

STONELEIGH & ASHOW

News



SEPTEMBER 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: Crowned champion of the 2024 duck race - Donald Trunk!

HS2 UPDATE

Martin Smith on behalf of the Stoneleigh Action Group (against HS2)

Whilst the relatively new Labour government considers options for HS2 within the overall transport budget and the wider economy, work continues on our section. There will be three way lights at the bottom of Crewe Lane, and Dale House Lane will be closed from 19th August for a week. Coupled with the restrictions on the A46 roundabout and the slip road onto this, it's becoming a challenging route into Kenilworth.

One is always tempted to ask, "Yes, but when will it all end?", and there is no realistic answer to this. This is the civil engineering phase of the overall project: digging out; constructing bridges; diverting roads and utilities etc.

Once the track bed is laid then the contractors should have more options for access and moving of materials.

Stoneleigh History Society

Sheila Woolf

The logo for the Stoneleigh History Society is a decorative, horizontal oval shape with a light beige background and a dark brown border. The text "Stoneleigh History Society" is written in a dark red, serif font, centered within the oval.

Stoneleigh History Society

Summer is always a quiet time for the society, as we take a break from meetings in July and August. Nevertheless our researches continue, and our programme for 2025 will have an emphasis on Stoneleigh's stories, from the Cistercians through to more recent times.

We are very much looking forward to our meeting on September 24th, when we are visited by the Warwickshire Metal Detecting Group. Many of you will have seen some of their finds either at the Blossom Event in May or the Duck Race in July. Once again, they will bring examples of what has been found throughout the county, and we shall also be examining finds from Stoneleigh itself. This should therefore be a particularly interesting evening with the opportunity to handle some of the objects found under our feet...from cannon shot to coins and buckles...giving a real sense of the people who have walked here before us.

Everyone is welcome to join us at 7.30pm in the village hall.
Refreshments will be provided, though we can't promise a pot of gold!

Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir

Rod Owen

SMVC PUT THE SERENADE INTO SUMMER

Imagine the most quintessential summer garden with flowers in full bloom, bees scurrying about doing their thing, dragonflies hovering, observing, then scudding off to their next spying opportunity; laughter teetering on the light breeze and the angelic sounds of an almost ethereal choir drifting carelessly across the verdant lawn. And there we have it folks - this year's Summer Serenade in the walled Residents' Garden at Stoneleigh Abbey.

Around 200 souls captivated by a glorious summer setting listened intently (for they did not want to miss their cues to join in!) while the Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir under the baton of the wonderful Judy Hadfield and musical direction of the incomparable Alan Biddle, opened the afternoon with an American Band Medley and then burst forth into their mixed repertoire of popular songs.

In between the bouts of robust chorusing, the Coventry City of Culture Orchestra Jazz Ensemble burst forth also with some superb jazz sounds that led to a great deal of involuntary foot tapping and clapping. The credit for their performance must go to their outstanding Musical Director, Seb Farrall, who kept them all rhythmically positioned through their selection of great numbers such as "Just A Closer Walk With Thee", "Let It Be" and rounding the set off with the "Bare Necessities" from Disney's "Jungle Book".

The Choir hit back immediately with such classics as "Happy Together", One Direction's "History" (to show they can 'get down with the kids'; a vain hope but neatly executed!). An ABBA medley concluded the first half with excellent audience participation revealing more than our fair share of "Dancing Queens".

During the interval a fine selection of tasty sandwiches were served, raffle tickets sold and there were very moving talks from our guest charities - the British Blind Sports (funds being raised for Paralympian and multi gold medallist Melanie Barrett who is to swim the English Channel in August and will be the first blind swimmer to do so) and Leamington Night Shelter who do so much to provide food and shelter to the homeless in the area.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters we were able to donate £1000 to each.

The second half was opened by SMVC "Flying Us To The Moon", a powerful version of "The Battle Hymn of The Republic" and a glorious and moving rendition of songs from "Les Miserables". They concluded with a special arrangement of the popular song "Don't Stop Believing", it's ok guys we won't! A brilliant performance by them that brought the house down and unfortunately a bundle of very heavy rain drops but fortunately short lived.

The Choir finished the afternoon with a selection of crowd pleasers which demanded the crowd join in starting with "Love Shine A Light" and, would you believe it, that was when the rain stopped and the sun burst forth again. "He's Got The Whole World in His Hands" forced the audience into a frenzied hand clapping and various hand gestures (careful!) to illustrate the charming lyrics.

