

Stoneleigh & Ashow News



February 2021



“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!

HS2 UPDATE

COVID-19 notwithstanding, the HS2 Show rumbles on relentlessly, causing havoc in its wake! No amount of adverse publicity or petitions (the latest one, initiated by Chris Packham, doing particularly well) seems to make the slightest bit of difference. This seems to be one U-turn too far for the Government!

There has been much publicity this month about the 'Community Engagement Programme' which is part of the HS2 Ltd Green Corridor Programme which Laing Murphy is undertaking. Given the amount of destruction of ancient trees, woodlands and natural habitats happening before our eyes, it is ironical that a programme is being promoted whereby millions of trees are being planted and swathes of wild spaces are being created. Despite assurances to the contrary, no one can be sure that, for example, saplings won't be planted in flood plains and /or will be ignored in times of drought.

For those of you hoping to use Dalehouse Lane for the rest of January - Forget it. Major works associated with HS2 are planned and the road will be closed.

As has been highlighted in this column many times before, several local road programmes impinge on HS2 works already in progress. Those of you who have ventured out during the latest lockdown will have noticed ongoing works associated with the A46 roundabout. The 'WCC/A46/Strategic Link Road Consultation' is currently in progress, deadline 14th February. An extensive online questionnaire is available:

a46linkroad@warwickshshire.gov.uk or 01926 418029 for a paper copy, where residents' views are sought on the 'New transport corridor between the A46 Stoneleigh junction, the University of Warwick and Westwood Heath, Coventry'. If anyone wants to give themselves nightmares of what things might be like around here in the future, have a look! However, this presents a chance to influence things.....Well, mabe.....

For those of you who can bear to contemplate what lies ahead, the following are some of the local issues associated with HS2 which our Parish Council and Stop HS2 are attempting to clarify:

1. The proposal to make the B4115 one way from March 2021 for at least three years to allow HGV access to the A45 compound. This includes proposals for the Chesford corner, B4115 widening plans and Crew Lane to Stoneleigh crossroad plans/road realignment (including points raised by Stoneleigh Park and Warwick District Council).
2. A46 compound at Stoneleigh Road and Farmers' Market entrance – urgent resolution of land/covenant issues over land affecting the Stoneleigh Road compound entrance and preferred entrance plan application.
3. B4113: Site plan revision for Stoneleigh Park Gate 1, bridge and crossing.
4. Clarification needed from HS2 Ltd., contractors (BBV/ LM) and Warwick County Council about traffic plans for our area for the next two years.
5. Continuation of Stoneleigh By-pass plans to be included in site plans for 2021 (to ensure this remains on the agenda).

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





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.

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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



Important – regarding donations to S&A News!

We recently posted a notice to ask all individuals and organisations not to make any more voluntary subscriptions or donations to S&A News until further notice.

See:

<http://www.stoneleighvillage.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/SA-News-Dec-20-Jan-21-website-updated-version.pdf>

Although we really appreciate those that have made financial donations in the past, due to Covid restrictions, we are currently providing online editions only. Hence we have no printing costs and we are able to manage with the resources we have and do not want you to make donations unnecessarily.

However, I am still receiving a small number of donations via bank transfer. So if you have set up a standing order for this, please remember to cancel it and save yourself the unnecessary cost. It is very much appreciated, but we don't need it at the moment.

Thanks,

Bill Crofts (S&A News Treasurer)

'Future of Stoneleigh & Ashow News'

On 25 January, we shall be holding the 2020 Stoneleigh & Ashow News AGM. After such a difficult year - and no end in sight - the editorial team will be considering what is feasible in terms of continuing our service to the community and whether it is feasible to consider returning to a print version. So much has changed in terms of the people involved in the previous system; increased use of the internet during the pandemic, and what is reasonable/feasible/affordable in terms of the new world in which we find ourselves. A report will be given to the March edition of the News.

Margaret Wallis, Co-ordinator, 'Stoneleigh & Ashow News.'



