

STONELEIGH AND ASHOW NEWS



May 2021



“ The heart of Stoneleigh”

In the phone box on the Green

Coordinator David Ellwood

07785 284482 .

(Text if no reply)

Trained volunteers

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Laura Elliot	07738 222969
David Ellwood	07785 284482
Richard Hancox	07770 826310
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Martin Smith	07958 955629
Mary Taylor	07890 535506

Cover photograph by June Burr.

As the nation mourned the death of Philip, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, Stoneleigh Church was opened in the afternoon for quiet prayer and reflection.

Tenth anniversary year!

For the time being we are still holding our meetings via Zoom, though we hope to resume “live” meetings at the village hall at the end of June.

The March meeting, our AGM, was a great success, being a presentation by Pete James on “The Girl Who Invaded America.” Billed as a story of a Coventry girl who went to the US in the 19th century, it went on to reveal that she was none other than one of the founders of the Salvation Army there! It was a surprise to discover that the Army had its roots firmly in Coventry at that time.

Our April meeting will be the second in our “Coventry trilogy”. Peter Walters, remembered by many as a former Evening Telegraph journalist, will tell us about an extraordinary initiative to create a layered historical atlas of Coventry. With a few digital clicks one will be able to discover many fascinating facts about the city’s history and its people. If anyone would like to join us at 7.30pm on Tuesday April 27th, please let me know and I will send the Zoom link.

For the final talk in our trilogy to celebrate the City of Culture, I will be giving a talk about the poet Philip Larkin and his links to the city. This will be on Tuesday May 25th at 7.30pm, again via Zoom.

New members – particularly new residents to the village - are always welcome. Visit our website www.stoneleighhistorysociety.org.uk or our Facebook page “Stoneleigh History Society 2021”.

Sheila Woolf

shewoolf@hotmail.co.uk

Stoneleigh Community Orchard CIC update

Pete Freeman

With Covid restrictions starting to relax, both cider processing and orchard activities are once again on the cusp of “ramping up” into the new season. I am hoping that visitors to the Orchard will once again be treated to a fine display of blossom from April and throughout May. Readers may recall that the harvest of 2020 approached 1000 litres in capacity so assuming there is negligible spoilage, the group’s immediate task, commencing traditionally from the first blossoms, will be to pasteurise and box up the cider ready for sale. Existing prices will remain the same as previous years at £20 for a 5 litre box and £16 for those folk who have become “Friends of the Orchard”.

As Stoneleigh Community Orchard is a not-for-profit CIC and we appear to have generated a £428 profit as of 31st March 2020, following the submission of accounts, it is incumbent on us to make some of those monies available in support of community related activities. Allowance will of course be necessary to meet any operational expenses which may arise generally during and in advance of the harvest. One also never knows if we will require a replacement “scratter” to pulp the apples, which being German in origin has operated stoically for a decade!

The Orchard Group would be glad to consider any suggestions with how to distribute these profits. My own preferences generally centre on environmental related projects such as tree planting. In that respect they echo some of the aspirations of Captain Sir Tom Moore and his legacy to the Woodland Trust. Of particular personal interest is the reintroduction of disease resistant elm trees which were largely destroyed during the 1960’s and used to be so abundant in this county that they were called “The Warwickshire Weed”.

Woodland projects such as those financed by the late local poet Felix Dennis in areas to the South of Warwickshire around Great Alne and Studley designed to recreate the Forest of Arden, could act as a catalyst for smaller projects locally.

On reflection it is amazing how the power of the written word and poetry can inspire:

*'I built myself a house of wood....'
I built myself a house of wood
Where once an apple orchard stood
On stormy nights I lay in bed*

*While rafters moaned above my head.
They wept aloud for limbs long lost,
For buds pinched out by early frost,
For wicker baskets piled with fruit,
For phantom branches and withered root.*

*I caulked the roof and rafter beams,
But still they whispered in my dreams,
They spoke of rising sap and wood:
- And then, at last, I understood.*

*This spring I planted out a score
Of apple saplings by my door.
Now stormy nights my rafters chime
To cider choirs and nursery-rhyme.*



Felix Dennis

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
Petefreeman773@gmail.com

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

Gardening Help Available

My name is Michael Large and I maintain three gardens in Stoneleigh.

