

STONELEIGH & ASHOW NEWS



May 2026



**“The Heart of Stoneleigh
Defibrillator”**

In the phone box
on The Green

And

at the 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!



Stoneleigh Village Club



COFFEE MORNING **Thursday** **May 14th**

10:00am - 11:30am

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

£1 donation



Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir

The choir held its AGM on March 25th in the village hall. The following were elected:

Chairman: Philip Jones.

Secretary: David Critchley.

Treasurer: Peter Reeves.

Committee: Judy Hadfield, Phil Funnell, Marcus Kendal, Dave Keogh, Bill McCutcheon, Phil Weare, Simon White, Richard Wigley.

The Chairman thanked Jim Easter (retiring Treasurer) and Rod Owen (committee member) for their support, expertise and hard work during their time in office.

The Chairman reminded members of the choir's three aims:

1. To enjoy singing.
2. Support other members and their families.
3. Raise money for worthy causes.

In 2025 the choir had raised over £6000 for worthy causes.

Forthcoming Events:

July 12th. Summer Serenade in The Walled Garden at Stoneleigh Abbey. See page 8 for more details.

October 16th. Joint concert with Bad Vibrations, a mixed choir from Kenilworth. Any monies raised will be shared between Ashow and Stoneleigh Churches. On the night there will be a food collection for the Kenilworth Food Bank.

December 9th. Christmas Concert at St Francis of Assisi RC Church in Kenilworth.

Details of the last two events will be found in future copies of the magazine.

If you are 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 e-mail kathryngjones@hotmail.co.uk

Philip Jones



*Front Cover: Apple Blossom,
courtesy of Quentin Compton-Bishop*

Stoneleigh Community Orchard

Spring Festival

Saturday 16th May 2026. 2.00 - 4.30 pm



Learn about the orchard and how cider is made

Cider tasting & sales

Visit the Stoneleigh History Society stall to learn more about the history of the village and its properties

Country crafts & hobbies. Art & upcycling

Children's Craft Activities. Photography competition

BBQ. Tea, cakes, refreshments (cash only)

Morris Dancers (at 3.00pm). Live music from Peter Robson

R&B Blues and jazz pianist Louise Leigh

Gatward Country Crafts, Warwickshire Beekeepers, Barnacle Hedgehog Rescue, Tregunter Preserves, Cheese on the Green, Stoneleigh Honey, RNLI, Redefining Fabrics by Nina, Anna Clarke Art, Nora's Plants, Memorable Blooms, Mira's Apothecary, Stoneleigh Village Club, Stoneleigh History Society, Warwickshire Metal Detecting Club, Warwickshire Search & Rescue, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust

FREE entry to the Spring Festival

Plenty of parking (£2) on the beautiful Stoneleigh Meadows

Parking access: Vicarage Road, CV8 3DH

(What3Words: ///plates.moves.food)

“Stoneleigh through the Seasons” Photography Competition

Do you have a stunning shot of the river in the morning mist, a photo of the meadows in full bloom, or a candid snapshot of village life from the past year? We want to see it!

We are inviting all local photographers — from smartphone snappers to seasoned pros — to enter our village photography season: **"Stoneleigh through the Seasons."**

The winning and "Highly Commended" entries will be printed and exhibited at the **Stoneleigh Community Orchard Spring Festival on 16 May.**

There will also be The People’s Choice Award. In addition to our judged categories, every visitor to the Spring Festival will have the chance to vote for their favourite photograph. The entry with the most votes by the end of the afternoon will be crowned the **2026 People’s Choice Winner!**

How to Enter

- **Theme:** "Stoneleigh through the Seasons" (scenery, meadows, wildlife, the river and village life).
- **Validity:** Photos must have been taken within Stoneleigh over the last 12 months.
- **Entry Limit:** Up to 4 photos per person (ideally one per season).
- **Categories:** Adult and Junior (Under 16).
- **Submission:** Email your high-resolution images to stoneleighphotos2026@gmail.com. Please include your name, age (if Junior), and a brief caption for each photo.



*Photo courtesy of
Quentin Compton-Bishop*

⚠️ **Submission Deadline: Saturday, 2 May 2026**

To ensure we have enough time for judging and professional printing, we cannot accept entries after this date.

