STONELEIGH & ASHOW

News



APRIL 2024



"The Heart of Stoneleigh" Defibrillator

In the phone box on The Green and at Stoneleigh Village hall

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
Martin Smith	07958 955629
Mary Taylor	07890 535506

Remember: Always ring 999 first!

There is also a defibrillator at Stoneleigh Village Hall.



Cover Image: Spring in the churchyard, by T. Kietselaer.



Stoneleigh Community Orchard CIC Update

Pete Freeman

With the days lengthening and the seasons changing the orchard starts to awake from its slumber, well-nourished from this winter's flooding and enhanced by the return of our orchard swans!



Orchard articles for the first quarter editions of the S&A News have emphasised flood events affecting both the orchard and the village generally and this edition develops this theme by providing an update to our dialogue with both the Environment Agency (EA) & HS2 respectively. The EA responded to observations and images concerning the backing up of flood waters towards the village and consequent inundation of the Vicarage Road Sewage pumping station with a surprising level of engagement.

In a candid reply they stated that whilst HS2 have a "consent" (Planning permission) for a temporary road bridge to convey works traffic over the river Avon they do not as yet have a "consent" for the construction of the HS2 railway bridge.

Those readers who have visited the HS2 works (specifically where it traverses the Avon flood plain) may have observed that work to lay hardcore to form the base foundations of the rail bridge appears to have already started, and it is this that forms a part of an existing embankment causing flooding.

By deduction this work if also covered by the same "consent" appears to have occurred ahead of, and in breach of, that process. I am currently trying to clarify what the "consent" covers as logic dictates that it would be advisable for any engineering designed to mitigate flooding to be in place as a part of, or in advance of the laying of any hardcore bridge foundations.

Orchard supporter and fellow villager Martin Smith has picked up the issue of flooding at the most recent HS2 forum chaired by Jeremy Wright MP in which questions and concerns could be put to the main HS2 contractor Balfour Beatty Vinci (BBV). Interestingly, the response seemed to be that existing works meet EA requirements - so there are clearly questions to be asked. It is my understanding that BBV are receptive to an onsite meeting which I look forward to attending.

With regards to concerns over levels of pollution in the river and brook waters of the area then myself and Richard Hancox will shortly be attending a course to familiarize ourselves with a water testing kit, processes and interfaces designed to monitor river water quality. It is also still the aim for these kits to be funded by the Parish Council as is the case at similar councils along the Avon catchment. There may also be the possibility to amalgamate testing with measurements being undertaken by orchard director John Churchley on behalf of the Angler's Trust (teamed with Fish Legal).

With the two issues of flooding and river pollution effectively conflated we can make some broad observations and predictions which can be used as an advisory model going forward.

Given that HS2 passes over two water courses locally (Finham Brook at Dalehouse Lane then the River Avon crossing further downstream shortly after its confluence with the river Sowe), HS2 will undoubtedly influence the hydrology of the area no matter how strong the counter argument is.

Furthermore, each time the area experiences high rainfall events leading to high sewage flows and overflows being exceeded at the Finham Sewage Works, this will lead to raw sewage potentially being discharged into the river Sowe. If we factor in the proposal to develop thousands of new homes at Kings Hill the consequences for increased flooding and river pollution in the area becomes an increasing possibility.

The orchard group will continue to pressure responsible parties to plan and strategize in a "joined up and coherent way".

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. Please see the blossom event poster on page 9 for further details.

Orchard Friends' subscriptions and yearly renewals for 2023 remain at £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



Stoneleigh History Society

Sheila Woolf

Stoneleigh History Society

We are very much looking forward to our March meeting on Tuesday March 26th at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Richard Churchley, whose talks have always entertained us so much in the past, is visiting us once again, his talk being the intriguingly entitled "From Edburga to Elvis - unusual saints and their churches". If, like me, you're mystified about a "St Elvis's Church", do come along and find out more!

The meeting will be briefly preceded by our AGM, reporting on our year's activities, displays and research, as well as celebrating our continuing healthy membership numbers.

