

# Stoneleigh & Ashow News



October 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	07596 276829
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 picture: “Stoneleigh Abbey from the gazebo” by Sheila Woolf

## PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

### Meetings

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

The next meeting will be on **Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.**

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

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

The September meeting was joined by the Chair of Warwick District Council, Cllr Martyn Ashford who gave a brief introduction and explained that, as he has previously been a Parish Councillor, he understands the issues that parishes face and will try to assist parishes and residents if he can.

At the meeting the results of the consultation on Birmingham Road were announced. Of a total of 680 consultation papers sent out, 421 were returned. The votes were 275 in favour of closing the road and 146 in favour of keeping the road open. The consultation has shown that there is a substantial proportion of residents in favour of closing the road. The next step will be for the Parish

Council to formally write to Warwickshire County Council to request that their engineering staff look at the best option for how to close the road.

The outcome of the consultation will be communicated to all residents through the post, with further updates then available via the Parish Council website.

Minutes of the meeting are available on the Parish Council website.

Information about COVID19 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.

*Hannah Watts, Parish Clerk*



### **Stoneleigh Village Hall**

It's open – subject to the current restrictions. Please contact Joe Ball for information. His number is 076 411305.

### **Stoneleigh WI**

We are planning to resume our meetings – plus the craft group – in February – fingers crossed( and everything else !!). Will keep you informed,

*Liz Sykes*

---

## **J.L.Huthwaite**



### **Property Maintenance Ltd**

jayhuthwaite1@sky.com  
07921 842217 02475 011 320

---

Roofing-Guttering-Lead-Chimney Repairs  
Painting-Decorating-Wallpapering-Coving  
Skirting Boards-Architraves-Doors  
Laminate Flooring-Floor- Wall Tiling  
Garden Maintenance-Patios-Landscaping  
Wall Repairs & Pointing..... And More  
--FOR A FREE NO OBLIGATIONS QUOTE--  
---CALL TODAY---  
---NO JOB TOO SMALL---

---

## **S.M.V.C**

Although the S.M.V.C is unable to meet in the Village Hall, we are still holding rehearsals using Zoom. We are also keeping in touch using e-mails, telephone calls and some of us meeting at the Stoneleigh and Ashow Church Services.

The zoom practices are led by our musical director Alan Biddle. They are good (although during the singing, no-one can hear anyone else) but the harmony is wonderful.

In September, I attended the moving funeral of Celia King. Celia had been a wonderful supporter of the choir for many years. She was a lovely person and will be sadly missed by her family and many friends.

Hopefully in the not too distant future, we'll once again be able to rehearse in the Village Hall.

Keep well and stay safe

***Philip Jones  
Chairman.***

## **Stoneleigh History Society**

The society meeting on September 29 follows the Zoom format; we shall not be meeting in the Village Hall until further notice. Nevertheless we are looking forward to some interesting online presentations, and are keeping in touch with one another. If non-members would be interested in joining any Zoom meeting please get in touch with me.

**Sheila Woolf, [chair@stoneleighhistorysociety.org.uk](mailto:chair@stoneleighhistorysociety.org.uk)**



## **Poppy Appeal 2020**

This year is the 99<sup>th</sup> year of the Poppy Appeal. It will be a difficult year, but the Legion will soldier on. For the past 11 years, Sheila Woolf has co-ordinated the Appeal in Stoneleigh and Ashow. She has performed this task wonderfully and she will be a hard act to follow. Following Sheila's appeal for a new co-ordinator, my wife Kate and I have volunteered to take on the role (It takes 2 people to replace Sheila!)

This year's appeal will be different in that there will no house-to-house collections. There will however still be poppies for sale in the supermarkets, banks and other stores across the UK. Poppies will be available in the village clubs, shops and offices on the Showground, schools and other retail outlets in the local area. We hope that as many as possible will be able to support the British Legion and raise a substantial sum for the Armed Forces Community. The Poppy Appeal will be launched to the public on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October. Thank you in advance for your generosity and support.

***Kate and Philip Jones 01926 853511  
Poppy Appeal Co-Ordinators.***

### **A message from the Church( see back page for dates and times of October Services)**

I am sure that you will all understand that in these difficult times Services may be subject to last minute change due to circumstances beyond our control! We will do our best to avoid cancellation, but a Communion Service may possibly be changed to Morning Praise. We are dependent upon help from clergy outside of our parishes, and are very lucky to have such wonderful help! We are very, very, grateful to them.

