

STONELEIGH & ASHOW *News*



SEPTEMBER 2020



“The Heart of Stoneleigh” Defibrillator

In the phone box on The Green

Coordinator

David Ellwood

07785 284482

Text if no reply

Trained Volunteers

John Churchley	07885 496795
Laura Elliot	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 Image: Sunset over a Stoneleigh field, by Bernice Evans.

A dilemma for the future of a printed version of the News.

Margaret Wallis, Coordinator, Stoneleigh and Ashow News

Help! We face a dilemma regarding the production of Stoneleigh and Ashow News.

Just before lockdown, Jean and David Vaughan reluctantly decided to step down from their invaluable role as co-ordinators of the distribution of the News. Huge thanks are due to them for their work over many years.

Several aspects of COVID-19 restrictions, and the fact that many of our distributors are over 70, meant that in recent months it has only been possible to produce an online version of the News. Regrettably this has meant that those residents who do not yet have internet access have missed out, as have those who do not check the village website and/or who prefer to have a hard copy for general reference.

Looking to the future, if we are to be able to offer a printed version, within current virus constraints and bearing in mind the financial implications, the main challenge facing us is making new arrangements for distribution. We need someone who is willing and able to take on the co-ordination role, ensuring that the bundles of copies are delivered to the team of around 17 distributors, each covering a different section of the Stoneleigh and Ashow and the surrounding areas.

We also need some replacement distributors. The deadline for submissions remains the 18th of the month and distribution takes place by the end of the month (except August and December).

If any reader feels able to help, please let me know by the 10th September by emailing me on mwallis1@gmail.com

Meanwhile we shall continue producing the online version.:
www.stoneleighvillage.org.uk

HS2 UPDATE

This report has been prepared by Martin Smith, Chairman of the Stoneleigh Action Group against HS2, and Anthony Bianco, Parish Councillor, coordinated by Margaret Wallis

The HS2 project is progressing relentlessly, causing environmental destruction, disruption of communities and traffic chaos in its wake, with far worse to come.

The associated work on the Birmingham Road during July did not cause as many problems as originally anticipated, as a daytime one-way traffic light-controlled system was used, rather than a night full closure. This change was the result of the rapid, professional action taken by the Chair of the Parish Council with HS2 Ltd. Contractors Laing Murphy O'Rourke (LM) and Warwick County Council. However, a continuation of some aspects of this work might well affect our community for some time; residents may have noticed ongoing tree-felling, removal of 'chalets' on Stoneleigh Park as well as the ever-changing traffic control measures.

The Parish Council, District and County Councillors have chaired or taken part in a number of Zoom meetings in the last 4 weeks in an attempt to find a sensible and productive way forward.

The key issue in all the recent meetings is the project to enable the opening and operation of the main compound near the A46 /Stoneleigh junction with target opening date from October 2020. The preferred entrance to the compound is 50m south of the A46 junction, on the Stoneleigh Road. This scenario was only confirmed on July 20th, despite this being a regular agenda item for discussion with HS2 Ltd. for at least the last four years.

The problem is that HS2 Ltd. have failed to legally and financially negotiate the approximate 350 x 25 m 'ransom strip' involved. HS2 Ltd., landowners and covenantees are now requested by the communities affected to make the settlement of this issue a priority.

Meetings in recent months have been pursuing a pause and a reconsideration of the alternative proposal announced in June (without public consultation) to make the B4115 one way for 5 years from the Thickthorn/Chesford Grange (A452) junction to Stoneleigh crossroads and back to the A46 Junction, to meet the compound entrance/exit needs described above.

The proposal is expensive, needs careful safety planning, involves disruption and major traffic, social and business inconvenience to the Parish Council area, including the Abbey who have joined the concerned group plus our neighbours in Kenilworth, Leamington and South Coventry. In short: a complete nightmare!

The problem is the subject of ongoing discussions with Jeremy Wright MP who is taking this up with HS2 Ltd. following work by the Parish Council and County Councillor Wallace Redford.

Recently, there has been noticeable (and less than legal) heavy traffic in the village. Thanks to the ever-vigilant Sue Malone, Sheila Woolf and the coordinator, Martin Smith, it has been possible to pin down regular culprits. The result has been speedy action by contractors LM and improved operational activity by the now main contractor on site Balfour Beatty VINCI (BBV). New, very clear signage is promised for the crossroads at both ends of village.

The A46 Junction project is now on target to start work in October. The Warwick County Council Project team are working with HS2 and Highways England, and have been very helpful to the Parish Council, with the next update in mid-September.

