

STONELEIGH & ASHOW NEWS



MARCH 2017



Stoneleigh Community Orchard Update

The start of February saw the orchard reach a small but significant milestone, this being the completion of the tree planting element of the project, with no further large scale plantings planned in the future on this piece of land.

A small window of unusually warm and sunny weather ensured that the event was well attended and helped to enthuse spirits on the day. As a result of this work the complement of trees now stands at ninety-one with the additional trees completing three existing lines adjacent to the river and including some varieties with unusual West Country names such as “Slack-ma-Girdle”, a name that most likely derived from the digestive properties of the apple ! Also planted was a tree funded from the Queen’s Birthday monies organized by Nora Blagburn which is a variety called “Sunset”.

This has already assumed the title of “The Queen’s Tree”. Thank you to all those who helped to prepare for the event such as Rory O’Connor who once again made the journey to and from Somerset to collect the additional trees and Amanda Smith who provided the post-dig bacon batches.

Finally, thank you to all those who attended and helped to make the event such a success!

For those readers who observed our last article in the December 2016 edition of the *Stoneleigh & Ashow News* there may be a recollection that the Orchard Group are exploring the possibility of becoming a Community Interest Company. A steering group is in the process of investigating this and we hope to provide further details in later editions following some legal guidance and referral.

With regards to the harvest of 2016. We have approaching some 400 Litres of cider currently undergoing fermentation which we hope to decant off towards the end of March and make available for late Spring as well as for the Orchard Quiz occurring on Saturday April 22nd in Stoneleigh Village Club at 19:30.

The Orchard Friends subscriptions have now come up for renewal since the start of the year and renewals of £10 can be made to Pete Freeman as Chairman or to Richard Hancox as Treasurer. Cheques should be made payable to Stoneleigh Village Community Orchard, however why not become a long term friend and set up a direct debit?

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

Pete.Freeman@swift.nhs.uk

Richard Hancox (Treasurer) Richard.Hancox@kier.co.uk

Pete Freeman



STONELEIGH VILLAGE CLUB

EVENTS FOR MARCH

BINGO WEDNESDAY 1st 15th and 29th

KNIT & NATTER WEDNESDAY 8th and 22nd

COFFEE MORNING 21st

It's that time of year to renew club membership

FRIDAY 24th MARCH Patrick will be in the club from 6 - 8 o'clock
to renew memberships

SATURDAY 25th MARCH Ann will be in the club from 7- 9 o'clock
also to renew memberships

The following week

FRIDAY and SATURDAY 31st MARCH and 1st APRIL
Chrissy and Lynda will be there to renew memberships

Cost have remained the same as last year

£12.00. Single

£20.00 Couple

£5.00. OAP

£10.00 OAP Couple

Save the date for April 22nd ORCHARD QUIZ 7.30

Also

April 23rd ST.GEORGE'S DAY GAMES 4.00 - 7.00

Film Night

Friday 7th April in 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.

This month we are showing '**Lion**' which is based on a true story from the memoir, 'A Long Way Home', by Saroo Brierley starring Dev Patel, Rooney Mara, Nicole Kidman, David Wenham, Priyanka Bose. A five-year-old Indian boy is separated from his family and adopted by an Australian couple. Twenty five years later he has memories of his family in India.....

Tickets: £3.00, to cover refreshments and room hire.
To reserve a place call Jane on 07710304651 or email jane0891@yahoo.com

Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir presents

A SPRING SHOW

9th - 12th March 2017

Stoneleigh Village Hall

Thursday 9th March 2017, 7.30pm (Preview Night)

Tickets: £5 / Stoneleigh senior citizens FREE

Friday 10th & Saturday 11th March 2017, 7.30pm

Sunday 12th March 2017, 5.00pm

Tickets: £20 (to include a two course meal)

Tickets available in January from Philip Jones (01926 853511)

Stoneleigh History Society

Our February meeting saw the return of local writer Peter Walters, who gave a fascinating talk on The Story of Coventry.

On Tuesday March 28th our speaker will be Professor Rebecca Probert , whose subject is “Illicit and Clandestine Marriages”. Professor Probert holds a chair in Law at Warwick University, where she specializes in the history of marriage in England and Wales. She has appeared frequently on TV and radio including as an adviser on *Who Do You Think You Are?*

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 7.30pm on Tuesday March 28th 2017 in Stoneleigh Village Hall.



Picture courtesy of Pete Freeman. “Stoneleigh’s hidden track”...feedback on its history or origins welcome!



“The Heart of Stoneleigh” Defibrillator
In the phone box on The Green.

Co-ordinator

David Ellwood 07785 284482
Text, if no reply.

