

# **STONELEIGH & ASHOW NEWS**



## **JUNE 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 Photography Competition

More than fifty entries were submitted for the 2026 Stoneleigh Photography Competition, **Stoneleigh through the Seasons**. Congratulations to the winners, who were announced at the Stoneleigh Community Orchard's Spring Festival on 16 May. Awards were presented in each season category to one winner and two highly commended (HC) entries.

**Spring:** Rachel Cortese (Winner), Patricia Smith (HC), Tatiana Kietselaer (HC)

**Summer:** Michaela Moon (Winner), Claire Clarke (HC), Michaela Moon (HC)

**Autumn:** Michaela Moon (Winner), Tatiana Kietselaer (HC), Laura Blatherwick (HC)

**Winter:** Martin Smith (Winner), Pete Freeman (HC), Steve Hutchings (HC)

The People's Choice was "Frosty meadow" by Laura Blatherwick, shown on our front cover. Thank you to everyone who entered the competition and to those who voted for the People's Choice.



The theme for the next competition is "**Stoneleigh: Village Life.**" We are looking for images of people and the community over the next 12 months – traditional events, celebrations, work, activities, and daily life in and around Stoneleigh. Entries will open early next year, with a deadline of 2 May 2027. Get snapping!

Stoneleigh Community Orchard CIC sponsored this year's competition. If you or your organisation would like to be a sponsor of next year's competition, please contact [gcb@btinternet.com](mailto:gcb@btinternet.com).

***Quentin Compton-Bishop***



Wow, Wow, Wow. That's the response that everyone voiced who took part in or attended the concert in honour of our late Musical Director, Seb Farrall. This musical commemoration took place at Warwick University Arts Centre at Warwick University on Sunday 3 May where over a thousand people filled Butterworth Hall to listen to and enjoy music by Seb's choirs – Sing It Loud, Bad Vibrations, Burton Green Choir, Stoneleigh Ladies Choir, Coventry City Salvation Army Songsters and World Song – over 200 voices – together with the Coventry City of Culture Orchestra. Also taking part were the Salvation Army Band, All That Brass and members of The Music Man Project who had travelled up from Southend especially for this event. At the end of the concert, Seb's wife Fran sang a solo and received a standing ovation. The love and support was palpable. Seb was an active supporter of The Music Man Project, an award-winning performance service for people with learning difficulties, and money raised from the concert will be donated to this charity.



Earlier in the month, Stoneleigh Ladies Choir spent the afternoon singing at the Waverley Day Centre in Kenilworth. This has become an annual event which is enjoyed by everyone.

It's full steam ahead now for the choir's summer concert, Songs for a Summer Evening with Delicious Desserts scheduled for 7pm on Saturday 25 July in Stoneleigh Village Hall. Tickets £12 (under 12's £6).

The choir meets on Thursday afternoons in term time only and guarantees new members a warm welcome. More information and contact details may be found on our website [www.stoneleighladieschoir.org.uk](http://www.stoneleighladieschoir.org.uk) or telephone 07817 899097.

**Pat Wightman**

### **The Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir**

The choir is now rehearsing for its next two concerts. We are delighted to be performing at the [Kenilworth Lions Show](#) in Abbey Fields, Kenilworth, on Saturday 13 June.

The second concert, *Summer Serenade*, will be held in the Walled Garden at Stoneleigh Abbey on Sunday 12 July, by kind permission of the residents. See the advert on page 7 of the magazine for more details.

Friday 16 October – Joint concert with Bad Vibrations, a mixed choir from Kenilworth. Proceeds will be shared between Ashow and Stoneleigh Churches, and there will be a collection for Kenilworth Foodbank on the night.

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

Further details of the final two events will appear in future editions of the Stoneleigh and Ashow News.

Interested in joining the choir? Come to a rehearsal on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm in Stoneleigh Village Hall, contact Philip Jones on 01926 853511 or 07910 240453, email: [kathryngjones@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kathryngjones@hotmail.co.uk) or visit [www.stoneleighmalevoicechoir.co.uk](http://www.stoneleighmalevoicechoir.co.uk).

**Philip Jones**

# Stoneleigh Village Club



## **COFFEE MORNING** **Thursday** **June 11th and 25th**

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

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

**£1 donation**



# The Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir

invites you to our



## *25<sup>th</sup> 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 12.30 pm. Concert starts 1.00 pm

**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](mailto:kathryngjones@hotmail.co.uk)

**Proceeds to Charity.**

## Bell ringers 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 Thursdays from: 7.30 – 9.00pm.

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



### Ladies — Come and join the Stoneleigh WI

Our next meeting is on Monday June 1<sup>st</sup> at 2pm in Stoneleigh Village Hall when we look forward to a talk on ' Being A Magistrate ' by Anne Harrison, who is an excellent and entertaining speaker.

Stoneleigh WI meets the first Monday of the month at Stoneleigh Village Hall at 2pm. We talk about events coming up at Stoneleigh and the WI Federation. Usually there is a speaker after which we socialise over a cup of tea.

