Stoneleigh & Ashow



July/August 2025



"The Heart of Stoneleigh" defibrillator in the phone box on The Green and at Stoneleigh Village Hall

Co-ordinator: 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
lan Huston 07974 237331	Sharron McEldowney 07760 101775
Claire Neale 07557 675842	Martin Smith 07958 955629
Mary Taylor 07890 535506	

Remember: Always ring 999 first!

Stoneleigh Ladies' Choir

Pat Wightman

All the weeks of hard work are coming to fruition, with two concerts scheduled for Thursday 26th June at The Waverley Centre in Kenilworth, and on Saturday 12th July for our charity concert at Stoneleigh Village Hall.

This year, the choir has chosen to support The Music Man Project charity due to the sudden and tragic loss of our Musical Director, Seb Farrall, who was an advocate for this project. The Music Man Project is a multi-award-winning charity for people with learning difficulties, and raises awareness of disadvantaged people in the arts. It provides accessible music tuition, with students performing in prestigious places such as the West End, the Royal Albert Hall and for the royal family. There are currently 16 regional projects across the UK, with the project now being introduced overseas.

Starting at 7.00pm, our concert on Saturday 12th July promises a great evening of music from the 60s and 70s. Many of the songs will bring back happy memories for some and will be well known to others as the songs have endured the years. Delicious desserts will be served during the interval – all for £10. Tickets are available from sharronmced@gmail.com or phone 07817 899097. See also page 11.

Voluntary Contributions from Residents

Bill Crofts, S&A News Treasurer

f 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.

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 don't have 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

Alternatively, please email me at <u>sanewsletter30@gmail.com</u>. I will then send over bank details for a BACS transfer or my address, should you wish to send me a cheque.

Dame Alice Leigh's Almshouse, Stoneleigh

Sue Crofts, Chair of Trustees

he almshouse is a wonderful old building which is admired locally and internationally. Being an old sandstone building, it requires a lot of upkeep. This year, the building is undergoing quite a number of renovations and additions, which some of you will be interested to hear about.

The white paintwork at the back of the almshouse is being renewed this summer. Also, there will be some scaffolding in place while the terracotta caps are replaced on our chimney stacks. At the same time, stonemasons (Croft Building and Conservation) will be doing some maintenance work on the roof. The dormer bedroom windows are being refurbished now that we have located local craftsmen to undertake the work. Internally, a couple of the units are having new kitchens and flooring fitted. Finally, work has just been completed to provide the residents with a resin-bound path which links the almshouse to the outhouses and the gate on Church Lane. The path will assist those residents who use mobility aids and will be a great help in getting the waste bins to the gate.

I hope that nearby neighbours will not be too adversely affected while this essential work is undertaken. As trustees, our role is to look after our lovely old building and to provide a safe, comfortable home for our residents. All of the work being done in 2025 is an investment for the future.



Jean Bussell

Robin Bussell

y the time you read this, the funeral for my wife, Jean Bussell, will have taken place in Stoneleigh, and I want to say how I have been overwhelmed, from all quarters, by the love and support from people far and wide.

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for the cards, letters, flowers, cakes and countless hugs, prayers and kind words that have sustained me during a most difficult time.

We moved to Stoneleigh 40 years ago when I came to the end of a career in the Royal Navy. Jean was less than enthusiastic about the move from a house in Bath where we had lived for more than 20 years. She had never heard of Stoneleigh and she didn't like the sound of being in "the Midlands"! However, she very quickly realised that Stoneleigh was really a rather nice village, the people were welcoming, and the area was very acceptable.

She quickly became involved in local activities: the WI, Action Research, golf, and church flower arranging, for example, making many new friends along the way. So many people have been part of Jean's 40 wonderful years in Stoneleigh and I thank you all.

She will be missed and always remembered.



