

Stoneleigh & Ashow News



February 2024



“The Heart of Stoneleigh Defibrillator”

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Coordinator

David Ellwood 07785 284482

Text if no reply.

There is also a defibrillator outside the Village Hall

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

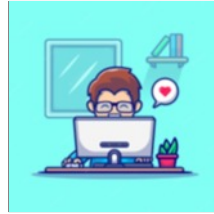
Editor Wanted!

Are you interested in contributing to your local community?

Would you like to join the editorial team of the
Stoneleigh & Ashow News?

We are in need of another team member, to be responsible for putting together one of our monthly editions.

You will be joining an experienced and friendly team who will be happy to offer support. To find out more, please contact Lucy Morris for a chat about what is involved – email lubimorris@gmail.com



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‘Welcome to 2024’!



Tina Freeman and Pete Freeman (no relation!) share some recent photos with you.



Stoneleigh Community Orchard

Pete Freeman

As the cycle of a new year begins so plans can be formed for the Orchard going forward. This year we intend to develop our “Blossom Event” which proved such a success under the very capable leadership of the Orchard directors, Nora Blagburn and Quentin Compton-Bishop. The format of the event will be similar to last year, but will occur at an earlier weekend of Saturday, 18th May between 2.30 - 4.30 pm to ensure that there is still blossom left on the trees to be viewed. Readers may wish to save this date to their diaries as well as spread the word. There will also be cider available to purchase on the day!

With regards to the winter, this has clearly not passed without incident, most notably Storm Henk followed on the back of Storm Babet, both of which affected the Orchard as well as other low-lying areas of the village. It is worth considering this event in some detail as the narrative runs a lot deeper than the Orchard and deserves closer scrutiny by all affected parties. It goes without mention that the village has always undergone flooding and one doesn't have to research too deep to find historic pictures indicating worse flood events than those experienced after Storm Henk. I am informed that the river had, from time-to-time, undergone dredging to alleviate flood events, also obstructions such as trees falling into the river were dealt with promptly before they impacted on the river flow.

With this in mind, and shortly after storm Henk struck to allow the flood water level to reach a zenith, I explored the flow dynamics of how the river reacted to the deluge and took a walk parallel to the river towards the show ground. It immediately became apparent that the sewage pumping station at the end of Vicarage Road had become completely inundated with all the potential environmental consequences. Then, taking a stroll along the escarpment above the river, it was possible to observe the confluence of the River Sowe with the River Avon. Both

rivers were in full flood and water was backing up towards the village. Further walking brought me to a small steel bridge that crossed into the show ground from which could be observed, a short distance onwards, the embankment created by HS2. Here a newly created bridge designed to convey the trains, traversed the flood plain of the river Avon. This embankment seemed to be acting as a dam, impeding the flow of the river across the flood plain and slowing down the egress of the flood waters from this area. Furthermore, photographic evidence appears to support the observation that some backing up of river flood water was occurring at this structure. One may further speculate whether the design of the embankment had factored in the potential for powerful flood events such as that presented by Storm Henk. In addition, one might ask whether there are currently sufficient drainage tunnels communicating through the embankment, to mitigate the hydrological consequences of water accumulating on a flood plain, resulting in flood waters backing up towards the village? It can of course be argued that river floods can occur regardless of obstruction, but surely common sense and a natural reference to dams constructed by beavers will more than support this argument? These observations have been communicated to various interested parties such as Severn Trent, the Parish Council and the Environment Agency, who I trust will take this up with HS2. Regardless of readers' opinions relating to HS2, such projects need far more scrutiny and planning in advance of implementation.

Orchard Friends' subscriptions and yearly renewals for 2024 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),
Richard.Hancox@highwaysengland.co.uk



Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal **2023.**

The final total for the 2023 Appeal in Ashow and Stoneleigh was £2743.26. Thank you to everyone who donated and collected.

Sadly in 2023 we lost two wonderful stalwarts of the British Legion in Ernie Ball and Dennis Craddock. They had both worked tirelessly in Ashow and Stoneleigh for many years to raise funds and support the Legion. They will be sorely missed by their families and friends.



