

STONELEIGH AND ASHOW NEWS



NOVEMBER 2022



“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!

**** A second defibrillator can be found in the Village Hall ****

Stoneleigh Community Orchard

It would be a misrepresentation of the truth to describe this year's harvest as being anything if not challenging. The intense heat of the summer certainly favoured the production of vast quantities of apples and this seems to mirror a countrywide phenomenon. The terrain of Stoneleigh orchard being in close proximity to the waters of the river Sowe served to reinforce the crop and as a consequence the bows of some trees were observed to strain and break under the weight of the fruit that they carried.

In response to the challenge of juice storage it became necessary to increase the area in which pressing and processing occurred as well as drastically increase the number and volume of containers. The reality involved simply relocating a large store of my prized and boxed up books in order to make additional space. With the harvest still underway the group are certainly looking at up to 1700 litres of freshly pressed apple juice as a final tally, which is a record and beats previous totals of up to 1100 litres. It is unlikely given the size of the harvest that even this storage extension will accommodate the enormous harvest and so sadly some apples have been harvested and left in orderly piles at the base of the trees so as to renourish the trees.

Needless to say the harvest has as predicted started to assume industrial proportions and I would like to thank all those who recognized the challenge and who turned out in fantastic numbers to help pick the crop. Many like Martin & Sue Browett & Mike & Alison Bacon (with their son Ollie), Steve & Gemma Hutchings and Paul Britten joined the picking for the first time and liked it so much that they returned on subsequent occasions. Others such as Adrian Clarke, Mike Evans, Quentin & Sally Compton-Bishop, John Churchley, Laura Elliot, Sharron McEldowney and Mandy represent an annual "hard core" of workers. Finally, we have newcomers such as Martin Smith, Steve Liddell, Tony Hyndman and Parminder Bal who took to the task like seasoned professionals! Picking in many cases offered villagers a vehicle for introduction and conversation,

whilst doing something healthy and productive. This played well with one of the orchard's founding aims of creating a community focus. I would like to thank you all for a job well done!

Finally, given the size of the harvest I would like to welcome those who may want to take some apples that have fallen from the trees. Needless to say we will not process them for you so you will need to invest in your own equipment, also most of the orchard apples are cider varieties and will be unpleasant to eat.

Orchard Friends' subscriptions and yearly renewals for 2022 for 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

Pete Freeman

Chairman

NGB Electrical

Nathan Biddle

Electrician



- **Domestic Installations**
- **Testing & Inspecting**
- **Rewires & Alterations**

P: 07525285819

E: NGB.electrical@hotmail.com

Film Night

For our next film night, we will be showing:

Downton Abbey A New Era



Downton Abbey: A New Era is a 2022 historical drama film and the sequel to the 2019 film Downton Abbey; written by Julian Fellowes.

The Crawley family goes on a journey to the South of France to uncover the mystery of the dowager countess' newly inherited villa.

Friday November 18th 2022
in
Stoneleigh Village Hall
Meet 6.45pm for 7pm showing

Please can you bring a cup and plate.

Coffee, tea and pastries will still be served in the interval.

Entry price £4.00, to cover refreshments and room hire.

To reserve a place and a pastry call Jane on 01926 858315 by

Wednesday November 16th



Teams4U Afternoon Tea

Thank you to everyone who supported our afternoon tea in Stoneleigh Church on October 1st. A brilliant number of people attended and we raised an amazing amount of £668.19 which will help towards the transportation of Christmas shoeboxes.

This year the shoeboxes are going to Ukraine, Romania, Belarus, Bosnia, Moldova and Georgia.

