

STONELEIGH & ASHOW

News



APRIL 2025



“The Heart of Stoneleigh” Defibrillator

In the phone box on The Green
and at Stoneleigh 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
Martin Smith	07958 955629
Mary Taylor	07890 535506

Remember: Always ring 999 first!

**There is also a defibrillator at
Stoneleigh Village Hall.**



Cover Image: Daffodils outside the Old Post Office, by Bernice.

Stoneleigh Community Orchard Update

Pete Freeman

With the arrival of Spring, attention has once again turned to the awakening orchard along with the prospects for the coming year. Central to this is the "Stoneleigh Orchard Blossom Festival" and our team, led by Quentin Compton-Bishop and Amanda Freeman, are already working hard to make this a success.

The event, scheduled for Saturday 17th May 2:30 to 4:30pm, will occur in the orchard field at the end of Church Lane. It is planned that our sparkling cider will be newly available for sale on the day.



Here, amongst an assortment of stalls, crafts and entertainments all described in our accompanying poster, will be placed a "Wicker Man" art installation which myself and fellow villager Rory O'Connor are currently in the process of creating. It is intended that the Wicker Man becomes a feature in the village throughout early summer and leading up to Midsummer's Day.

For those readers who are unfamiliar with the origins and symbolic significance of the Wicker Man then I have undertaken some brief research which may serve as an introduction.

In truth its origins are a little obscure, but it is assumed to be central to ancient Celtic and Druidic tradition. In it a wicker cage structure is created then filled with straw and sacrifices before being burned usually on Midsummer's Day, otherwise known as Litha in Pagan tradition. Perhaps some of the earliest accounts are Greco-Roman in origin and date from the 1st Century BCE most notably being described in Roman General Julius Caesar's commentary on the Gallic War in which he writes that a large wickerwork figure with limbs was filled with living men and set on fire!

The Greek geographer Strabo adds that the ashes were believed to help crops grow. There is a broad consensus that such descriptions may represent early Roman propaganda designed to present their Celtic enemies as "barbarians" thereby demonstrating the ancient equivalent of modern day "Fake News".

More recently "The Wicker Man" was a 1970's film classic set on a neopagan Scottish Isle and starring Edward Woodward, Britt Ekland and Christopher Lee. Needless to say, there will be no human sacrifices taking place in Stoneleigh Community Orchard! Instead, the Wicker Man will serve multiple roles in advertising and signage.

Our Wicker Man will of course require a name, so we welcome suggestions!



Orchard Friends' subscriptions and yearly renewals for 2025 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@nationalhighways.co.uk

Stoneleigh Community Orchard Blossom Festival

Saturday 17th May 2025. 2.30 - 4.30 pm



Orchard history - Learn how cider is made

Orchard Quiz & Children's Craft Activities

Country crafts & hobbies

Tea, cakes, refreshments

Cider tasting & sales

Morris Dancers (at 3.30pm). Live music

Please support this community event

- Make cakes and biscuits for the refreshment tent
- Help set up the marquees – and take them down again!
- Tell friends and family to save the date

If you would like to help in any way, please contact:

- Quentin Compton-Bishop at gcb@btinternet.com
- Amanda Smith at asmith@goinglean.co.uk

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

Stoneleigh History Society

Sheila Woolf - 07767 320969

Stoneleigh History Society

We're very excited about our show, "A Shared Moment of Celebration", marking the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. With music from the Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir and stories read by members of the History Society, it promises to be both reflective and entertaining. Do come along and join in with the songs, visit the exhibition and enjoy the refreshments!

The show begins at 7pm on Saturday May 10th and the exhibition is open from 5.30pm. Please see the poster on page 8 of this magazine for further details and feel free to contact me for tickets, which cost £15.

Unfortunately the advertised talk at the March meeting of the History Society did not take place. Instead I gave a talk called "An Arabian Odyssey – from Flintshire to the Land of the Pharaohs" which tells the story of an ancestor of mine who found himself embroiled in wars in Egypt and the Sudan at the end of the nineteenth century. It's a proper adventure story!

Our April talk will look back at the life of Sir Henry Parkes, and revisit our celebrations of his bicentenary ten years ago.