In the Land of the Giants

Douglas Faulconbridge, Kenilworth Scouts

t the end of May the 5th Kenilworth Scout Group, of which I am Chairman, undertook an ambitious trip to Northern Ireland. 14 young people, with six leaders, visited many of the historic landmarks this part of the UK has to offer, and gained an understanding of "The Troubles". We arrived on Saturday 23rd May to leaden skies dominated by the bright yellow towers of Samson and Goliath!



Day 1: First stop – the iconic Titanic Museum to explore the secrets of over 100 years ago; a fascinating and huge learning experience for everyone. We then moved on to our accommodation, Ardnavally Scout Centre in Belfast, which was to be our base for the week.

Day 2: We met up with local Scouts to go to the Mourne Mountains. We walked through the famous Hare's Gap at 600m on the Mourne Wall -22 miles of natural granite built to separate livestock from the catchment area of the reservoir. A traditional campfire was held in the evening, again with the local Scouts.

Day 3: A visit to the Antrim coast via the Dark Hedges made famous in the Games of Thrones series, and on to the Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge. We crossed to Carrick-a-Rede Island with trepidation! Then back for another campfire, where we were visited by a less able non-Scouting DofE group, who experienced their first ever Scout campfire.

Day 4: Out to the Causeway coast and an encounter with Finn MacCool, rival of the Scottish giant, Benandonner. We all enjoyed stepping on the array of hexagonal basalt stones. Then on to Londonderry and to the Peacemakers' Museum. The young people were intrigued to realise that youngsters their own age were involved in the petrol bombing and stone throwing on the bog side in the 70s.

Day 5: A visit to the Belfast Activity Centre, where we all joined in the traditional Scouting activities of climbing, caving and canoeing.

Day 6: Our trip wouldn't have been complete without a journey around Belfast on the Hop On Hop Off open-top bus tour on our final day. Again, this engaged the young people as we travelled between Catholic and Protestant areas, noting the different styles of memorials and murals along the Falls Road and Shankhill Road. The bus tour also went alongside the 45ft-high Peace Wall constructed in 1969, and through the division gates, which are still to this day closed at dusk. Once again, Scouting at its best, promoting learning opportunities and skills for life.

WANTED: Digital Copy of S&A News June 2010

Lisa Reay

f anybody happens to have a **digital copy** of the June 2010 edition of Stoneleigh & Ashow News, please email it to me at lisareay@btinternet.com. Thank you.



Stoneleigh History Society

Sheila Woolf

t our May meeting, we were treated to a superb presentation by our member Mel Bianco, whose architectural expertise had led her to investigate the buildings once occupied by the Cistercian community at Stoneleigh Abbey. We hope that her discoveries will find a wider audience.

On Tuesday 24th June at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, we shall hear from another of our members, Quentin Compton-Bishop, who, in "From Smyrna to Stoneleigh", will be tracing his own family origins back to the Ottoman Empire. In the 19th century, there were thriving communities of western Europeans there, known as "Levantines", engaged in shipping, trade and diplomacy, with Smyrna (now Izmir) being a cosmopolitan hub. All visitors are most welcome to what will definitely be a fascinating talk.

We, together with the Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir, were delighted that our "VE Day 80" event raised £1000. This money will be equally divided between the Royal British Legion and Stoneleigh Church. We should like to thank everyone who made the event such a success.

Have you looked at our website recently? It has been undergoing a huge revamp, with much of our research now having been digitised and then added by Lisa Reay and Rob Orland. For example, 15 years' worth of back

copies of the *Stoneleigh and Ashow News* are now available! Minutes and Chairman's reports from our previous History Society meetings can be seen by going to the relevant date on the annual programme tab. Census information now allows you to search for past residents, their addresses and occupations, and our churchyard burials can be accessed not only from our online



database, but also via a QR code which can be found in the church.

Over the summer, many old photographs will be uploaded on to the website too. Should you have any photographs of Stoneleigh past or present, including recent events such as VE Day, which you would like to share on the website, please forward them to Lisa Reay at lisareay@btinternet.com.