*If you would like to find out more about Teams4U
please go to Teams4U.com*

Jane Taylor

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 26th November

11.00 am – 1 pm

To be held at Stoneleigh Church

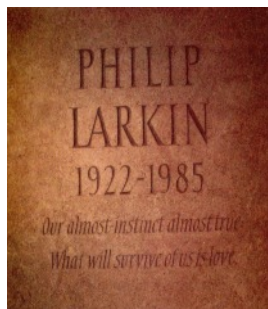
**To raise funds for the Church
Christmas Flowers.**



Raffle Cake Stall Christmas table

**All Donations gratefully received
Everyone Welcome**

What Will Survive of Us is Love



Philip Larkin is one of Britain's most popular poets. In 2003 he was chosen as "the nation's best-loved poet" in a survey by the [Poetry Book Society](#), and in 2008 [The Times](#) named Larkin as the greatest British post-war writer.

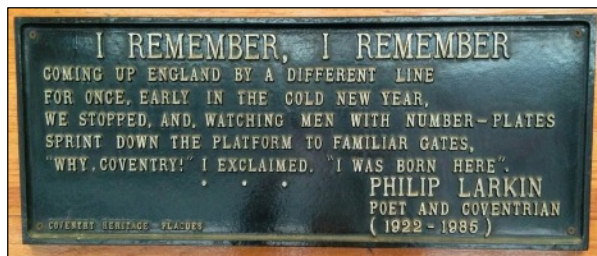
Despite this, in his home town, Coventry, he remains neglected. 2022 is the centenary of his birth, but how is he now remembered locally?

To find out about Larkin and his poetry, come to this **free** talk at Stoneleigh Church, when Sheila Woolf presents an assessment of the man and his works, with some surprises along the way!

When: Friday December 2nd 2022 at 7pm

Where: Stoneleigh Church, CV8 3DN

(Donations are welcomed to cover refreshments, with any profit going to the Church Fabric Fund.)



“CHRISTMAS GREETINGS”

Yes, it is a bit early to be talking of Christmas greetings but at least, this year, I have remembered to promote my usual “Christmas Flag Flying” in the right month.

As a reminder: for many years now, friends and neighbours have made a donation to a charity of my choice instead of sending local Christmas cards to each other. To acknowledge these donations and to transmit Seasonal Greetings, I will fly the flag at The Oaks for the weekend of 16th December and list the contributors in the December issue of the Stoneleigh and Ashow News.

Last year I sent £540 to Myton Hospice and intend to support Myton again this year. If you wish to contribute, please send your donation to me at:

The Oaks, Vicarage Road, Stoneleigh, CV8 3DH
in cash, or cheque payable to “Myton Hospice”

Or, in this nearly cashless society if you would rather pay me direct please let me know and we can sort something out.

Email: robin.bussell44@btinternet.com

To meet the deadline for the December issue of the News, I need to receive donations (or intentions to donate) before 16th November.

Thank you.

Happy Christmas!

Robin Bussell



PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 10 November 2022**, to be held at **Stoneleigh Village Hall at 7pm.**

To view the agenda for this meeting, and other meetings, including upcoming planning applications, please visit the Parish Council website at:
www.stoneleighshowparishcouncil.co.uk.

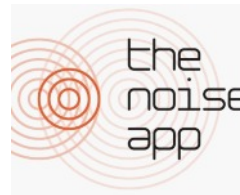
A reminder that BBV (contractors for HS2) will be attending our next meeting on Thursday 10 November 2022. This will be a great opportunity for residents to receive updates and raise any issues. If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like a matter raised or question answered, please send your question or concern to the clerk by Thursday 3 November 2022, using the contact details below.

In response to noise complaints raised by residents, Warwick District Council has provided the Parish Council with details of a noise app that can be used to record nuisance noise. This is then forwarded to the Environmental Protection department at WDC. Please follow the steps below:

Step 1: Download the app from www.thenoiseapp.com or search online for 'The Noise App' at Google Play or the Apple App Store.

Step 2: Create your account and choose the service provider 'Warwick District Council' to investigate your noise nuisance reports.

Step 3: To report a nuisance simply tap the icon, make a 30-second recording of the noise, complete a form, and submit your report online.



Step 4: Await response from the service provider investigating your case reports.

