

STONELEIGH AND ASHOW NEWS



MARCH 2024



“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 ****

Film Night

April's film will be: A Haunting in Venice



Poirot is now retired and living in self-imposed exile in the world's most glamorous city, Venice. He reluctantly attends a seance at a decaying, haunted palazzo and soon gets thrust into a sinister world of shadows and secrets, when one of the guests is murdered.

The film stars, and is directed by, Kenneth Branagh.

**Friday April 12th 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 April 10th



Stoneleigh Community Orchard

As this article is being written there seems to be no let-up in the flood events affecting the Orchard and village, the latest occurred during the first full week of February, and though the weather system was not heralded with a name of note and river levels did not reach those of previous storms, it seemed to be a lot more destructive, displacing already damaged fencing and accumulating a strange array of items representing broad aspects of humanity, all of which when combined with dead vegetation trapped in the fencing contributed to the pressure placed upon Orchard boundaries and other boundaries around the meadow.

A small window of dry weather following Storm Henk allowed winter pruning to be completed, clippings removed from site, and materials cleared from fencing that may have acted as levers during further flooding.

Readers of the February edition may recall that a dialogue had been opened up with a number of interested parties following the aftermath of the flooding caused by winter storms. At this point in time the Orchard is working closely with the Parish Council to bring pressure to bear upon HS2 to offer solutions to what appears to be the dam like effects of the railway embankment located a short distance downstream from the village with consequent flood water building up back towards the village. Unfortunately, the Environment agency that should monitor and have some leverage over HS2, is a government body, so the balance of probability suggests that layers of politics will be applied to any subsequent investigation. We will watch carefully to see what if anything they do and then respond accordingly.



Back in January, I attended a presentation entitled “This Septic Isle” at the Quaker Meeting House in Coventry given by Geoff Sallis who is described as a citizen scientist and who is heading a campaign to address river pollution in the River Avon catchment. This was largely in response and out of respect for the excellent work of our late counsellor Anthony Bianco who championed the fight against river pollution locally as well as Stoneleigh resident Marion Murray who described anecdotal observations of the decline of biodiversity in the river immediately outside Motslow Hill Cottage and whose opinion I value.

Readers may be familiar through the media with a recent campaign of pressure centred on the river Wye in which pollution from chicken farms leached into that river with catastrophic effects. The Environment Agency is being challenged to properly address the incidence of this pollution and the case is currently subject to a judicial review. With the Finham Sewage Treatment works on the Sowe only a short distance upstream and with the potential for multi-drug-resistant bacteria to be released in raw sewage the Orchard is working closely with the Parish Council to explore possibilities for monitoring and testing water quality and levels of pollution locally. In short this should give our community an oversight of pollution levels on both the River Sowe and Avon respectively and ensure that responsible parties will not be allowed to mark their own homework without scrutiny.

Finally, a reminder that this year the Orchard board intend to develop our “Blossom event” which proved such a success under the very capable leadership of 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.

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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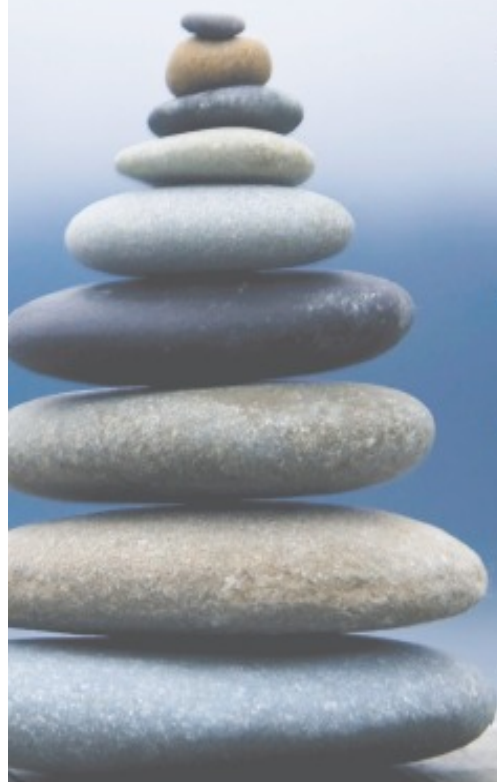


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Stoneleigh Village Club



We were very pleased to welcome our Steward Jim back to work in January. He started back part time but will be returning to full time hours when he gets back from his holiday at the end of February. Welcome back Jim.

The SVC Committee continue to be busy dealing with club business. There is always plenty to do! We have recently registered for VAT due to turn over, electricity prices have increased substantially, and generally prices continue to rise across the board. This presents challenges for the committee in maximising profit and reducing costs.

On 9th February 2024 many of you came along to the 60's night which was sponsored and supported by Tim Salt. Thank you to Tim, the Bar staff and other helpers. It was a fabulous night, well attended and many people have said how much they enjoyed themselves.

The 'Valentine's quiz' was also well attended. Many thanks to Ruth and helpers for running this.

