# STONELEIGH AND ASHOW NEWS



**NOVEMBER 2023** 



# "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

lan 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!

<sup>\*</sup> A second defibrillator can be found in the Village Hall \*



## Stoneleigh Community Orchard

As autumn draws on and the dark nights start to close in, it is then that operations such as the picking and pressing of apples start to reach a conclusion. As this article is being written we're looking at some 1300 litres of cider having been pressed with capacity to accommodate a further 400 litres which should easily be met by late apple varieties.

To pinpoint the time to harvest is always a difficult process to navigate and often differs from year to year according to weather conditions. The wet conditions in the middle of summer followed by the warm and sunny weather in early September helped to bring most varieties of apple to an early maturity. Myself and fellow director John Churchley view this a positive thing given our preference to work in full daylight and in an absence of heavy rain, the odds of which become less favourable with the progression of Autumn. That said, many cider makers often argue that leaving the apples later may allow them to press and yield juice more readily as well as allow tannins which are agents of bitterness to act upon the taste of the cider.

This year we had an excellent turn out of pickers and I would like to thank villagers Martin Browett, Paul Britten, Mike Evans, Martin Smith in addition to those from outside the village such as Kim Freeman and David Sibley, Mel Statham, Tony and Sam Hyndman as well as fellow directors Adrian Clarke and Quentin Compton-Bishop.

I want to particularly thank orchard director John Churchley for his time helping with picking and pressing given that he was working under considerable pain. We wish him well in addressing this. He is a real rock at the heart of the orchard group and is highly regarded. I'm conscious of other participants whose names I was unable to elicite before they left site, so apologies to all those who I have missed. It can be argued that the orchard is increasingly acting as a focus for the community and that in a small way

it addresses facilities lost to the village way back that may have served a similar function.

Amusingly, and in common with many other manual work environments music blasts out from the radio and CD's during the pressing process and it has become a tradition at Stoneleigh Orchard for the last press to coincide with the playing of Motorhead's "Ace of Spades" so if this is heard you will know that we are close to completion!

Orchard Friends' subscriptions and yearly renewals 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)

Richard.Hancox@highwaysengland.co.uk

Pete Freeman

Chairman



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20 20 20 20 20



## COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 25th November, 10.30am – 12.30pm

To be held at Stoneleigh Church
To raise funds for the Church Christmas Flowers.
Raffle Cake Stall Christmas table
All Donations greatly received

Everyone Welcome

## STONELEIGH CHURCH FLOWERS

A date for your diary



Please do come and join us decorating Stoneleigh Church for Christmas on Saturday 16th December at 10am Everyone Welcome.

Do you provide creative arts? (Music. arts. percussion etc) me with

"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 heln 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 metoan appointment? Will you help me attend communitu events?

Can you meet all of my support needs?

Can I have a regular team?

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## Film Night

As we are nearing the end of November for this film night, we will be showing a Christmas themed film.



Last Christmas is a romantic comedy in which a Christmas shop assistant strikes up a friendship with a customer who helps her confront some of the shortcomings in her life.

It stars <u>Emilia Clarke</u>, <u>Henry Golding</u>, <u>Michelle Yeoh</u>, <u>Emma</u>
Thompson and Ritu Arya.

This film features the music of <u>George Michael</u>, including the bittersweet festive classic of the film's title

## Friday November 24th 2023 in Stoneleigh Village Hall Meet 6.45pm for a 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 22nd.

## Stoneleigh History Society

If you receive this magazine in time, you may still be able to catch our spooky story at the Village Hall on Tuesday October 31st. We shall be hearing about the mysterious circumstances surrounding a young French girl who was found dead in Kilsby Tunnel near Rugby in 1906. Had there been a terrible accident, was it suicide...or was it the work of the Railway Ripper? Join us to find out!

By contrast our November meeting, on Tuesday 28th, will tell the story of Cicely Neale, daughter of the headmaster of Westwood School, who became a leading local suffragette.

Both meetings begin at 7.30pm and as ever visitors will be made very welcome.

Sheila Woolf



#### Stoneleigh Village



## Stoneleigh Village Website

Perhaps you've been used to reading the colour version of the *Stoneleigh & Ashow News* on the Stoneleigh Village website, <a href="www.stoneleighvillage.org.uk">www.stoneleighvillage.org.uk</a>? If so, you will have found that although the website is accessible, recent editions of our magazine have not been uploaded. This is because in August a glitch in the system shut the website down, and since it was recovered, it has proved impossible to add any new material to it!