If you are not able to download the app, please continue to report your noise complaints via the Parish Council, WDC councillors or WDC direct, either online at www.warwickdc.gov.uk/xfp/form/387 or on 01926 456725.

stoneleighshowparishcouncil@gmail.com

PO Box 6890, Coventry, CV6 9QU

Becky Maoudis
Parish Clerk

Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir heads into 'Dragon's Den'

On Saturday 8 October 2022 clear blue skies and a bright sun fell upon Stoneleigh Village Hall car park where the Mighty SMVC clambered aboard a coach that would speed them right into the Dragon's Den – Magnificent Wales!

Arriving at the Premier Inn in Aberdare the members and their partners refreshed themselves before heading into the town to perform at the newly refurbished and beautifully modelled St Elvan Church, a splendid building dominating the town centre.

We were there at the generous invitation of the talented Cwmdare Voices who as many of you will recall visited us some months back to perform in our concert at Stoneleigh Church. It was time to give something back to them by joining with Con Voce, a choir of mixed voices from nearby Merthyr Tydfil, for a concert here in the heart of the Heads of the Valleys. A real privilege for us.

SMVC had the honour of opening the concert which we did with a raucous and splendidly tongue-twisting "Rhythm of Life", followed by a weighty rendition of "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother" and ending our set with the splendid "Les Miserables Medley".

As an ardent Coventry City FC supporter I was excited when Con Voce

opened with a really peppy version of "Mr Blue Sky" – ELO, ELO, ELO I thought, good voices here! They followed that with the delightful Ennio Morricone theme from the film "The Mission" entitled



“Nella Fantasia” (“In My Fantasies” – I thought of Coventry winning the European Cup!).

To close the first half, our hosts, Cwmdare Voices, gave most accomplished versions of “Sanctus”, Cohen’s “Hallelujah” and combined with Con Voce to bring us a powerful “Yma O Hyd” (“We’re [i.e. The Welsh] Still Here!”). Who cannot fail to be moved by such fervour? (Just listen on YouTube and you’ll know what I mean!).

After that a little frivolity was called for! Hence SMVC took the floor for a selection of songs after the interval that involved audience participation and some combination dancing by our illustrious front row! Not to be confused with the Pontypool front row which is something entirely different – ask Max Boyce! A medley of foot tapping and hand clappy songs were excitingly delivered including “Breaking Up Is Hard To Do”, “I Believe In Music” and “New York, New York” with sways and foot-swinging beyond belief! We finished with our signature “My Way”.

Con Voce then took the evening to new heights with some gorgeous songs ending with a dramatic version of Joseph Parry’s setting of the Charles Wesley hymn “Aberystwyth” (“Jesu, Lover Of My Soul”) with robust organ accompaniment by Andrew Chinnock.

The evening’s hosts, Cwmdare Voices, concluded the concert with a rousing “Cwm Rhondda”, a most moving interpretation of “Tell My Father” and finally a glorious arrangement of “American Trilogy” with piano accompaniment by nimble fingered Darya Brill-Williams and a towering support in the final passages from Andrew on the church organ. An absolutely tremendous performance.

For the finale all the choirs combined to sing “Love Divine, All Love Excelling” to the tune “Blaenwern”, with organ accompaniment. This drew the very special evening to a wonderful conclusion.

We were grateful to our hosts for their companionship and generosity of spirit which was shared post event with all three choirs repairing to the local Constitution Club for refreshment, hilarity and a volleyed exchange of ribald songs with all parties agreeing we ought to do this again! “Clywch! Clywch!” (You can look that up on Google Translate!)

The Choirs

Cwmdare Voices – Founded 2012.

Musical Director: Dr Michael Thomas

Accompanist: Andrew Chinnock

Con Voce – Founded 2007.

Musical Director: Jonathan Gulliford

Accompanist: Darya Brill-Williams

Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir – Founded 1985.