Stoneleigh Churchyard Working Party

Martin Smith

We intend to have a Springtime working party to help get the Churchyard ready for Easter, and are looking for volunteers please.

This will be on Saturday April 12th between 9.30am and 12 noon.

There will be things for everybody to do e.g. pruning, weeding, clearing, edging, sweeping. It's not all hard manual labour! You don't have to stay the whole time - if you could spare an hour it would be gratefully received.

Refreshments will be provided. If you have tools please do bring them along.

We look forward to seeing some of you there: Thank you!

Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir

Philip Jones

On Wednesday 27th February, the choir A.G.M. took place at the Village Hall. The following were elected:-

Chairman – Philip Jones
Treasurer – Jim Easter
Secretary – David Critchley

The Committee - Judy Hadfield, Marcus Kendal, Bill McCutcheon, Rod Owen, Phil Weare, Simon White and Richard Wigley.

A report from our former MD Alan Biddle was also read out, in which Alan stated how much he had enjoyed his 24 years working with the choir and wished us every success in the future. It was also noted that since 1989 the choir has now helped raise in excess of £250,000 for charity. A wonderful total.

We are now rehearsing for the 10th May concert in Stoneleigh Church to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe. This concert of songs and readings is in collaboration with the Stoneleigh History Society. Further details are available on the poster on the following page.

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 07910 240453 or Email kathryngjones@hotmail.co.uk



stoneleighmalevoicechoir.co.uk

A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION

Stoneleigh History Society
& Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir
present

An Evening of Song and Stories to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day



Saturday 10 May, 7:00pm, Stoneleigh Church
Arrive from 5:30pm to view the VE Day exhibition

Tickets are £15, to include refreshments
Proceeds to Royal British Legion and Stoneleigh Church

Tickets available from:

Philip Jones on 01926 853511 / 07910240453 or
email kathryngjones@hotmail.co.uk

Sheila Woolf on 07767 320969 or email woolfsheila@gmail.com

Jackie Cubitt on 02476 415506 or
email stoneleighchurch@hotmail.com

Film Night

Jane Taylor

For our next film night, we will be showing: **CONCLAVE**



Award winning “Conclave” was one of the top ten films of 2024.

Following the death of the Pope, the reluctant Cardinal Lawrence (Ralph Fiennes) is tasked with overseeing the group of Cardinals from across the globe that make up the Conclave. The Conclave is responsible for selecting a new leader for the Church. As the political machinations inside the Vatican intensify, Lawrence realises that the departed Pope had kept a secret from them that he must uncover before a new Pope is chosen.

The film stars Ralph Fiennes, Stanley Tucci, John Lithgow and Isabella Rossellini.

Friday May 9th 2025 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 7th May

HS2 Update

Martin Smith for the Stoneleigh Action Group.

As we await further developments regarding the A46 bridge slide, and hope that it might be possible to watch this closer up, we have had a taste of what the traffic flow might be like during the three week planned closure of the A46.

BBV admit there were teething problems during the first weekend closure and sought to amend some of the issues for the second. However, a three week closure with weekday commuting traffic may well test the resilience of our road network. The dates for the closure have now been confirmed as from April 11th to May 1st, potentially being effected the evenings before, so keep an eye out for signs. Crew Lane will also be closed shortly. Signs are on that section of road. Locally, during the dry spell we have just had, dust has settled across the village, more so to the north.

On a wider picture the Public Accounts Committee which has never given this project any grade above amber/red to my knowledge, now appears to be sounding alarm bells, citing reputational damage to the UK over the Government's failure to get to grips with the project. Scant consolation to us here. The tunnel boring machines I advised you about a few editions ago are now on hold and will not be heading for Euston. Frankly it's a huge mess and starting the project without a clear plan for Euston is irresponsible. However it goes on, and sadly do I!

Plans are being mooted to use even longer trains than originally designed for, such trains above 200m long cannot be run north of Birmingham once it uses "classic" track due to platform length restrictions.

Hopefully later in the year the local overbridges will open which should allow excavation of the whole line and bring the civil engineering part of the project closer to completion, this being potentially the most disruptive, but we shall see.



