

Stoneleigh & Ashow *News*



July / August 2021

**“The Heart of Stoneleigh” defibrillator
in the phone box on The Green**

Co-ordinator: David Ellwood 07785 284482 text if no reply

Trained volunteers:

John Churchley	07885 496795	Laura Elliot	07738 222969
David Ellwood	07785 284482	Richard Hancox	07596 276829
Ian Huston	07974 237331	Sharron McElowney ..	07760 101775
Claire Neale	07557 675842	Lisa Reay	07716 416320
Martin Smith	07958 955629	Mary Taylor	07890 535506

Remember: Always ring 999 first!

Stoneleigh Village Hall and Playing Fields Charity (702842)



Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Stoneleigh Village Hall and Playing Fields Charity will be held on Monday 13th September 2021 at 7.00pm at Stoneleigh Village Hall, Birmingham Road, Stoneleigh.

All residents are invited. We would like more volunteers to be on the committee. The Hall is an asset to our village, but it does need more help with the organisation. We have representatives from the organisations who use the Hall, but there is also room for some independent committee members.

Look forward to seeing you there.



Stoneleigh Community Orchard CIC \Update

Pete Freeman

The Orchard Group would like to thank all those who provided such positive feedback about this year's cider. Given the relative shortage of events at which to sell our craft cider, the uptake has been impressive and, at the time of writing, there remains only a 100-litre tank left of the original 930 litres, which may be kept in reserve in order to explore the possibilities of developing an apple brandy similar to Calvados later in the year. The demand for cider was helped by fine Whitsun bank holiday weather, which more than made up for the shortage of events. The prevailing opinion is that the cider of vintage 2020 has been the finest produced to date, combining both a crystal clarity with a smooth fresh edge to the palette.

Our Stoneleigh perry has also been in real demand, although it could only be offered in very small volumes, so was immediately purchased by those who were quickest out of the blocks. I should state that Stoneleigh perry can currently only be considered as a novelty product because of the small volumes available. A recent inspection of the perry trees, immediately following this year's blossoms, once again reaffirmed the old and frustrating adage that "planting pears for your heirs" still very much holds true in Stoneleigh orchard! One piece of work which will happen throughout the summer months will be a design for the Stoneleigh perry label, which I hope to share with readers in the September edition.

As the cider is on the homeward leg to being sold out, energies can be turned towards other activities, as well as preparing for the coming harvest, which at first glance may not be as large as that of 2020 owing to the cold weather throughout the Spring. The harvest will, however, be incremented by fruit from the maturing of trees in what the group refer to as the "little orchard", which was a supplementary orchard planted back in 2016, designed to extend the existing plantings.

Finally, I wish everyone a relaxed summer, preferably with a suitably chilled beverage. Let's hope that summer weather smiles for us all throughout 2021.

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. Alternatively, why not become a long-term friend and set up a direct debit?

Contact: Pete Freeman (Chairman)
5 Church Lane, Stoneleigh
petefreeman773@gmail.com

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



This month's front cover
Gate to Freedom
Photo: Lucy Morris



Mowing the Meadow

Photo: Douglas Hilton Faulconbridge

J.L.Huthwaite



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jayhuthwaite1@sky.com

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HS2 Update

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

Balfour Beatty Vinci, the local contractors, have recently circulated an information bulletin to residents. This is an announcement of temporary traffic lights on the B4115 Ashow Road from 28th June to enable the development of the construction site between that road and the A46. Who knows what local disruption this development will cause in the immediate, further and distant future?

Meanwhile, the Parish Council and interested residents have responded to Councillor Redford's request for evidence of increased noise caused by HS2-related activities in the area. Disappointingly, his reaction has been to refer these comments directly to HS2 Ltd staff responsible for activities in our area, rather than raising our concerns directly with HS2 Ltd on our behalf.