It is always interesting to consider how our Society reaches out to the wider world via our website www.stoneleighhistorysociety.org.uk. One illustration of this came with a communication during lockdown from a member of the Ridware History Society in Staffordshire, based some ten miles north of Lichfield. This has resulted in a growing friendship and an appreciation of connections between our communities, however unlikely those may at first seem. I was able to research these links in considerable detail and in February travelled to the tiny village of Hamstall Ridware to present my findings. I received a very warm welcome and it's hoped that a visit to Stoneleigh will be made before too long.

The Society is delighted that Messrs Rice and Whitehouse have applied for planning permission to install a blue plaque on The Forge to commemorate the achievements of one of our most innovative former residents, Edward Langley Fardon. Stoneleigh has much to celebrate!

Film Night

Jane Taylor

For our next film night, we will be showing:



Poirot is now retired and living in self-imposed exile in the world's most glamorous city, Venice.

He reluctantly attends a séance 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

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

Please bring a cup and a plate: coffee, tea and pastries will still be served in the interval.

To reserve a place and a pastry call Jane on 01926 858315 by Wednesday April 10th

Stoneleigh Community Orchard Blossom Event

Saturday 18th May 2024. 2.30 - 4.30pm

Free entry and parking on the Stoneleigh Meadows, Vicarage Road, CV8 3DH



See the Stoneleigh Community Orchard in bloom!

Orchard history - Guided tours - Learn how cider is made Around the Orchard Quiz & Children's Craft Activities Tea, cakes, refreshments

Cider tasting & sales

Morris Dancers (approx 3.30pm)

Exhibitors include: Warwickshire Beekeepers, Gatward Country Crafts, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, The Vintage Garden Store, Tregunter Preserves, Warwickshire Lavender Farm, Women's Institute, Hedgehog Rescue

Bring the family. Make it a date to come and enjoy!

AN APPEAL - to anyone who loves baking - Cakes needed please, some with an apple theme, and small cakes/biscuits for the Refreshments tent

HELP NEEDED - to set up on the Saturday morning with gazebos, tables, bunting. First Aider required please for the afternoon.

Contact Nora 02476 415405 / NoraBlagburn@gmail.com or Quentin QCB@btinternet.com

Memories of Stoneleigh - 50 Years Ago

Jack Wallsgrove

This article first appeared in the Stoneleigh and Ashow News in October 1989. Mr and Mrs Wallsgrove lived in Stoneleigh for 30 years.

In the early hours of 3rd January 1937 a motor car carrying 5 people was being driven from Coventry to the sleeping village of Stoneleigh. For two of the passengers it was a momentous journey. They were being taken to their first home to start a long married life together. One of the nice things to record is the fact that all the five friends in that car are still alive and in touch with each other.

The village was virtually still emerging from the middle ages, the only concession to modernity being electricity. Can anyone think that today a house would be fitted with a 5 amp meter like that in my cottage in 1937. It provided enough electricity for just three light bulbs - in the living room, the kitchen and our one bedroom. Other rooms were bulb-less. There were no power sockets at all. The electric iron had to be plugged into a light bulb holder. For cooking it was a choice of using paraffin, in the oven by the side of the fire in the grate or using a primus stove. That's all we had to cook on for years with my wife constantly going into the outhouse to check the flame and the pressure.

Try to image Stoneleigh today without piped water, only the garden pump about 50 yards away. Every drop of drinking water had to be carried in white enamel buckets. It was very sweet water and my wife went for it even after the piped water came during the war.

Horror of horrors there were no flush toilets! Our "little room" was primitive, cold in winter lonely down the back yard and haunt of many creep creatures.

Stoneleigh! I give you the love. You give me the memories.

Village Hall AGM

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, where there will be a vote to select a new committee.

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.

HELP / ADVICE 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 McCutchion at billmccutchion@yahoo.co.uk
It is needed urgently. Many thanks.

Dame Alice Leigh's Almshouse, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire CV8 3DP

Registered Charity No: 215675

CO-OPTATIVE TRUSTEE VACANCY

The Dame Alice Leigh's Almshouse is a Charity providing housing accommodation in ten sandstone cottages, built in the 16th century, in the centre of Stoneleigh, a quiet rural village in Warwickshire and is run by the Trustees of the charity.