A Note on Quality: Since the best images will be printed for display, please send the **original, full-size photo files**. Low-resolution images or screenshots may not be clear enough for the exhibition.

We can’t wait to see the village through your eyes. Let’s make this year’s Spring Festival a true celebration of Stoneleigh’s beauty!



The April meeting was very interesting. Shirley Ball shared old Minute Books that she acquired from the County Federation regarding the start of Stoneleigh WI in 1918.

It was interesting to look at it all, and to reminisce.

As usual we've had a lunch club meeting and a coffee morning.

In May the speaker will be talking about a catastrophe in 1816. We wait with bated breath as to what that was!!

Liz Sykes

Bellringers needed!

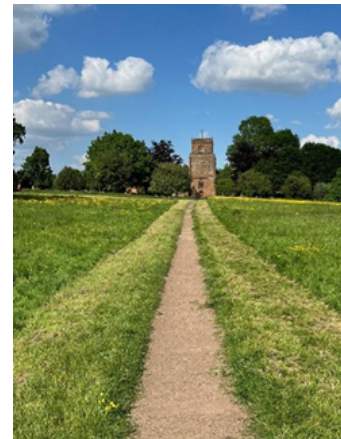


As some of you may have noticed we are struggling to ring all six church bells on occasions due to having too few ringers.

If anyone fancies joining us, we'd love to have you. You don't need to be a fully-fledged ringer - we can teach you!

Practices are held on Thursday from 7:30 – 9pm.

If you are interested, please contact either Kim on 07443 604495 or Martin on 07958 955629.



*Photo courtesy of
Quentin Bishop-Compton*

Stoneleigh Village Club Update

We continue to welcome members and guests to the club and thank everyone for their ongoing support.

We are planning in advance! Duck Race tickets are now available. Please buy some tickets, get involved and support what is always a great community event.

There have been some changes to events planned this month. Keep an eye out in the club noticeboard for details of what is happening.

Can I remind visitors to be mindful of our neighbours when parking and leaving the club, particularly later in the evening? Please take care to ensure that emergency vehicles can get down Vicarage Road - access can be problematic when cars are parked on both sides of the road.

Thank you for your continued support.

The Committee

Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir

invites you to our



25th Summer Serenade

To be held in
“The Walled Garden”
Stoneleigh Abbey
(courtesy of the Residents)
on
Sunday 12th July 2026

A glass of fizz or soft drink and canapés will be provided upon arrival
Sandwiches and wraps will be provided in the interval
Patrons should bring their own drinks, glasses and any extra nibbles etc
that they wish to consume.

Gate opens 12.30pm. Concert starts 1.00pm

Tickets £30.00

The choir will be singing a selection of popular songs from shows, films etc.
Guest Artistes Consortium Big Band will also perform.

This is our major fundraising event which sells out very quickly, so to order
your tickets contact: Philip Jones on 01926 853511 / 07910 240453 / email
kathryngjones@hotmail.co.uk

Proceeds to Charity.

Codeword

23	19	22	⁹ U	15	1	21		26	1	13	8	4
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19		²⁵ N		4		19	1	16		21		19
7	⁹ U	² C	16		7			19	21	23		6
		18	19	24	21	14	13	²⁵ N		19	20	19
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² C	21	26		11	21	17	19	1	15	²⁵ N		
² C		21	² C	19			7		1	21	3	10
1		12		23	13	14		4		12		13
21	5	13	13	23		⁹ U	²⁵ N	² C	13	12	16	4
15		²⁵ N		19	12	12		21		13		19
3	⁹ U	4	19	7		⁹ U	²⁵ N	26	13	8	19	7

A B ²C D E F G H I J K L M ⁹N O P Q R S T ⁹U V W X Y Z

How to Play Codewords

Codewords are crosswords with no clues! Instead, every letter of the alphabet has been replaced by a number, the same number representing the same letter throughout the puzzle.

All you have to do is decide which letter is represented by which number!

To start you off three letters have been revealed, you should have enough information to start guessing words and discovering other letters.