The Choir not wishing to be left out showed off their terpsichorial expertise in "New York, New York" (which was where some disparaging members of the audience may have wished the Choir were!) and concluding with "My Way" - holding that last note until some turned blue as others passed out! (Joking!)

The day ended by everyone joining in a little tribute to acknowledge the 80th commemoration of the D-Day Landings, "There'll Be Bluebirds Over" and "We'll Meet Again" and so we will - at Summer Serenade of 2025 of course!

Coming up

SMVC's Annual Quiz returns on Saturday 5th October at Stoneleigh Village Hall, at a cost of a mere £12.50 to include supper (please bring your own drinks). Tickets available from Philip Jones (contact details below).

Friday evening 18th October 2024 at Stoneleigh Church - A concert with Bad Vibrations Community Choir. More details in the next S&A Newsletter.

And please remember singing is fun, at least the way SMVC do it! So why not join us on Wednesday evenings 7.30pm to 9.30pm at Stoneleigh Village Hall? All voices welcome, especially top tenors for which we have an urgent need. Enthusiasm and commitment is more important to us than voice quality. If you can hit a note, any note (and not necessarily in the right order) please contact our Chairman, Philip Jones on 01926 853511 or email:

kathryngjones@hotmail.co.uk

Stoneleigh Community Orchard CIC Update

Pete Freeman



Activities for the orchard group continued at pace over the summer. The selling of our stocks of cider was helped by events such as the May “Blossom Event” and July’s Stoneleigh “Duck Race”, both of which were a great success. Operations in the orchard needed to be maintained in the light of the weight of fruit on the trees causing some varieties to drop branches. At the moment of writing this article it would seem that we have yet another large apple harvest to process going forward, this is an arduous task that by no means should be considered routine or perfunctory. Let us hope for another good turnout when it comes to apple picking and we will as ever communicate when picking is occurring through the Stoneleigh Village Facebook group.

I am informed by East Chase distillery that our first batch of Apple brandy now resides in cherry oak barrels where it will mature for three to four years. A second 300 litre batch of cider especially developed to contain elevated alcohol levels was delivered in late July for processing which keeps the ball rolling with regards to this element of the project.

Also, back in late July I was interviewed about the orchard project by the Kenilworth Nub News. The resulting [online article](#) can be found in the 29th July edition and can be found via a Google search. It can be argued that the most important element of a business is marketing as this forms a foundation from which everything else can be built, it follows that such opportunities for favourable publicity are welcomed, indeed I believe that this article was such a success that there will be a follow-up article in the near future.

Readers may recall that earlier in the year the orchard was involved in engaging with local environmental issues particularly centred on the water quality of local rivers as well as the impact of HS2 on the flow dynamics within the river Sowe catchment. It seems that the Environment Agency were unable to observe files uploaded as photographic evidence of flooding. One may speculate about the underlying reasons for this, though several popular sayings spring to mind centred on the convenience of selective blindness.

Needless to say, that the torch will be picked up once again concerning this issue. I am also currently exploring the possibilities of combining river water quality testing with other agents in the village who are undertaking similar work. This will hopefully avoid any duplication of effort.

Orchard Friends' subscriptions and yearly renewals for 2024 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 Friend and set up a direct debit?

Pete Freeman (Chairman),
5 Church Lane, Stoneleigh.
petefreeman773@gmail.com

Richard Hancox (Treasurer)
Richard.Hancox@nationalhighways.co.uk



Dame Alice Leigh's Almshouse, Stoneleigh

Sue Crofts, Chair

I am pleased to report that following a successful recruitment campaign the Almshouse now has a full Board of Trustees. There are eight of us and Lord Christopher Leigh has become our Patron rather than a Trustee.

However, one of our number Jayne Brooks, has decided that after many years of service she will retire after our next meeting in October.

Being a long standing Stoneleigh resident, Jayne has amassed a huge amount of knowledge of Stoneleigh Abbey, the village and its inhabitants and of course the Almshouse. She is a very experienced member of the Board having served as Chair and Deputy during her time.

The Board of Trustees is an eclectic mix of people, each of whom have knowledge and skills which we can draw on. We meet four times a year and are all volunteers.

If you live in Stoneleigh or the surrounding area of Warwickshire and think that you can make a useful contribution as a Trustee please contact Bev Davis, our Clerk, at bev20@hotmail.com

Stoneleigh W.I.