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Stoneleigh Village Club

The unfortunate accident to Jim Gavin (our Village Club Steward) last October caused the Club committee significant difficulties. It is to the credit of Chairman Rory and his team that the Club has continued to provide a full bar service and all the usual events and activities during Jim's absence. Halloween, bonfire, quizzes, Christmas children's party – to name just a few – all took place and were much enjoyed by members and friends. The bar has been manned by committee members and a host of volunteers who have all contributed, with a welcoming smile, to keep the show on the road.

I'm sure that all members and friends who have used and enjoyed the Club in recent weeks would wish to join with me in saying a huge "thank you" to all those who have helped out at the Club.

We wish Jim a full recovery and look forward to seeing him behind the bar sometime soon. In the meantime, please continue to use the Club as often as possible to show your appreciation for our "Village Social Centre" and the volunteers who provide it.

Robin Bussell
Member, SVC.

And another "Thank You":

My Christmas Flag Flying, in place of sending Christmas cards locally, raised £580 for Myton Hospice and I offer my sincere thanks to all those who contributed. Myton was very grateful and posted a fulsome "thank you" on Facebook.

RB





Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir.

The choir had a busy Christmas. We held our annual Carol Concert at the Abbey. The retiring collection raised £303 for Rufus' Friends with the choir making it up to £500. Rufus' Friends supports families who have a member with learning difficulties. We took part in Carols at Kenilworth Castle, at the invitation of Kenilworth Lions, where we sang three jolly songs. It was a very uplifting occasion in front of a large audience.

On December 17th we sang at The Stoneleigh Carol service. The church was full and it was a joyful evening.

Jim Easter and I represented the Choir at the grand opening of the new HQ for the Warwickshire Search and Rescue Service. We donated £1000 to the Service at our Summer Serenade. The new HQ was opened by the Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire and there were displays of equipment and personnel. Over a hundred people attended the event.

We have restarted our rehearsals in the village hall and if anyone would like to join us please come along on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm or call Philip Jones on 01926 853511 or 07910240453 or by e-mail: kathryngjones@hotmail.co.uk.

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

Philip Jones



“Wows and Wonders”

Bill Crofts, our very own Treasurer of the Stoneleigh & Ashow News, is the Director of the University of Warwick Satellite Programme, or WUSAT, within the School of Engineering there.

Just before Christmas he was awarded a “ Wows and Wonders” prize, to recognise academic staff who have made an outstanding contribution to the Warwick community in 2023. There were 300 nominations and Bill made it to the last three. He got over 50 per cent of the vote .

Many congratulations on a well-deserved award, Bill!



Film Night

February's film will be 'The Great Escaper'



In the summer of 2014, a World War II veteran sneaks out of his care home to attend the 70th anniversary commemoration of the D-Day landings in Normandy. The film stars Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson.

**Friday February 2nd 2024 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 January 31st

Stoneleigh WI

A good couple of months for us with two very good speakers. In December Eddie Smallwood spoke about the myths of Christmas which was both entertaining and informative. It was followed with seasonal refreshments.

In January we had a talk on tai chi given by Julia Mitchell who had us doing very gentle exercises.

The December lunch was at Stoneleigh Golf Club which was an excellent Christmas meal. We also had a raffle which raised £75 for the Coventry charity that provides meals for homeless people. It's based at the Baptist Church in Queen's Road.

There hasn't been a lunch in January, however we have one organised on February 12th at the Anchor at Leek Wootton.

The speaker in February is Lyn Sparks and the subject is Witness in Court.

We meet at 2pm on the first Monday of the month. All welcome – a friendly meeting with refreshments

Liz Sykes

This month's cover: Stoneleigh Meadows



Morris men

Photographs – Felicity Taylor



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Stoneleigh History Society

We had a busy time commemorating the King's Coronation last year – our exhibition can still be seen in the Leigh Chapel of the church. We also enjoyed some excellent talks in 2023, and at the time of writing we are looking forward to our first one of 2024.

On Tuesday January 30th our speaker will be Kevin Hunt from Leamington, who will tell us about “William Gascoyne, the ambitious stonemason” – a man responsible for many of the most important buildings in Leamington.

