

STONELEIGH & ASHOW

News



MAY 2025



“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 to always call 999 first!

Cover Image

We remember the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day.

Welcome to the May edition of the Stoneleigh and Ashow News

In this edition we shall reflect (among our usual articles) on the 80th anniversary of VE, the "Victory in Europe", Day which officially ended the fighting on May 8th 1945 when an Armistice was signed on Luneberg Heath between the Allied and Nazi German Forces.

Of course, the war in the far East continued until August 1945, only ending with the dropping of two atomic bombs on Japanese soil.

But what of the transition brought about by V.E.Day? Of the servicemen and servicewomen returning home to estranged families, to husbands and wives new and old, to babies not yet held? For all those who did not return, their loved ones had to continue as best they could, facing the destruction, the crippling cost of the war and the future.

To all of that generation we give our thanks.

Remembering those who gave their lives (with thanks to Sheila Woolf for the information):

Humphrey Desmond Cooke

1914-1942. Wing Commander RAF

Lost his life on a bombing raid to Bremen, Germany

Geoffrey Lee

1920-1943. Sergeant RAF

Lost his life on a bombing raid to Dortmund, Germany

Buried in Rheinburg Military Cemetery

Donald Stewart Hegan

1916-1942. RAF Volunteer Reserve

Lost his life in a flying accident over Staffordshire.

Buried here in Stoneleigh

John Alun Edmonds

1916-1944

RAF Volunteer Reserve

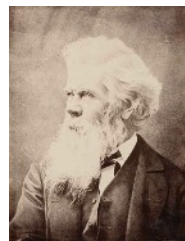
Lost his life in a flying accident at Gaydon airfield.

Buried here in Stoneleigh

(Continued on page 7)

Stoneleigh History Society

Our April meeting revisited the occasion when, ten years ago, we celebrated the bicentenary of Sir Henry Parkes' birth. It was good to remind ourselves of the achievements of this son of Stoneleigh, who went on to become a "grand old man" of Australian politics, and to see again the photographs of our tribute to him in 2015.



At our next meeting, on Tuesday May 27th, Mel Bianco will give her personal interpretation of the architecture of the Cistercian Abbey of Stoneleigh. It promises to be an interesting evening, and all visitors are welcome at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

Before then, of course, we are all looking forward to Saturday May 10th for "A Shared Moment of Celebration", our evening of songs and stories which we have prepared along with Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir. We hope to see many of you there! See details on page 5.

On the following weekend on Saturday 17th, we shall have a presence at the Blossom Festival too. Do come and have a chat!

Sheila Woolf

Bell-ringing at Stoneleigh

Thank you to all residents who have made kind comments about the bell-ringing at Stoneleigh. Of course, our mistakes can be very obvious! As we enter the summer months then more residents will be able to hear the bells on practice nights on Thursday- if you would care to, that is! We shall be ringing slightly earlier on May 8th to remember VE Day, in line with church towers nationally.

For anybody would like to know any more about this ancient art of "change" ringing, which is unique to Britain and some countries around the world (e.g. New Zealand), please do talk to one of us.

Martin Smith for the Stoneleigh Bell Ringers

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 £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 320869 or email woolfsheila@gmail.com

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

Stoneleigh Community Orchard Update

Pete Freeman

Blossom Festival

Those readers who have visited the orchard in recent weeks will have noticed the gradual swelling of buds upon the trees prior to them breaking into leaf. The perry pears appear to be already in blossom which is a strong indicator for a large pear harvest later in the year and a welcome addition given its scarcity in recent years. The commencement of blossom in the orchard has also focussed the group's attention on our "Blossom Festival" which is scheduled to occur on Saturday 17th May between 2:30 - 4:30pm in the orchard field at the end of Church Lane.

The event co-ordinator Quentin Compton-Bishop has put together literature designed to bring the visiting public up to speed with the orchard narrative to date, as well as to provide some points of interest concerning apple varieties and processing. This can be used as a resource and guide to those exploring the orchard. I am informed by fellow coordinator, Mandy Freeman, that the event has been successful in attracting a broad and varied array of stalls, interest groups and activities. All of these are described in our accompanying event poster. Orchard activities include Morris dancing provided by "Plum Jerkum" who are Warwick's own mixed Border Morris group. Also, keep your eye out for the appearance of the "Green Man" (Barry Patterson) during these festivities, who will be entertaining folk with stories, music and poetry which makes him an essential for all May celebrations. Barry is also a specialist in playing the mediaeval bagpipes which makes him somewhat unique in these modern times. Live music performances will also occur. The centrepiece of the event will be a large effigy of a "Wicker Man" as described in the April edition, which is now close to completion. He will serve multiple roles in advertising and signing both before, during and after the event. Our Wicker Man will of course require a name, so we welcome suggestions!