Liz Sykes



It now seems a long while since our last (very good) monthly meeting. Nora gave us a talk on flower arranging and had us making our own arrangements, some of which were better than others. Not for me!

The craft group continued until the end of July. Both groups will restart in September, however we have continued to meet at coffee mornings and for lunches.

The next monthly meeting is on the 2nd September at 2.00pm. For chocoholics it will be bliss. A talk on the production of chocolate and more importantly - tastings! Visitors are welcome.

Stoneleigh Meadows Society

Robin Bussell

As many Stoneleigh residents will know, the late Mike Baker was Trustee and Chairman of Stoneleigh Meadows Society. Mike had been part of the small group which raised funds, purchased the Meadows and established the Meadows Society in 1982. Mike loved this very special village amenity. It was fitting, therefore, that Mike and his family asked that any funeral donations in his memory should benefit Stoneleigh Meadows.

The Society has received the marvellous sum of £3,240 and wishes to thank everyone who contributed; this wonderful generosity is a sure reflection of the esteem in which Mike was held.

Mike, too, would have been delighted: he initiated the recent project to repair the river bank and donations in his name have covered the cost of this.



**25TH NOV -
20TH DEC**

STONELEIGH DEER
PARK GOLF CLUB

**MONDAY -
FRIDAY**

Christmas Fayre Lunch

Starter

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

Main

**Roast Turkey 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**

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**COVENTRY ROAD, STONELEIGH
WARWICKSHIRE CV8 3DR**

Film Night

Jane Taylor

For our next film night, we will be showing:



This film tells the true story of Sir Nicholas 'Nicky' Winton, a young London broker who, in the months leading up to World War 2, rescued 669 predominantly Jewish children from the Nazis.

Fifty years later he meets some of the surviving children - now adults.

**Friday September 6th 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 Margaret on 01926 511785
by Wednesday September 4th.

(If you are unable to attend after booking a place please could you let us know.)



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COVENTRY ROAD,
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Dame Alice Leigh's Almshouse
The Green, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire. CV8 3DP
(Charity Ref 215675)

Honorary Patron: Lord Leigh

RESIDENTIAL HOUSING VACANCY

The Dame Alice Leigh's Almshouse is a Charity providing housing accommodation in ten sandstone cottages in the centre of Stoneleigh, a quiet rural village in Warwickshire. **A residence in this 16th century Almshouse will soon be available.**

On the ground floor of each home there is a hall, leading to a sitting room with kitchen. A door to utility room leads through to a cloakroom with washbasin and toilet. A dog-leg staircase from the hall leads to the first floor where there is a bedroom and shower room with washbasin and toilet.

Outside there is a small private patio connected to large communal gardens where there is a useful storage building with dedicated space for each resident.

Cottages are equipped with cooker, fridge & washing machine, phone line, emergency assistance-call unit, carpets, electric storage heaters, smoke & heat detectors, hot water heater, and a TV point.

The Dame Alice Leigh Charity, repairs and maintains the fabric and services to the building, as well as the outbuildings and communal gardens.

Applicants must be of retirement age or above, capable of independent living and have a genuine need of Almshouse housing. Preference is given to residents who live in, or have connections with, the parish of Stoneleigh. However, Trustees welcome applications from other qualifying persons.

Please contact Bev Davis, for further information and an application form:

Mrs B A Davis,
Clerk to the Trustees
Dame Alice Leigh's Almshouse
c/o 2 Heyville Croft, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2SR.

Tel: 0779 0064329

Email: bevd20@hotmail.com

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It's time for a Macmillan Coffee Morning and you're invited

Let's do whatever it takes
to support people living with cancer.

Place: Stoneleigh Village Hall

Date: Friday 27th September

Time: 10am - 2pm

Contact: Amanda Freeman



Simply scan this QR code with your phone
to donate to your host's Coffee Morning.

It's easy, quick and secure. Thank you.

Headline Partners

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Stoneleigh Village Club



COFFEE MORNING

**Thursday
September 19th**

10:00am - 11:30am

*Come along, enjoy a hot drink
and catch up with friends.
Everyone is welcome!*

£1 donation



**The United Benefice
of Stoneleigh with Ashow**

A SERVICE OF HEALING AND WHOLENESS

2nd June, 6pm, at Ashow Church

7th July, 6pm, at Stoneleigh Church

1st September, 6pm, at Stoneleigh Church

6th October, 6pm, at Ashow Church

Join us for this very special and relaxed
service of music, scripture reading
and prayers for healing and wholeness.