The Gas Main diversion being undertaken by Cadent. This is now underway and Crewe Lane will be closed until the 30th August. The Cadent project communication team and management have been very helpful in providing full notification at all times. They hope to complete the works on Crewe Lane on or ahead of time. Thanks are due to Cadent who have been far more helpful and easier to deal with than HS2 Ltd.

Stoneleigh Community Orchard Update

Pete Freeman

At the start of summer and with the COVID-19 lockdown starting to ease, there arose the opportunity to develop our cider processing plant. In advance of a potentially large harvest, tilers were brought in to complete the processing facility. Quality racking was then introduced to create more space and to enable a safer working environment during pressing. The results of this piece of work were well worthwhile and preparation is currently ongoing in advance of the harvest to sterilise the processing area to minimise the possibility of the cider spoiling during fermentation.

It seems to be an increasingly common pattern that during August the summer heat is punctuated with occasions of high wind, which normally leads to a number of trees getting damaged. This year, one of our most productive "Morgan Sweet" cider apple trees, being heavy in fruit, became damaged in high winds. The current plan is for the damaged bough to remain in situ in the hope that the fruit will ripen, then following the harvest, work will be undertaken to address the damage to the tree.



In late July and in response to an explosion in Himalayan Balsam covering of the banks of the river Sowe, John Churchley and I endeavoured to reduce the area of this invasive plant. Unfortunately, our efforts proved unsuccessful given the magnitude and extent of the task and so we were forced to "beat a retreat" in the afternoon heat!

Himalayan Balsam is a native of Kashmir and Uttarakhand and was first introduced to the UK during the reign of Queen Victoria. Due to its aggressive seed dispersal, coupled with high nectar production which attracts pollinators such as bees, it out-competes native species. It is tall and possesses attractive pink coloured flowers that line the river bank. River bank erosion can occur following the dying back of this plant leaving river banks exposed to flooding. Any suggestions about how to control it would be welcome.



Finally, in late August and early September the harvest is likely to commence. If folk want to get fit following the inactivity of the COVID-19 lockdown there is in no healthier way of spending a day than in the field picking fruit. Volunteer pickers would be most welcome!

Orchard Friends' subscriptions and yearly renewals for 2020 cost £10 and 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@swft.nhs.uk,

Richard Hancox (Treasurer),
Richard.Hancox@highwaysengland.co.uk

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Hannah Watts, Clerk to Stoneleigh and Ashow Parish Council

Meetings

Because of the current social distancing requirements, Parish Council meetings are being held online, via Zoom. Residents are still welcome to join the meeting. You do not need to have a zoom account to attend, just email the Clerk at stoneleighashowparishcouncil@gmail.com to request a link. Please also note that all information relating to meetings will only be on the website for now, no information will be posted on the village noticeboards.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, September 10th at 7pm.

To view the full details of this and other meetings, including upcoming planning applications, please visit the Parish Council website:

<http://stoneleighashowparishcouncil.btck.co.uk/CouncilMeetings>

The July meeting covered subjects including parking on the B4115, HS2 and flooding in Ashow and Stoneleigh. Minutes of the meeting are available on the Parish Council website.

The consultation regarding the closure of the Birmingham Road has now closed and the votes are with Warwickshire Association of Local Councils who will analyse the results on behalf of the Parish Council. We received a significant number of replies and are hoping to have the results by the time the Parish Council meets in September.

There were some recent incidents of flooding in different areas of the parish. The Parish Council is working closely with County Councillor Wallace Redford and officers at Warwickshire County Council to investigate the causes of the flooding and see what action can be taken to alleviate it. Residents can help by keeping an eye on the drains and gullies near their homes and reporting any issues to the Parish Council, ideally with photographic evidence, so we can give a heads-up of any developing problems to Warwickshire County Council. If you think that the drains or gullies near you are becoming silted up, please email the Clerk so we can pass on that information.

One of the many worrying aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic is the rising number of scams that are linked to the virus, as criminals seek to take advantage of people's concerns and possible confusion. Criminals are using emails, text messages, social media posts, online advertisements and phone calls to defraud their unsuspecting victims in many different ways including fake home testing, fake contacts from NHS Test & Trace staff, false adverts for priority food delivery slots, fake cures for COVID-19 and so on.

Make sure that you get your up-to-date advice about coronavirus from a trusted website, such as www.warwickshire.gov.uk or www.gov.uk/guidance. There is a lot of information online about scams and what to look out for. Remember, if in doubt, check before you give out any personal information or pay money for goods or services.