Answers on page 18

Stoneleigh History Society

We have become aware of a good number of houses in Stoneleigh which have changed hands in recent years. Some new owners have contacted us to ask about the history of their house – or indeed, of the village as a whole. We are always delighted to help anyone in this way.

If you are relatively new to Stoneleigh you should soon be receiving a personal invitation from us, to drop by and say hello at our stall at the Spring Festival on Saturday May 16th. We'd love to meet you!

You can contact us via our website www.stoneleighhistorysociety.org.uk (which has a wealth of information!) and you will always be made welcome if you come to one of our meetings (dates and subjects are published on the website). You can also find us on Facebook. See our advert on the opposite page.

We thoroughly enjoyed the March meeting when Richard Churchley entertained us with “Songs the Victorian Sang”. Everyone went home with a smile on their face! On Tuesday April 28th we shall welcome David Fry, well-known local historian and keeper of the Marton Museum of Bygones. David will bring examples of curious objects from the museum and we shall be asked to guess what they are. It should be another good evening delving into the ways our ancestors lived and worked. Visitors are very welcome at the Village Hall – we meet at 7.30pm. In May we shall be looking at the tragic life of Edward, the 5th Lord Leigh, in 1774 declared “a lunatick of unsound mind.” There's always variety at the Stoneleigh History Society!

Sheila Woolf

chair@stoneleighhistorysociety.org.uk



**Curious about your Home & Village?
Stoneleigh History Society can help!**

- Come and meet us at our stall during the Spring Festival on Saturday 16th May.
- Visit our website: www.stoneleighhistorysociety.org.uk Over 6 million others have already done so!



- Contact us by email: chair@stoneleighhistorysociety.org.uk
- Follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1417557668532913/>
- Attend one of our meetings – details are published in the Stoneleigh & Ashow News.

You will always find a friendly face!



SMVC and Guests Night, a Show to Remember.

Thinking it was going to be easy to organise an evening of entertainment to raise funds for Prostate Cancer, I thought I'd leave it to the singers and sit back and organise the refreshments. Then a voice said SMVC would like to do a show, so why not split the evening in two?! What a show it was: 16 men came together to work hard learning words, "practising moves" to really show what they are capable of.

It's easy for a director when you get an enthusiastic group of people who are supportive and are willing to do what is necessary. Kate Willey as choreographer, Penny Laurisden, costumes, and Judy Hadfield prompting and refreshments, meant we had a good working team. Alison Boyd contributed significantly to rehearsals in Kevin Stannard's absence and on the night Kevin's magical touch on the piano, directing the music, ensured everybody kept in time.

We laughed, bantered but took the whole process seriously. It had been a while since SVH echoed to the musical and acting talents of the men in a show. If you missed it you missed an evening of feel-good factor. A warmth emanated in the Hall and it wasn't the heaters! There was a genuine willingness for the evening to go well and nobody was disappointed. What could go wrong? Plenty! Whatever mistakes were made were met with good humour and laughter. As one person said it's like going back to the old days of the village entertainment – sheer joy and fun!

And what better way to end the evening than listening to a former West End singer, Jane Lee, who demonstrated the joy she feels when performing and raising funds for charity? Terry Richards, Jane's friend, came along as a support and showed that he, too, could have fun working as the backing group. As they said, "we would come again, the warm welcome everybody gave us was second to none". An ABBA singalong was very well received. People waved their arms in the air to the sound of Mamma Mia and Dancing Queen and then the men were invited by Jane to join her and Terry on stage to sing My Way, a fitting way to end the evening.

It was evident those who came had had fun. They said the chilli con carne made by Paul Spence was delicious, the entertainment superb and what's more the whole evening had been uplifting and just what they needed.

Well done to all those who took part and a special thanks to those performers who donned costumes and dresses – you are all good sports. The men should be proud of what they achieved in a very short time for rehearsals and, above all, £1500 was made for a worthy charity.