Do come and join us. For further information contact our secretary Chris Ward 02476 459664 or go to [www.thewi.org.uk](http://www.thewi.org.uk) and whilst looking, sign up to the WI's monthly newsletter which includes WI stories, campaign highlights, recipes, and a sneak peak of WI Life magazine and more. Anyone is welcome to subscribe, whether you're a member or not.

*Nora Blagburn*

### HS2 update June 2026.

It is June, the trees which remain are in full leaf and the lorries are "thundering" along the Ashow Road.

Progress continues with the project.

Look out for road closures which might compromise the available routes following the closure of Dalehouse Lane.



On a wider picture, readers might be interested to know that the planned "reset" of the project under Mark Wild the CEO of HS2 continues. Wild's reset is to fix a defined timetable and a budget to completion of the project. It makes you think, "so how far out of control has this project been"? Unfortunately, the latest fruit from this reset has been the awarding of a contract to build a "nerve centre" in Washwood Heath that is now approximately three times over the original budget at about £850 million. See [www.hs2.org.uk](http://www.hs2.org.uk) for further details.

The project may be delivering impressive engineering and striking architecture, but at a very high cost. HS2 is now expected to cost £102.7 billion, and there is still no confirmed date for passenger services. When it was announced in 2011, the estimated cost was £32 billion, and services were due to start in 2026.

There is also discussion about lowering the operating speed, which would be welcome locally because it could reduce noise. However, some argue that slower speeds would mean fewer trains each day, and that the 2 x 200m carriages would carry fewer passengers than the nine-car Pendolinos on the West Coast Main Line. As a result, the case for the route based on speed and capacity appears less convincing.

It all seems to be such a waste of public money and the destruction of our area!

Thanks for reading this.

**Martin Smith**

*Stoneleigh Action Group*

### 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:

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

## Stoneleigh Community Orchard Update

A community-centred resource is one of the orchard's founding principles, and this principle was met perfectly by our Spring Festival.

What a success! As well as village organisations and returning stall holders/exhibitors, this year we introduced an arts, crafts and upcycling marquee. Young villagers such as Rose Fletcher together with Emily Easter were selling their crocheted items and handmade doggie treats and Ruth Jennings with her beautiful upcycled lampshades to name but a few.

Another new element was the photography competition which was a big hit. Please see Quentin's article on page 3 of this magazine for next year's theme.

This year the barbeque was in the meadow, and we give heartfelt thanks to Liz Wrist and her team for all their hard work.

The Churches of Stoneleigh and Ashow kept spirits high with delicious refreshments consumed whilst being entertained by an eclectic mix of music and our MC Adrian Clarke.

Sheila Woolf commented *"These events only happen because of the energy and hard work put in by so many"*. As the Orchard Chairman I wholeheartedly agree with Sheila and offer my thanks to all of those who contributed no matter how small a part.

I would like to make special mention of the ever-present Paul Britten and of course our talented orchard directors, Quentin Compton-Bishop and my wife, Amanda Freeman for organising the festival. Finally, a big thank you to rising community star Ben Constable for all his hard work.

In the wake of such events, one can muse on sayings about "acorns growing into oak trees" and consider future possibilities. Perhaps we can easily rule out events the size of "Woodstock" but seriously who knows what the future will bring and this can be left to future generations to decide.

Orchard Friends' subscriptions and yearly renewals for 2026 will cost £10 and can be sent to Pete Freeman as Chairman or to Richard Hancox as Treasurer. Cheques should be made payable to Stoneleigh Village Community Orchard. However, why not become a long-term Friend and set up a direct debit?

Pete Freeman (Chairman), 5 Church Lane, Stoneleigh [Petefreeman773@gmail.com](mailto:Petefreeman773@gmail.com)

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

## Stoneleigh Village Club



It's been a busy time at the Club and there's a lot to cover in our update, but we'd like to start with a congratulations and a thank you to the Stoneleigh Community Orchard for putting on another great Spring Festival. The cider was not bad either...!

Soon it will be the turn of the Duck Race to showcase our village, which this year will be held on Saturday July 18<sup>th</sup>. Events start at 1pm and the ducks will be let loose and racing at 3pm. Like the Spring Festival, this is a community-wide event with lots of family fun games, stalls, BBQ food, drink and entertainment and we would love to hear from you if you are able to help in any way. We are looking for:

- Volunteers to help on the day
- Donations (e.g. homemade cakes and bottles)
- Fantastic Stallholders

Please get in touch via email or Facebook if you can help. There will be free parking on the day and a car boot sale (£5/pitch) with set-up from 11.00am to 1.00pm (last entry for sellers 12.30pm).

Whilst not as globally popular as the Duck Race, the other big summer sporting event is of course the World Cup. All of England's June games will be shown at the Club, with the group matches on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> (9.00pm), Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> (9.00pm) and Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> (10.00pm). We hope to have a late licence for the Saturday game so please come down to join us!