A vacancy currently exists for a Co-optative Trustee at the charity.

The Co-optative Trustee will need to be a person residing in the area of the Parish of Stoneleigh, or in the County of Warwickshire. Trustees' meetings are currently held four times a year and currently take place in the afternoon but are flexible so could be moved to the evening if required.

The Trustees would like to invite anyone who is interested and who would like to get involved, to come along to the next Trustees meeting, which is being held on:

Tuesday 9th April 2024 at 2pm

In the Meeting Room at Stoneleigh Village Hall, Hall Close, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire CV8 3DG

The meeting will be a good opportunity to meet with the current Trustees, see what is involved, and to learn more about the Dame Alice Leigh's Almshouse.

In the meantime, if you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Bev Davis

Clerk to the Trustees

Tel: 07790064329 email: bevd@hotmail.com

REGISTERED CHARITY

NO: 215675

HS2 Update

Martin Smith for the Stoneleigh Action Group.

The project continues locally, at least.

Works to progress the tunnel under the A46 continue. A box tunnel will be prepared on site and slid into place once the A46 is excavated on either side.



This will mean a road closure of the A46 in the first quarter of next year for about 15 working days, final details to be confirmed. The earlier option to provide a road-side realignment of the A46 has been replaced by this proposal as being overall less disruptive and most likely more economic. There will be works to widen embankments etc outside of this time period so there will be lane closures etc leading up to the full road closure. I will try to update you when more is known.

I have been advised that Dalehouse Lane will not close at the same time, so all we can hope now is that the A46 roundabout works are completed this year!

Traffic is becoming a major issue for us as Crew Lane becomes increasingly less attractive as an access route to and from Kenilworth. Obviously school transport buses are also a concern as are the blue light emergency services we rely upon.

We are trying to keep these matters in dialogue with BBV as the local contractor for HS2 as well as discuss the recent flooding and if any further mitigation could be provided. The local area forum meetings which are held quarterly and are chaired by our MP provide an opportunity to air local issues, albeit over quite a large area, stretching from Southam to Burton Green.

Margaret Wallis

Sheila Woolf, on behalf of all of us at the S&A News

Margaret has for many years occupied the position of editor-in-chief of the Stoneleigh & Ashow News, overseeing the production of each month's magazine in tandem with a variety of monthly editors. During this time she has steered new editors through the sometimes difficult waters of the software used, witnessed the move towards an online version as well as printed copy, and supervised the ongoing production of the magazine during lockdown.

Now Margaret has decided to relinquish the role and all those connected in any way with the Stoneleigh & Ashow News would like to thank her for everything she has done. Problems have often been solved with a "Let's ask Margaret"!

Taking over the helm is Lucy Morris, who acknowledges that she has a hard act to follow!



Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir

Kathryn Jones

On Wednesday March 20th the Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir held a concert in memory of one of our members John Sandoz at Lower Meadow Care Home, Stratford-upon-Avon. We were delighted that Cynthia and Rod Woodward were able to join us to sing at this event. John, who had been a loyal member of the choir for many years, was a resident at the care home before he sadly died. He will be missed.

The choir's quiz evening which took place in Stoneleigh Village Hall at the end of February was a great success. Twelve teams took part and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. A big thank you to the quiz masters Rachel and Matt, and Phil and Chris Weare for organizing the event. Also thank you to everyone who helped beforehand and on the night - especially the chef Marcus Kendall who cooked the pasties, and Jackie Wigley who was in charge of the raffle. It was a lovely occasion and one that we hope to repeat later in the year.

The choir rehearses on Wednesday evening at 7.30pm in Stoneleigh Village Hall, if anyone would like to join us please come along to one of our rehearsals or contact Philip Jones on 01926 853511or 07910240453, email kathryngjones@hotmail.co.uk





Stoneleigh Ladies Choir

Pat Wightman



As we go to print the ladies of the choir are preparing to sing at the Waverley Day Centre. This has become an annual event enjoyed by the choir and those attending the centre.

There are two dates you may wish to put in your diary: 25th May is the "Sing It Loud" Anniversary Concert with a massed choir of over 200 voices at Butterworth Hall, Warwick University.