If you are in the Stoneleigh area and need help with your garden you can contact me by calling:

07368 615863

or click this link to email me:

Michael.large@thegardeningservices.com



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This month's edition was edited by Kim and Martin Smith, who would like to thank all contributors for their articles.

All details correct at time of printing, but please check locally as the COVID-19 outbreak is disrupting many events.

The June 2021 edition will be compiled by Bill Crofts.

All copy should be sent to the editor's email address: w.e.crofts@warwick.ac.uk

Copy deadline: 18th May 2021

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), details will be posted on the website 3 days before the meeting.

The next meeting will be on **Thursday, May 6th at 7pm** for the Annual Parish Council meeting, and 7.30pm for the Ordinary Parish Council meeting.

To view the full details of this and other meetings, including upcoming planning applications, please visit the Parish Council (PC) website. Please note that we have a new website for the Parish Council:
www.stoneleighshowparishcouncil.co.uk.

At the PC meeting in April there was discussion about the proposed roundabout to be built on Stoneleigh Road. The roundabout will provide access to the HS2 compound as well as the proposed Farmers Market. If the roundabout is built, it will take away the need for a one-way system on the B4115, a system that the PC is strongly opposed to. Whilst supporting the roundabout in principle, the PC have raised a number of questions to Warwick District Council around issues including drainage, the impact on traffic at the Stoneleigh Crossroads and details of the acquisition of the land to be used. A conditional objection has been submitted to WDC based on these issues. Details of the planning application can be found on the WDC Planning Portal (www.warwickdc.gov.uk/planning, reference W/20/2013).

The PC invited a representative from Warwickshire County Council (WCC) to attend the meeting to talk about the closure of the Birmingham Road. They were unable to attend, but did provide the following statement:

"The County Council is aware of the issues associated with rat-running traffic which uses Birmingham Road through Stoneleigh Village as a short-cut between the B4115 and B4113. In response to a request from Stoneleigh and Ashow Parish Council, the Transport Planning Unit have been exploring options for a potential closure of Birmingham Road to general traffic, whilst maintaining access for buses, pedestrians and cyclists.

Discussions are ongoing with HS2 Ltd and other key partners to identify what measures could be implemented given other considerations in the area. These include HS2 construction movements to/from their Stoneleigh Compound, and the need to maintain access to the Covid-19 mass vaccination centre at Stoneleigh Park."

The on-going problem of cars parking on the verge near the crossroads was discussed. Cllr Wallace Redford asked for residents to provide him with photographic evidence of parked cars to support the case for WCC to change the incorrect signage that has been put and instead install bollards to prevent parking.

Councillors discussed the proposal for a funded piece of artwork in the parish. Options are being explored for a sculpture of a dove with an olive branch, which may be able to be placed in the churchyard. More information about the potential design options and siting will be discussed at the May meeting.

There is currently a vacancy on the Parish Council. If you are interested in becoming a Councillor, please see the website for more information and how to apply, or come along to one of the meetings to see what is involved.

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:

www.stoneleighshowparishcouncil.co.uk

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

Hannah Watts, Parish Clerk

Stoneleigh WI



We carry on regardless!! Still zooming – but it is good to be able to communicate with our members online, if not face-to-face.

Last month three of our members entertained us with their life histories. very different, but all highly interesting. Amazing how one has known them without knowing some of their backgrounds. I grew up in the same village in South Wales as one of our members. We went to the same schools, but I am a bit older!!!

Next month, on May 12th, our speaker will be Di Smith – a blacksmith. She's not a farrier, but works in metal and glass, producing very lovely art. If you're interested, please get in touch and I'll give you the link.

Our craft and art groups are still meeting regularly and creating some very interesting and useful products.

At the moment all meetings will continue online at least until the Autumn.

Liz Sykes

STONELEIGH LADIES CHOIR



Despite only able to meet on Zoom, the choir celebrated the end of term having learned eight new pieces of music, albeit not at performance standard. However, under the direction of their leader, Karen Whyte, they will be able to hone them ready for their first concert, which could be before Christmas depending on when they can meet in the Hall.

Leading up to the Easter break, the choir held a Decorate an Easter Egg competition and each of the entries won a chocolate Easter Bunny.