Stoneleigh WI

Last time I wrote about the WI for S&A News, we'd hoped to re-start our meetings in February! Who would have thought that we'd still be in lockdown.

However, the WI has had some successful online meetings on Zoom. A Christmas one, led by our own entertainer – Kate McCutcheon- was very good. We've since had a social session and another talk/entertainment that was followed by another chat session. More are planned.

The art group have had a number Zoom meetings, led by Marie Nock, where they have looked at various painting techniques that they've then been trying out. Again, these have been very good and well attended.

Let's try to look forward to a better year when we can actually meet.

Liz Sykes

Would you like to help?

Stoneleigh church is looking to recruit several people who are interested in helping prepare for Holy Communion services. It takes just a short time before the service to prepare the "bread and wine" which the vicar then gives to worshippers during the Eucharist service and after the service just a few minutes to tidy things away.

Full training and assistance will be given until the recruited feel confident.

Without new volunteers the Eucharist services may be depleted. Please contact churchwarden, June on 02476 227726 .

Stoneleigh Village Club

Est. 1856

*www.facebook.com/stoneleighvillageclub
stoneleigh.villageclub@gmail.com*



Stoneleigh Village Club Update

The Club committee & staff would like to wish all of our members a Happy New Year.

As we enter the new year the Club remains closed until further notice. We have successfully applied for all of the applicable sources of support funding available to the hospitality sector. So financially the Club is in a secure position. We will be sending out, via email, the Club annual accounts for the year ending 31st March 2020 in the next few days. The publishing of the accounts has been delayed largely as a result of the pandemic.

Now onto something rather brighter. On the run up to Christmas the Club provided support for the visit to the village of Santa Claus. His sleigh looked truly magnificent and a big thanks go to the Club parents and residents. All of those who took part thoroughly enjoyed themselves and we might be able to persuade Santa to return next year?

Sadly, over the Christmas period we were informed of the passing away of Club member Rodney "Rodders" Davies. Our heartfelt condolences go out to Marjorie, his wife, and their family. When we finally get the Club open, we will raise a toast to Rodders who was immensely liked by all who knew him.

With the news of the roll out of the vaccine we hope we can start to see an end to this difficult and upsetting period we have all endured. We will of course keep you informed of any planned reopening of the Club when it is safe to do so. In the meanwhile, stay safe.

Your Committee



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Piano stool and music books included
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Contact 02476 415405

Stare Bridge, Stoneleigh



Photograph - Jane Taylor

Stare Bridge is a red sandstone, late 15th century bridge. It was possibly built by the monks of Stoneleigh Abbey for their use. The bridge is long and narrow with nine arches allowing the River Avon to flow through the three southern arches. The rest act as flood arches.

Stoneleigh History Society

Stoneleigh History Society

10th anniversary year!

Although the pandemic constrained our activities in 2020, we met via Zoom and continue to do so for the time being in 2021. Our first meeting will be at 7.30pm on Tuesday January 26th and will launch us into space! Dr Bill Crofts of Warwick University is talking to us about the university's 4th satellite mission, WUSAT-3. Its objective is to test a novel method of monitoring tagged wildlife from space. What does this have to do with history, you might ask...well, Bill is a Stoneleigh resident and thus our village is playing its part in the history of the future! Please contact me if you would like to join the Zoom and I will send a link.

Before the various lockdowns we had been planning for our 10th anniversary in 2021; we very much hope to be able to celebrate this milestone later in the year. Since 2011 an enormous amount of research has been conducted, including the forge and its blacksmiths, the almshouses and their occupants, the school, the club and of course the church. All the burials with headstones in the churchyard have been researched and an Ancestry website set up to record the lives of the thousands of Stoneleigh people who have lived here before us. We have also commemorated those who served in the Great War, and celebrated the bicentenary of our own "famous son" Sir Henry Parkes. At times it has seemed exhausting and all-consuming, but very satisfying to have contributed so much knowledge to the village. If you would like to see some of our researches why not visit our website, www.stoneleighbistorysociety.org.uk? You might be tempted to become a member, and would be made very welcome.