Instead of the usual afternoon event, this year Stoneleigh Ladies Choir's own concert will take place on the evening of Saturday 6th July.

As part of a spring clean, two of our committee volunteered to help clean the store cupboard at the village hall. The room was emptied, dusted and cleaned and everything that was labelled was returned in an orderly fashion. The rest was disposed of between the charity shop and Kenilworth tip. Members of the hall committee have expressed their gratitude for the extra help which was very much appreciated.

The choir starts a new term on Thursday, 11th April at 1pm for 1.30 start in the village hall. It will be the start of a new programme of music and the ideal time to join us if you enjoy singing. There are no auditions, and you don't have to read music. Just come along and give us a try - you'll be made very welcome.

More information regarding events and contact details can be found on our website: www.stoneleighladieschoir.org.uk

Wounds that heal the world

Petrica Bistran

Some of you will remember June Burr, who used to be a Churchwarden at Stoneleigh Church, and took great pride in her role and was very supportive of my ministry. She sadly died about seven months after I took up my post, but following her funeral, I somehow inherited three of her crosses, and a little statue of St Francis.

I do cherish the crosses I now have from June. And like faith, they come in different shapes and sizes. One of the crosses is a holding cross, which feels very nice in my hand when I need to pray for comfort and strength. Another cross is a very small standing cross, which I keep on my desk as a reminder to take up my cross and to focus on what's essential each day. The third cross, and the biggest, is a crucifix, with a dying Jesus hanging there, quite painful to look at, and which reminds me of the horrific story of Good Friday.

I sometimes also struggle with what happened on Good Friday, although I do like a good meal of fish and chips! How could God let his one and only Son die like that?

The death of Jesus was a one-off event and so it's easy to leave the cross behind on Good Friday, especially after all the Easter eggs have been found and eaten by Easter Monday. But what blows my mind every time I think about it is the fact that when Jesus comes back to life in his new and perfect body (and without ever having had a gym membership!), he retains the nail marks in his hands and the wound in his side! Why is that? Not to show off or as a form of ID, for sure!

His sacrifice is eternal, and his scars are a good reminder that his work didn't finish on Friday (good or otherwise!), but, as the divine wounded healer, he will continue to heal the world until all things are made good and perfect, just like he is.

As we celebrate Easter once again this year and the arrival of Spring, with all its beauty, joys and hopes, let's also remember and celebrate those how have gone before us and the wounded ones around us; those who have retained their scars in their Christ-like love and sacrifice to make this world a better place.

Stoneleigh Churchyard Grass Cutting

Martin Smith - 07958 955629

Many people regularly comment on the lovely churchyard at Stoneleigh, how it is a place of tranquillity and calm, and how well maintained it is.

We have a small dedicated team of mowers and people who tidy up, but inevitably we are all getting older, so there are vacancies for anybody who would like to join our team.

Initially there will be some induction. You can choose to be a regular grass mower or you can start as a 'holiday cover' mower. Whichever role it is, you would be gratefully received.

For myself I find that this fits in with the other commitments I might have and so it is flexible, and I value the chance to do something relatively simple which brings joy to others as well as provides some good exercise!

If you are interested please have a word with me (phone number above), one of the other mowers, or one of the churchwardens or in the Parish office.

Stoneleigh W.I.

Liz Sykes



We had yet another good speaker in March. There was a demonstration of silk screen painting, and so many lovely items for sale.

We had a very successful coffee morning at Dobbies garden centre in Stratford and also had a lunch at The Festival in Coventry.

At our meeting on Monday April 8th our speaker will be Sheila Woolf. Her talk will be about Queen Victoria's visit to Stoneleigh. The meeting starts at 2pm in the Village Hall: Everyone is welcome - we look forward to seeing you there!

Ashow Church News

Kate Jones

On Saturday 9th March, 10 ladies from Ashow and Stoneleigh churches met at Susan and Richard Spencer's house to assemble the Mothering Sunday posies. It was a fun morning with lots of talking and laughter. Many thanks to Richard for the supply of hot drinks to keep us going, to both Susan and Richard for their kind hospitality - and also for allowing us to raid their garden for extra flowers and greenery!



