

# **STONELEIGH AND ASHOW NEWS**



**MARCH 2025**



## **“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

Martin Smith 07958 955629

Mary Taylor 07890 535506

**Remember: Always ring 999 first!**

***\* A second defibrillator can be  
found in the Village Hall \****





## Stoneleigh Ladies' Choir

Ladies of the choir are having great fun learning Songs from the Sixties for our next concert scheduled for 12 July. Who doesn't love The Beatles, Simon and Garfunkel and The Beach Boys?

Other dates for your diary include two quiz nights on 11 April and 17 October (tbc), and our charity concert on 11 December.

Tastelife, the choir's chosen charity for 2024, was presented with £1000 raised at their concert in December. A great way to end the year!

Just a plug for our leader: Seb Farrall and the City of Coventry Orchestra are presenting The Animal Kingdom, a concert for all the family, at Coventry Methodist Church Hall during the afternoon of 8 March. Fancy dress optional. For tickets: [www.coventryorchestra.co.uk/familyconcert](http://www.coventryorchestra.co.uk/familyconcert) For more information about Stoneleigh Ladies Choir please contact our Secretary on [sharronmced@gmail.com](mailto:sharronmced@gmail.com) or Pat on 07817 899097.

*Pat Wightman*



**INSPIRING WOMEN**

## Stoneleigh WI

Our speaker in February, from Tiny Tim's charity, was very interesting. The charity helps children with disabilities. It provides a lot of activities and also employs some medical help, mainly physiotherapy. We felt it was well worth donating to this good cause.

In February we've had some coffee mornings and also lunch at the Malt Shovel in Bubbenhall. More social activities are planned for next month. Our speaker for March is from the Warwickshire Lavender Farm which is based in Bubbenhall. We look forward to that. The meeting is held the first Monday of the month in the village hall and starts at 2pm. All welcome.

*Liz Sykes*

# Stoneleigh Village Club

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## COFFEE MORNING

**Thursday**  
**March 13th, 27th**

**10:00am - 11:30am**

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

**£1 donation**



# Stoneleigh History Society

There are times when it's good to celebrate as well as commemorate, and 2025 is one such year: the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

Along with the Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir we shall be holding an event on Saturday May 10th, in Stoneleigh church – more details in future editions of the Stoneleigh and Ashow News.

If your family has any stories or photographs which you would be willing to share, we should be very grateful. As time passes, this is probably the last opportunity we shall have to place on record the activities of our community during that time.

We should be interested in hearing about war service, of course, but also how life was lived in our villages during those days. Did any of your family have memories of the Coventry Blitz and its aftermath, for example?

We are looking forward to an evening of song and stories, funny and sad, and we hope that you will be able to join us.

If you can help, please contact me via the email below.

The Society's AGM will be held in March and it will be followed by a presentation from our own Jill Kashi who will talk about the life and writings of Mary Dormer Harris of Stoneleigh. It will be a really interesting evening, and all visitors are welcome at the village hall at 7.30pm on March 25th.

*Sheila Woolf*

[woolfsheila@gmail.com](mailto:woolfsheila@gmail.com)



This edition of Stoneleigh and Ashow News was compiled by Sarah Ballinger who would like to thank all contributors.

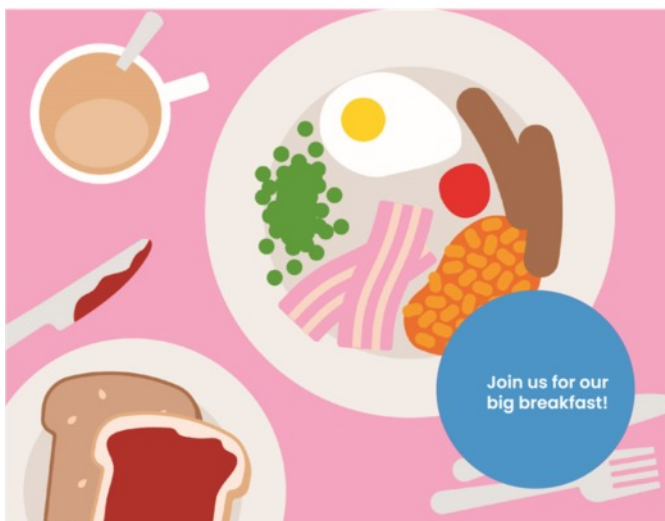
The online colour version can be viewed at the Stoneleigh Village Facebook page.