Sheila Woolf

STONELEIGH LADIES CHOIR



Reflecting on last year, it is clear that whatever 2021 has in store for us, the Stoneleigh Ladies choir will endure. The time spent on Zoom has cemented our friendship and determination to continue until we can meet up again in the village hall.

Our Christmas draw was a huge success, resulting in us being able to donate a wonderful £1,200 to our chosen charity, Safeline. This far exceeded our expectation so many thanks must go to everyone who took part and to the local businesses who donated over 30 prizes.

The year ended with an invitation from the Male Voice Choir to share their lovely evening of carols and readings. We were able to reciprocate when some of the men joined us for our afternoon of carols, songs and readings. It really was fun and put us all in the Christmas spirit. Perhaps this was the start of something new!

Our Zoom meetings will resume on Thursday 14th January when we will be learning some new music and looking optimistically forward to our next live concert – whenever that will be!

Pat Wightman

The Stoneleigh and Ashow News

The March edition will be compiled by

Sheila Woolf

shewoolf@hotmail.co.uk

Copy deadline: 18th February 2021

This month's edition was compiled by Jane Taylor

Placing an Ad in Stoneleigh and Ashow News!

Our page format size is A5, and our rates **per annum** are:

- Full Page (13 x 19cm) - £100 (10x copies)
- Half Page (13 x 9.5cm) - £50 (10x copies)
- Quarter Page – £25 (10x copies), either
 - portrait (6.5 x 9.5) or
 - landscape (13 x 5cm)

Rates for advertising in a **single issue** are,

£40 for a full page £20 for a half page, £10 for a quarter page.

How to create your Ad.

- Make a WORD file that fits one of the sizes above and conveys your message. Don't worry too much about exact dimensions, the editor can scale it. If you have a problem with this, let me know (w.e.crofts@warwick.ac.uk).
- Email the file to the Treasurer (w.e.crofts@warwick.ac.uk) and state
 - What size of advert you want (from above), and
 - Which issues you want it to appear in.
- Closing date for entries is the **18th day of the month prior to the monthly edition you want your advert to appear in.**
- I will invoice you according to the rates shown above, and I will place your advert with the appropriate editor(s) for your chosen issues.
- Editors' reserve the right to edit all contributions.

J.L.Huthwaite



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Don't forget:

Shrove Tuesday, or Pancake Day, is the last day before the period Christians call Lent.

This year it is on

February 16th.

Enjoy your pancakes!



Stoneleigh Community Orchard CIC

Update



In late November of last year the Orchard Group held its first directors' meeting, for some considerable time, via video conference. Ideas flowed and were certainly in abundance.

A large part of the meeting concentrated on the growth strategy for the orchard. As a group we are already approaching full capacity for what we can effectively process in terms of a harvest so several ideas were proposed as to how we can proceed going forward. These spanned from the sale of excess fruit to third party companies, liasing with similar local orchards and strategies to increase our processing capacity. This will certainly form a theme for Orchard accounts 2019/20. This is a large piece of work undertaken amidst the obstacle of a Covid lockdown and is deserving of recognition. It is a key task that every company has to wrestle with at this time of year.

In response to a number of observations made by visitors and walkers in the orchard throughout the winter an inspection was undertaken of the strapping that attached the trees to the stakes to ensure that they didn't cut into the bark. Where required the straps were loosened. This is quite an important piece of work as if left to cut into the trunks this can cause infection as well as ultimately kill the tree. The whole idea of using stakes and strapping is to provide support for the tree, but care has to be taken with this.

Many of the larger trees were purchased aged three years, grafted bare root stock and required the support of stakes and strapping at an early stage. This however is a double-edged sword as the intention is for the trees to develop a root system that can support the tree into maturity without the need of a stake.