Then, on Tuesday February 27th I shall be speaking on “Who's Ever Heard of Hamstall?”, which is the story of the surprisingly close connections between a small village in Staffordshire and the villages of Stoneleigh and Ashow.

Why not make this the year you join the Society? We meet at 7.30pm at Stoneleigh Village Hall, usually on the last Tuesday of the month. Alternatively you would be welcome to come along as a visitor to try us out...we're a friendly lot!

*Sheila Woolf
Chair.*



Beauchamp Hall, now the Kingsley School, Leamington,
built by William Gascoyne

STONELEIGH LADIES CHOIR



With Christmas and the New Year behind us, the choir is looking forward to its first full year under the new leadership of Seb Farrall . But first just a reminder of the last year during which Stoneleigh Ladies Choir

celebrated its 10th anniversary with lots of different social activities. The year started with a ‘Glitz and Glamour’ lunch at Kenilworth Golf Club, followed by ‘My Fair Lady’ at the Birmingham Hippodrome and later ‘Sweet Charity’ at the Talisman Theatre. The choir performed two concerts including the very successful ‘Songs from the Shows’ and one for their chosen charity, The Trussell Trust/Coventry Food Bank which the ladies of the choir have continued to support with regular donations. A lovely party marked the end of an era when our leader, Karen Whyte left us after ten years leading the choir.

Seb Farrall, our new Musical Director, was in harness within two weeks for the ‘Joy Fest’ at Stoneleigh Church in September. The year ended with the choir singing at Cannon Park Shopping Centre and during the Carol Service at Stoneleigh Church.

The new term, January 2024, has started with the selection of some music previously performed and new music which will enable members of the choir to join with an ambitious ‘Community Choir of 300’ at Warwick University later in the year. However, our first performance of the year will be at the Waverley Centre on 21st March which seems to have become an annual event.

Our new website is proving a huge success with many people visiting the site. www.stoneleighladieschoir.org will provide all the information you may need about the choir including contact details if you would like to join us. You would be welcome.

Pat Wightman

HS2 Update. February 2024.

Since advising you of the approval of the compound extension, HS2/BBV has advised some provisional dates (subject to review) for elements of the works to create this compound extension:

1. Vegetation clearance April 2024 (*but this would be in the bird nesting season so might be brought forward*)
2. The creation of the temporary T junction access April to June 2024
3. The possibility that the roundabout construction (*this is the smaller roundabout or banjo roundabout which would give access to the farmers market for one element, but this is subject to consents and is the project one assumes under Warwickshire County Council's hand, April to August 2024*)
4. Construction of the compound May to August 2024.
(*my comments in italic*).

Coupled with the necessary investigative works one can foresee that there will be delays and disruptions on that section of road from the Stoneleigh crossroads up to the A46 from Spring onwards.

The condition of the Ashow Road especially at this time of year is deteriorating with some seriously large-sized potholes.

Works on Dalehouse Lane might suggest that there will be further closures of this section during the coming year and if any more information is available then I will advise you. Please note though that the frequency of these reports may reduce.

On a more national scale there is growing concern over the future of phase 2, cancelled or not, land acquired to be released or not, and so on. If resurrected that would in time increase the frequency of trains running on our section of line as per the original plan. Just a reminder that the original designed speed of the trains was 250 mph but that has now been reduced to 225 mph, although the track is designed for the higher speed. Some local decisions have been made under Section 17 of the Hybrid Bill by Warwick District Council, namely approval of the bridge over the Canley Ford as well as that over the cutting through Stoneleigh Park for

the road bridge. Other more local applications, eg the River Avon bridge crossing and that required to take vehicles over the cutting at gate 1 of the NAEC are still awaited, I believe. There have been some public consultations over the possible designs of bridges available, so please look out for any local consultations if you are interested.

The localised high water fluvial levels we experienced in late December have been of concern to some residents with respect to the Avon crossing bridge and if the piers supporting the bridge have affected the water flow.