The **April 2025** edition will be compiled by

**Mike and Bernice Evans**

([sanewsletter30@gmail.com](mailto:sanewsletter30@gmail.com)).

**Copy deadline: 16th March 2025**



**Kenilworth Local Committee invites you to join us at our**  
**Big breakfast**

**Wednesday 19 March 2025, 8am - 10.30am**  
**Stoneleigh Village Hall, Birmingham Road, Stoneleigh CV8 3DG**

***Breakfast includes bacon, sausage, egg, half tomato and mushrooms, cereal and toast, plus tea, coffee and fruit juice***

**To book a table, please reserve the number of guests and the time attending by speaking to a committee member or email [kenilworthcruk@gmail.com](mailto:kenilworthcruk@gmail.com)**

***Donations welcome***

Cancer Research UK is a registered charity in England and Wales (1089464), Scotland (SC041666), the Isle of Man (1103) and Jersey (247).  
Registered address: 2 Redman Place, London, E20 1JQ.



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## Film Night

March's film will be: **Mrs Lowry and Son**



British artist LS Lowry follows his creative goals while living with his overbearing, bitter and bedridden mother, Elizabeth, until her death in 1939. She tries to dissuade her bachelor son from pursuing his artistic ambitions, while never failing to voice her disappointment in him.

Stars: Vanessa Redgrave and Timothy Spall

**Friday March 14th 2025 in  
Stoneleigh Village Hall  
Meet 6.45pm for a 7pm showing**

*Please can you bring a cup and plate.*

*Coffee, tea and pastries will be served in the interval.*

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

To reserve a place and a pastry please call Jane  
on 01926 858315 by Wednesday 12th March





# Stoneleigh Community Orchard

Mid-January saw the resumption of the “Orchard Wassail” that had previously occurred in 2022 following the country’s recovery from Covid lockdown. The event provided an opportunity to give something back to the community and also work closely with Stoneleigh Village Club.

January as the month following the festive period is generally cold, dark and uneventful. It can be described as the “after the Lord Mayor’s Ball” month. The opportunity to light up the orchard on the Julian calendar’s “twelfth night” was therefore something to be grasped and embraced.

Given this, the orchard team together with the SVC set about creating a spectacle which married ancient orchard tradition with entertainment based upon Phineas Taylor Barnum’s Circus and the imagination of Edgar Allan Poe!



I would like to thank all those entertainers who combined to make the event such a success. Villager Ruth Jennings, in superb costume and make up was truly majestic in her role as the “Orchard Queen” and led a procession from the club to the

orchard whilst enthroned at the rear of our compere, Adrian Clarke’s Land Rover. Barry Patterson, playing his medieval bagpipes, provided an eerily atmospheric backdrop to the event as we processed to the orchard at the end of Church Lane which for one night of the year became the “Hammerhead Entertainment Arena”.





Here, the “Coventry Mummers” performing under lantern light provided an entertaining adaptation of their regular play called the “St George’s Play”. Thank you, guys!

Next, Jemma our fire artist for the night, supplied a stunning warm-up act prior to the procession making its way around the orchard, where the trees were awoken from their slumbers. Words were read at three selected trees whilst toast was hung from their branches before returning for



Jemma’s final act designed to drive out evil spirits from the orchard.

I would like to thank Amanda Freeman and Elaine James for providing mulled cider for the event and Liz Wrist and her helpers for supplying hot spuds back at the club. Finally, thanks to Adrian’s amusing commentary throughout proceedings.

The event, of course is very much a “seat of the pants” affair and potentially subject to the fickle adversity of the weather that comes with the month of January, not to mention fire sticks inadvertently extinguishing en masse during proceedings! I believe that in spite of these head winds “The Wassail” works as an event and is becoming a very popular feature to be put into Stoneleigh’s yearly calendar!