Those who live in the two villages are still receiving their copy of the village magazine in printed form, and I place an online version of it on the Stoneleigh Village Facebook page – this, however, requires you to join. The absence of a website, of course, means that the wider community is unable to access useful detail about what goes on here, such as links to the village hall, parish council and church websites. The Parish Council is considering the next step, and it may be that a new Parish Council website will be set up which incorporates material from the village site.

I am very sorry that this useful facility has come to an end after administering it for fourteen years. Village organisations can be reassured that should a replacement site be constructed, I have saved all their information!

Sheila Woolf

Cover Photo by Emma Ballinger Autumn Flowering Crocus taken at Hidcote Manor Gardens

## "CHRISTMAS GREETINGS"

The nights are drawing in now and my diary reminds me to think about Christmas Cards and my usual "flag flying for charity".

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 15th December and list the contributors in the December issue of the Stoneleigh and Ashow News. Last year I sent £577 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 wish to make an online transfer please contact me for bank details.

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



## STONELEIGH LADIES CHOIR

With a little consternation from a few members, Stoneleigh Ladies Choir launched its very own website last month. Produced in conjunction with Making Music, members can hear their own parts as often as they like and then, when ready, can add other parts. The music can even be slowed down without distortion. Sheet music is also available plus many other functions which allows complete communication with each other, the musical director and members of the public.

Why not have a look! Search: www.stoneleighladieschoir.org.uk

The choir's annual Quiz Night takes place on 3rd November at 7pm at the village hall and is always a fun night. Tickets cost £10.00 each and includes a fish/chicken and chips supper. Maximum of six people per team, please. Contact details below.

Practice continues with Christmas music in readiness for carol singing at Cannon Park Shopping Centre on 14th December (tbc) and the Carol Service at Stoneleigh Church on 17th December.

If you are interested in joining the choir, want more information or buy tickets.

Please email Sharron at: secretary@stoneleighladieschoir.org.uk

Pat Wightman

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 **December 2023/January 2024** edition will be compiled by Lucy Morris

lubimorris@gmail.com

Copy deadline: 18th November 2023

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



## Tribute to Anthony

On Friday 13 October a large congregation at Stoneleigh Church gathered to say goodbye to Anthony Bianco, and give thanks for his considerable contribution to our



village. Anthony cajoled, persuaded, hectored and harangued – in a most courteous yet firm manner – all those in positions of responsibility and influence within our area. When the threat of HS2 first came about, he could see immediately the engineering, design and finance implications, but principally the huge environmental impact it would have on the village and surrounding countryside. Most people will never know the extent to which he acted on our behalf in mitigating the worst effects of the project, but there are many must have dreaded their phone ringing at all hours, as he held to account engineers and parliamentarians alike, in the process making a huge difference.

The same was true of other works affecting our parish and beyond. The A46 and the roundabout, the farmers' market, the Birmingham Road closure, the state of Stare Bridge and the relentless increase of heavy traffic — Anthony was always there, in countless meetings, trying to make things better. We owe him a great debt for his powers of persuasion and his tenacity. Anthony keenly supported all aspects of the village community, and was intensely proud of its history. He was also enormous fun, a superb host and someone always interested in the lives of those he met. At his funeral we learnt a great deal about the extraordinary life he led, both in the military and in his subsequent business ventures. Those of us in Stoneleigh, however, will particularly miss his impish grin and his kindness, and we send our love to Mel, who will miss him most.

The Shakespeare nurses were a great comfort to Mel and Anthony in the last week of his life and Mel would like to say a sincere thank you to everyone who donated the £450 given to the hospice.

Sheila Woolf



## CPR and Defibrillator Training

Thanks to those who have let me know that they would like to do training in CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and using the two defibrillators we have in the Village.

Training will be delivered by an NHS Trainer in the Village Hall on Thursday, 2nd November 2023 at 7:00 pm.

If you would like to attend, please confirm by e-mail to assist with the arrangements.