The event will also be the first opportunity to buy this year's sparkling bottled cider. Our boxes of still cider will also be available for purchase. Finally, there will be the opportunity to glance inside the processing facility where the cider is created and stored.

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

Richard Hancox (Treasurer),

Richard.Hancox@nationalhighways.co.uk

Remembering those who died in World War 2 (continued from page 3)

Alfred William Jones

1925-1944

Private Royal Welch Fusiliers

Killed in the fighting in the bocage country in Normandy. He has no grave but is commemorated on the Bayeux War Memorial.

Harold Mills

1921 - 1944

Private 5th Battalion Sherwood Foresters

Killed in action on 31 August 1944 during the Italy campaign.

He is buried at Montecchio, along with 581 other Commonwealth servicemen.

John Copeland Aris,

1921-1942

Ordinary Telegraphist HMS Nigeria, Royal Navy.

Killed whilst part of a convoy from Gibraltar to Malta.

(Sheila Woolf will be remembering them in more detail at the May 10th event, see the advert on page 5)



Homecoming

After the cries of gulls and the fogbound island;
After the last accident, the last suicide, the last alert;
After we had broken the ties of separation;
After the ship, projection of desire, and the homeward passage;

When the country opened up like a child's picture book;
(The hills were coloured by our loneliness, lakes by the years of exile);
Until geography began to reassume its civilian status;
And the slight smell of death was lost in the untroubled darkness;

Then we were troubled by our second coming;
The thing that takes our hand and leads us home-
Where we must clothe ourselves in the life of a stranger
Whose name we carry but can no longer know-
Is a new fear born between the doorstep and the door
Far from the night patrol, the terror, the long sweat.
And far from the dead boy who left so long ago.

Thomas McGrath

Remembering some of those from here who served in World War 2.

Charles Edward Richard Hind, 1925-2023. Royal Navy.

Ted and Betty lived in Stoneleigh for many years.

Edward (Ted) Morris, 1922-2019. Army.

Ted was a long time resident of Stoneleigh.



Joyce Cecily Sibley, married J Paul Wilkes. 1925-2016, WRAF, rank ACW1.

Jesse Paul Wilkes, 1920-1974. Army. Died in Stoneleigh Churchyard carrying the Royal British Legion flag. Served in North Africa, Italy and Malta.



Harry Herdmann, 1921-2016. Army. Served with 8th Army North Africa, Sicily and Italy.

Thank you to those who provided this information.

Stoneleigh Ladies Choir

Pat Wightman

It is with great sadness that we report the death of our Musical Director, Seb Farrall.

It is difficult for us to find words which measure the degree of shock and heartbreak that each and every member of the choir is feeling.

Seb took over the choir in 2023 following Karen Whyte's departure to pastures new. Since then, we have spent many Thursday afternoons learning new music under his guidance, always with lots of humour and ending every meeting feeling light-hearted and joyful.

Seb's enthusiasm extended to other areas in Coventry and Warwickshire where he was Musical Director to a number of other choirs and the Coventry City of Culture Orchestra. He will be missed by many people. The choir sends its love and condolences to Seb's family.

One thing is for sure, Seb would want the choir to continue, and we will endeavour to do just that. Quite how, we haven't worked out yet. He will be a hard act to follow.