*Orchard Friends’ subscriptions and yearly renewals for 2025 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](mailto:Petefreeman773@gmail.com)*

*Richard Hancox (Treasurer)*

*[Richard.Hancox@nationalhighways.co.uk](mailto:Richard.Hancox@nationalhighways.co.uk)*

*Pete Freeman*

# Stoneleigh Community Orchard Blossom Festival

**Saturday 17th May 2025. 2.30 - 4.30 pm**



**Show your country crafts and activities and sell your produce at the annual Blossom Festival in the Stoneleigh Orchard in a beautiful riverside location Free exhibitor space |**

**Core attractions for visitors include guided tours of the Orchard, children's Orchard Quiz and activities, cider tasting and sales, plant sales, tea & cakes, Morris dancing and live music**

Exhibitors in 2024 included: Warwickshire Beekeepers, Gatward Country Crafts, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, The Vintage Garden Store, Tregunter Preserves, Chase Farm Distillery, Mira's Apothecary, Women's Institute, Stoneleigh History Society, Warwickshire Metal Detecting Club

**If you would like to participate in the Stoneleigh Orchard Blossom Festival, please contact Amanda Smith at [asmith@goinglean.co.uk](mailto:asmith@goinglean.co.uk)**

The timing of the apple blossom in a cider orchard depends on the weather and cannot be guaranteed



# Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir



The choir are busy rehearsing new songs, so extending their repertoire ready for the concerts that are planned in the coming year.

Our first concert is at Stoneleigh Church on May 10th, 7pm commemorating the 80th anniversary of VE day (the end of the 2nd World War In Europe). This will be an evening of readings and songs performed by the Stoneleigh History Society and the choir.

On October 18th in Stoneleigh Church there will be a concert with the SMVC and a choir from South Wales, Cwmdare Voices, in aid of the Kenilworth branch of Cancer Research. We are looking forward to singing with them again.

Dates and venues for The Summer Serenade and Carol Concert will be confirmed in the near future.

The choir AGM will take place on February 26th at 7pm in Stoneleigh Village Hall.

I'm also pleased to announce that the choir now has its own website to promote and develop our activities and to act as a point for those wanting to join us.

Its web address is [www.stoneleighmalevoicechoir.co.uk](http://www.stoneleighmalevoicechoir.co.uk)

Please bookmark the page. Typing it in repeatedly would be a chore. Hopefully this will become the hub for news and information for members, friends, visitors and singers wishing to join us, in addition to the chairman's report in the village magazine.

I know that Simon, who currently administers the website, will be grateful for news, pictures of concerts and other bits and pieces including reviews that can be published on the site

The main point of contact with news etc is [info@stoneleighmalevoicechoir.co.uk](mailto:info@stoneleighmalevoicechoir.co.uk)

If anyone is interested in joining the choir please come along to one of our rehearsals which take place on a Wednesday evening at 7.30pm in Stoneleigh Village Hall or contact

Philip Jones on 01926 853511 mobile: 07910240453

Email: [kathryngjones@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kathryngjones@hotmail.co.uk)

*Philip Jones*



## Stoneleigh Village Hall

The winter months have seen the complete refurbishment of the toilets in the Stoneleigh Village Hall. They are a huge improvement on what was there before.

We have also repaired the fence wall of the 5-a-side football astroturf pitch and put up signs to remind potential users and parents that the pitch is for younger children under 16, who should not be left unsupervised.

We are pleased that we now have two junior football teams using the Hall's full-size football pitch. The kids and parents love their Stoneleigh home and opposition often comment at what a great set-up we have.

As our thoughts turn to activities in the spring and summer, a reminder that we have a good tennis court for use by members of the Stoneleigh Tennis Club, so if you are interested in using it, please get in touch to join or to renew your membership.

The young saplings planted last year around the verge of the sports ground all seem to have survived. Keeping the hedges trimmed in winter and the playing field mown through the warmer months are major tasks. We are exploring options for cost-effective ways of doing this. If you are interested in helping or can suggest others who might have the right equipment and skills, please let us know.

You can hear a fuller report of the activities and finances of the Stoneleigh Village Hall over the past year at our:

**Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 8 April at 7 PM**

This is being held in the main hall and all are welcome.