David Ellwood

Telephone: 07785 284482

E-Mail: dae@MediationandArbitration.co.uk







## **HS2** Update

As reported and speculated in previous editions of the S+A News, the recent announcement by the Prime Minister to cancel the Birmingham to Manchester leg of the route (section 2a) following the decision to cancel that between Birmingham and Leeds (section 2b) in 2021 only adds to what appears to be to the authors the sense of the utter pointlessness of HS2. Whilst the Stoneleigh Action Group along with other Action Groups, Parish Councils, affected business groups and individuals along the line of route opposed HS2, there still had to be the hope that with its implementation, as its supporters believed, the benefits long term to the country would offset the drawbacks and the environmental damage to communities along the way, so that as Machiavelli might have said, "the ends justifies the means". Now it seems to have become even more of a White Elephant than its objectors referred to. The business case has evaporated, the CBR (cost benefit ratio) is now so low that continuing to spend would bring a negative revenue (recently referred to as an outcome of Covid that more people are now working remotely, yet this was constantly raised as a minus since 2010 with the advent of remote working practices thanks to the internet) and so Rishi Sunak felt he had no option but to cancel the project despite having already spent a reported £1.2-£1.3 billion on stage 2.

In this edition we pay tribute to our Chairman, Anthony Bianco, also a Parish Councillor, who died towards the end of September. Despite a diagnosis of a terminal illness, he never stopped chasing for answers, asking probing questions and picking up whatever information he could about the development of the project. Anthony had a never-ceasing ability to pick up on early snippets of news, eg about the trouble at Euston station, the timeline for the works to the A46 (which is perhaps now even more uncertain?), and indeed for the spur into Birmingham. He felt the frustration and sadness of us all when another old oak was felled, or answers were not given to questions. I remember Anthony joining the Community Forums and in petitioning Parliament (unsuccessfully sadly, although one never is aware of this at the time) and our time spent in front of the Select Committee in Westminster. Anthony passed away before Sunak's announcement, so perhaps in that

respect he was saved from this decision, which we sadly are not, and are left wondering, "what next"?

Having spent many years working with Anthony against this project, Margaret Wallis and I wish to record our admiration and thanks for all the hard work Anthony put in on behalf of this community.

Martín Smíth and Margaret Wallís, on behalf of the Stoneleigh Action Group (against HS2)





## Stoneleigh W I

Our speaker in October was our vicar- Revd Petrica. He told us about his life in Romania both as a child and then as a student. He continued to tell us how he ended up in England originally, living in the northeast and then in Warwickshire. It was all very interesting.

Our outing to Stoneleigh Abbey was really informative. It's amazing how many of our members hadn't been there although it's on our doorstep!

Our November meeting is on Monday 6th at 2pm. The talk is about "Warwickshire" honey. This reminded me we once had a beekeeper in the village who produced "Stoneleigh" honey. It promises to be an interesting afternoon. Everyone is welcome.

The craft group, which runs on a Monday morning, is still working on their patchwork project, again you are welcome to pop in for a chat and refreshments. The lunch club is meeting later this month - date to be confirmed - the venue is the Rosycoombe in Binley Woods.

Líz Sykes

## POPPY APPEAL 2023

This year's Poppy Appeal in Stoneleigh and Ashow will take place from October 26th to November 12th. Since the poppy was first worn as an act of Remembrance it has become a symbol of enduring support for our Armed Forces and of hope for a peaceful future.

The money raised through the sale of poppies supports the Armed Forces community past and present. It enables the Royal British Legion to provide life-long help to serving and ex-serving members of the British Armed Forces and their families through hardships, injuries and bereavement.

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS WORTHWHILE CAUSE.

Philip and Kate Jones

## **Parish Council News**

The Parish Councillors and the clerk are deeply saddened at the news of the death of Anthony Bianco on Wednesday 27th September 2023. Anthony joined the Parish Council on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017, serving as a Parish Councillor for the Stoneleigh Ward for six years. He was initially co-opted on to the council, then elected in 2019 and re-elected in 2023.

Anthony's knowledge on the history of the parish was remarkable. He was a representative of the Stoneleigh Action Group (STaG) and was involved with the issues of HS2 for over 9 years. His efforts were tireless.

Anthony was also passionate about the protection of the 'Old Stare Bridge'. He will be missed by us all.

#### **Meetings**

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday 9th November 2023** at **Stoneleigh Village Hall** at 7pm.

To view the full details of this, and other meetings, including upcoming planning applications, recent crime reports, and Neighbourhood Plan development details, please visit the Parish Council website at:

www.stoneleighashowparishcouncil.co.uk.

#### **New clerk**

We are pleased to announce the appointment of our new clerk Mrs Helen Denton-Stacey. Helen comes to the role with a wealth of experience and is an excellent addition to the Parish Council.