Musical Director: Alan Biddle

Conductor: Judy Hadfield



Please put in your diaries Wednesday 7 December 2022 as we will be performing our annual Christmas Festival Concert in The Stables, Stoneleigh Abbey. More details shortly.

We would also gladly welcome you to come along and sing with us at our rehearsals every Wednesday 7.30pm to 9.30pm at Stoneleigh Village Hall. Call Chairman Phil Jones 01926 853511 or email kathryngjones@hotmail.co.uk for more information.

Rod Owen

on behalf of SMVC



STONELEIGH CHURCH CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

A date for your diary

Please do come along and join us on Saturday 17th December at 10am to decorate the Church for Christmas.

Everyone Welcome.



STONELEIGH LADIES CHOIR

On Thursday 20 October, as this magazine goes to print, the choir will hold its AGM during which a local charity will be elected for support throughout the coming year.

Members are invited to propose a charity and then a vote is taken. Last year the Trussell Trust at Coventry Food Bank received £600 and the year was rounded off with 76/7 kg of food generously donated by choir members and the Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir.

Donations have also been sent to Papyrus (Five Dads Walking), the Shoe Box Appeal, Stoneleigh Church and the Alzheimer's Society.

Right: Teneke Gibbs presents donated food to Dee Ward, Project Manager, Coventry Food Bank.



September 2023 sees the start of our 10th Anniversary and lots of activities are already being planned to mark the occasion. The choir began with an idea formulated by a few ladies who leafleted the village and, on the first night, twelve people turned up. From this, a strong body of around thirty ladies meet every Thursday afternoon (in term time), at the village hall where strong friendships have been formed. If you would like more information about joining, please contact our Secretary, Sharron at sharronmced@g.mail.com.

There is still time to get your tickets for the Quiz Night and Fish and Chip Supper on Friday, 11th November at the village hall. Tickets £10.

Pat Wightman

On behalf of the Ladies Choir



HS2 UPDATE

The impact of works associated with the construction of HS2 continues to affect us all and will become worse in the months/years ahead! The number of Lynch lorries using the new traffic-lighted crossroads has noticeably increased. Compounding other problems, there is the possible 3 week closure of Stoneleigh Road from the new A46 roundabout from 25 October. (At the time of writing, Warwickshire County Council has yet to confirm that this closure will go ahead). Frustratingly, little progress has been made in getting answers, let alone action, from HS2 Ltd. on many points raised by communities along the route. However, it's good to report a small local victory i.e. Anthony and Mel have save a tree from the dreaded chainsaw in Crewe Lane!

During the current political upheaval and continuing uncertainty, cancelling the HS2 project has often been mentioned as a way of lessening the shortfall. (Apparently, this will 'only' cost £7bn in compensation to contractors etc.). Watch this space. See the Parish Council report (p9) for mention of Warwick District Council's new Noise App. which may be relevant to HS2 disturbance as well as events at Stoneleigh Park.

Margaret Wallis

on behalf of the Stoneleigh Action Group (against HS2)

Your advertisement could be here!

A quarter page advertisement (like this one!) is just £25 per year!

A half-page is £50 per year.

A whole A5 page is £100 per year

There are 10 copies per year so this is amazing value.

Advertisements are accepted at the editor's discretion,
subject to the S&A News policy

Email: w.e.crofts@warwick.ac.uk



STONELEIGH WI

At the meeting in October, the past chair of the National Federation gave a talk on her three years in office. Lynne is local, from Whishaw in the West Midlands. Her talk was both entertaining and informative.

Other events this month were a lovely day at Alrewas, the National Memorial Arboretum. Being very fortunate with the weather we were able to enjoy the warm sunshine. It is such a lovely place, there are so many more memorials to see since the last time that I visited. It is well kept, and the colours of the trees were spectacular. It really is a real treasure, which is mainly kept going by volunteers. There is no charge to visit, but donations are very welcome.

We also had lunch gathering at the Friendly Inn at Frankton. A pleasant time spent with good company and excellent food which was enjoyed by all who attended. We have arranged another lunch in November at the Malt Shovel at Bubbenhall, another popular venue.