<https://stoneleighvillagehall.org.uk/>

*Quentin Compton-Bishop*

## “Aren’t We Blessed?”

Spring always makes me nostalgic for my mother. It’s not just because Mother’s Day falls in spring, but also because she was born in March. This year, she would have been 67, but she is no longer with us. Yet as the world around me bursts into life, with buds appearing on trees and flowers peeking through the soil, I find her presence everywhere.

Lately, in church, we’ve been reflecting on the Beatitudes, and one in particular has stuck with me: “Blessed are you who are poor...” It reminded me of my mother because I know what it means to be poor.

I grew up in a small Romanian town, in a one-bedroom flat with my little sister, my mum, and my father who, let’s just say, had a *complicated* relationship with alcohol. We had so little. My mum, with her endlessly patient hands, would make lace and macramé to sell to neighbours and friends, just so she could buy food for us.

Being poor and hungry never felt like a blessing. But my mum helped me see things differently.

“Aren’t we blessed?” she would say even when we had almost nothing. “Aren’t we blessed to have one another, to have a home, to have God looking after us?” And He did!

As a child I believed her and somehow, despite everything, I never felt NOT blessed! My mother had this way of making even the hardest times feel like an adventure.

It’s because of her that I became a priest — and maybe an artist too. She is my hero, my saint, my guiding star.

So, to all our mothers - those still with us and those we carry in our hearts - thank you! And remember: the power of a mother’s prayer is Heaven’s best-kept secret (right after where she hid the good biscuits).

*Rev. Petrică Bîstran*

## **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

Quarter page (6.5 x 9.5cm or 13 x 5cm) £ 25

**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, or for general enquiries, please email the Treasurer, **Bill Crofts (sanewsletter30@gmail.com)** Please state:

- The size of the ad you would like to place
- The editions in which you would like your advertisement to be published. Once artwork is received and size/dates agreed, you will be invoiced based on your request.

## **Voluntary Contributions from Residents**

If you value the **receipt of a paper copy** through your door, and you require information on making a donation to S&A News, please consider the following options.



Scan to pay  
Stoneleigh And Ashow News

### **1. QR Code**

If you are familiar with using a QR code on your mobile phone, the one shown below will take you to a page where you can make a payment directly from your chosen bank account. Note: if you haven't got an online banking app on your phone you may have to enter your bank details manually.

**Please remember** to clear the reference box on the payment page and **add your name** as the reference so I know who you are.

### **2. BACS or Cheque**

If you can't use the above, please email Bill Crofts on [sanewsletter30@gmail.com](mailto:sanewsletter30@gmail.com). I will send bank details for a BACS transfer or my address if you want to send me a cheque.

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



**SERVICES FOR MARCH 2025**

Sunday 2nd	11.00 am United Holy Communion at Bubbenhall
Wednesday 5th	7.00 pm Ash Wednesday Communion at Stoneleigh
Sunday 9th	9.30 am Holy Communion Service at Ashow 11.00 am Morning Praise Service at Stoneleigh
Sunday 16th	9.30 am Celtic Service at Ashow 11.00 am Celtic Holy Communion at Stoneleigh
Sunday 23rd	9.30 am Village Service at Ashow 11.00 am Holy Communion Service at Stoneleigh
Sunday 30th	9.30 am Mothering Sunday Service at Ashow 11.00 am Mothering Sunday Service at Stoneleigh

***From the Registers***

***Funerals***

Thursday 6th February 2025 – Colin Charles Ecob –  
Interment Service at Stoneleigh Churchyard  
Friday 14th February 2025 – Alan Victor Brown –  
Funeral Service at Stoneleigh church

**Contacts:**

***Priest in Charge:*** Reverend Petrica Bistran 07572193260  
email: [revpbistran@gmail.com](mailto: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 Wardens: Richard Ashley 07708 097187, John Woodward 02476  
418272 and Paddy Bryniarska 07947472297

Or please contact the Parish Administrator,

Jackie Cubitt, 02476 415506 email: [stoneleighchurch@hotmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12964) for Stoneleigh

[www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12954](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12954) for Ashow