On a personal note, I would like to thank the Parish Council and all the residents for your support over the last two years. I am grateful for the opportunity to grow both professionally and personally at Stoneleigh and Ashow Parish Council.

For me, parishioners are one of the best parts of clerking, and I'm sure Helen will continue the positive working relationship.

Becky Maoudís

Parish Clerk stoneleighashowparishcouncil@gmail.com
PO Box 6890, Coventry, CV6 9QU

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WWW.STONELEIGHDEERPARKGOLFCLUB.COM

COVENTRY ROAD, STONELEIGH, WARWICKSHIRE CV8 3DR

## Stoneleigh Village Club



#### **Opening Times**

Monday to Thursday: 7pm - 11pm
Friday: 4pm - 11pm
Saturday: 12pm - 11pm
Sunday: 12pm - 10:30pm

With the usual drinking up time of 20 minutes

### **Dates for the Diary**

Here's a reminder of event dates for your diary.

Watch this space on the noticeboard!

Please come down and join in the frivolities:

02/11/23 Crib & Dominoes 7.30pm 04/11/23 Bonfire Night Bonfire lit at 6pm

Gates will open two weeks beforehand for dropping off wood.

Burgers and hot dogs available.

09/11/23 Crib & Dominoes 7.30pm 11/11/23 Charity Race Night and Charity Auction 7.30pm

Donate items and nominate the charity of your choice.

16/11/23	Crib & Dominoes	7.30pm
17/11/23	Fish & Chips Night	7.30pm
18/11/23	Quiz Night	7.30pm
23/11/23	Crib & Dominoes	7.30pm
30/11/23	Crib & Dominoes	7.30pm

Please follow the Club's Facebook page for more news.

www.facebook.com/stoneleighvillageclub

## Stoneleigh Meadows Society 1981 - 2023

In 1981 the Stoneleigh Estate proposed a sale of the Meadows, but subdivided into two-acre pony paddocks. Most people in the village felt this was unacceptable. A small group of local residents got together and raised the necessary funds - by personal donation and assisted by several grants - and purchased the Meadows. The Society was established as a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee in 1982. The Meadows Hut (then known as the Darby and Joan Club) was not included at the time but transferred in 1984 to the Society without charge – the Stoneleigh Estate did not wish to have responsibility for it.

During the 1980s the Meadows were used for grazing which generated sufficient income to cover what were then small outgoings. The crossmeadow fence behind the churchyard was installed so that the cattle could be moved and allow village events to take place in the main meadow. The foot and mouth epidemic in 2001 put an end to this source of income. Fortunately, the Society had received a donation from Severn Trent in 1995 in compensation for digging a pumped main across the Meadows and this sustained the accounts for several years as the increased cost of mowing, tree work, fencing and insurance had to be covered. The Meadow was also made available, for a donation, for parking during church and village events. This has been the situation until the present time although, in almost every financial year, Society expenditure has exceeded income.

Those with long memories will recall the Darby and Joan Club, which then became the Wednesday Club and, when this club was disbanded, the premises were re-named the Meadows Hut (by me, and I painted the sign on the door!) The church PCC used the Hut until 2009 after which, apart from a short-term rental with a local artist, no one used it. It was also in a state of increasing dis-repair which the Society had insufficient funds to deal with and posted a request for suggestions in the Stoneleigh and Ashow News. The only responses received were adamant rejections of any suggestion to redevelop the site. The Society reluctantly concluded the only option was to put the Hut up for sale and this was completed in May 2011. The Hut has been sold on twice since.

In November 2010 the village was appraised of the Local Authority Leader Project (funds for local projects) and the suggestion for a local orchard was

quickly made. The Society was approached and proposed terms for leasing an area of the Meadow in March 2011. These terms were formalised later in 2011 and work to establish the orchard began that autumn by which time the Hut had been sold.

The present owner of the Meadows Hut wishes to restore and convert the property into a single- story dwelling for his own use. The Trustees of the Meadows Society support his plan as in the event of planning approval a near-derelict building will be restored and the Society will receive a significant payment (called an "overage") which would guarantee Meadows funding for the foreseeable future. In the meantime the Society has sold a few square metres of land to assist the owner's plans and this has given a small boost to Society funds.

In our 42 years the Trustees have managed to juggle minimum amounts of income to maintain a facility enjoyed by very many people from far and wide and we hope to continue to do so for many years to come.