Information about COVID-19 is changing quickly, and we are keeping our Facebook page up to date with the latest developments. Don't forget to check out the Parish Council website which is regularly updated with local information such as road and traffic issues, HS2 updates and local consultations. It's a great way to find out what's going on locally and get involved. You can find us at:

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

You can also keep up to date by joining the Parish Council [Facebook page](#).



Stoneleigh Ladies Choir

Pat Wightman

Stoneleigh Ladies Choir has continued to meet at their usual time on a Thursday afternoon via Zoom. It has been very successful in keeping us in touch with each other and in learning some new music with our leader, Karen Whyte. Although we have officially broken up for the summer break, it was decided to continue to meet for a social afternoon once a fortnight.

With the good news that the village hall is to re-open on 1st September and taking Government Guidelines into account, the choir had begun planning singing workshops for up to six people at a time. However, additional changes have now made that impossible, as there seems there is a ban on the coming together of all amateur singers whatever the number. Also, all those attending the hall must wear a face mask which would make singing virtually impossible.

With the new school term scheduled to start on 10th September, it looks like the Zoom meetings will continue until the Government gives us the go-ahead to meet up again in person.

History Society

Sheila Woolf

During lockdown the History Society has maintained interest in all things historical by means of email circulated research, and recommendations about online talks.

An experimental Zoom presentation was given in August for a few of our members, and the September meeting will take the same form. This year's speakers are on standby to give next year the talks we have missed in 2020.

Truly we live in historic times!

Stoneleigh Village Club
Est. 1856
www.facebook.com/stoneleighvillageclub



Email us at stoneleigh.villageclub@gmail.com
if you would like to receive our fortnightly email.

Stoneleigh Village Club

So here we are heading into September, and a new normal. We'd like to thank you all for your continued support. It's been great to see some new faces alongside our regulars. We are constantly reviewing our COVID guidelines, in line with government advice, thank you for all following and helping keep everyone safe and our club open.

- Please remember to track and trace and sanitize on your way in, slips should be popped in the box on the bar as you order.
- Smoking is only permitted in the smoking area, could you please refrain from smoking outside the front of the club and also by the back door.
- Children are very welcome, however they must be supervised by an adult at all times and seated at a table.
- Please do not sit or stand at the bar, tables, chairs and stools have been positioned for yours and everybody else's safety.

If we can all stick to the above it would be much appreciated, we are subject to on the spot inspections and if we breach the guidelines we have set up and registered with the local authorities we could be closed down.

Although we can't plan any events yet, we do hope to make up for it as soon as restrictions are lifted.

Stay safe all.

Stoneleigh Village Club - Temporary Opening Hours

Friday 5pm-11pm

Saturday 3pm-11pm

Sunday 12-6:30pm

Bank Holiday Monday (Aug 31st) 12-5pm

Don't forget we have Sky Sports showing all the latest sports fixtures!

www.facebook.com/stoneleighvillageclub

Stoneleigh.villageclub@gmail.com



Please remember T4U are still requiring items for shoeboxes this Christmas.

"People say 'it's just a shoe box' but it isn't. It tells that child that someone, somewhere, has done this for them; someone cares about them."

Dave Cooke Founder of Teams4U

The shoeboxes go to deprived children/vulnerable adults/families in Romania, Belarus, Bosnia, and the Ukraine.

Items you could donate include:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| · Toothbrush and toothpaste | · A soft toy |
| · Hairbrush/comb | · Ball |
| · Facecloth and soap | · Game |
| · Stationery/pens/pencils/paper | · Puzzle |
| · Gloves/hats/scarves | · Bubbles |
| · Stationery pack | · Musical instrument |
| · Craft Pack | e.g. harmonica/recorder |

If you have any items to donate, or would like to cover and fill your own shoebox, contact Jane (01926 858315) and I will be happy to receive them.

Monetary donations are also most welcome to help cover expenses.

Donations can be made online at teams4U.com **Thank you.**



Let us buzz on in! HoneyBee HomeCare

Care Comes Naturally

HoneyBee HomeCare, founded by a resident of Stoneleigh; is a care company that puts emphasis on the word "care".

From our clients, to their family, to our staff: we aim to look after everyone involved with our company at any opportunity we can get.

To ensure that our clients get the best care possible, we start by making sure we are the best care company to work for by treating our staff like family and paying them well!

We give our staff thorough training so they are confident in every aspect of their role in our clients' lives.

Our carers also take pride in getting to know our clients' families and friends as their social life plays a big part in maintaining their care & well-being.