There is some local concern that the removal of local trees and hedgerows has meant that noise levels in Stoneleigh have reverted to pre-mid-1970s levels, obviously depending on the time of day and wind direction. However, the main concern that has been expressed involves *future* noise disruption. Once traffic levels revert to pre-pandemic levels, so the overall noise levels are likely to increase. Regrettably, in some cases, the seemingly unnecessary desecration of mature trees and hedgerows cannot be undone, but it is hoped that HS2 Ltd can be persuaded to erect suitable sound barriers to protect residents from noise.

It is a matter of considerable regret that the well-meaning comments and technical advice given by knowledgeable local residents to the various teams from HS2 Ltd over the past 10+ years have been ignored. Only recently, it seems that some of this advice (e.g. regarding drainage issues) has been acknowledged. We continue to question and fight, but it is an uphill struggle!

For more details, see Councillor Bianco's report on page 13. Many thanks to Anthony for his continued efforts on behalf of the Parish Council and the community.

Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir News

Philip Jones, Chairman

Due to the current Covid regulations being extended to 19th July and perhaps beyond, the choir has very reluctantly decided to cancel this year's Summer Serenade. Our 21st year of holding the event will now take place in 2022 (hopefully)!!

The choir is still rehearsing on the patio at the back of the Village Hall. We are learning new songs for the concert on Friday 24th September, when we will be celebrating 1000 years of Stoneleigh's history with the Stoneleigh History Society and the Ladies' Choir. Please see page 8 for further details.

On 9th June after choir practice, we said au revoir and thank you to Janet and David Gibson before they left for their new home in Lytham St Annes. Both Janet and David have been stalwart supporters of the choir. David has been a loyal choir member for many years, and Janet has worked tirelessly behind the scenes during the shows and the Summer Serenade. Not only have they both been very active in the life of the choir, but also as members of many village organisations. All members of the choir wish them every joy and happiness in their new home.



One Thousand Years of Stoneleigh Life

To celebrate the tenth anniversary of

Stoneleigh History Society

you are invited to

The Story of Stoneleigh

A light-hearted journey through time... from Saxons to HS2!

Words provided by members of Stoneleigh History Society

Music provided by members of the

Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir & the Stoneleigh Ladies' Choir

Tickets £15

(to include wine & refreshments)

from Sheila Woolf 024 7641 8759 / shewoolf@hotmail.co.uk

or Phil Jones 01926 853511 / kathryngjones@hotmail.co.uk

Friday 24th September 2021

7.30pm

St Mary the Virgin Church, Stoneleigh

Local charities supported by this event will include the Mayor of Kenilworth's charities:

Kenilworth Youth Well-Being Hub & Compassionate Kenilworth

***“Stoneleigh WI is a unique membership
of women championing women for over a century”***

What would you be interested in joining?

**An opportunity for all members to influence the year ahead
for Stoneleigh WI as a whole and for yourselves**

A **Walking Group** which
may, on occasions, end up
with a bite to eat



Join the **Art Group**



Join our **Craft Group**



Restart the **Book Club**



Or join the
Lunch Club



You may be interested in a
Wine, Food & Garden Group



Or rejoin the
Board Game Group
& learn card games



Come & socialise at a
Monthly Coffee Morning



Singing for Pleasure



For more info, contact Jane Kelson
jane.carol@live.co.uk /07588 803286

Stoneleigh WI

Liz Sykes

The online meeting in June was excellent. Sheila Woolf spoke about the village school and how it was set up – one of the first of its kind in the country – and its history until its demise in 1975.

We've continued with online meetings – and they do mean that the members can keep in touch. However, we are planning a meeting in the Hall in July! If the weather is good, it will take place outdoors. However, contingency plans have been put in place. It's going to be a tea party – a social event for members to get together at long last. We will be fundraising for the Air Ambulance, so we are looking forward to that and to seeing people again.

In September – hopefully again in the Hall – the speaker will be Vicky Redpath. Her subject is 'Oiling the Machine'.

Stoneleigh Ladies' Choir

Pat Wightman

Who would have thought that singing outdoors would be such a different experience? The choir has now managed two rehearsals on the patio at the Village Hall, with members agreeing that it felt very strange indeed. The real joy of it was that we were together for the first time in over a year and, even more satisfying, that our leader, Karen Whyte, was very pleased with our singing. She has been teaching us on Zoom and has never heard any of us actually making any sound at all, so it was a huge relief all round.