Stoneleigh Village Club

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COFFEE MORNING

**Thursday
April 3rd**

10:00am - 11:30am

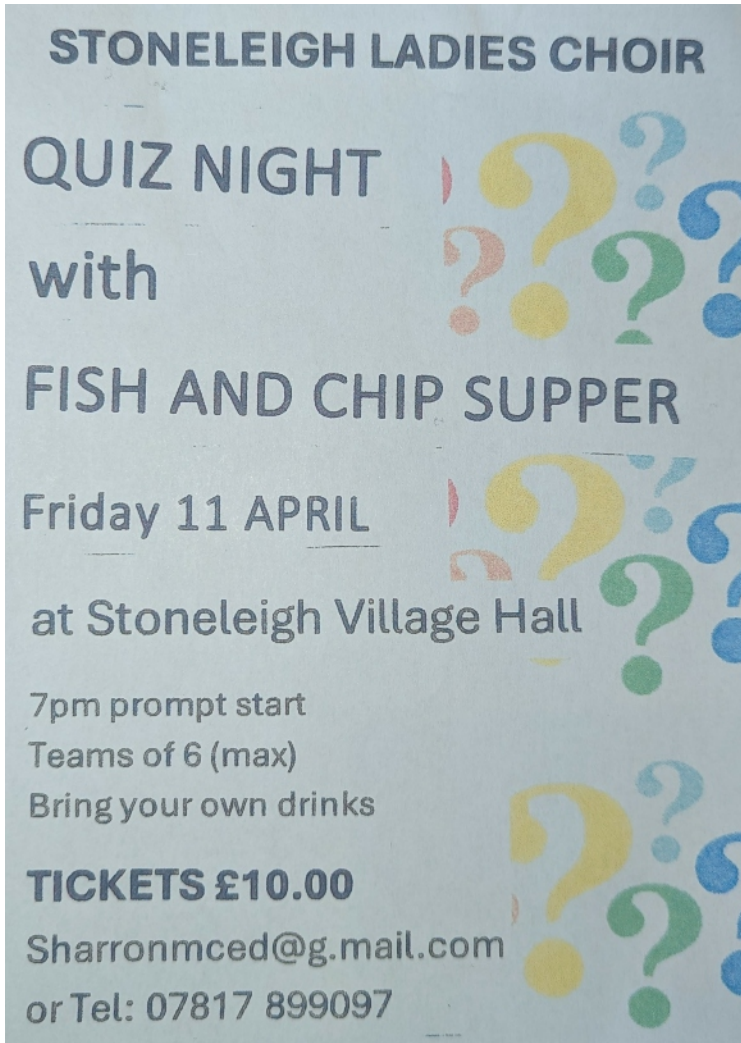
*Come along, enjoy a hot drink
and catch up with friends.
Everyone is welcome!*

£1 donation



Stoneleigh Ladies Choir

Pat Wightman



STONELEIGH LADIES CHOIR

QUIZ NIGHT

with

FISH AND CHIP SUPPER

Friday 11 APRIL

at Stoneleigh Village Hall

7pm prompt start
Teams of 6 (max)
Bring your own drinks

TICKETS £10.00

Sharronmced@g.mail.com
or Tel: 07817 899097

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

Annual General Meeting of Stoneleigh Village Hall and Playing Fields Trust

Lynda Hobbins

The Annual General meeting of the above trust will be held on Tuesday April 8th at 7.00pm at Stoneleigh Village Hall.

All residents are invited to attend the meeting.

The committee would warmly welcome more volunteers to help with running of the hall. Do come and have a chat with us at the meeting. We are a friendly bunch!

Further enquiries about the meeting and any questions to be asked can be lodged with the secretary of the Trust, Lynda Hobbins at davetheeqq@supernet.com

We look forward to seeing you there.

Stoneleigh W.I.

Liz Sykes



We had a very interesting talk in March by Ian from the Warwickshire Lavender Farm. From the lavender, they manufacture many products including honey, soap, various items such as body wash and candles. They have now planted some vines – so we may be getting local wine in a couple of years!

We had a lovely lunch at Stoneleigh golf club and also some coffee mornings.

Next month is our AGM, followed by a short talk by our our president, Sheila.

This will be on April 7th at 2pm. Everyone is welcome.



Spring has sprung!