Trained Volunteers

John Churchley	07885 496795
Becki Coombe	07841 378404
Laura Elliott	07738 222969
David Ellwood	07785 284482
Richard Hancox	07770 826310
Ian Huston	07974 237331
Sharron McEldowney	07760 101775
Claire Neale	07557 675842
Lisa Reay	07716 416320
Martin Smith	07958 955629
Mary Taylor	07890 535506

Remember: Always ring 999 first.

Cover photograph: Ashow Church by Derek Robinson

On 6th February we welcomed Fay Gibb from Earlsdon Flower Club on her second visit. The meeting was very well attended and members enjoyed watching Fay create four arrangements of daffodils, alstroemeria, yellow carnations and yellow roses. These were later raffled. During the demonstration she kept up an amusing commentary which included her views on men and the price of red roses around Valentine's Day.

On Wednesday 15th February the annual skittles evening took place at the Leek Wootton Sports Club. This was a most enjoyable evening of good natured rivalry. Supper was served half way through the evening, with a choice of steak pie or lasagne followed by lemon cheesecake.

A large group of members attended the funeral at Oakley Wood of Norma Thorpe-Smith on Thursday 16th February. Norma was a member of Stoneleigh WI for many years. She will be missed.

On Monday 6th March Mr A. Rogers will give a talk entitled "A Policeman's Lot".

The next Village Lunch will take place on Tuesday 7th March in the Village Hall. If you wish to book a place please contact Rachel Gill on 02476 41403. The next Coffee Morning will be on Tuesday 22nd March in the Village Club.

Rachel Gill



This month's edition of the Stoneleigh & Ashow News was compiled by Sheila Woolf, 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 April edition will be compiled by Pam Baker

2, Manor House Farm, Vicarage Road. pam@bakerplayroom.co.uk

Copy deadline 18th March 2017.

Please note that the editors' gmail account (editor.sandanews@gmail.com) is no longer in use. All copy should be sent to the relevant month's editor's personal email address.

We prefer digital A5 copy but paper copy may be submitted as an alternative.

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

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HS2 UPDATE

Despite widespread efforts to halt it, the final approval of the HS2 Phase 1 Hybrid Bill is expected on 20 February and building is expected to begin shortly afterwards. Numerous contracts have already been awarded.

Meanwhile, consultation on Phase 2 finishes on 9 March. As with the consultations during the planning of Phase 1, there has been a plethora of problems about geologically unstable areas (likely subsidence due to the Cheshire brine fields, for example), the route crossing numerous flood plains, and designers' use of outdated maps (e.g. failing to take note of a new housing estate in Sheffield).

Local Community Engagement Officers have been appointed by HS2 Ltd. These staff are expected to resolve issues that arise during construction. StAG and the Parish Council have agreed to monitor jointly and carefully any planning proposals from HS2 Ltd. via Warwick District Council where Debbie Prince and Gary Fisher are being very helpful.

To date, StAG has made many requests for details of the building and operation of the area construction compound (to be situated between the junction of the A46 and Stoneleigh Road with the B4115). Susan Bridges of the HS2 Ltd Area Engagement Team has agreed to attend the Parish Council meeting on 13 April at 7pm and it is hoped that further information will be forthcoming.

An HS2 Community Fund has been established to which local communities are invited to nominate projects which might reduce some of the adverse effects of construction. StAG and the Parish Council are currently considering suitable projects.

Margaret Wallis

on behalf of Stoneleigh Action Group (against HS2)



Thinking outside the box – pews!

Since August 2016 worship has been continuing in Stoneleigh parish despite not having our usual venue available during the building work. We have had a wonderful time and are very thankful to all who have hosted us. We have had the freedom to play in being in different spaces, to shape our seating, to share communion in different ways, to change the focus of worship and learning from upfront delivery to more exploring together. We have stayed inside – in the hall and the club; we have gone outside – in the meadows. We have had vast space... the carol service in the Kennel Club; we have had very little room... when we had to squeeze into the Leigh Chapel at the last minute. Not everything has been enjoyed by everyone all of the time, yet some of our new experience has resonated deeply and will have lasting impact on how we do things in the future. We have all had the opportunity to appreciate even more fully how faith and worship integrates with life, and is not something we visit occasionally in a building. We have had lots of fun trying things out and learning a lot. Some are more sure about what they have missed being of value to their spirituality; others have discovered new creativity, new freedom and a closer fellowship. It's not too late to come and join in to see what I am talking about!