Finally on a national note the chair of HS2, Sir Jon Thompson is reported to have told the Transport Select Committee of MPs that the revised estimated cost of HS2 is now about £65bn. This is of course for the reduced length of track now, omitting phase 2. It is of interest to residents, perhaps, that MPs and the public were originally advised on a cost of £17bn 12 years or so ago.

Martin Smith for the Stoneleigh Action Group against HS2



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Teams4U Shoe Box Appeal 2024

We are very proud to report that we have dispatched

2610 shoe boxes from Stretton for 2023!

Stoneleigh has supported the Teams4U shoe box appeal through donations and fundraising. The last year has certainly been busy and it is great that the appeal is something local people have wanted to support. With the cost at £3 per box, donations have been a massive help towards paying the transport bill for the shoe boxes, enabling them to wing their way to the children who are so grateful to receive them.

Our boxes started their 1,400-mile journey from Stretton in mid-November, venturing off to vulnerable children and families in Oradea, Western Romania and Moldova.

Stretton has received pre-loved toys & new essentials, gained many beautifully crafted items, seen some sterling work on collecting boxes from local shoe shops and been amazed at how many boxes some people have been able to wrap for us!! Behind the scenes a lot of time is spent preparing - filling pencil cases, wrapping soap, counting combs, making notepads, pairing socks, folding colouring sheets - amongst lots of other jobs, to make sure the packing days run smoothly. Half the boxes were packed in August and we repeated the whole process again in October. If you're interested in helping out, we can find a task to suit you!

We post updates and requests regularly on our Facebook page. Please do follow us if you want to see what goes on - search for **Teams 4u Stretton On Dunsmore Shoebox Appeal**

We will start to collect items again from late February onwards – we need a little break to catch our breath before it all starts again!

We can make use of leftover wrapping paper, the fronts of non religious Christmas cards and any cracker toys, so please do save those for the appeal.

Thank you for all the support given by Stoneleigh!

Pam – 07526 337437 Joanna - 07906 398752

Facebook: Teams 4u Stretton On Dunsmore Shoebox Appeal

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E: strettonshoeboxappeal@gmail.com

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Stoneleigh Village Club



COFFEE MORNING

Thursday

February 8th, 22nd

March 7th, 21st

10:00am - 11:30am

*Come along, enjoy a hot drink
and catch up with friends.*

Everyone is welcome!

£1 donation



This edition of Stoneleigh and Ashow News was compiled by Jane Taylor, who would like to thank all contributors. The online colour version can be viewed at the Stoneleigh Village Facebook page.

The March 2024 edition will be compiled by

Sarah Ballinger
sarahjballinger@gmail.com

Copy deadline: 18th February 2024

Printed by: BuyMyPrint, Westwood Road, Coventry CV5 6GF.

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
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How to create your advertisement

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- Email your ad to the Treasurer at bill.crofts@btinternet.com, stating the size of ad that you would like and which editions you would like it to feature in.
- 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) for 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.

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Stoneleigh Village Club

Est. 1856

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stoneleigh.villageclub@gmail.com*



‘Happy New Year’ to everyone’.

At the time of writing Jim remains off sick. We did see him on New Year’s Day when Karen brought him to the Club to see his friends. We wish Jim well and hope that he will be able to return to the Club when he is fully recovered.

Our lovely bar maid Adele has also been poorly. At the time of writing I have not had an update but we all hope you are feeling better now.

Many thanks to all those who have stepped in the help keep the Club open over the Christmas period in particular

SVC Committee is busy as ever planning events for members to enjoy. Please keep an eye on the information board outside the Club for further details / last minute changes.



Morris men outside the Club on Boxing Day.

Dates for your diary:

8th February 2024 – Coffee morning 10am – 11.30am.

9th February 2024 – A fabulous night of music from the 60's. Come and bop to the Beatles, shimmy with the Searchers and dance to the Dave Clarke five. £10 per ticket to include food and entry to the raffle for an overnight stay in a local hotel.

17th February 2024 – Valentines Quiz hosted by Lynne Fletcher – Get your team on the list to be sure of a place.

22nd February 2024 - Coffee morning 10am – 11.30am.