With the Government extension until 19th July, it means that we will not be back inside the hall before the summer break, leaving us with no reassurance that we can resume as normal in September when our new term begins.

The picnic on 27th May went ahead in brilliant sunshine. It was a great success, despite having to keep to the Government guidelines. It was lovely to see everyone again and spirits were high.

The Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir had invited us to join them in their Summer Serenade at Stoneleigh Abbey. Despite every effort made to ensure that this event took place, sadly it has had to be cancelled this year. We hope there will be an opportunity to join with them again in the future.

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



Stop Press: A Midsummer Concert

June Burr

Sadly, the concert planned for Saturday 26th June at St Mary the Virgin, Stoneleigh has had to be postponed due to the delay in the lifting of Covid restrictions. We will rearrange just as soon as we can. Watch this space!

Parish Council Notes

Hannah Watts, Parish Clerk

stoneleighshowparishcouncil@gmail.com

Meetings

We are currently in a challenging situation with carrying out Parish Council (PC) meetings. The legislation that allowed councils to carry out public meetings online expired in May, but social distancing requirements mean that the number of people allowed in Stoneleigh Village Hall is very restricted. Because of this, the June PC meeting was postponed in the hope that restrictions would be lifted on 21st June. We are still awaiting clear guidance on the safest way to carry out meetings. All information, including meeting dates, will be posted on the PC website:

www.stoneleighshowparishcouncil.co.uk

All being well, our normal meeting schedule of 7.00pm on the second Thursday of the month will resume on 8th July. However, please do check the website or contact the Clerk if you are planning to attend.

We have received a number of enquiries recently about what is happening with the closure of Birmingham Road. Following the consultation last year, which resulted in a majority voting to close the road, the issue was passed to Warwickshire County Council (WCC) for them to work with Highways to agree the safest and most appropriate way to close the road. This has yet to be finalised, and the Parish Council continue to press WCC for a decision on this. The latest update we received from WCC stated:

“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.”

All updates about the closure of Birmingham Road are posted on the Parish Council website, under Village Matters.

Work is underway to address the issue of cars parking on the verge of the B4115 near the Stoneleigh Crossroads, churning up the land and causing visibility problems for drivers at the junction. WCC Councillor Wallace Redford has organised for a trench to be dug one metre from the edge of the road along the length of the affected area. Access will be left for walkers to use the public footpath, and the area will be resurfaced with topsoil and planted with wild flowers.

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

Report on HS2 Developments

Councillor Anthony Bianco

The Parish Council was alarmed to find the further removal of the tree line acoustic barrier on or about the 17th/18th May 2021 along the A46 south side from Crewe Lane to Stoneleigh junction. The actions were taken without any community warning or consultation as to the consequences. The result is both distressingly visual and increases noise blight to many properties in our area.

The A46 is a major UK east-west trunk road, with very high publicised traffic volumes (97,000 vehicle movements per day as at December 2019), with high volumes expected to return and grow in the near future. At the moment, following the Covid shut-downs, traffic has reduced; however, traffic volumes are now returning and will increase to pre-Covid numbers. Unless there is screening, the noise, and visual, blight will return. The recent additional tree line removal on the B4115 and the proposed, now higher-level, railway bridge just adds to the community concerns.

The history of our A46 sector is on public record, dating back to 1973 at build and environmental reviews, as well as 1986/89 and 1994/95, when major action was taken in surface sound reduction, including the maturing tree line planted in the 1970s, but recently felled. The response from WCC and the County Councillor to the latter has been “HS2 Ltd are acting within the Act guidelines”.

The PC has requested an urgent review of this problem and remedial action planned, funded by HS2. We suggest an acoustic fence barrier erected without delay to preserve the sanity of the local community following a large number of complaint letters and emails. These barriers are a commonplace solution in many cases in UK and in Europe. However, we await a response from experts at WCC and HS2 Ltd.

