

WI REPORT

The speakers at our meeting on 2nd February were John and Alison Christophers from Albrighton Pottery. Their subject was the history of pottery. We were invited to mould a medallion with our initial on it. These were moulded into a large pot suitable for use in the garden. It was taken away to be fired and will then be returned to us. The Christophers also displayed some of their own pottery. There was a games afternoon on Thursday 10th February. On 17th February there was a skittles evening, with supper, at the Leek Wootton Social Club.

The Craft Group topic this month was crochet. An art group was formed last year which is still attracting new members.

The next lunch will be on 10th March in the Village Hall. (Please note change of date from the usual "first Tuesday in the month".) The menu will be cottage pie and cheesecake. If you wish to reserve a place, please ring Liz Sykes on 02476 418301. The next coffee morning will be on 17th March in the Village Club.

The next meeting will be on Monday 2nd March and the speaker will be Tony Hale who will talk about a life in radio.

Rachel Gill

NEW KNITTING GROUP

At Stoneleigh Village Club

Beginning Tuesday, 10th March @ 7.30pm
(continuing every 2nd Tuesday of the month)

Please join us for the first meeting and share your ideas for this group.



All levels, all ages welcome.
Come to knit or come to chat!



For further information, call Marian Murray - 02476 417055



Saturday 7 March 2015 at 7.30pm
at
North Leamington School Theatre

Overture Prince Igor - Borodin
Rhapsody in Blue - Gershwin
Firebird Suite - Stravinsky

An exciting programme guest conducted by the talented, young conductor Dominic Greer, acclaimed for his performances with The Royal Ballet, The Royal Opera Covent Garden & BBC Concert Orchestra. Joined by Katharine Lam on piano.

For tickets in advance
Tel: 01926 850385
Or buy online at www.wso.org.uk

Concert venue:
North Leamington School Theatre
Sandy Lane, Blackdwn
Leamington Spa CV32 6BD
Ample parking & disabled access
WSO charity reg number 507268

Tickets £12 with £5 concessions for students & children

**STONELEIGH VILLAGE
ANNUAL MEETING**

Stoneleigh Annual Village
Meeting will be held on
Wednesday 18th March at
7.30 p.m. in Stoneleigh
Village Hall.

Please support this meeting.



CHARITY LUNCH

Stoneleigh Ladies' Choir is organising a charity lunch in aid of Ovarian Cancer Research on Thursday April 2nd 2015 at the village hall. The cost is £8.

There will be a light lunch, a talk on the charity and some entertainment.



Tickets are available from Margaret Samouelle on 02476 411090

“MY HOUSE IN UMBRIA”

Starring Maggie Smith



Friday 20th March, Stoneleigh Village Hall
6.45 for 7pm

Make yourself feel at home, bring your own wine, cushions or a comfy chair.

Coffee and Cake in the interval

Tickets: £3.00, to cover refreshments and room hire, from Parish Office

Tel: 02476 415506 email: admin@stoneleighchurch.co.uk

Stoneleigh Village Club

January and February have been relatively quiet months at the Club and we are looking forward to raising the tempo as spring approaches.

The Social Group has prepared an outline social programme for the full year and this has been emailed to members and posted at the Club. To deliver this programme needs more volunteers to help in the running of events; such help ranges from being a worker on Duck Race Day, collecting the food from the “chippie” for a fish and chip night, helping to run a quiz – or putting one on yourself; the opportunities to help are endless, but we do need more names on our “helpers list”. Please tell a committee or social group member or Jim if you would like to help, or have any ideas for social events.