The stakes do not encourage the trees to develop a root system and are in effect counterproductive to their long-term development. The Group's long term strategy is to gradually remove the stakes and let the trees stand alone and strengthen naturally.

Finally, with shared thoughts, let us hope we emerge from these dark times and look forward to the start of the new spring blossoms and warmer weather!

Orchard Friends' subscriptions and yearly renewals for 2021 will 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@swift.nhs.uk

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

Pete Freeman



Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir News.

The choir ended 2020 on a high by taking part in three Carol Services. The first was the choir's own service where we were joined by our wives, partners, friends and members of Ladies Choir. Great fun was had by all especially when we sang The Twelve Days of Christmas. Thank you to all the readers, soloists and Alan Biddle who arranged the concert. We were invited to participate in the Ladies Choir's Christmas Celebration which also proved to be a very enjoyable afternoon. Five of the choir members Bill McCutcheon, Rod Owen, Richard Wigley, Simon White and myself took part in the Kenilworth Lions Virtual Carol Service, which was broadcast on Saturday, December 19th on You Tube. It was again a wonderful evening, greatly appreciated by those who watched it.

We are again rehearsing using Zoom and have started planning our Summer Serenade and Christmas Carol Concerts for which we have provisional dates (watch this space).

Several of our members have had both their Covid vaccinations and others have been given dates for theirs. We are therefore hoping that sometime later this year we will be able to hold rehearsals face to face (socially distanced, of course).

In February, we will be holding our AGM by Zoom which will be a new experience.

The choir would like to wish everyone a belated happy and healthy New Year.

Keep safe and well.

17 Philip Jones

Ashow Church News.

Over the Christmas period Ashow Church held two special services which were greatly appreciated by all those who attended. On December 20th we held a Celebration of Christmas outside in the churchyard. In this short service we were given the opportunity to join in some of our much-loved carols and listen to some of the traditional Christmas readings. Special thanks to Rev. Robert Langton who took the service; Susan Spencer who organised it and Susan and Jinty Cotton who led the singing. It was very enjoyable although just before the service started there was a sharp downpour. Luckily it didn't last long or dampen our spirits. Our Christmas Day service was led by the Rev. Richard Moore and Susan and Jinty once again provided the singing.

Throughout 2020 we have welcomed many different vicars who led our services. We are so grateful to all of them for helping us at this time when we have no priest-in-charge.

Sadly, early in January the PCC took the decision to close Ashow Church for the foreseeable future. The PCC will be regularly reviewing the situation and hope that it won't be too long before we can open the church for services. You can however join services on line via Zoom. Jim Perryman, who is offering pastoral care to Ashow, leads a short daily service at 8.30a.m. (Monday to Friday) and a more traditional service on Sunday at 9.30.a.m. The link is www.tiny.cc/lwzoom.

Wishing you all peace and happiness for 2021.

Kate Jones

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Meetings

Due to 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), details will be posted on the website three days before 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 notice boards.

The next meeting will be on **Thursday, February 11th at 7pm.**

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

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

At the December meeting, we were joined by colleagues from Warwickshire County Council (WCC) to discuss the consultation about the A46 strategic link road. The proposed road will run between the A46 Stoneleigh Junction, University of Warwick and Westwood Heath in Coventry. The consultation puts forward a number of scenarios, from doing nothing, creating a partial link, extending the link and some sub-options. The consultation runs until 14th February 2021. The main issues raised by Councillors were around the impact on traffic in Stoneleigh and the need for the Stoneleigh bypass to be built before the development of the link road.

At the January meeting the main area of discussion was the closure of the footpath between Stare Bridge and Stoneleigh Park by HS2 Ltd.. This issue has also been raised at previous meetings and the Parish Council were disappointed that their efforts to stop or postpone the closure until a suitable alternative route could be found had failed. There was anger that HS2 have proceeded with the closure of the public right of way without addressing any of the complaints and that the closure is likely to last for a period of years. Discussions are continuing to take place with WCC, Warwick District Council and HS2, and this has been raised with Jeremy Wright MP to try and reach an appropriate resolution.