Keep well, and keep smiling!

***June Burr, Church Warden***

## **Stoneleigh Village Club**

Dear Members

On behalf of the committee we would like to say a big thank you to you all for supporting the club during these difficult times. After all the hard work getting the club ready for the post lockdown opening, it has been wonderful to see the members returning and enjoying the facilities once again and following the necessary guidelines.

Following on from the government's latest instructions in respect to Coronavirus and the hospitality sector. We have reviewed the current Stoneleigh Village Club operating guidelines and want to inform you of necessary changes to ensure primarily your safety and also to comply with the new legislation. Please read the points below.

The club opening hours are changing to the following times which now includes weekday opening.

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday	6.30pm – 9.30pm
Friday	4.00pm – 9.30pm
Saturday	2.00pm – 9.30pm
Sunday	12.00pm – 6.30pm

1. All members and guests must ensure they are wearing a face covering when entering the club premises. Note children under the age of 7 are exempt from wearing face coverings.
2. All members and guests must complete the mandatory track and trace documentation and use the hand sanitiser station on entering the club premises.
3. After completing the track and trace and hand sanitisation members and guests must proceed to an empty table of suitable size for their group, remembering no group shall be greater than six persons. Face coverings can be removed when sat down.



4. Drinks are required to be ordered via table service. Please exercise patience and wait for the club steward to come to your table and take your order.
5. Card payment is preferred and will require a single member of your party wearing a face covering going to the bar where the card machine is located. Cash can also be used.
6. Members and guests must wear a face covering when using the toilet facilities.

In a nutshell the simple rule with face coverings is if you're not sat at a table and are moving around the club premises you must wear a face covering.

We trust you understand the importance of complying with the above guidelines remembering we are open to scrutiny from the licensing authorities and the police who now have considerable powers to enforce the new legislation. Fines for non-compliance are considerable!

*Your Committee*

## **HS2 UPDATE**

Residents cannot fail to have noticed HS2 Ltd activity in the village during the latter part of September. Having failed to appear at times and locations as notified during July, works took place from Stoneleigh Road to Birmingham Road at various points during September, with no notice to individual households (as had been promised) and in some cases at variance with the AA notices posted at either side of the village. This caused considerable confusion, inconvenience and annoyance. All the evidence is that these problems are likely to continue as the full programme of work gets underway now that the Government has given the full go-ahead. Meanwhile, increasing inconvenience is being caused to local traffic by works associated with the new A46 roundabout. Unfortunately, a long period of frustration faces us all and the desecration of local countryside continues unabated.

***Margaret Wallis on behalf of the Stoneleigh Action Group (against HS2)***

## **STONELEIGH LADIES CHOIR**

Despite the vain hope that the choir might be able to recommence as normal in the village hall, the new term started in September with meetings via Zoom. By linking with our leader, Karen Whyte, the choir have started to learn some new music hopefully for a Spring concert. The committee has been working towards arranging workshops for up to six people at a time. The idea was to have a full day where groups of five plus our leader could come together in the hall whilst observing all the legal requirements and in line with the performing arts guidelines. A risk assessment has been carried out and things were looking quite hopeful for this to go ahead. However, as we go to print, it looks likely that further restrictions are about to be introduced which may well impact on the plans for the workshops. In the meantime, the choir will continue their virtual meetings on Thursday afternoon.

*Pat Wightman*

## **Stoneleigh Orchard Harvest 2020 commences!**



This issue was compiled by

Sheila Woolf

who would like to thank all contributors.

It can also be viewed on the Stoneleigh Village Facebook page

The next issue will be compiled by

Sarah Ballinger

[sarahjballinger@gmail.com](mailto:sarahjballinger@gmail.com)

**Copy deadline:**

**October 18<sup>th</sup> 2020**

We prefer digital A5 electronic copy, but paper copy can be submitted as an alternative.

Advertisements accepted at the editor's discretion, subject to magazine policy and available space

Do you have a family member or neighbour who cannot see this magazine because they are without a computer? If so, why not print a copy for them so that they don't miss out on village news? We know that many people have been missing the News since the pandemic began and we are sorry that the current situation makes it impossible to provide a print version. We hope to resume doing so as soon as we can!