Many of you attended the finance meeting in January 2025. For those who were unable to attend, the financial position is significantly improved from the £13,000 overspend reported for financial year 2023-2024.

Whilst we have had some unavoidable, 'one-off' spending which will be evident in the financial accounts at the AGM in July, we can feel confident that finances will be in much better shape this year.

The SVC Committee has continued to be as busy as ever!

Please keep an eye on the information board outside the club for further event details / last minute changes.

Dates for your diary in April:



12th – Eyes down for cash bingo. Children and adults welcome.

20th – Easter bonnet competition 1.30pm in the club and egg hunt at 12.

25th – Cricket club quiz.

The nights are still slowly getting lighter. There are definite signs of Spring around the village: I for one am looking forward to warmer weather.

Why not join us for an event? Or arrange to meet your friends or neighbours one night at Stoneleigh Village Club?

A Gesture of Love

Petrică Bistran

April means Easter this year. And I've been thinking that Easter is not so much about figuring out what exactly happened on Good Friday, or whether Jesus rode a colt, a pony, or a donkey on Palm Sunday. I've come to believe that the events of that first Easter are less about understanding and more about experiencing — experiencing the love of God shown to us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

One of the most powerful gestures of love I've ever experienced came from my little sister, Lorena. It was during the Easter holidays in 2006 when I went home from university to visit my family and spend time with her. She was very ill. Lorena had always been the healthiest, happiest, and most joyful kid — always smiling, always laughing. But suddenly, she became unwell, and within a few weeks, she was diagnosed with a brain tumour. She was only 14.

She underwent surgery, and the doctors tried their best to remove the tumour. But sadly, her condition continued to worsen. So when I visited that Easter, my sister was receiving palliative care at home. She was paralysed, unable to speak, and could only use one arm — with great effort — to communicate.

Easter always reminds me of her. I will never forget one particular day during that visit. We were lying in bed next to each other, watching our favourite cartoon — Ed, Edd n Eddy (a rather strange American show we both enjoyed). And then, suddenly, she raised her frail right arm — the only one she could move — and looked at me intently.

I turned to her and watched as she began to trace letters in the air, slowly, deliberately. I followed them carefully: T.E. I.U.B.E.S.C. — Romanian for I LOVE YOU. Then she smiled at me and placed her hand over her heart to show how much she meant it. Lorena died later that year, but her simple, wordless gesture of love still fills my heart to this day.

Easter is full of gestures of love. Jesus entering Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, riding humbly on a donkey — a gesture of love. Jesus washing His disciples' feet at the Last Supper — a gesture of love. And above all, Jesus letting His hands be nailed to the cross on Good Friday — a gesture of love like no other.

But He didn't stay dead. His rising from the grave on Easter Sunday is God's greatest gesture of love — a love that reaches beyond death, and gives us hope that never dies. So this Easter, may we remember that love is stronger than death, and that God's love, in Jesus, is for each and every one of us. Happy Easter!

Parish Council Notes

Helen Denton-Stacey, Parish Clerk
PO Box 11198, Lutterworth, LE17 9FX

Meetings

At our March meeting the following issues were discussed:

The Neighbourhood plan has now been submitted to WCC to determine whether a strategic environmental assessment is required. The executive summary will be sent to every household.

Grant applications are now open for VE and VJ Day street parties.

Full details: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6008/contribute-your-memories-and-family-stories-of-ve-day-towards-special-history-project-by-warwickshire-libraries>

CLlr W Redford advised that Highways are going to install cameras on Rocky Lane to check the culvert.

The Hall Close drainage problem has been identified as a broken pipe. The Highways Agency will identify the full extent of damage with a camera. This is expected to be complete by 10th May.

The footpath outside of the Almshouses is to be repaired, awaiting start date.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 10th April at Ashow Village Club at 7pm.

To view the full details of this, and other meetings, including upcoming planning applications, recent crime reports, and Neighbourhood Plan development details, please visit the Parish Council website at:
hugofox.com/community/stoneleigh-and-ashow-parish-council-18663/home/

Could you volunteer and help prepare young people with skills for life?

We are Scouts and everyone is welcome here. Every week, we help almost half a million people in the UK aged 4-25 develop skills for life. Are you ready to join the adventure?