If you're interested or have any further questions, don't hesitate to get in touch!

tel: 01926 428509

E-mail:
Jess@honeybeehc.co.uk

web:
www.honeybeehc.co.uk



Stoneleigh Village Hall

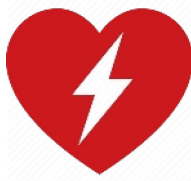
Liz Sykes



After a great deal of planning and preparation work by the trustees we are now delighted to welcome back regular hirers in September.

Regular users will have had a letter asking if they wish to continue using the facility and have hopefully responded to Joe, our booking clerk.

If you do wish to use the hall please get in touch with Joe to see if it's available. Joe can be contacted on 024 7641 1315 or 07878 288947. However please note the current restrictions will apply at the hall - i.e. numbers allowed for events, social distancing and use of the facilities.



GOOD NEWS!

We now have a defibrillator in the hall, placed on the wall near the main entrance. Thanks very much to Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir, the Parish Council and Stoneleigh United Charities for their generous contributions.

J.L. Huthwaite



Property Maintenance Ltd

jayhuthwaite1@sky.com

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Celia King

Richard Ashley Deputy Church Warden at Stoneleigh Church.

Everybody within the two villages, and far beyond, has been deeply saddened by the sudden and untimely death of Celia, who passed away on the 12th August 2020 in her 71st year.

A Stoneleigh girl through and through, she moved into a newly-built house in Hall Close with her parents and her sister Jean at a very early age, and had a wonderful village childhood. She attended Stoneleigh School before moving on at the age of 11 to Kenilworth School with her close friend Jackie (Sibley) before starting her working life, which was spent in the Civil Service, firstly in Leamington before they moved their offices to Coventry.

A lovely lady with a gloriously cheerful smile, she had a great sense of humour which made for very good company. Her selflessness manifested itself in her concern for others, and whenever you enquired after her health and well-being it was only a matter of seconds before she had managed to turn the conversation into a genuine enquiry about you and your family.

Celia was a very Christian lady in her concern for others and in her own religious beliefs. She worked tirelessly for Stoneleigh Church, which was a place that she loved. She has served as a sacristan and vergers and was always on hand to do anything that was needed, helping in so many ways. If you ever tried to thank her though, you couldn't – her typical answer was always that other people did far more than she did.

In recent years she underwent very invasive treatment for myeloma which she bore with great strength and dignity. Although so often in great discomfort, you couldn't keep her down and as soon as she was able she was back doing whatever she could to help, and always with that lovely smile.

To have known her and to have counted her as a friend has been a huge privilege, and I know I speak on behalf of so many.

Funeral of Celia King

Stoneleigh Church has confirmed that Celia King's funeral will take place at 11am on Tuesday September 8th, followed by interment in the graveyard at noon.

Only 30 people are allowed **inside** the church and the family are arranging this because of the current need to track and trace. There will be outside loudspeakers relaying the service to those who wish to attend in the churchyard.

Village Organisations - Correction - Dame Alice Leigh's Almshouses

Please note the contact change in the list which was included in the June edition of the News:

Bev Davies 07790064329 bevd20@hotmail.com

This month's edition of ***Stoneleigh and Ashow News*** was compiled by Mike and Bernice Evans, who would like to thank all contributors. All details correct at time of printing, but please check locally as COVID-19 continues to disrupt many events.

This issue can be viewed online at www.stoneleighvillage.org.uk

The September 2020 edition will be compiled by

Sheila Woolf

9 The Bank, Stoneleigh, CV8 3DA

All copy should be sent to the editor's email address:

shewoolf@hotmail.co.uk

Copy deadline: 18th September 2020



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



SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER 2020

Sunday 6 th	11.00 am United Holy Communion at Stoneleigh
Sunday 13 th	10.30 am United Holy Communion at Ashow
Sunday 20 th	11.00 am All Age Worship at Stoneleigh
Sunday 27 th	10.30 am United Holy Communion at Ashow

Please note: it is hoped that these services will be as planned, but all are subject to possible changes in these difficult times.

From the Registers

Funerals

Monday 27th July 2020 – Ian Newell Smith – Interment at Stoneleigh

Contacts:

Churchwardens:

Ashow: Kate Jones 01926 853511

Deputy Wardens: Anne Gregory 01926 717084,
Peter Shrimpton 01926 859404

Stoneleigh: June Burr 02476 227726 Gordon Gatward 01926 512528
Deputy Warden: Richard Ashley 01926 427729

Or please contact the Parish Administrator,
Jackie Cubitt, 02476 692720 email: admin@stoneleighchurch.co.uk
Office Hours Wednesday 9.00 am to 12.00, Thursdays 9.00 am to 1.00 pm

Website: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12954/benefice/