If the club is to remain successful, events are key to increasing income. Let us know if you would like to put on an event, or if you can help with anything planned throughout the year. Baking a cake? Help to selling raffle tickets? Setting up or clearing up after an event? All help is valuable however small, and all help assists to maximise income and ensure a positive future for SVC.

Dates for your diary

March 7th 2024 – 10am – 11:30am. Coffee Morning. Come along, enjoy a hot drink and catch up with friends.

March 16th 2024 - 'Irish night' Irish music, Irish stew and soda bread and CHEAP GUINNESS! Come along and have some fun.

March 21st 2024 – 10:00am – 11:30am. Coffee Morning.

Football and the Six Nations rugby games are shown at the club.
Come along to watch the game and have a drink.

Dependent upon support available, we hope to continue to run fish and chip nights, quiz nights, bingo, and an Easter event for the children. Keep an eye on the information board outside the club for further details. Why not arrange to meet your friends or neighbours one night at Stoneleigh Village Club?

SVC Committee



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Stoneleigh History Society

We had an extra treat this month between meetings when we were given a private tour of Princethorpe College during their half-term. After an hour-long lecture on the history of the College we were taken around the building, finishing in the extraordinary Pugin chapel. We were grateful to Lisa Reay for organising this and to our guide Alex Darkes, whose knowledge of all things Princethorpe was unrivalled – well, he's been there for 57 years!

Photo taken by
Ian Harrop



In January we had a revealing talk about William Gascoyne who was responsible for many of the buildings familiar to us in Leamington, but whose name is largely forgotten.

If this publication arrives with you in time, you might be able to catch our February meeting on Tuesday 27, when I will be examining the surprisingly close relationship between the villages of Stoneleigh, Ashow and Hamstall Ridware in Staffordshire.

Our meeting on March 26 will be different again, when we welcome back Richard Churchley who will speak on *From Edburga to Elvis – unusual saints and their churches*. Richard's talks are always entertaining, and everyone will be welcome at 7.30pm that evening at Stoneleigh Village Hall. The meeting will be preceded by our AGM.

Sheila Woolf

Stoneleigh Village Club



COFFEE MORNING

Thursday

March 7th, 21st

April 11th, 25th

10:00am - 11:30am

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

Everyone is welcome!

£1 donation



Stoneleigh WI

Another excellent speaker in February, Lyn Sparks speaking about the Witness Support Group. Most of us were not aware of the organisation. It is run by volunteers to help witnesses, usually their first time in court. Everyone found it so interesting to hear how the organisation helps these people. Lyn is based in Leamington, and attends the court at least once a week. Again, another example of volunteers helping their community. This month we also enjoyed a very pleasant lunch at The Anchor at Leek Wootton.

The craft group have arranged a card making session on February 26th in the morning at 9:30. It looks very good. The charge is £5 per person. Please come along if you are interested.

In March we have arranged a coffee morning at Dobbies in Stratford – where we can sit and chat and also have a browse around. The monthly lunch will be later in the month, date and venue to be arranged.

Our next monthly meeting is on March 4th, the speaker is Clive Garner and the talk is about silk painting. The meeting starts at 2pm, everyone welcome to join us and have a chat and refreshments. Look forward to seeing you.

Liz Sykes

STONELEIGH VILLAGE HALL

HELP needed for the audio equipment

at Stoneleigh Village Hall. Please, if there is someone local who has some knowledge of this would you please contact:

Bill McCutcheon email: billmccutcheon@yahoo.co.uk

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bill.crofts@btinternet for details of how you can make a BACS, cheque or cash payment. *Thank you !*



HS2 Update

Not much to report. Dalehouse Lane is currently closed. Look out for other road closures associated with the works, as this and other construction projects are putting pressure on routes into Kenilworth and Leamington. The recent surface water and river flooding has also caused problems with traffic, some people are of the view that some of this flooding could be down to disruption to the existing land drains. The Mayors of Birmingham and Manchester have launched their own plan to use the safeguarded land on the line of route north of us to create a dedicated rail connection between the two cities, and to do so before land that has been purchased under compulsory purchase powers is sold on the open market, seeing this as a once in a lifetime opportunity. Were this to come off quite how it could affect train passes (ie numbers) through Stoneleigh is to be seen.

Martin Smith

for the Stoneleigh Action Group.

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Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir

On Wednesday March 20th the choir is singing at the Lower Meadow Care Home, Stratford upon Avon which is where John Sandoz, one of our long serving members spent his last few months. We will be singing in memory of John who will be sadly missed.

We have welcomed three new members and are pleased to welcome back Paul Smith.

The quiz which was held on February 24th was a sellout and a report on this event will be placed in April's magazine.

If anyone would like to join us please come along on Wednesday evenings to Stoneleigh village hall at 7.30pm or contact Philip Jones on 01926 853511 or 07910240453, email: kathryngjones@hotmail.co.uk.

Philip Jones



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Stoneleigh Ladies Choir

The annual concert at the Waverley Centre takes place on 21 March when the choir will sing a variety of songs, with hopefully some audience participation.