In the Kenilworth District we have 450 young people as members. However, as Kenilworth grows so does our waiting list and the need for more adult volunteers and leaders increases to enable us to reduce this list and allow more young people to gain those vital skills for life.

Volunteering can be a brilliant way to boost your mental wellbeing. It's a great feeling knowing you're helping young people, and you might even learn a lot about yourself along the way.

Scouts can make you feel good in other ways too. We'll guide you to an opportunity where you'll:

- Make friends and meet people
- Try new things and challenge yourself
- Get outdoors and get stuck in
- Positively impact your community
- Create vital opportunities for young people
- Make memories that'll last a lifetime

If you can only offer occasional help, that's okay. Whether you'd like to be an activity planner, tea maker or craft creator, we appreciate any time you can spare.

Please visit www.scouts.org.uk to get an overview of Scouting or visit the Kenilworth Scouts website to find out more about us and to look at specific vacancies – www.kenilworthscouts.org.uk

If you are interested or just want to have an informal chat, please contact me by emailing douglas.faulconbridge@kenilworthscouts.org.uk

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5th KENILWORTH SCOUT GROUP



**SATURDAY 5 APRIL
10AM TO 3PM**

Car Wash £8 (£10 for SUVs) for a full wash,
wheel clean and dry
Refreshments available to buy while-u-wait

St Francis of Assisi Church
Warwick Rd, Kenilworth, CV8 1HL

W3W: zones.thanks.odds

We're fundraising for a trip to Northern Ireland
and to support other exciting opportunities for our
young people

**£8 PER
CAR**

Made with PosterMyWall.com

BOWLS COACHING BIG WEEKEND

LILLINGTON BOWLING CLUB
LIME AVENUE, LILLINGTON, LEAMINGTON SPA CV32 7DB

**MONDAY EVENINGS
FROM 6 PM - DUSK
STARTING 5TH MAY**

FREE coaching with friendly
and experienced coaches.
Flat shoes required.

**NEW
MEMBERS
WELCOME**

Come and give bowls a try at our event
for FREE on our Super Green:

**SUNDAY 25TH MAY
10AM - 4PM**

All ages welcome.
Tea & cakes provided.
Only flat shoes required.
Call or email in advance
to pre book a trial session.



www.lillingtonbc.co.uk
Chris: 01926 881229 | c.venn@sky.com
John: 07956 487378 | johnbuggins@hotmail.co.uk

Supported by WDC Sports Development Grant



Voluntary Contributions from Residents

Bill Crofts

If you value the receipt of a paper copy through your door, please consider making a donation to S&A News.

If you are familiar with using a QR code on your mobile phone, the one shown will take you to a page where you can make a payment directly from your chosen bank account.



Please remember to add your name as the reference so I know who you are.

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

Thank you for your support!

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 [Village Facebook page](#).

The May 2025 edition will be compiled by **Kim and Martin Smith**
(sanewsletter30@gmail.com) **Copy deadline: 16th April 2025**

Placing an advertisement in Stoneleigh & Ashow News

Our page 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 (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).



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



SERVICES FOR APRIL 2025

- Sunday 6th 10.00 am United Holy Communion Service at Baginton.
Sunday 13th **Palm Sunday**
9.30 am Holy Communion Service at Ashow
11.00 am Morning Praise Service at Stoneleigh with Baptism
Thursday 17th Maundy Thursday
7.00 pm Agape Meal and Eucharist Service at Stoneleigh
Friday 18th **Good Friday**
2.00 pm Hour of the Cross at Ashow
Saturday 19th Easter Vigil 8.00pm Easter Vigil at Stoneleigh
Sunday 20th **Easter Day**
9.30 am Holy Communion Service at Ashow
11.00 am Easter Day Holy Communion at Stoneleigh
Sunday 27th 9.30 am Village Service at Ashow
11.00 am Holy Communion Service at Stoneleigh

From the Registers - Funerals

Friday 28th February 2025 – Doreen Rex – Funeral Service at Stoneleigh Church

Priest in Charge: Reverend Petrica Bistran 07572 193260

email: revpbistran@gmail.com

Churchwardens:

Ashaw: 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

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