Take a look at https://stoneleighhistorysociety.org.uk.

Film Night



TOBY JONES

HARRY LAWTEN

LESLEY MANVILLE

MR.BURTON

SOME ARE BORN GREAT. SOME ARE INSPIRED TO BE GREAT.





Friday 12th September 2025 Stoneleigh Village Hall

6.45pm for a 7.00pm showing

Tickets: £4.00

(to cover room hire and refreshments)

The true story of the relationship between Port Talbot schoolmaster Philip Burton and a wild young schoolboy called Richard Jenkins. Richard dreams of becoming an actor, but his ambitions are in danger of being derailed by a combination of family trouble, the pressure of war, and his own lack of discipline. Mr. Burton recognises the raw talent in his pupil, becoming his tutor, strict taskmaster and eventually his adoptive father. Starring Toby Jones as Philip Burton, Harry Lawtey as Richard Burton, Aneurin Barnard and Lesley Manville.

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

Please bring your own cup and plate

Coffee, tea and a pastries will be served in the interval



invite you to A CHARITY CONCERT

in aid of the Music Man Project



SONGS OF THE 60s AND 70s



Stoneleigh Village Hall
Saturday 12th July 2025
at 7.00pm



Tickets £10 (includes delicious desserts)
from sharronmced@gmail.com or 07817 899091







Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir News

Philip Jones, Chairman

he choir were very sad to hear about the death of Jean Bussell, the wife of one of the founding members of the choir. Jean was a staunch supporter of the choir from when it first started in 1989, and was always willing to assist at events in any way she could. I remember that, whenever we put on our shows, Jean was one of the main helpers, sorting out the costumes and then co-ordinating the costume changes at the performances – no mean task helping 20 or so men into their costumes. We will miss Jean's smile, her calming influence and her helpfulness. We send our heartfelt sympathy to Robin and his family at this time.

Summer Serenade

We look forward to welcoming you to our annual summer serenade on Sunday 13th July – our first concert under our new musical director, Kevin Stannard. The programme will feature a selection of new songs and old favourites. For details of the event, please the advert on page 17.

Forthcoming Events

Sunday 13th July Summer Serenade

Saturday 19th July A concert at Kenilworth Manor

Friday 19th September Berkswell Festival

Thursday 9th October Earlsdon WI Harvest Supper

Saturday 18th October Concert at Stoneleigh Church with Welsh

choir, Cwmdare Voices, in aid of Cancer

Research

Wednesday 10th December Christmas Carol Concert at St Francis of

Assisi Church, Kenilworth

Details of these events will be appear in future issues of the magazine.

If anyone is interested in joining the choir, do come along to one of our rehearsals which are held on a Wednesday evening in Stoneleigh Village Hall at 7.30pm. Alternatively, contact Philip Jones on 07910240453, 01926 853511 or kathryngjones@hotmail.co.uk.

Stoneleigh Community Orchard

Peter Freeman

t is with some concern that this month's article reports an issue that has started to emerge in the orchard. An unusually warm and dry spring has consequently led to an explosion in the population of an insect pest called the Apple Ermine moth. In spring, moth eggs hatch on the tree and manifest themselves as cobweb-like tents filled with Kafkaesque colonies of caterpillars that move along the length of the branch, consuming the leaves and defoliating the tree. I've read that these insects have decimated trees in orchards throughout the land, and Stoneleigh orchard is no different.