Stoneleigh Community Orchard Blossom Festival

Saturday 17th May 2025. 2.30 - 4.30 pm



Orchard tours - Learn how cider is made

Orchard Quiz & Children's Craft Activities

Country crafts & hobbies

Tea, cakes, refreshments (cash only)

Cider tasting & sales

Morris Dancers (at 3.30pm). Live music

BBQ at Stoneleigh Village Club from 5pm

Gatward Country Crafts, Barnacle Hedgehog Rescue, Nora's Plants

Warwickshire Beekeepers, Tregunter Preserves, Crafty Sarah Sews

Paintbox Blooms, East Chase Farm Distillery, Redefining Fabrics by Nina

Cheese on the Green, Mirela's Apothecary, Stoneleigh History Society

Warwickshire Metal Detecting Club, Warwickshire Lavender Farm

Warwickshire Scouts and others

Free entry and parking on the beautiful Stoneleigh Meadows

Parking location: Vicarage Road, CV8 3DH (What3Words: ///plates.moves.food)

Orchard location: Church Lane, CV8 3DN (What3Words: ///wanted.snows.navy)

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

Stoneleigh Orchard Community Blossom Festival 17 May

Help wanted

Thank you to all those who have already volunteered to help with the Blossom Festival. Now in our third year, we have even more exhibitors and we hope we will attract even more visitors.

If you would like to help in some way, please get in touch with the organisers below. In particular, we are looking for support in:

Putting up marquees, setting out tables and chairs, signs (meet in the Orchard at 10 AM on 17 May)

Breaking down marquees, etc. and returning everything to their owners after the event (4.30 PM)

Contributing a tray-bake, cupcakes or cookies for the Refreshments Tent

Marshalling traffic and guiding visitors

Promoting the event to friends, colleagues, clubs and societies outside the village (printed and electronic flyers available)

Please contact **Amanda Smith** (asmith@goinglean.co.uk) or **Quentin Compton-Bishop** (qcb@btinternet.com). Thank you.

Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir

The last few weeks have been tinged with sadness for the SMVC after the sudden and tragic death of our friend, Seb Farrall. Seb was a joy to work with. At last year's Summer Serenade his brass ensemble enhanced the afternoon, and last October's concert, with his choir Bad Vibrations in Stoneleigh Church, was a wonderful occasion, due in no small part to Seb's enthusiasm and leadership. We send our heartfelt sympathy to Seb's wife and family.

The choir is looking forward to the VE concert on May 10th with the Stoneleigh History Society. Further details are available elsewhere in the magazine (see page 5 for further details).

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, or email kathryngjones@hotmail.co.uk.



HS2 Update

I cannot avoid making a comment about the road closure of the A46 and the initial chaos that resulted during week one. The chief issue would appear to be the HGVs that do not follow the signed diversion (is it clear enough?) and then cross Stoneleigh Bridge with the inevitable ensuing

tailbacks. It's sad that the creation of one new bridge should produce such challenges for a very old and well-loved one.

However, the bridge slide appears to be going well and the bridge section is now in place. If you have not seen this, click the link below for a time-lapse video. Some of the engineering has been truly and literally ground breaking!

<https://youtu.be/fvFG6tSU3vQ>

Martin Smith
for the Stoneleigh Action Group

Film Night

May's film will be: **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.

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

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 call Jane on 01926 858315 by Wednesday 7th May.

Parish Council Notes

Meetings

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday 8th May** at **Stoneleigh Village Hall** at 7pm.

This is also the date for the Annual Parish Meeting.

At our April meeting:

Neighbourhood Plan

The plan has now been submitted to Warwickshire County Council to determine if an SEA (*ie Strategic Environmental Assessment*) is required. The executive summary is to go to every household. Responses and comments from the executive summary are to be sent to stoneleighshowparishcouncil@gmail.com.

HS2 Update

19 day road closure planned for 11th April. Permits for residents have been issued. Update to be published to website. The PC wish to remind residents that removing barriers is a criminal offence.

Any issues raised from the road closures are to be sent directly to HS2.

Local Government reorganisation consultation

Potential bids have been submitted. County have submitted a single unitary plan. Borough & District have submitted a two tier plan for North and South.

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 www.stoneleighshowparishcouncil.gov.uk.

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

Stoneleigh Village Club



COFFEE MORNING

Thursday
May 1st, 22nd

10:00am - 11:30am

*Come along, enjoy a hot drink
and catch up with everyone.
Everyone is invited.*



Voluntary Contributions from Residents

Bill Crofts. Treasurer of the S+A News.

If you value the receipt of a paper copy through your door, please consider making a donation to the 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 cannot use the above, then 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!

Finally, some facts and possible fictions about VE Day

Not all the fighting in Europe ceased on May 8th. Stalin insisted that a separate Armistice was signed between Germany and Russia on May 9th. Furthermore, some German units in Denmark (and the islands) weren't immediately aware of the Armistice, as were those on the Channel Islands.