The forthcoming programme is:

Saturday 28th February: Fish and Chip Night

March

Sunday 1st: 6 Nations Rugby, Ireland v England KO 3.00 pm.
 Social Planning Group Meeting 7pm

Monday 2nd: Darts v Philpots

Wednesday 4th: Bingo

Thursday 5th: Crib and Dominoes v Leek Wootton

Saturday 14th: 6 Nations Rugby, England v Scotland (KO 5.00 pm);
 Irish Night Event from 7.30 pm

Wednesday 18th: Bingo

Thursday 19th: Crib and Dominos v Hope and Anchor

Saturday 21st: 6 Nations Rugby, England v France (KO 5.00 pm)

April

Saturday 4th April (afternoon): Easter Egg Hunt in the churchyard

Sunday 5th April: Easter Bonnet Parade in the Club at 1.00 pm

Social Group



MG & Triumph 2015

Sunday 1st March 2015

After a very successful first year, MG & Triumph will be returning to Stoneleigh Park for a second year. The event offers club displays, an autojumble, cars for sale and a range of exhibitors to cater for every car enthusiasts need.

Local traffic is expected to be busier than usual, with 2000 vehicles expected to attend the event. No road closures or diversions are planned.

Adult tickets in advance are £8 or £12 on the gate, children under 15 go free.

www.mgandtriumphsparesday.co.uk

Leamington & Warwick Model Railway Show

Saturday 7th March – Sunday 8th March 2015

The 40th annual Leamington & Warwick Model Railway Exhibition is returning to Stoneleigh Park in March. This event offers working layouts in many scales, an extensive range of trade stands and refreshments.

Local traffic is expected to be busier than usual, with 2000 vehicles expected between 7th and 8th March. No road closures or diversions are planned.

Adult tickets £7, Concessions £6, Children £4 and Family tickets (2+2) £18.

www.lwmrs.co.uk

International Jaguar Spares Day

Sunday 22nd March 2015

The International Jaguar Spares Day, hosted at Stoneleigh Park, is an event not to be missed for car enthusiasts. There will be cars for sale and over 200 trade stands from both the UK and abroad. Regular stallholders range from established major Jaguar parts suppliers, restoration specialists, replica manufacturers and private garage clearances.

Traffic on the B4113 may be slightly heavier than usual, with 1000 vehicles expected to attend this event. No road closures or diversions are planned.

Admission is £9, payable on the gate.

www.jaguarsparesdays.co.uk

Kickback – The National Custom Bike Show 2015

Saturday 28th March – Sunday 29th March 2015

Show features for Kickback include; the Custom Bike Building Championship, indoor stunt displays, International showcase, photo gallery and over 200 exhibitors

Local traffic is expected to be busier than usual, with 2500 vehicles expected between 28th and 29th March. No road closures or diversions are planned.

Weekend tickets are £13.50; valid for Saturday, Saturday night and all day Sunday.

www.thecustomshow.com

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Meetings

The March Ordinary Council Meeting will be held at Ashow Village Club, Ashow on Thursday 12th March 2015 at 7.30 p.m.

This is a meeting for Councillors which the public has a right to attend.

Stoneleigh's Annual Village Meeting will be held in Stoneleigh Village Hall on Wednesday 18th March at 7.30 p.m.

This is a statutory meeting at which members of the Parish Council are required to report back to the electorate on their work over the past twelve months and for the electorate to discuss their hopes and/or concerns in the Village.

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 (as of going to press the posters had not been received 16th 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

NB In last month's edition of the *News* it was stated that the Food and Craft Market will be held on September 18th. It will in fact be held on Saturday September 19th.



**The United Benefice of
The Assumption of our Lady, Ashow
and
St Mary the Virgin, Stoneleigh**



SERVICES FOR MARCH 2015

Sunday	1 st	11.00 a.m. United Holy Communion at Stoneleigh
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. Mothering Sunday Service at Ashow 11.00 a.m. Mothering Sunday Service at Stoneleigh
Sunday	22 nd	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
Sunday	29 th	9.30 a.m. Holy Communion at Ashow 11.00 a.m. Holy Communion at Stoneleigh

From the registers:

Funerals

Tuesday 3rd February- William Henry Hall – Memorial Service

Contacts

Vicar: Revd Sharon Goble 01608 682282 or 07799220407

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

email: admin@stoneleighchurch.co.uk