The choir is hoping to meet up again for a picnic in the field behind the Hall on 20 May. This will, of course, depend on Covid rules nearer the time but it would be lovely to see everyone again.

We have just a few vacancies and would welcome any enquiries from new members so if you are interested, or know anyone who might like to join us, please e-mail our Secretary at sharronmced@gmail.com

Pat Wightman

HS2 UPDATE

Residents cannot fail to have noticed ongoing works, and erratic felling of trees in our area.

There is route-wide concern about tree-felling which has received extra publicity as one of the woods concerned is where Roald Dahl is supposed to have written 'Fantastic Mr Fox' . Ecologists at the RSPB have demanded a review and an enquiry into the granting of licences by Natural England for felling in the bird-nesting season. (*Stop press.* A judge has ordered HS2 Ltd. to cease all felling at Jones Hill Wood pending a hearing on 24 May at the earliest).

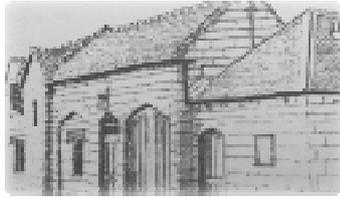
Work on the A46/Stoneleigh Road compound area, in addition to the new junction works on the outskirts of the village, are ongoing and will increase in the near future and last for some 5 years

In the last 6 weeks the PC have had several meetings with HS2 Ltd. and the contractors LM and BBV to minimise the disruption to our community

The traffic plan for next 5 years, HGV numbers and the proposed *new* routing to avoid the overuse of the B4115, has been verbally presented to the PC and WCC..

The long-awaited planning application for the roundabout on Stoneleigh Road was published on 6 March 2021. The WCC & PC have filed a number of objections on the lack of detailed content. (See the April PC meeting minutes). The PC have stressed that they wish the work to go forward but with a more future-proofed proposal.

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



Stoneleigh Village Club
Est. 1856

www.facebook.com/stoneleighvillageclub

stoneleigh.villageclub@gmail.com

Stoneleigh Village Club Update

We are able to report the club garden renovation is nearing completion. In fact, after a tremendous effort by the landscaping company, the club committee and Jim Gavin our steward in the week leading up to Friday 16th April, members and guests were able to enjoy drinks on the new patio area over a very sunny weekend, including our chairman Dave Brown who turned 50 on the Sunday.

Please support the club and check out the new garden, it is so good to be open again and to see people relaxing and chatting over a drink.

Below are some pictures of the garden taking shape.





Club Opening Times (Garden only)

Friday 3.00pm - 9.00pm

Saturday 3.00pm - 9.00pm

Sunday 12.00pm - 6.00pm

Entrance to the garden is via the club front door. Please ensure you are wearing a face covering when moving through the club to the garden and also when using the toilets.

Everybody visiting the club must comply with government track and trace requirements; we have a QR code for you to scan at the club entrance or we will require your name and telephone contact details on the paper slips provided.

As per the government guidelines it is either two households or the rule of six per table.

Stay safe

Your Club Committee



Let us buzz on in!

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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!

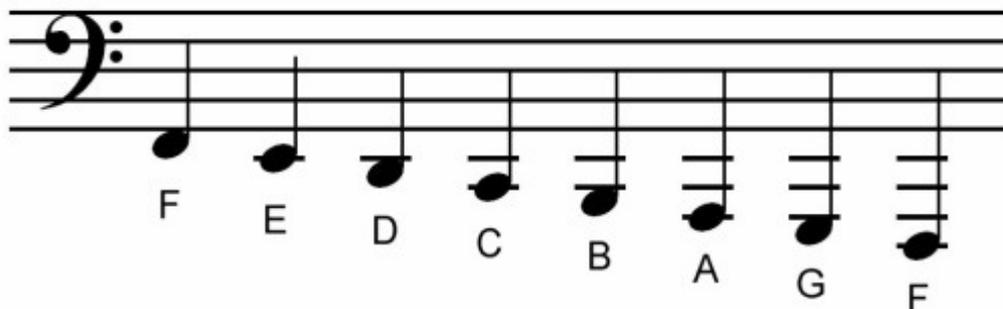
tel: 01926 428509

E-mail:
Jess@honeybeehc.co.uk

web:
www.honeybeehc.co.uk



Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir News.