May 8th was declared a Public Holiday in Britain. The Government announced the news to the nation on May 7th. My mother joined the revelling crowds in Trafalgar Square, as (it is rumoured) did the Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret. Pubs stayed open until 1am that day.

Many servicemen and women did not return to the UK in 1945. That depended on generally when they were "called up", and which "theatre" of war they operated in. My father returned from Greece in 1946 as an example, by ship to Marseille then on by train to the UK clutching his "de-mob" cardboard suitcase. I still have it! His war medals were sent to him by The Admiralty much later.



Friday 02 May

Supper Night - Fish & Chips



Please place your orders at the bar or via email by 30 April.
Orders will be delivered around 19:30. Please remember cash on collection!

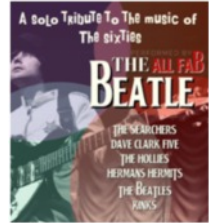
Saturday 10 May 2025

The All Fab Beatle

Back by popular demand, the one man tribute show is back at the SVC playing all the hits from the 60s!

This event is free for members, and has been made entirely possible by all the raffles and contributions from past events this year.

(A huge thank you to Liz Wrist's campaigning and to our members for your ongoing support).



Saturday 17 May 2025

BBQ!



We're delighted to be supporting the Stoneleigh Community Orchard's Blossom Festival, which takes place in the Meadow between 14:30 - 16:30.

The SVC will be putting on a BBQ from 17:00hrs onwards.

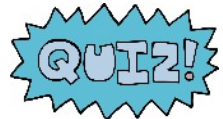
Saturday 24 May 2025

Quiz Night

May's quiz night will be hosted by SVC members Julie and Tracey!

Look out for details and sign up sheets in the bar.

Usual rules apply - teams of up to six.



Coventry City Football Fixtures

Games continue to be shown at the Club.

Upcoming fixtures as follows.

26 April @ 12:30hrs - Luton Town vs. Coventry City

03 May @ 12:30hrs - Coventry City vs. Middlesbrough

(Taken from the SVC email to members. Ed)

Mobile Library



About the service

The mobile library is fitted with a lift and has:

- A selection of books, including large print
- Spoken word
- Books for young children

Contact the Mobile Library Service

- Email: mobilelibraryservice@warwickshire.gov.uk
- Telephone: 01926 851031
- [Contact Libraries](#)

The Mobile library will be at Stoneleigh Village Hall from 14:20 to 14:45 on:

28 April 2025	22 May 2025	23 June 2025
21 July 2025	18 August 2025	15 September 2025
13 October 2025	10 November 2025	08 December 2025

**Whatever
you're
facing
We're here
to listen**

Call free day
or night on
116 123

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jo@samaritans.org

Write to us
Freepost
SAMARITANS LETTERS

SAMARITANS

samaritans.org/coventry

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This edition of the Stoneleigh and Ashow News was compiled by **Kim and Martin Smith** who would like to thank all contributors for this edition and over the many years that we have been Editors. Thank you.

The online colour version can be viewed on the Village Facebook Page.

The June 2025 edition will be compiled by **Lisa Reay**
(sanewsletter30@gmail.com). Copy deadline 16th May 2025.

Placing an advertisement in the Stoneleigh and Ashow News.

Our format is A5 please.

Rates per annum: (10 editions) are: **Full page (13cmx19cm):£100**, **half page (13cmx9.5cm): £50**; **Quarter page (6.5cmx9.5cm or 13cmx5cm): £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+ 3% 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 MAY 2025

Sunday 4 th	10.00 am United Holy Communion Service at Ashow
Sunday 11 th	9.30 am Holy Communion Service at Ashow 11.00 am Morning Praise Service at Stoneleigh followed by the APCM
Sunday 18 th	9.30 am Celtic Service at Ashow 11.00 am Celtic Holy Communion Service at Stoneleigh
Sunday 25 th	9.30 am Village Service at Ashow 11.00 am Holy Communion Service at Stoneleigh

From the Registers

Funerals

Tuesday 25th March - Patrick Thomas Muldowney –
Funeral Service at Stoneleigh
Tuesday 1st April - Tony Samouelle – Interment at Stoneleigh
Churchyard

Baptisms

Sunday 13th April – Josiah Cotton – Service at Stoneleigh Church

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 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

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