Robin Bussell



## Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir



The choir is now busy rehearsing for our Christmas Carol Concert to be held on Wednesday 6th December at 7pm in the Stables at Stoneleigh Abbey. Tickets cost £15 and includes a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie. Our soloist will be Lucy Morris. This year we are supporting 'Rufus's Friends' a charity based in Leamington, which provides respite care for families with children who have learning difficulties. If you would like tickets, please contact Philip Jones on 01926 853511 or 07910240453. e-mail kathryngjones@hotmail.co.uk.

The choir is very pleased that Alan Biddle is back with us after a short stay in hospital and led our concert at the URC In Kenilworth.

If anyone is interested in joining the choir either come along to one of our rehearsals on Wednesday evening at 7.30pm at Stoneleigh Village Hall or contact Philip Jones for more information. Contact details above.

Phílip Jones



Monday 27th November - Friday 22nd December

#### Starter

Chef's Homemade Soup of the Day Duck & Orange Pate Fan of Melon

#### Main

Roast Turkey & Stuffing with Chipolatas in Bacon Roast Pork & Stuffing with Crispy Crackling Camembert, Fig & Onion Tart (v) All Served with Roast Potatoes & Selection of Seasonal Vegetables

### Dessert

Traditional Christmas Pudding & Brandy Sauce or Dessert of the Day

Coffee & Mince Pies £24.95 per person Book Now on 02476 639 991

Monday - Friday Lunchtime Only



## **Ashow Church**

Ashow Church's harvest festival took place on Sunday 24th September. The church was beautifully decorated. Thank you to Anne Gregory, Jean Shrimpton and Susan Spencer who arranged the flowers and displays. Also thank you to all those who donated the dried and tinned food and Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir who gave a cheque for £50. The food and money were given to the Kenilworth Food Bank.

After the service the harvest lunch was held in the grounds of Ashow Village Club. We were very grateful to Anne and Tony Gregory for all their assistance in helping the church to hold our celebration there. It was a very happy occasion enjoyed by the 48 people who attended and the two course meal provided was delicious. Special thanks to Rosemary Brown who organized and co-ordinated the lunch. I would also like to thank all the people who cooked the meat pies, vegetables and puddings, Audrey and Phil Rowberry who were in charge of the raffle, Nicola Vincett for the table decorations and everyone who helped before, during and after the lunch. We were also very lucky that the weather was kind to us.

As we reach November Ashow Church is looking forward and planning for Advent and Christmas

Kate Jones
Churchwarden

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Each session includes a short video, a discussion guide, and a practical activity for the group to explore together.

Refreshments will be served! Everyone is welcome!



## THE UNITED BENEFICE OF THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY, ASHOW and



### ST MARY THE VIRGIN, STONELEIGH

#### **SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER 2023**

Thursday 2nd 7.00 pm Commemoration of the Faithful Departed at Stoneleigh Sunday 5th 10.00 am United Holy Communion Service at Ashow 6.00 pm Healing and Wholeness Service at Stoneleigh 9.30 am Remembrance Service at Ashow Sunday 12th 10.50 am Remembrance Service at Stoneleigh 9.30 am Celtic Service at Ashow Sunday 19th 11.00 am Special Service for World Children's Day at Stoneleigh Sunday 26th 9.30 am Village Service at Ashow 11.00 am Holy Communion Service at Stoneleigh

#### From the Registers -Funerals

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023 – Anthony Bianco
Thanksgiving Service at Stoneleigh
Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2023 - Terence Coe Storer – Interment at Stoneleigh

#### Contacts:

Priest in Charge: Reverend Petrica Bistran 07572193260

email: revpbistran@gmail.com

#### **Churchwardens:**

Ashow: Kate Jones 01926 853511 and Anne Gregory 01926 713066

Deputy Warden: Peter Shrimpton 02475 096477 **Stoneleigh:** Gordon Gatward 07776 211276 and

Ashley Toogood 07771 888618

Deputy Warden: Richard Ashley 07708 097187 Or please contact the Parish Administrator,

Jackie Cubitt, 02476 415506 email: <a href="mailto:admin@stoneleighchurch.co.uk">admin@stoneleighchurch.co.uk</a>
Office Hours Wednesday 9.00 am to 12.00, Thursdays 9.00 am to 1.00 pm
Website: <a href="www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12964">www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12964</a> for Stoneleigh
<a href="www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12954">www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12954</a> for Ashow