The next meeting will be on Monday November 7th in Stoneleigh Village Hall, 1:30 pm for a 2:00 pm start. There will be a guest speaker from Zoe's Place, the children's hospice. This promises to be a very interesting talk about the work of this worthwhile charity. You are welcome to come along and join us.

Liz Sykes

On behalf of Stoneleigh WI



Ashow Church Choir

This year there will be two carol services at Ashow Church; at both these services the Ashow choir will be singing under the direction of Susan Spencer. Anyone who enjoys singing is invited to come along and join the choir for either both or one of the services.

The Advent Carol Service is on Sunday 27th November at 4pm.
The rehearsal is on Thursday 24th November at 7pm in Ashow Church.

The Christmas Carol Service is on Sunday 18th December at 4pm.
The rehearsal is on Thursday 15th December at 7pm in Ashow Church.

You can just turn up on rehearsal night or if you would like further information, please contact Philip Jones on 07910240453 or by e-mail on kathryngjones@hotmail.co.uk

Stoneleigh History Society

The November meeting of the society will be a talk by one of our own members, John Purcell, who will speak on
“Earlsdon’s Industrial Heritage.”

Visitors are always welcome; please come along to the village hall on
Tuesday November 29th at 7.30pm.

Refreshments are provided following the talk.

Sheila Woolf

Ashow Church Harvest Festival

On October 2nd, Ashow Church held its Harvest Festival.

The church was beautifully decorated with flowers and produce bank. The dried food and tins were taken by Tony Gregory to the Kenilworth Food Bank who were very grateful especially in these times; the SMVC also donated via Ashow Church £100 to the food bank.

Afterwards the Harvest Lunch took place in the Ashow Club marquee and was attended by over 40 people. It was a very joyous occasion and the food was delicious.

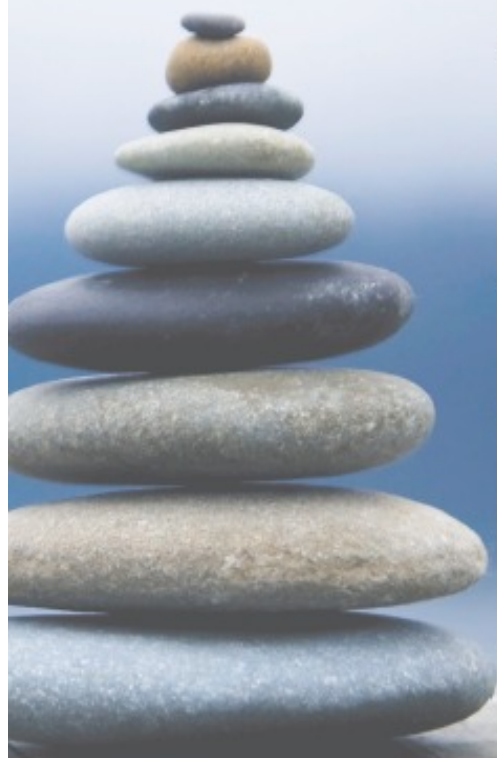
Many people helped make this such a happy afternoon ,however, certain individuals deserve a special mention; Susan Spencer and Anne Gregory, for decorating the church so beautifully, Rosemary Brown who bought the food and co-ordinated the lunch, Anne and Tony Gregory for setting up the tables in the marquee, Nicola Vincett for organizing the raffle, Charlotte Brown who worked tirelessly serving up the hot main course and then the puddings and the ladies who made the crumbles. Thank you to everyone who helped on the day.

After two years of COVID it was wonderful once again to celebrate harvest in a beautiful location and with good weather. We were really blessed.



Kate Jones
Churchwarden

Do you know a someone that needs....