23rd February 2024 – Fish n Chip night – Get your order in at the bar by 22nd February and come and enjoy a fish n chip supper with your friends and neighbours.



The nights are still dark. Winter is still with us but there are signs of Spring around the village. Some of the bulbs are beginning to push their way through with promise of beautiful flower displays in Spring.

Why not arrange to meet your friends or neighbours one night at Stoneleigh Village Club?

With Kind regards

SVC Committee

Ashow Church News

Ashow PCC would like to thank everyone who came and helped decorate the church for our Christmas services and the Stoneleigh Estate for donating the Christmas tree.

Our candlelit Christmas Carol Service took place on Sunday 17th December. The church looked magical and the service was very well attended. We were delighted to have the Ashow Church Choir lead the singing and are very grateful to Susan Spencer who organised the service and conducted the choir.

On Sunday 24th December the church held a Christingle service arranged and led by our lay reader Audrey Rowberry who also made the Christingles. This service was also very well attended and it was lovely to have so many children there.

Then on Christmas morning, at our service led by Petrica, we joyously celebrated the birth of Jesus.

As we enter a new year 2024, we are looking to the future and ways of growing the church. We also are looking at ways of raising funds to carry out repairs to our beautiful building so any ideas on how we could do this would be much appreciated.

A belated happy new year to you all.

Kate Jones



Shrove Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day is the last day before the period Christians call Lent. This day is forty-seven days before Easter Sunday.

This year it is on February 13th

Pancakes are eaten on this day because they contain butter and eggs which were forbidden during Lent.

Pancake Recipe

Ingredients:

100g plain flour

2 large eggs

300ml milk

1 tbsp sunflower or vegetable oil, plus a little extra for frying
lemon wedges to serve (optional)

caster sugar to serve (optional)



Method:

Put all the ingredients into a bowl (except the oil) then whisk to a smooth batter.

Set aside for 30 minutes to rest if you have time or start cooking straight away.

Set a medium frying pan or crêpe pan over a medium heat and carefully wipe it with some oiled kitchen paper.

When hot, cook your pancakes for 1 minute on each side until golden, keeping them warm in a low oven as you go.

Serve with lemon wedges and caster sugar or your favourite filling.



Spring Quiz Night

Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir will be holding a fun quiz night on

February 24th

Venue: Stoneleigh Village Hall at 7pm

Teams of six @ £10 per head, including a supper.

Let us know if you would like to enter a team.

Contact Phil Jones: phone: 01926 853511 or 07910 240 453 or

email at kathryngjones@hotmail.co.uk

Let us know of any dietary requirements.

Please bring your own drink and glasses.

There will be a raffle.





JOIN US FOR

MOTHER'S DAY

Sunday 10th March

STARTER

Chef's Homemade Soup of the Day
Fan of Melon served with Parma Ham
Goats Cheese & Tomato Salad
Duck & Orange Pate

MAIN

Roast Beef, Pork, Turkey, Gammon & Poached Salmon
Served with Chef's Potato Selection,
Seasonal Vegetables & Yorkshire Pudding
Vegetarian option: Somerset Beetroot & Brie Tart

DESSERT

Toffee Cheesecake, Cherry Frangipanne,
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Chocolate Brownie
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and
St Mary the Virgin, Stoneleigh



SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2024

Sunday 4 th	11.00 am United Holy Communion Service at Stoneleigh
Sunday 11 th	9.30 am Service with Baptism at Ashow 11.00 am Morning Praise Service at Stoneleigh
Wednesday 14 th	7.00 pm Ash Wednesday Service Holy Communion at Stoneleigh
Sunday 18 th	9.30 am Celtic Service at Ashow 11.00 am Celtic Communion Service at Stoneleigh
Sunday 25 th	9.30 am Village Service at Ashow 11.00 am Holy Communion Service at Stoneleigh

From the Registers

Funerals

Wednesday 20th December 2023 – Dennis Craddock – Funeral Service at Stoneleigh Church

Thursday 21st December 2023 – Charles Edward Richard Hind - Funeral Service at Stoneleigh Church

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: stoneleighchurch@hotmail.com

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

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

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