A number of the choir members have signed up to sing with the massed choir at the Sing It Loud 10th Anniversary Concert on 25 May in the Butterworth Hall at Warwick University. One of the pieces to be performed is Adiemus by Sir Karl Jenkins the Welsh instrumentalist and composer who celebrated his 80th birthday in February. The choir are having great fun getting their tongues around the invented vocabulary. Our musical director, Seb Farrall will be leading the massed choir so if you are interested in joining the 200 other singers, it's not too late. Details on www.singitloud.co.uk/massedchoir.

Last month Seb put on a great Cosmic event for the whole family to enjoy. Together with the Coventry City of Culture Orchestra they produced an afternoon of Aliens, Thunderbirds, characters from the Starship Enterprise, Jedi Knights and much more! Central Hall was transformed with a huge planet earth, pyrotechnics, people in fancy dress but above all exciting and inspiring music from the orchestra. Their offerings ranged from Moonlight Sonata to themes from Star Wars and David Bowie's Life on Mars. Looking forward to the next one.

Safeline was one of our chosen charities to support in 2021. Established in 1994, it specialises in the prevention of sexual violence and abuse and support those affected to cope and recover. To celebrate its 30th anniversary they are holding a coffee morning on 8 March at the Ballroom, Warwick Court House, Jury Street, Warwick between 10am and 1pm. All welcome.

Pat Wightman

Stoneleigh Village Hall and Playing Fields Trust

Charity number 702742

The Annual General meeting for the trust will be held on
Tuesday April 9th at 7pm in the village hall.

A new committee needs to be voted in.

The hall is one of the few amenities that we have in the village – it is run by a committee of volunteers. Can you please help? It is important that we have this help so that we can remain viable.



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 Buy My Print.

The **April 2024** edition will be compiled by

Mike and Bernice Evans

heronbank8@gmail.com

Copy deadline: 18th March 2024

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

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Parish Council News

New Planning Applications

Appl. No: W/24/0107/LB –

Address. The Forge, The Green, Stoneleigh, Coventry, CV8 3DP

Description. The installation of a plaque to commemorate the legacy of Edward Langley Fardon who once occupied this building.

Applicant. Messrs , Whitehouse & Rice

Discussed, The Parish Council support the application.

Stoneleigh Park Events

Cllr P Redford has previously met with the organisers, who advised at the time, that they would contact sound consultants. They apparently did not turn up. She has since spoken to WDC licensing & environmental department, who have advised equipment can be set up in a resident's property to measure the sound, Cllr J Astle has agreed to have the equipment in his property.

HS2 Updates

Clerk has asked Sarah Louise to attend the April meeting to provide an update on the project.

Stoneleigh Village Hall Noticeboard

WCC have approved location in Hall Close. Clerk to assign contractor and check insurance cover.

Birmingham Road Closure Update

Cllr W Redford & Cllr R Hancox met to discuss the road closure. HS2 have the licence until October for the traffic lights. They do have the right to extend the licence, but County Council are unaware of any future plans. The PC are awaiting the application forms for the 20mph limit.

Stare Bridge and B4113 Footpath Update

Cllr P Redford has updated and advised the footpath will be addressed in summer.

State of Disrepair C32/B4115 Crossroads

Cllr W Redford advised that surfacing has been completed on one side, with the other side planned for 24th March. This will require a road closure and diversion in place. The blocked drains and gully have been reported.

Updates from Warwickshire Police, WCC Councillor Redford and WDC Councillors P Redford and J Payne

Cllr P Redford advised there is currently a funding scheme in place of £35k called 'Move On' for the prevention of rough sleeping to help towards accommodation for the homeless.

Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 14 March 2024 at 7pm at Stoneleigh Village Hall.

Helen Denton-Stacey

Clerk & RFO to the Parish Council
Stoneleigh and Ashow Parish Council



Cover photo taken by

Sarah Ballinger



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ASHOW
and
ST MARY THE VIRGIN, STONELEIGH**



SERVICES FOR MARCH 2024

Sunday 3	10.00 am United Holy Communion Service at Ashow 6.00 pm Wholeness and Healing Service at Stoneleigh
Sunday 10	Mothering Sunday 9.30 am Mothering Sunday Service at Ashow 11.00 am Mothering Sunday Service at Stoneleigh
Sunday 17	9.30 am Celtic Service at Ashow 11.00 am Celtic Communion Service at Stoneleigh
Sunday 24	9.30 am Village Service at Ashow 11.00 am United Holy Communion Service at Stoneleigh
Thursday 28	7.30 pm Maundy Thursday Communion Service at Stoneleigh
Friday 29	2.00 pm Good Friday Hour of the Cross at Ashow
Saturday 30	8.00 pm Easter Vigil at Stoneleigh
Sunday 31	9.30 am Easter Day Holy Communion Service at Ashow 11.00 am Easter Day Holy Communion Service at Stoneleigh

From the Registers

Funerals

Friday 26 January 2024 – Napier Penlington – Funeral Service at Stoneleigh Church followed by burial in the Churchyard

Baptisms

11 February 2024 - Alessandra Mary Gudge – Baptism at Ashow

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 1.00 pm

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

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