It was mentioned during the meeting that a technical report has been provided by the developers of the land at Thickthorn examining the flood risk at Ashow Village. This report will be circulated via the Ashow email distribution list, and or can be obtained by emailing the Clerk at stoneleighashowparishcouncil@gmail.com.

There was discussion about the upgrade of broadband for Ashow and Crewe Lane areas, which is now being taken forward by Openreach, although delays have occurred due to the uncertainty of eligibility for funding to offset the costs. This will be discussed further at the PC meeting in February.

We had been hoping to hear from WCC about the plans for the proposed closure of Birmingham Road. We have been informed by the county council that they have some outstanding issues to resolve before they are able to present their plans to us, so we hope to hear from them soon about when that will be. All information about the proposed closure will be put on the PC website.

There is currently a vacancy on the Parish Council for a Councillor to represent the Ashow ward. If you are interested, please see the website for more information and how to apply.

Minutes of all 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://stoneleighashowparishcouncil.btck.co.uk/>

You can also keep up to date by following the Parish Council Facebook page.

Hannah Watts, Parish Clerk

Teams4u Stretton Shoebox Appeal 2020

In a year when the odds were against the appeal in so many ways, the support received has been most welcome! Volunteers sorted, stored, and packed; crafted items, wrapped boxes, gifted pre-loved toys, bought essentials, and generously donated money.

This enabled Teams4u Stretton to achieve a total of:

2,815 shoeboxes



These boxes started their 1,400 mile journey from Stretton in mid-November, reaching the vulnerable children and families in Oradea, Western Romania, in December and it is hoped more boxes will have arrived in Moldova by early 2021.

Our thanks go to:

St Mary the Virgin Church, Stoneleigh;
Stoneleigh and Ashow Villages and Friends.

Photographs from Oradea,
Western Rumania



News from St Mary The Virgin

Congratulations!

We are pleased and proud to announce that Councillor David Skinner was awarded an MBE in the New Years Honours List, for Community Services in Coventry. Congratulations and well done David; you deserve it!

Gwendoline Howse, a much loved member of Stoneleigh Church, died in early December after a short illness. Her funeral was held in church on 4th January.

Gwendoline led a dedicated life as a teacher of blind and partially sighted people, and was loved and respected by so many. She lived in Stoneleigh for some years, but although she had moved away to Cawston, St. Mary the Virgin at Stoneleigh remained her spiritual home where her strong faith was an inspiration to us all. Her lovely smile and friendship will be missed so very much.

SACRISTAN

The job of the Sacristan may be “backstage” , but it is a vital and wonderful role. A sacristan is essential for our Sunday Holy Communion Services.

The sacristan prepares the altar for the service, bread, wine, water , altar cloths, candles, etc, and takes down and clears away after the service.

We have had a dedicated rota of people doing this job, but we are now thin on the ground and are seeking new volunteers. If it sounds daunting don't be put off! We have comprehensive, easy to understand notes, and full training will be given.

I used to be sacristan, and loved it. A former priest here said “the service cannot start until the sacristan says that all is ready”

If you can help or if you would like to discuss the role, please contact churchwarden, June, 024 7622 7726



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



FEBRUARY 2021

***AS WE ARE IN OUR THIRD LOCKDOWN, THERE WILL BE
NO SERVICES AT STONELEIGH OR ASHOW UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE***

For news of services restarting please do look at the web sites for Stoneleigh
and Ashow Churches, as below.

From the Registers

Funerals

Wednesday 25th November 2020 – Sydney George Creed – Funeral Service at
Stoneleigh Church

Tuesday 1st December 2020 – Thomas Layton Bowkett - Interment at Ashow
Church

Monday 4th January 2021 – Gwendoline Howse – Funeral Service 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

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

Website: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12964 for Stoneleigh

www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12954 for Ashow