- A Mental Capacity Assessment
- A Testamentary Capacity Assessment
- A Certificate Provider
- An Independent Welfare Review
- Advocacy and Support
- Funeral Plans

for further information

Appoint Us
SERVICES (MIDLANDS) CIC

024 7699 8414

www.appointusservices.co.uk



Do you provide creative arts?
(Music, arts, percussion etc)



"Can you keep an eye on my relative when I'm away or at work?"



"Can you speak up for me?"



Can you provide services to get me discharged from hospital safely and quickly?



"Can you help me with my benefits?"



Can you ensure my relative gets a hot meal?



Do you provide advocacy?



I'm lonely, can you help?



Can you provide reliable honest staff, can I trust you?



Do you offer support with wills, power of attorney, MCA's etc?



Can you give me/my family peace of mind?



"Can you help me with a funeral plan?"



Can you provide therapy using animals?



Can you take me to an appointment?



Will you help me attend community events?



Can you meet all of my support needs?



Can I have a regular team?



YES OF COURSE!

Can I just use your service once?



Appoint Us
SERVICES (MIDLANDS) CIC



For further information
024 7699 8414

www.appointuservices.co.uk

find us on facebook - Appoint Us Services



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

Est. 1856

There are lots of things going on leading up to Christmas following on from Halloween and the Community Bonfire in the Meadow which has just taken place.

We hope you enjoyed both occasions and the traditional work on the club for Halloween. I hope you will all agree that it was great to see the bonfire back after a few years absence. The committee knows how important these events are to the whole community.

The next event will be on 18th and 19th November which will be for the charity Children in Need. This is very much not just about the club but all you people out there especially the younger people who I am sure will have plenty of ideas themselves as to how develop an event. This is being organised by Bex, so do get in touch with her.

Email : rebecca-leigh@hotmail.co.uk

In December there is lots going on, including private parties, but for the community it all kicks off on 17th December with the Children's Christmas Party. I have heard that Santa will be there and hopefully with his reindeer if they can land in the narrow streets of Stoneleigh.

The following day 18th December will be the get together in the club for a drink after the Church Carol Service. Later on that day the Grand Christmas Raffle will be drawn. This has gone back to the old format of raffle tickets and there will be cash prizes as well as donated prizes.

Any donations would be really welcome. You can drop them in at the club.

Opening times

Monday to Thursday – 19:00 to 23:00

Friday – 16:00 to 23:00

Saturday – 15:00 to 23:00

Sunday – 15:00 to 20:00

We will keep these revised times under review. It is possible that these times could be extended for organised / private events with sufficient notice.

Looking forward, as usual the club will be open on Christmas Day from 11.00 to 1.00 and on Boxing Day from 11.00 to 3.00.

Last but definitely not least we will be bringing in the New Year with a disco til late so get your dancing shoes on for that and prepare to see 2022 out with a bit of Auld Lang Syne.

Upcoming events Summary

4 November - Community Bonfire in the Meadow

18 and 19 November – Children in Need events

17 December – Children's Christmas party

18 December – post Carol Service drinks and sing a long

31 December – New Year's Eve Party

Please keep an eye out on the notice board outside the club for full details of events.

SVC Committee

Stoneleigh Village Club

www.facebook.com/stoneleighvillageclub

stoneleigh.villageclub@gmail.com

The Moving Coffins of Barbados.

(A story for Halloween)

As a child growing up in the 1960's I occasionally stayed at my grandparents' house in Radford, Coventry. It was whilst there that I found a fascinating book called "Fifty Strangest Stories Ever Told". One of the stories contained within was called "The Moving Coffins" and was so notable that it fuelled an interest that remained with me into later life, when I rediscovered the book whilst emptying a dusty attic.

One winter whilst experiencing a bout of seasonally adjusted disorder and missing the sun, I decided to holiday in Barbados, the Caribbean Island in which the story is based. Imagine the expression on the face of the local holiday rep when I was asked which island tour or rum cruise I wanted to attend and at the top of my agenda was researching the story of the "Moving coffins"!