The short notice work notification for the B4115 (12th to 14th May 2021) stated that work was to take place starting on 24th May for seven to 10 days. The note had two parts, neither fully descriptive or in fact notified to all.

Part 1 plant crossing works all seem sensible, but in fact some details were not presented, including a major drainage crossing which we welcomed when the contractors kindly set up a Teams briefing meeting with the PC on 19th May.

Part 2 presented major tree removal at the B4115 junction and Crewe Lane to rail route and beyond for 750 metres. The purpose is for the initial ground and tree clearance for the B4115 realignment and rail bridge crossing and new build. The PC requested advice and support from WCC. However, we were again informed that “HS2 were operating within the Act”.

For the past three years, the PC have requested plans and information on the scope of this work project and, for the last 18 months, have been informed that “work is in progress”, yet no diagrams of any detail or working drawings have been presented.

At the MPs’ forum 11 weeks ago, two thumbnail, illegible, slides were shown by HS2 Ltd for 45 seconds, revealing a bridge cross-section and two new service roads, north and south off the B4115 at the railway line area.

The PC requested readable copies and later received them from the chief engineer plus a 15-minute briefing to one PC Councillor, at which it was agreed that the cross-section needed review and the cycle lane we have been requesting for two years will be clearly shown and built into the new plan from Crewe Lane to Stoneleigh crossroads.

An online meeting held on 19th May 2021 was helpful. It included an initial Google map diagram of the project and scope of ground clearance and additional land-take as the bridge height has been elevated. Thus the B4115 road height and width, with raised embankments, has been revised to the north of B4115.

The result was that work started on 24th May 2021 and a PC walk-through was agreed with the helpful site clearance manager and BBV. This has minimised tree clearance to within 100 metres of the Crewe Lane junction area, and a redrawing of the junction bellmouth. Work to the south side of the B4115 was limited to 3 metre verge only, pending a formal review of how much reduced land-take was required for trackway planning and an eco-site review, the four sites of ancient woodland being clearly marked. The remaining green areas are now annotated. The two streams north and south of the drainage crossing and junction corner and green culvert 100 metres east of Crewe Lane were re-surveyed on 11th June 2021. Notification of a new B4115 drainage system, to update the 300-year-old system, has now been included in the plan and will provide improved all-weather road safety. The site work was completed on time and in an amicable way. The protests were peaceful and controlled.

Discussions are ongoing, with annotated diagram number 3 expected during the week commencing 14th June 2021. A work start date will be announced shortly.

The result of this feverish activity is that the PC have established a useful line of communication with BBV, the main contractor, who will be covering the extensive ongoing work in our area and have saved a number of trees which would otherwise have been chopped down. However, constant vigilance is required as plans change constantly and promised consultation is not always undertaken.



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 Club Update

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

Est 1856



Opening Hours

Monday	5.00pm – 9.00pm *
Tuesday	5.00pm – 9.00pm *
Wednesday	5.00pm – 9.00pm *
Thursday	5.00pm – 9.00pm *
Friday	4.00pm – 10.00pm
Saturday	3.00pm – 10.00pm
Sunday	12.00pm – 8.00pm

** Opening will be extended to 10.00pm for TV sporting fixtures*

The Euro 2020 football tournament is in full flow, with the club showing all of the games during opening hours. The club has been decorated with Euro flags and bunting to set the stage for some memorable evenings.

We will also be showing the British and Irish Lions rugby tour test matches, which commence in July.

Members can socialise indoors and outdoors in the new garden.

As per the government guidelines, it is either two households or the rule of six per table indoors. Face coverings must be worn when moving around the club. Track and trace rules apply.

Vicarage Road, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire CV8 3DH 024 7641 4440
Stoneleigh Village Club Ltd. Registered in England No 8560869

Club Membership Renewal

Notification has been sent out for club membership renewals. The cost is still only £12 per person per annum. Members enjoy discounted drinks pricing. Membership forms are available at the club for any new members to complete.