Now the “holidays” are coming to an end and we are preparing for our homecoming. We anticipate returning to worship in the main church building on Easter Eve (15 April) with a service of Easter vigil at 8pm, beginning in the churchyard gathered round a small bonfire before taking a lighted candle into the dark church. The Easter vigil service is very atmospheric, moves from darkness to light quite literally, and from quietness to the organ and bells making a dramatic cacophony of sound. It feels most appropriate for a homecoming, though we will continue to celebrate all the work that has been achieved and the opportunities lying ahead of us, especially in a special day of service and celebration on Sunday 21 May.

In applying for a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, you will remember that we consulted everyone in the parish asking you to help us look at the building as a resource for the whole community. We had a lot of really helpful data through this exercise which has influenced the changes being made to the use of the Leigh Chapel and to the decluttering of the space at the back of the church. Some of you felt that we needed to consider removing the pews to enable us to make the church more flexible, user-friendly and for some, vitally, more comfortable.

It is not thought appropriate to consider removing the pews in the nave, however attention has turned to the south aisle and the front worship space in front of the chancel arch.

Hospitality is an essential part of the life of the church both for those who come to worship but also because we welcome and care for others. More flexible comfortable seating and easier access to the kitchen with a servery would enable us to bring people together more easily. Already we invite people to enjoy tea and cake on Summer Sundays, and seasonally we invite families for craft and activity... but we are always having to think outside the box to work out how to make this happen when we have so much fixed furniture. It would be great to build on these activities, to reach out still further and offer more opportunity for gathering and offering conversation, support and welcome to others. We've tossed around ideas, like Book Clubs, Darby and Joan, Youth café...

We recognise that some in our community are becoming more isolated; that there is loneliness, and not many activities in this community for young people and children. As a church family we would like to serve our community and all who choose to come to this beautiful space – there are many who pop in while dogwalking, and to appreciate the heritage and for some peace in a changing and often troubled world. The thing I have missed most while the building has been closed are exactly those conversations struck up with people who are passing through, or just “popping into church” for something – and yet they are quite prepared to stop and often appreciate a longer chat. It would be so much more welcoming to invite them to sit comfortably with the hot drink we make for them. I believe these are the things that help keep a village alive, as we adapt our public spaces appropriately to serve our changing communities. Once again we value what you all think and at this stage are inviting you to talk around it and let us know your opinion, with all its reservations and, I hope, hopes! We are keen to hear what you need, want and appreciate. Ashow church is also beginning to explore how their building might be adapted for use into the future. So there are many conversations to be had...

Let's not just think outside of the box... but think like there is no box!

God bless, **Reverend Sharon Goble**

Sharon.goble@btinternet.com 01608 682 282 07799220407

Stoneleigh Church Building News

All work on site is due to be completed by 10th March so this could well be my penultimate Report. Scaffolding at the top level on the South side has been removed since all work on and surrounding the nave roof has now finished. Re-pointing and replacing the stonework at a lower level on the South side and on the South West corner constitutes the last pieces of masonry work to be done. Tidying up of the site outside continues.

During these last few weeks work has been concentrated on the interior. Two coats of a special plaster have been placed on the new ceiling in the Nave and, after intervals being allowed for drying out, two coats of paint have been added. At the

same time repairs have been made to defective plaster in the walls and all walls have subsequently been repainted.

Scaffolding has been erected in the South Aisle to enable the ceiling and walls to be attended to. Unfortunately, as was the case with some of the masonry work at high levels, a close inspection has revealed some unexpected defects. The ceiling structure along its top edge against the nave is weak. A couple of sections have been repaired and the remainder, whilst detached, are regarded by our Architects as being stable for the time being. They say that the risk of doing even a partial repair could well reveal other areas needing attention and that, set against the non-availability of unlimited funds possibly needed, has meant that we have had to decide to leave well alone. Plaster repairs to the walls have been made and those walls and the ceiling are being repainted.

An electrical installation condition report we were obligated to undertake has revealed some unsatisfactory wiring. Over the past few weeks the main switch on the Distribution Board has failed on several occasions thereby cutting off the supply. Although we have managed to effect a temporary repair we are advised that a replacement 3 phase Distribution Board must be fitted and at the same time faults in the lighting circuit rectified before a satisfactory certificate can be given. Then, once the scaffolding in the Nave has been removed, the pendant light fittings will be reinstalled and all light fittings throughout the church will have LED lamps fitted.

An overview from the Contractor, Croft Building & Conservation Ltd., again states that works are progressing well and they are currently working to their revised programme.

Ian Smith

Parish Council Notes

Meetings

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday 9th March at Ashow Village Club. The meeting will begin at 7pm. Dave Barber from Warwick District Council will be attending the meeting to discuss the Local Plan. Members of the public are invited to attend.