Surprisingly, the Bajan tour rep knew nothing of this historic urban legend, but fortunately a local taxi driver who had been listening in on our conversation did and so within minutes I was being driven through the streets of Oistins on the South Coast of Barbados to Christ Church Parish Church which was located on higher ground above the town. The church itself was architecturally unremarkable though I am informed that it was designed to resemble a ship following an earlier structure being destroyed in a hurricane in 1831.

It was between the years of 1812 and 1820 that a series of quite remarkable events took place in the surrounding church yard that centered on "The Chase Vault". Unsurprisingly, much of the island history relates to the slave trade and it seems that the vault originally belonged to the Adams Castle Estate. After a brief search that included the taxi driver whose curiosity had been ignited by the story we located the vault, constructed from massive blocks of stone quarried from local coral; owing to the foundations the vault was partially constructed above and partially below ground. The entrance is now

open but was once closed by a huge block of blue Devonshire marble with the interior reached by several steps. The vault remained empty until July 31, 1807 when the remains of Miss Thomasina Goddard were interred and when on February 22, the following year a leaden coffin containing Mary Anna Maria Chase, the infant daughter of the Hon Thomas Chase was received, nothing had moved. The vault was once again opened on the July 6, 1812 to receive Dorcas Chase, another daughter of Thomas Chase, and on this occasion the vault was in a state of confusion with the coffin of Mary being found head down in the opposite corner to where it had been originally placed. Despite some amazement and consternation, the funeral proceeded and the vault was once again hermetically sealed with the violent disturbance being attributed to a mischievous act of the Bajan labourers who attended the previous interment.

Nothing else appears to have happened for 4 years following this even though the Hon Thomas Chase was himself laid to rest within the vault on August 9, 1812. On September 26, 1816 the vault was opened to receive the coffin of Samuel Brewster Ames, another infant. To the horror of labourers removing the entrance stone, the coffins were again in disarray. Suspicion once more rested on the workmen who protested their innocence. The coffins were once again returned to their former positions and the vault sealed. Following this, the moving coffins at Christ Church became the subject of feverish discussion on the island with the locals attributing the movements to “jumbies” or “duppies” the ghosts of which they have a pious horror.

The affair continued to be a constant topic of discussion up to November 17, 1816 when the body of Samuel Brewster, who had been murdered during “Bussa’s insurrection of slaves” in the preceding April was removed to the vault from St Philip, where it first lay. Expectant crowds flocked to the churchyard to see the tomb opened and witnessed another scene of complete confusion. Mrs Goddard’s coffin had fallen to pieces and the leaden coffins were scattered in disarray!

Failing to elucidate the mystery the remains of the wooden coffin were tied in a bundle and wedged against a wall and the lead coffins restored to their original positions and the entrance slab sealed with concrete. With thousands visiting the churchyard the hysteria became so intense that the governor, Lord Combermere decided to be present at the next interment which was that of Thomasina Clarke on July 7, 1819. With a confusion of coffins once again observed other than Mrs Goddard's coffin which was untouched, every part of the tomb was inspected and sounded by the governor's entourage but no subterranean passages, concealed entrance, cracks or anything suspicious was found. The displaced coffins were re-arranged after the mourners left and on this occasion the governor set some investigative flags in place.