Everyone is Welcome!



Refreshments provided.





**The United Benefice of
Stoneleigh and Ashow**



JUNIOR CHURCH SCHOOL



Sunday 9th June, 11am - Stoneleigh
We are God's family



Sunday 14th July
11am - Stoneleigh
The Joy of Worship

Sunday 11th August, 11am - Stoneleigh
Summer Fun and Activities



Sunday 8th September - Stoneleigh
Stories of our Blessed Mother Mary

**JUNIOR CHURCH IS ALL ABOUT LEARNING TOGETHER
THROUGH FUN, ACTIVITIES AND CRAFTS!**

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Stoneleigh Church

As part of our Harvest Festival celebrations,
we are holding a

Coffee Morning

in aid of Teams4U (the shoebox charity)

5th October, from 10.30 am

There is no charge for the coffee, tea and cakes but any donations will be made to Teams4U to help with the shoebox transportation.

There will be packed shoeboxes and examples of the items to go into the shoeboxes.

At 11am we will have some short talks from a charity representative,
distribution volunteers, and recipients of shoeboxes.

There will also be a video from last Christmas.



All welcome, including children!

T4U

real people making
a real difference



There will also be a produce stall (donations welcome),
where the proceeds will go to the Coventry Food Bank.

Ashow Church News

Kate Jones

Since the last magazine, it has been a busy and rewarding time at Ashow Church.

At the end of June, the Church held a summer lunch at the Village Club in Ashow. A delicious meal was enjoyed by all, lovingly organised by Rosemary Brown. Many thanks to Rosemary and all who helped to make the event so successful.

In July, the Church Forest School took place at Ashow. The children thoroughly enjoyed the activities organised by Naomi Cox and the volunteers. The highlight of the event was the children chasing Petrica around the churchyard!

On Saturday August 10th, a 2 hour afternoon retreat led by Audrey Rowberry was a great success. 24 people attended, the theme of the afternoon was sunflowers. There were also sunflowers inside the church, arranged by Anne Gregory and Susan Spencer. A truly magical afternoon enjoyed by all!

Many thanks to Audrey for all her hard work in organising this wonderful event.

The Harvest Festival will be followed by lunch in the Club on September 22nd.

Find Support in Prayer

In times of need or gratitude, our dedicated Prayer Group at Ashow and Stoneleigh churches is here to offer support and intercession. If you or someone you know would benefit from prayer, please reach out to us. Whether it's a personal request or a concern for a loved one, we are ready to join you in prayer.

Contact Us: Elizabeth: 07957 658873, Petrica: 07572 193260

Fiona: fionascottdawe@gmail.com

We believe in the power of prayer and the comfort it brings. Don't hesitate to let us lift your concerns to God and celebrate with you in answered prayers. Your requests are held in our hearts and prayers.

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This edition of **Stoneleigh and Ashow News** was compiled by Mike and Bernice Evans who would like to thank all contributors. The online colour version can be viewed on the Village Facebook site until our new website facility is in place.

The October 2024 edition will be compiled by Sarah Ballinger (sanews@googlegroups.com)

Copy deadline: 18th September 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

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

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 **18th of the month previous to your first requested month**
(e.g. 18th April to publish in the May edition)



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



SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

Sunday 1 st	10.00 am United Holy Communion Service at Ashow 6.00 pm Wholeness and Healing Service at Stoneleigh
Sunday 8 th	9.30 am Holy Communion Service at Ashow 11.00 am Morning Praise Service at Stoneleigh
Sunday 15 th	9.30 am Celtic Service at Ashow 11.00 am Celtic Communion Service at Stoneleigh
Sunday 22 nd	9.30 am Village Service at Ashow 11.00 am Holy Communion Service at Stoneleigh
Sunday 29 th	11.00 am United Holy Communion Service at Stoneleigh

From the Registers - Funerals

20th July 2024 – Janet Bowkett – Interment Service at Ashow Churchyard

11th August 2024 – John Smith – Interment Service at Stoneleigh Churchyard

Baptism

17th August 2024 – Freddie Flynn O'Regan – at Stoneleigh

Contacts:

Priest in Charge: Reverend Petrica Bistran 07572 193260

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 and

Paddy Bryniarska 07947472297

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

www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12964 for Stoneleigh

www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12954 for Ashow