19th July: Planned Easing of Social Distancing Measures

We, along with you all, hope that the 19th July announcement will see the ending of most, or all, social distancing measures and will allow the club to start running events again. The committee is busy planning social events and will communicate these via email, notice board and posters.

Club Garden Official Opening Plaque Unveiled

A talented member of the club, Rory O'Connor, has put his professional skills to good use and created a slate plaque to celebrate the opening of the club patio. The new patio area, complete with new tables, has transformed the al fresco enjoyment of the club. If you haven't popped down yet on a warm summer's day or evening, please do. The club needs all the support it can get.



Stay safe!

Your Club Committee

*Vicarage Road, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire CV8 3DH 024 7641 4440
Stoneleigh Village Club Ltd. Registered in England No 8560869*



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



Contacts

Ashow

Churchwardens: Kate Jones 01926 853511

Anne Gregory 01926 717084 /

Deputy Warden: Peter Shrimpton 01926 859404

Stoneleigh

Churchwardens: June Burr 024 7622 7726

Gordon Gatward 01926 512528

Deputy Warden: Richard Ashley 01926 427729

Or please contact the Parish Administrator:

Jackie Cubbitt 024 7641 5506

admin@stoneleighchurch.co.uk

Office hours: Wednesday 9.00am – 12.00pm, Thursday 9.00am – 1.00pm

Ashow: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12954

Stoneleigh: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12964



This edition of **Stoneleigh and Ashow News** was compiled by **Lucy Morris**, who would like to thank all contributors.

The online colour version can be viewed at the village website

www.stoneleighvillage.org.uk

The September 2021 edition will be compiled by

Mike and Bernice Evans

Heronbank8@gmail.com

Heronbank, 8 Coventry Road, Stoneleigh CV8 3BZ

Copy deadline: 18th August 2021

We prefer digital A5 copy, but paper copy may also be submitted.

Placing an advertisement in Stoneleigh & Ashow News

Our page format size is A5. Rates **per annum (10 editions)** are:

Full page (13 x 19cm)	£100
Half page (13 x 9.5cm)	£50
Quarter page (portrait or landscape) (6.5 x 9.5cm or 13 x 5cm)	£25

Rates for advertising in a **single edition** are:

Full page	£40
Half page	£20
Quarter page	£10

How to create your advertisement

- Create an advertisement to match your chosen size (see above). We accept the following formats: Word, pdf, jpeg, png. Don't worry too much about exact dimensions; the editor can scale it, if required.
- Email your ad to the Treasurer at bill.crofts@btinternet.com, stating:
 - Size of ad that you would like
 - Number of editions in which you would like it to feature
- Deadline for entries is the 18th of the month prior to publication, i.e. 18th August for September's edition.
- Once received, you'll be invoiced according to your requirements and your ad will be placed with the editor(s) of your chosen editions.
- All advertisements are accepted at the editor's discretion, subject to S&A News policy. Editors reserve the right to edit all contributions.



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



Services for July & August 2021

July 2021

Sunday 4 th	10.00am	United Holy Communion – Ashow
Sunday 11 th	9.30am	Holy Communion – Ashow
	11.00am	Holy Communion – Stoneleigh
Sunday 18 th	11.00am	United Outdoor Holy Communion – Stoneleigh
Sunday 25 th	9.30am	Village Service – Ashow
	11.00am	Holy Communion – Stoneleigh

August 2021

Sunday 1 st	11.00am	United Holy Communion – Stoneleigh
Sunday 8 th	9.30am	Holy Communion – Ashow
	11.00am	Holy Communion – Stoneleigh
Sunday 15 th	11.00am	United Outdoor Holy Communion – Stoneleigh
Sunday 22 nd	9.30am	Village Service – Ashow
	11.00am	Holy Communion – Stoneleigh
Sunday 29 th	9.30am	Holy Communion – Ashow
	11.00am	Holy Communion – Stoneleigh



From the Registers

Funerals

Thursday 10th June 2021

Syd & Eileen Creed – interment at Stoneleigh