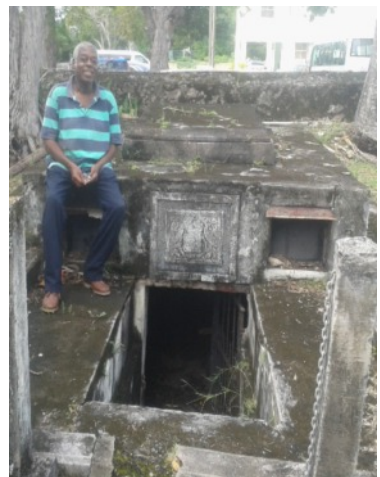
The floor was carefully sanded with white sand, with the object of tracing any movement however slight. The door was secured with new cement, on which the governor made several impressions with his own seal and others in the group making their own private inscriptions. Curiosity must have got the better of the governor because on April 18, 1820 he returned to the vault on the spur of the moment with a number of the original attendees and a small group of swiftly assembled labourers, the possibility of collusion or deception was minimal. The rector of the parish the Rev. Thomas Orderson was also summoned at the last minute. The structure being closely examined on all sides, the cement was uncracked with the large impressions of the Governor's seal being as sharp and as perfect as on the day they were made, the cement being now as hard as stone, with the integrity of each private mark made by individual members of the group being satisfied. The order was then given for the removal of the slab. The cement was with difficulty broken and pressure brought to bear on the stone, but the united efforts of the labourers failed at first to move it. A hush fell on the spectators. A renewed attempt was made to move the marble and gradually inch by inch it yielded. By degrees it was moved aside sufficiently to allow one of the party to enter the vault.

The reason why the stone had been difficult to move immediately became apparent as resting upon it on the inside was one of the massive leaden coffins standing upside down! And yet there were no footprints in the sand! So superstitious did the people now become through this latest manifestation that it was decided that the Chase vault should be closed, and shortly afterwards the coffins which it contained were removed and buried elsewhere in the churchyard in separate graves. It now stands deserted and forlorn.

On my return to the UK. I challenged some of the cleverest members of the Stoneleigh community to provide an explanation for these events. Theories included earthquakes, the ingress of water and even smuggling and masonic ritual, but in truth nothing has stood up to scrutiny and examination.

So it is that this occurrence remains a mystery to this day and I now challenge the readership. How would you explain the enigma of the Chase Vault?

*My Taxi driver locates the
"Chase Vault"!*



Written by
Pete Freeman

Christmas Card Delivery Service

Kenilworth, Leek Wootton, Stoneleigh & Ashow

Collections from late November at

Kenilworth Books
GDT Automobiles
Steve Crowe Butchers
Farthing Gallery & Tearoom
Leyes Lane Pharmacy
All Saints Church, Leek Wootton
Stoneleigh Village Club
Ashow Village Club

Also on Saturday 3rd, 10th & 17th December in
Kenilworth Town Centre

30P

**PER
CARD**


Scouts
4th Kenilworth
(St Nicholas)

This month's edition of Stoneleigh and Ashow News was compiled by **Sarah Ballinger**, who would like to thank all contributors.

It was printed by Warwick Print.

The online colour version can be viewed at

www.stoneleighvillage.org.uk.

The **December 2022/January 2023** edition will be compiled by
Lucy Morris

38, Priory Road, Kenilworth CV8 1LL

lubimorris@gmail.com

Copy deadline: 18th November 2022

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



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



SERVICES NOVEMBER 2022

Wednesday 2nd	All Souls Day 7.00 pm Commemoration of the Faithful Departed Service at Stoneleigh
Sunday 6th	10.00 am United Holy Communion Service at Ashow
Sunday 13th	Remembrance Day 9.30 am Holy Communion Service at Ashow 10.50 am Remembrance Day Service at Stoneleigh
Sunday 20th	9.30 am Celtic Service at Ashow 11.00 am Celtic Service with Holy Communion at Stoneleigh
Sunday 27th	11.00 am Holy Communion Service at Stoneleigh 4.00 pm Advent Carol Service at Ashow

From the Registers
Wedding

Saturday 8th October- Richard Gough to Emily Marsden at Stoneleigh

Contacts:

Priest in Charge:

Reverend Petrica Bistran 07572193260 email: revpbistran@gmail.com

Churchwardens:

Ashow: Kate Jones 01926 853511 and Anne Gregory 01926 717084

Deputy Warden: Peter Shrimpton 01926 859404

Stoneleigh: Gordon Gatward 07776 211276

Deputy Warden: Richard Ashley 07708 097187

Or please contact the Parish Administrator,

Jackie Cubitt, 02476 415506 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