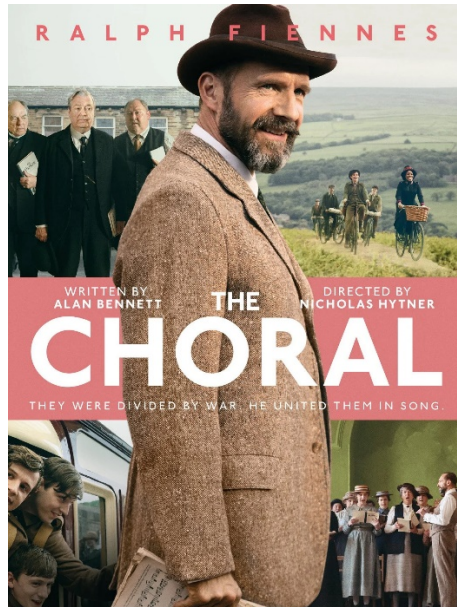
How long did it take me to recover? I will let you know in a few months! SMVC you are all stars. It was a pleasure working with you!

Kate McCutcheon

Film Night

May's film will be:

The Choral



As World War I rages on, Dr. Henry Guthrie takes over a British choral society that's lost most of its men to the army. The community soon discovers that the best response to the chaos of war is to make beautiful music together.

Starring:

Ralph Fiennes; Roger Allam; Mark Addy; Alun Armstrong;
Robert Emms; Simon Russell Beale

Friday May 8th 2026 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 May 6th

Stoneleigh Community Orchard Update

As is the case each year, the appearance of the first orchard blossom, marks the commencement of cider and perry processing. This starts with the pumping of hard cider from fermentation tanks into smaller holding tanks for boxing up, or into polythene cans for transportation to the bottling plant.

Given that the juice has undergone fermentation throughout the winter and early spring months, this represents an exciting step in the process, as it gives the cider maker the first opportunity to sample the resultant product. This year's cider compares favourably with previous years, with early measurements indicating a seven per cent alcohol content and a nice clear golden colouration. With world prices currently undergoing trials and tribulations, I'm sure that readers will be pleased to read that we intend to maintain pricing consistent with our zero per cent rate of inflation model. Therefore, bag-in-the-box still cider remains at a cost of £20 for a 5-litre box and £16 for members. We also have a small volume of Perry available this year which can be purchased at an elevated cost of £25, owing to a greater processing overhead. We also intend to take an increased volume of cider to be bottled as sparkling cider. The price for this is yet to be decided as it is dependent on bottling costs from our suppliers. We have also scaled up our volumes available for the Orchard Spring Festival which by way of a reminder occurs on Saturday 16th May between 2pm and 4:30pm.

As I write this article it is done with some trepidation and with an eye on the orchard, given that it was about this time of year back in 2025 that the first instances of the apple ermine moth started to make an appearance in the orchard. This subsequently developed into an infestation that defoliated a number of orchard trees. Please do keep a lookout for these caterpillars on your own apple trees and let me know at the email address below if you spot them. In the interim we hope to take measures to protect the orchard trees.

Orchard Friends' subscriptions and yearly renewals for 2026 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) Hancox,
Richard.Hancox@nationalhighways.co.uk

Pete Freeman

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Meetings

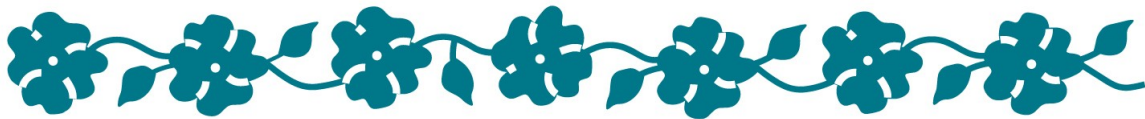
The next meeting will be on **Thursday 14th May**, to be held at **Stoneleigh Village Hall** at **7pm**. The Annual Parish Meeting will also be held before the main Council meeting.

To view the full details of this, and other meetings, including upcoming planning applications, and Neighbourhood Plan development details, please visit the Parish Council website at: www.stoneleig hashowparishcouncil.co.uk.

Proposals to look at traffic-calming measures around the villages are progressing.

Following the resignation of Cllr S Matthews, we currently have a vacancy for Parish Councillor. Please express your interest to the Clerk.