## 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



**With so few village organisations being “open for business” and whilst we are still publishing solely online, we have space in our “Halloween” publication for a spooky story from Pete Freeman**

### **A York Ghost Story**

Early January of this year marked the occasion of my sixtieth birthday. As a part of those celebrations, my fiancée Mandy had arranged a weekend stay in York, a city full of historic interest and curiosity. We were staying centrally and virtually adjacent to York Minster at the “Guy Fawkes Inn hotel” formerly “The York Inn”. We had deliberately chosen this hotel following an internet search that displayed some very characterful and ambient rooms that seemed to invoke the character and history of the old city.

On arrival it was clear that the hotel possessed more than the historic character with which we are both so familiar within our own respective, warm Stoneleigh cottages. The frontage of the hotel looked Georgian in age, but this was perhaps a facade built upon a far older structure. Perhaps the owners of the hotel had geared themselves to appeal to a specific, quirky and spooky market which supplemented crooked beams, angled floors and a sloping staircase with dimmed lighting, blackened furniture and unusual artefacts. It was hard to dispute the adage that first impressions often last, and even more so when we were introduced to our room “*The Belfry Suite*”. This room was located at the top of the hotel in what I assume to have once been an attic area. It was accessed via a tight, steep, spiral staircase behind a narrow door on the third floor landing. The suite had a quirky layout in which a narrow corridor and broad landing linked an expansive bedroom and bathroom to a lounge overlooking a courtyard in which once stood the house in which Guy Fawkes the infamous gunpowder plotter is understood to have grown up. The room though well kept and clean could best be described as unsettling which wasn’t helped by the fact that one had to stoop to avoid colliding with the overhead beams and ceiling. In the corner of the bedroom a teddy bear was seated on a small rocking chair at the end of the metal framed bedstead in which we would sleep that evening.

We had booked the suite for a couple of nights and though initially unsettled by the layout we both gradually started to become accustomed to it and any feelings of unease began to fade. On peering out of the top window I was afforded spectacular views of the Minster though I couldn't help but notice a lone Scottish street singer staring fixed eyed up at my window as he chanted an eerie Jacobite lament. I consider both Mandy and I to be pretty strong personalities unlikely to be fazed by anything remotely considered to be supernatural! Mandy stressed from the start that she did not believe in such things and would be more afraid of rats that had afflicted properties in Church Lane, Stoneleigh, a year or so back during a particularly cold winter. We both resolved to challenge such fears by booking onto a couple of ghost tours which are a speciality of York. The first involved a comedic shaking bus which was more of a fun event than scary and visited amongst other places the grave of "John Palmer otherwise Dick Turpin", the well known 18<sup>th</sup> century highwayman and the second the "original" ghost tour which involved a narrator who vaguely resembled the actor Derek Jacobi in appearance, complete with fedora hat and long trailing overcoat. He recounted stories based on true accounts that varied from an Earl of Northumberland who is said to wander up the well known city street known as the "Shambles" in search of his head, to a column of Roman Legionaries observed trooping through the cellar of the "Treasurer's House" adjacent to the Minster and observed by a visiting plumber back in 1953 . Both tours were entertaining and can be recommended.

The night, however, was cold and damp and both of us were pleased to return to the hotel for a small night cap in the bar prior to returning to our room. It had after all been a long day of travel and walking and we were both, naturally, very tired.

It was shortly before midnight by the time we had got our heads down. I recall listening to a breeze that had got up during the night and that played with cables that connected to aerials and a satellite dish on the roof. As all internal doors were shut and there was no detectable draft, I felt secure and settled before drifting into sleep. Some ten or fifteen minutes later, I was awoken sharply by the sound of two or three small bumps followed by a loud crash. I was comfortable and didn't feel any compulsion to undertake an investigation. A little later Mandy who was

unable to sleep got out of bed and entered the bathroom. To her astonishment her large and colourful Italian toiletry bag appeared to have been thrown across the room, emptying and strewing its entire contents across the bathroom floor at some distance from the window sill on which it had previously stood. Our feelings were ones of puzzlement as the window was perfectly sealed and my own toiletry bag was unmoved. I was too tired to reason so once again started to drift back into a light slumber. Mandy on the other hand slept badly that evening and at one point awoke from a nightmare then howled as she shot across the bed towards me. She insisted that she had been touched on the face. I dismissed this as part of the dream and once again drifted back to sleep; thankfully the rest of the evening was uneventful.