On Mothering Sunday at Ashow Church, it was lovely to have Thea Cox help Petrica to give out flowers.

Ashow Church wishes everyone a very Happy Easter! After the sadness of the Crucifixion, Easter Sunday is a joyous occasion when we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord.

The Annual Parish Church Meeting will take place in Ashow Club on Wednesday 24th April at 7pm.



Your SVC committee continue to be busy with the day-to- day running of the club and planning events. We also address the less interesting jobs, like dealing with the VAT returns or attempting various repairs that seem to arise with alarming regularity. Many people in the village and surrounding area spend time helping with these jobs but special mention to Pete Whitehouse who seems to always be in the club, mending or maintaining. Many thanks Pete, we appreciate all your help.

Recently several people banded together to help clear the meadow following the recent floods. Bacon and sausage sandwiches were available in the club afterwards, courtesy of Lynda Rice and Jan Whitehouse. Many thanks to everyone involved.

SVC Committee remains busy as ever planning future events for members to enjoy. Please let us know if you can help. Keep an eye on the information board outside the club for further details / last minute changes.

05th April Fish and Chip night

Please put your order on the list at the bar before 04th April.

06th April Members night

Come to the club from 7pm and join / renew your membership.

YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU!

13th April Wine tasting

Would you like to be part of choosing the wine to drink at SVC? Come along from 7:30pm and for a small fee, taste all the

potential options and vote for the wines we will stock.

26th April **Pudding night**

Come along to taste a variety of puddings and vote for your favourite! Let us know if you can make a pudding or two to

contribute to this (always popular) event.

Clocks will go forward an hour on the 31st March. Nights will be lighter, and signs of spring will be evident all around the village. Why not have a walk and call into the club for a drink? All welcome. Hope to see you there!

www.facebook.com/stoneleighvillageclub

Stoneleigh.villageclub@gmail.com





MONDAY EVENINGS FROM 6 PM - DUSK STARTING 6TH MAY

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This edition of **Stoneleigh and Ashow News** was compiled by Bernice and Mike Evans who would like to thank all contributors.

The online colour version can be viewed on the <u>Village Facebook site</u> until our new website is in place.

The May 2024 edition will be compiled by Kim and Martin Smith (sanews@googlegroups.com)

Copy deadline: 18th April 2024

Placing an advertisement in Stoneleigh & Ashow News

Format size is A5. Rates **per annum** (10 editions) are:

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

(6.5cm x 9.5cm OR 13cm x 5cm)

Rates for advertising in a single edition are:

Full page (1 edition + £10 each extra edition): £20 Half page (1 edition + £5 each extra edition): £10 Quarter page (1 edition + £5 each extra edition): £10

To place an advertisement, please email the Treasurer, Bill Crofts (sanews@googlegroups.com).

In your email, please state:

- What size advert you want to publish (provide your artwork if you have it ready)
- The **months** you would like your advert published in. You will receive an invoice based on your request.

Please note – in order to have each edition ready for printing we need to complete the above by the **18**th **of the month previous to your first requested month** (e.g. **18**th April to publish in the May edition)

We will provide help with any advertisement requests!



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



SERVICES FOR APRIL 2024

Sunday 7th 11.00 am United Holy Communion Service at Stoneleigh

Sunday 14th 9.30 am Holy Communion Service at Ashow

11.00 am Morning Praise Service at Stoneleigh

Sunday 21st 9.30 am Celtic Service at Ashow

11.00 am Celtic Communion Service at Stoneleigh

Sunday 28th 9.30 am Village Service at Ashow

11.00 am United Holy Communion Service at Stoneleigh

From the Registers - Funerals

Thursday 22nd February 2024 – Wendy Ann Amos – Funeral Service at Stoneleigh Church followed by burial in the Churchyard

Wednesday 28th February 2024 – Kerry Agnus Finch (Aggie)- Interment at Stoneleigh

Friday 8th March 2024 – Stephen Palmer – Funeral Service at Stoneleigh Church

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

Deputy Warden: Richard Ashley 07708 097187 and

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
www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12954 for Ashow