Helen Denton-Stacey, Parish Clerk
stoneleig hashowparishcouncil@gmail.com



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Mobile Library Service



The mobile library will visit the following locations in 2026:

- Wren Day Nursery, Stoneleigh Park: 1:40–2:10pm
- Stoneleigh Village Hall: 2:20–2:45pm

Visits will occur on the following dates:

- 8th May • 1st June • 29th June • 27th July
- 24th August • 21st September
- 19th October • 16th November
- 14th December

The library provides lift access and offers a diverse selection of books, including large print editions, audiobooks, and children's literature.

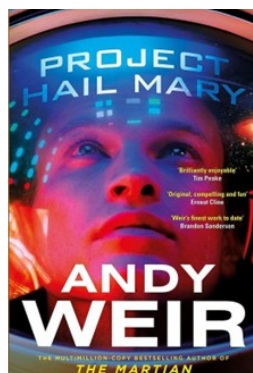
For further information, please contact the library via email

mobilelibraryservice@warwickshire.gov.uk

or telephone 01926 851031.

Any recommendations for a book that could be featured in next month's magazine would be greatly appreciated. Email via sanewsletter30@gmail.com

This month's pick is Project Hail Mary by Andy Weir. Ryland Grace wakes up alone on the spacecraft Hail Mary, with amnesia. He discovers two dead crewmates and slowly remembers he was recruited by Eva Stratton to fight a global threat from the microorganism Astrophage.



This edition of **Stoneleigh and Ashow News** was compiled by Emily Mort-Reay, who would like to thank all contributors.

The online colour version can be viewed on the Stoneleigh Village Facebook page and on the [Stoneleigh History Society](http://www.stoneleighhistorysociety.org.uk/) website (www.stoneleighhistorysociety.org.uk/).

The June 2026 edition will be compiled by Lisa Reay (sanewsletter30@gmail.com)

Copy deadline: 16th May 2026

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

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.

Voluntary Contributions from Residents

Bill Crofts, S&A News Treasurer

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.

1. Payit™ by NatWest

Scan the QR code and make a payment directly from your chosen bank account. Please remember to **clear the reference box on the payment page** and **add your name as the reference** so I know who you are. Alternatively, use the link below:



<https://paymentrequest.natwestpayit.com/reusable-link/50e33bcd-518d-4b6d-8da5-ffe2cdcad697>

2. BACS or Cheque

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

Answers to Codeword on page 9

T	E	Q	U	I	L	A		B	L	O	W	S
Y		U		R		P	A	R		R		N
P	E	E	W	I	T	S		O	U	N	C	E
E		N		S		E	L	K		A		E
D	U	C	K		D			E	A	T		Z
		H	E	X	A	G	O	N		E	Y	E
A			Y		T		W		N			S
C	A	B		J	A	V	E	L	I	N		
C		A	C	E			D		L	A	M	P
L		R		T	O	G		S		R		O
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I		N		E	R	R		A		O		E
M	U	S	E	D		U	N	B	O	W	E	D



From the Registers - Funerals

Monday 23rd March 2026 – Richard James
Funeral followed by burial at Stoneleigh Church



A registered charity

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

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or night on

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jo@samaritans.org

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SAMARITANS

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



SERVICES FOR MAY 2026

Sunday	3 rd	10:00 am	United Holy Communion Service at Ashow
Sunday	10 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion Service at Ashow
		11.00 am	Morning Praise Service at Stoneleigh
Thursday	14 th	7:00 pm	Ascension Day Service at Stoneleigh
Sunday	17 th	9.30 am	Celtic Service at Ashow
		11.00 am	Celtic Holy Communion at Stoneleigh

Pentecost

Sunday	24 th	9.30 am	Village Service at Ashow
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Service at Stoneleigh

Trinity Sunday

Sunday	31 st	9.30 am	Holy Communion Service at Ashow
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Service at Stoneleigh

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 Wardens: Richard Ashley 07708 097187, John Woodward 02476 418272 and
Paddy Bryniarska 07947 472297

Or please contact the Parish Administrator,
Jackie Cubitt, 02476 415506 email: stoneleighchurch@hotmail.com
Office Hours Wednesday 9.00am to 12.00pm, Thursdays 9.00am to 1.00pm

Website: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12964 for Stoneleigh
www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12954 for Ashow