The April Ordinary Council Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 13th April at Stoneleigh Village Hall. The meeting will begin at 7pm. Susan Bridges, the local Engagement Manager for HS2 will be attending the meeting to discuss the latest HS2 developments. Members of the public are invited to attend.

The Annual Village Meeting for Stoneleigh Village will be held at Stoneleigh Village Hall on Thursday 27th April at 7pm. 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.

Precept / Council Tax 2017/18

The precept for the next financial year April 2017 – March 2018 has been agreed at £16,361.

Website

The Parish Council now has its own website! Please visit

<http://stoneleighshowparishcouncil.btck.co.uk/>

Details of all upcoming meetings agendas, minutes, planning applications, financial information and any other news will be posted on the website. You can also contact the Council directly by using the ‘Contact Us’ form.

New Councillor

We welcome Mrs Diana Jack to serve as a Stoneleigh Councillor. She may be contacted at The Colonel’s Cottage, Stoneleigh Abbey CV8 2LF

Please note, the footpath running along the back of Hall Close is maintained by Warwick District Council, which is responsible for cleaning and maintaining the path. If repairs are required to the path, please inform the Parish Council and do not attempt to repair the path yourself. Thank you!

As you may be aware, the HS2 Bill is due to receive Royal Assent in the coming weeks.

A Community Benefit Fund has been set up and made available to Warwickshire Communities to invest in public projects, such as the refurbishment of local community centres, nature conservation, and measures to support local economies and employment. HS2 Ltd estimate that the bidding criteria will be published towards approximately the end of March. There is £15 million available for Warwickshire and the shire counties on the route. HS2 Ltd want to ensure that residents and groups are in a strong position to bid for some of this money, so this is a good time to suggest some ideas ready for the bidding process.

HS2 Ltd will be holding a seminar at some point to help develop any ideas and bids. Stoneleigh and Ashow Parish Council would like to ask the local community what is important to them, and what change they feel would make a difference. All ideas have potential!

Please send any suggestions to the Parish Council Clerk
Mrs Sarah Windridge, PO BOX 6451, Coventry, CV3 9NL
stoneleighshowparishcouncil@gmail.com

Stoneleigh Church Project Community Update

As the building work draws to a close, the ‘community’ aspect of the project begins in earnest. A lot of preparation work has been going on behind the scenes as we wait to regain full access to the building.



Internal scaffolding main aisle

Delays with large projects such as ours can be expected. Also successful fundraising has allowed us to decorate inside the church and this has put back the date on which we can gain access.



South Aisle Ceiling

As you can see from the pictures the internal scaffolding is still in place and the decorators are hard at work. Due to this extra work, we will be taking a little longer than originally planned to complete the community side of the project which includes getting the church ready for visitors.



Sharon has already referred to the plans for returning to worship and the date for the ‘homecoming’ event, which will celebrate the end of the project. The funding for this event will be met in full by Heritage Lottery and was included in the original bid we were granted last June.

Main ceiling above the organ

An event to recognise the contributions made by volunteers is encouraged by HLF. Many people have enabled this project to happen, from the church, the village community, and beyond, for which we are very grateful. Further details of this community celebration will be in next month’s magazine.

Sarah Ballinger, Churchwarden



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



SERVICES FOR MARCH 2017

Wednesday 1 st	10.00 a.m. United Ash Wednesday Communion at Ashow
Sunday 5 th	10.00 a.m. United Holy Communion Service at Ashow
Thursday 9 th	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion Service in the Leigh Chapel
Sunday 12 th	9.30 a.m. Holy Communion Service at Ashow 11.00 a.m. All Age Service at Stoneleigh Village Club
Sunday 19 th	9.30 a.m. Holy Communion Service at Ashow 11.00 a.m. Fellowship Holy Communion at Stoneleigh Club
Thursday 23 rd	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion Service in the Leigh Chapel
Sunday 26 th	9.30 a.m. Mothering Sunday Service at Ashow Church 11.00 a.m. Mothering Sunday Service at Stoneleigh Village Hall

Contacts

Vicar: Revd Sharon Goble 01608 682282 or 07799220407

Churchwardens at Ashow:

Stephen Harvey 01926 852543. Kate Jones 01926 853511

Deputy Church Wardens:

David Holt 01926 859537. Robert Burdett 01926 852545

Church Wardens at Stoneleigh:

Ian Smith 01926 853238. Sarah Ballinger 02476 715256

Deputy Church Wardens:

Stephen Palmer 02475 014457. Richard Ashley 01926 427729

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

Office Hours Wednesday 9.00 am to 12.00, Thursdays 9.00 am to 1.00 pm