The choir is busy rehearsing via Zoom in preparation for future events.

Here are some provisional dates for your diaries, whether these events will be able to take place will depend on government advice at the time.

Sunday July 11th. The SMVC Summer Serenade will take place in the Walled Garden at Stoneleigh Abbey. The format for the Summer Serenade will be different this year. We are asking you to bring your own food/drinks and glasses. Socially distanced chairs and tables will be provided. Tickets £12.50 each will be available from the beginning of June from any choir member or Philip Jones ([01926 853511](tel:01926853511)/[07910240453](tel:07910240453)).

Friday September 24th. In Stoneleigh Church there will be a joint concert with the Stoneleigh History Society, tracing the 1000 years of the history of the village in words and song.

We are hopeful that these events will take place enabling us once again to meet together and enjoy ourselves. Keep safe and well,

Philip Jones.



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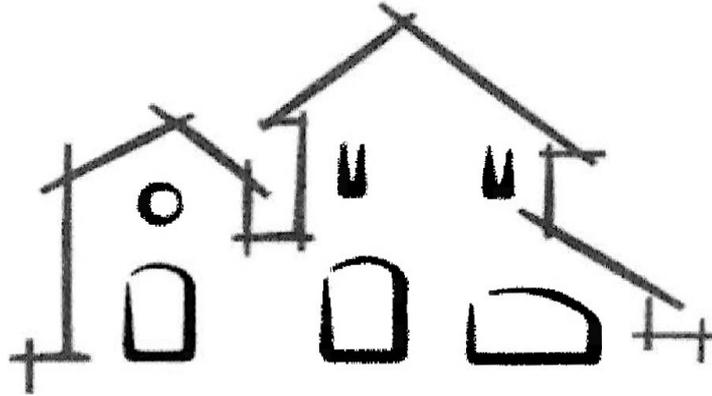
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Chris 01926 881229 or c.venn@sky.com

Andy 01926 773796 or andymcgilvray@yahoo.co.uk

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May Reflections

May, more than any other month of the year, wants us to feel most alive.





A Message from the Churches.



Following our Christmas Services, we immediately went into lockdown, and our churches were closed for three months. It was with great joy that we were able to return to celebrate Holy Week and Easter, commencing on Palm Sunday when we placed Palm Crosses in the churchyards for people to take home with them, right through to Easter Day, when Christianity's greatest festival was honoured and enjoyed.

The plain wooden Cross was placed outside Stoneleigh Church at the beginning of the week.

Maundy Thursday we had a joint Service via Zoom

Good Friday we held a joint outdoor Service of reflection and readings at Stoneleigh, "The hour at the Cross".

On Easter Day outdoor Holy Communion Services of celebration were held



at both churches. For the first time in 12 months we were able to sing our hymns outdoors! At Stoneleigh we followed our tradition of bringing flowers to decorate the Cross, bringing it to life! (See photograph)

The weather was fine and sunny throughout the week!

We are closed again at the moment, BUT our usual pattern of weekly worship will resume from the beginning of May at both churches. Some Services will be outside, weather permitting, and some will be held inside.

Our first Service will be a United Celebration at Ashow at 10.00am on Sunday 2nd May. **Do join us!**



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



SERVICES FOR MAY 2021

- Sunday 2nd** 10.00 am United Holy Communion Service at Ashow
- Sunday 9th** 9.30 am Holy Communion Service at Ashow
11.00 am Holy Communion Service at Stoneleigh
- Sunday 16th** 9.30 am Holy Communion Service at Ashow
11.00 am Holy Communion Service at Stoneleigh
- Sunday 23rd** **Pentecost**
11.00 am United outdoor Service at Stoneleigh
- Sunday 30th** 9.30 am Village Service at Ashow
11.00 am Holy Communion Service at Stoneleigh

From the Registers

Funerals

- Monday 29th March 2021 – Roger Robert Court – Interment at Stoneleigh Church
Wednesday 31st March 2021 – Eileen Lovell - Interment at Stoneleigh Church



**THE UNITED BENEFICE OF
THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY, ASHOW
and
ST MARY THE VIRGIN, 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/12964 for Stoneleigh

www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12954 for Ashow