The following day we had a full itinerary of events planned so we were up early, with memories of the previous evening's disturbance easily subdued if not forgotten. On completing breakfast Mandy returned to the suite whilst I chose to read some of the historic literature about the gunpowder plot and it was whilst reading this that I couldn't help but overhear a young couple who were checking out in conversation with a couple of room staff. They were discussing the possibility of the hotel being haunted. I can only assume that they had noticed me listening in as from that point the conversation gravitated towards me and I recounted the previous evening's events. One of the staff inquired as to which room I was staying in? "The Belfry Suite" I replied. As if panned in from some 1960's Hammer movie the hotel staff fell silent. It was as if someone had switched on a light to reveal a hidden narrative. I was told that the room had an unpleasant history involving a young boy who had hung himself from the banisters of the staircase within the suite and that paranormal investigators had undertaken an extensive investigation only a few months previously. I was at this stage a little concerned and regretted not having chosen a Holiday Inn for our stay. Another side of my personality reasoned that there are no such things as ghosts after all. I was also aware that we had another evening to complete in the "Belfry Suite". I definitely wasn't going to quit the hotel like a coward so rightly or wrongly chose to keep the story from Mandy. There was a nagging sense of fear and anticipation about what the coming evening

would bring, however, and I also felt a little guilty about keeping of the story of the room a secret from my fiancée.

We dined out with some of Mandy's friends from Harrogate that evening a short distance from the hotel and then returned early, both opting not to drink in order to get an early night.

Mandy was tired having had poor sleep the previous evening and so she slept virtually in a coma, whilst I found sleep at a premium and difficult to come by, with the events of the previous evening starting to come back sharply into focus. In truth I had pulled the bed covers over my head and it took a while for me to drift off. It must have been around three or half past three in the morning when my sleep was disturbed by the sense that the iron framed bed was periodically being shaken. The bed continued to shake on and off for nearly half an hour as I continued to pretend to be asleep. Though not blessed with children myself I guess the sensation could be compared to the antics of a small child trying to attract the attention of a parent. At one point, feelings of unease were replaced by ones of annoyance. I was tired and whatever it was, endeavoured to keep me awake. Needless to say, Mandy slept still and sound throughout. Eventually my tactic of ignoring the disturbance paid off and I thankfully fell asleep.

On checking out the following day we took the opportunity to discuss our encounters in the Belfry Suite with hotel staff. We were told that it is not unusual for folks to check out or flee the room in the early hours of the morning. Indeed, there was an occasion when one customer fled the room with a face wound, having had his coat hurled at him! The stories of the Belfry Suite broadened to include an old lady situated in the rocking chair as well as an amusing discussion on whether the teddy bear's head changed position by itself. An entire folk law seemed to spring from the room, some of which seemed to stretch credibility. I could only base my theories on what I had encountered and witnessed. I guess that there may have been the opportunity to challenge the hotel for a refund, as we had only wished to tour historic York, not meet the locals. Later research uncovered that the Belfry Suite may be haunted by the spirits of two small children who died of cholera. It was by coincidence that the nation would shortly succumb once again to a pandemic with some of the early Covid 19 hotspots being centred in York.



Some theories to date include an elaborate wireless hoax to account for the shaking bed, but I found no evidence in support of this. Despite showing some courage in refusing to flee and instead choosing to ignore any potential spirits, I was so unsettled that I chose to sleep under the sheets for some weeks afterwards. Finally, and regardless of what's haunting people, there does seem to be a consensus that this characterful little inn is undeniably creepy.





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



**2020**

- Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> 11.00 am United Communion Service at Stoneleigh
- Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> 11.00 am Holy Communion at Stoneleigh  
10.30 am Holy Communion at Ashow
- Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> 11.00 am Holy Communion at Stoneleigh  
10.30 am Holy Communion at Ashow
- Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> 11.00 am Holy Communion at Stoneleigh  
10.30 am Village Service 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***

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020 – Celia King – Funeral Service followed by burial at Stoneleigh Church

**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](mailto: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/12964](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12964) for Stoneleigh  
[www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12954](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12954) for Ashow**