As this article is being written, the insect has just entered its pupal stage in which the colonies metamorphose into cocoons within their tents. Later in the summer, the cocoons will transform into moths which will breed and lay eggs, with the cycle repeating next spring. Members of the orchard team have taken the relative inertia of this pupal stage of the insects' life cycle to prune out the tents in a slash-and-burn strategy. The job is a huge undertaking given the size of the orchard and the extent of the infestation. Though many ecologists argue that trees can recover, it is indisputable that they are left in a severely weakened condition and may perish during the winter months. Some early observations are that certain varieties of apple tree have suffered more than others, specifically Michelin and Tom Putt, though it is too early to form a hypothesis. Further reading indicates that, if the problem is not treated early, it will increase exponentially year-on-year. The consensus amongst the orchard team is to tackle the problem using multiple techniques. We may well be forced to spray using a biological insecticide in the spring of next year shortly before the eggs hatch into caterpillars. Other suggestions involve the installation of multiple tit boxes as these birds predate on the caterpillars. There are also pheromone traps designed to attract and kill the male moths, and we have even considered the use of AI drones, although this is cost-prohibitive. In conclusion, the orchard team will have their work cut out to manage this problem, and I would urge readers who spot this infestation in apple trees within their own gardens to tackle it immediately.

To change the subject and consider more positive events that occurred in May and June, the Orchard Group undertook a post-Blossom-Festival meeting to review what turned out to be a highly successful event, which has great potential going forward. At this meeting, and in line with our CIC status, we agreed to make a donation to the Stoneleigh Church maintenance fund.

We will shortly be sending another 350 litres of cider for bottling, given the popularity of the carbonated product, and this should be available in early July ready for the hot summer months.

Finally, Stoneleigh Village Club have taken delivery of Wicker the Cider Nicker for their midsummer event and Duck Race. He is currently undertaking sentry duty under the lamppost at Motslow bridge.

Orchard Friends' subscriptions and yearly renewals for 2025 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. Alternatively, why not become a long-term Friend and set up a direct debit?

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

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



Funerals

Saturday 17th May 2025, 12.00pm **Edna Wilkinson** – interment at Stoneleigh Saturday 31st May 2025, 11.00am

Sarah Elizabeth Blower – interment at Stoneleigh

Saturday 7th June 2025, 12.00pm John Edward Coates – interment at Ashow

Mobile Library Service

he mobile library will be at Stoneleigh Village Hall from 2.20pm to 2.45pm on the following Mondays in 2025:

- 23rd June 2025 21st July 2025 18th August 2025
 - 15th September 2025 13th October 2025 •
 - 10th November 2025 8th December 2025 •

The library is fitted with a lift and has a selection of books, including large print, spoken word, and books for young children.

mobilelibraryservice@warwickshire.gov.uk



Stoneleigh Village Hall and Playing Fields

Quentin Compton-Bishop

S toneleigh Village Hall has been busy in recent weeks, with a couple of events that merit reporting.

The first was the holding of the Kenilworth Wardens Junior Football Tournament for the second year running. You may recall that the team transferred to the Village Hall Playing Fields a couple of years ago. The event is run by Peter Fletcher who lives in the village with his family. A fun event, the tournament involved 35 boys and girls under 12 years of age. It was a great success and was enjoyed by players, parents, grandparents and more besides. An added treat for the players was the cake stall ably operated by the Girl Guides.



Whilst talking football, it has been announced recently by the long-term Chairman of Stoneleigh Football Club, Scott Blakemore, that, following a short period of rest, the Club is recommencing Sunday morning games next season.

The second event in May was the fundraising afternoon tea arranged by Kate McCutchion and accomplices for the charity, Breast Cancer Now. The Hall was suitably and decoratively transformed into a nostalgia-rich tearoom, with table coverings, colourful teapots, milk jugs and cups and saucers, and an enticing array of sandwiches and cakes. Entertainment was provided by the Coventry-based Ukuholics Band, who performed favourites from the best of 20th century popular music, with audience participation helping to lift the roof. The event proved to be a resounding success enjoyed by all who attended, who together raised the magnificent sum of £2614.

If you would like to help in the running of the Village Hall and Playing Fields, or are interested in arranging an event or function, please visit our website at https://www.stoneleighvillagehall.org.uk/ or contact Lynne Fletcher on lynneifletcher@gmail.com.

Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir

under the musical direction of **Kevin Stannard** present

The 24th Summer Serenade

featuring special guests The Coventry City of Culture Jazz Ensemble

Sunday 13th July 2025

Gates open 12.30pm, concert starts 1.00pm

The Walled Garden, Stoneleigh Abbey CV8 2LF

(courtesy of the residents)

111111

((((()))

Food will be provided

You may bring your own drinks, glasses and any extra nibbles etc.

Tickets £25

To include arrival glass of sparking wine/soft drink with canapés Assorted sandwiches during interval

Tickets sell fast, so please order soon! Available from Philip Jones on 01926 853511 / 07910 240453 / kathryngjones@hotmail.co.uk or any choir member

SMVC raising money for local charities:

The Music Man Project: Engaging young, less-abled people through music.

In memory of our friend, Seb Farrall. <u>www.themusicmanproject.com</u>.

The Esther Project: Supporting female victims of domestic violence.

www.theestherproject.co.uk.

Come and sing with us! www.stoneleighmalevoicechoir.co.uk

Stoneleigh WI

Liz Sykes

e started the month with our usual meeting. This time, the speaker told us about her experiences being the first female bus driver in London – very interesting and funny. It was a good afternoon. We've also had a coffee morning at Farmers Fayre and lunch at the Oak at Brandon.

Our meeting in July will be on Monday 7th. The talk, at 2.00pm, will be about Melton Mowbray pork pies — presumably with some samples! As usual, everyone is welcome as we will also be holding a bring and buy/bric-a-brac sale, which will start at 3.00pm. It should be an interesting afternoon.

We look forward to seeing you.



Birthday Celebrations

Peter Whitehouse

note of thanks to my wonderful friends, Antique Andy, Adrian (our PA guru), and especially to Liz Wrist. Liz is an absolute diamond, supported by her daughter Susan and family event team.

On Friday 13th June at Stoneleigh Village Club, I enjoyed the unique privilege of sharing my milestone birthday with Liz, who is of course very much younger and certainly miles better looking.

The attention to detail in decorating the clubroom provided a wonderful atmosphere for members and our guests, and we were blessed with a warm summer evening to enjoy the patio area. Fletch and Jo provided their usual superb bar service, ably assisted by the selfless Rory, with his enduring enthusiasm. Terrific effort guys!

My sincere thanks to all for your cards, presents and kind wishes. We live in a very special village.

Stoneleigh Village Club

Opening hours

Monday – Thursday 7.00pm – 11.00pm Friday 4.00pm – 11.00pm | Saturday 2.00pm – 11.00pm Sunday 12.00pm – 10.30pm



Our Annual Membership Night, which took place on 6th June, was well attended. Don't worry if you missed it. There is still time to join us and get your shiny new membership card featuring our new logo. Just pop into the club and sign up.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 21st June Summer Solstice

From 5.00pm. We will be open to all, as usual. A donation of £5 per person will be rewarded with a

glass of Pimm's and a yummy pork bap.

Saturday 5th July AGM

The committee will be hosting our AGM at 7.00pm.

Friday 11th July Chippy Night

Place your orders at the bar by 10.00pm on

Thursday 10th July.

Saturday 19th July Annual Duck Race

Our annual Duck Race Extravaganza will be taking place on the Meadow. There will be the usual stalls, tractor rides, hook-a-duck and more. The grand finale will take place at 3.00pm, with the release of our energetic, competitive flock of ducks, all vying for first place in the race to the finish line near the pedestrian bridge over the river Sowe. To sponsor your own duck, please buy your tickets beforehand

at the bar. Good Luck!

www.facebook.com/stoneleighvillageclub stoneleigh.viilageclub@gmail.com Vicarage Road, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire CV8 3DH **WARWICKSHIRE SINGERS PRESENT**

FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

A choral journey from dawn to dusk



Musical Director: Jim Bate Accompanist: David King

Featuring Ola Gjeilo's Sunrise Mass with Beauchamp Sinfonietta Strings

Ešenvalds ★ Mvula ★ Rutter ★ Clara Schumann ★ Wood



SUNDAY 6TH JULY 2025 AT 2:00PM



THE OLD SHIRE HALL 5-9 NORTHGATE ST. WARWICK CV34 4SP

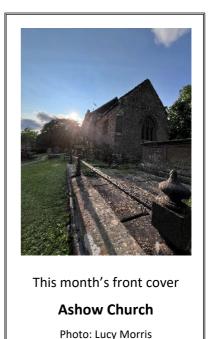


Tickets £15 Under 18s & Students £5

Available at ticketsource.co.uk/warwickshire-singers or on the door (subject to availability)

Registered Charity Number: 1203626









The United Benefice of The Assumption of our Lady, Ashow and St Mary the Virgin, Stoneleigh



Contacts

Priest in Charge:

Reverend Petrică Bistran 07572 193260 revpbistran@gmail.com

Churchwardens – Ashow:

Kate Jones 01926 853511 Anne Gregory 01926 713066

Deputy Warden: Peter Shrimpton 024 7509 6477

Churchwardens – Stoneleigh:

Gordon Gatward 07776 211276
Ashley Toogood 07771 888618
Deputy Wardens: Richard Ashley 07708 097187

John Woodward 024 7641 8272 Paddy Bryniarska 07947 472297

Or please contact the Parish Administrator:

Jackie Cubbitt 024 7641 5506 stoneleighchurch@hotmail.com

Office hours: Wednesday 9.00am – 12.00pm, Thursday 9.00am – 1.00pm

Ashow: https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12954/
Stoneleigh: https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12964



This edition of **Stoneleigh and Ashow News**

was compiled by **Lucy Morris**, who would like to thank all contributors.

The online colour version can be viewed on the Stoneleigh village Facebook page.

The September 2025 edition will be compiled by

Mike & Bernice Evans

sanewsletter30@gmail.com

Copy deadline: 16th August 2025

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 (portrait or landscape)	£25
(6.5 x 9.5cm or 13 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

How to create your advertisement

To place an advertisement, or for general enquiries, please email the Treasurer, Bill Crofts at sanewsletter30@gmail.com. Please state:

- The size of ad that you would like. Please provide your artwork if you have it ready.
- The editions in which you would like your advertisement published.

Once artwork has been received and size/dates agreed, you will be invoiced based on your request. Please note that, in order to have each edition ready for printing, we need to complete the above by the 16th of the month prior to your first requested edition, e.g. 16th August to publish in the September edition. We are happy to provide help with any advertisement requests.



The United Benefice of The Assumption of our Lady, Ashow and St Mary the Virgin, Stoneleigh



Services for July & August 2025

July	2025
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Sunday 6 th	11.00am	United Holy Communion Service – Bubbenhall
Sunday 13 th	9.30am	Holy Communion Service – Ashow
	11.00am	Morning Praise Service – Stoneleigh
Sunday 20 th	9.30am	Celtic Service – Ashow
	11.00am	Celtic Holy Communion Service – Stoneleigh
Sunday 27 th	9.30am	Village Service – Ashow
	11.00am	Holy Communion Service – Stoneleigh
August 2025		
Sunday 3 rd	10.00am	United Holy Communion Service – Bubbenhall
Sunday 10 th	9.30am	Holy Communion Service – Ashow
	11.00am	Morning Praise Service – Stoneleigh
Sunday 17 th	9.30am	Celtic Service – Ashow
	11.00am	Celtic Holy Communion Service – Stoneleigh
Sunday 24 th	9.30am	Village Service – Ashow
	11.00am	Holy Communion Service – Stoneleigh
Sunday 31st	9.30am	Holy Communion Service – Ashow
	11.00am	Holy Communion Service – Stoneleigh