Our AGM is on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June at 7.00pm, and all paid-up members are welcome to attend. There have been several changes to the Committee in the last few months, and not all the current members plan to stand for re-election, so we are very keen to hear from anyone who is interested in putting back into the Club in this way. We need a wide range of skills - from spreadsheet gurus to gazebo wranglers - to form an effective team so please do consider if it is 'your time'. Feel free to contact us via email or just speak to any of the current Committee and we'd be happy to discuss further what the differing roles entail.

The Club relies on more than just Fletch, Jo and the Committee to continue to run of course, and we are always grateful to our members when they volunteer their skills.

This month this has included Dan (DIY skills), Mark (an impromptu 4-hour bar shift) and Colin (very welcome meat raffle delivery). All omissions are the fault of the writer!

We are looking for a cleaner to join our friendly Club team. The role is for 4 hours a week, spread over 2 days before opening, with flexible days to suit. Pay is at minimum wage and includes a Staff Membership card, giving 10% off drinks and snacks. If this sounds like something you — or someone you know — might be interested in, we would love to hear from you. Please email us for more details.

Lastly, the new membership year at the Club has started. A big thank you to everyone who has joined or renewed so far, we've had a fantastic response to date, and your support is very much appreciated. **All paid-up members will continue to enjoy 10% off all drinks and snacks in 2026/27.** Please enquire at the bar if you've yet to sign up.

See you at the Club.

**Opening hours:** Mon-Thu 7-11pm; Fri 4-11pm; Sat 2-11pm; Sun, 12-10.30pm

**SVC Committee**

*\*Please note, Committee members are volunteers.  
We will aim to respond to messages within 72 hours*

[www.facebook.com/stoneleighvillageclub](http://www.facebook.com/stoneleighvillageclub)  
[stoneleigh.villageclub@gmail.com](mailto:stoneleigh.villageclub@gmail.com)

## A Heartfelt Thank You

We had a fantastic day at the Spring Festival on Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup>, helped by kind weather, many visitors and, of course, plenty of cake.

A heartfelt thank you to all the bakers and helpers from Stoneleigh and Ashow Churches, whose hard work and good humour helped raise much-needed funds for both churches. We are also very grateful to the Stoneleigh Community Orchard Committee for their support in making the day such a success.



It was a lovely example of community working together — with plenty of cake to keep everyone motivated!

## Stoneleigh History Society

We had a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon at the Spring Festival on Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup>, when it was good to meet many Stoneleigh residents who shared their memories. Our photograph albums were well-thumbed! We were also pleased to be able to answer many visitors' questions about their village ancestors. If you are one of Stoneleigh's newish residents who would like to find out more about your house's history, don't forget that we should be happy to help you discover more if we can. Just get in touch with us via our website on the address below.



If you missed our stall, or would like another trip down memory lane, the photograph albums and other research materials are available in the Leigh Chapel at Stoneleigh Church, open daily from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

Several people expressed an interest in attending our meetings. These are held in the Village Hall on the fourth Tuesday of the month, except in July and August. You are most welcome to come along as a visitor – no obligation to join! Entry is just £3 to cover refreshments.

Our next talk is on Tuesday May 26<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm, when the subject is “The Tragic Baron” – the story of the 5<sup>th</sup> Lord Leigh of Stoneleigh, who was declared “a lunatic” in 1774. Following this, on Tuesday June 23<sup>rd</sup>, we shall take another look at some of the interesting people buried in our churchyard – plenty of surprises there!

Finally, as mentioned above, do look at our comprehensive website [www.stoneleighhistorysociety.org.uk](http://www.stoneleighhistorysociety.org.uk) or follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/StoneleighHistorySociety).

**Sheila Woolf**

[chair@stoneleighhistorysociety.org.uk](mailto:chair@stoneleighhistorysociety.org.uk)



## Film Night

July's film will be:

## Hamnet



Hamnet is an acclaimed historical novel by Maggie O'Farrell that imagines the life and death of William Shakespeare's only son, Hamnet, who died in 1596 at age eleven. Hamnet's parents are at the centre of this story showing their profound grief and how this loss inspired the play, Hamlet.

Stars: Jessie Buckley (Bafta and Oscar winner for the role)  
Paul Mescal and Emily Watson

**Friday July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2026 in**  
Stoneleigh Village Hall  
Meet 6.30pm onwards for a 7.00pm showing

Please bring a cup and plate.  
Coffee, tea and pastries will be served in the interval.

**Please note the new price and contact number.**  
**Entry price £5.00**, to cover refreshments and room hire.

To reserve a place and a pastry, text or call Jane on 07535 514127  
by Wednesday July 1<sup>st</sup>

Just leave a message and I will put you on the list!

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*Summer*  
**Sunday Lunch**

*19th July, 13:00*

*at Ashow Village Club*

**A two-course Sunday Lunch**

**with Coronation chicken and strawberries & cream!**

*A vegetarian option will be available.*

**Tickets £20 for adults and £8.00 for children under 12 years.**

To reserve your place, please contact Kate at  
[kathryngjones@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kathryngjones@hotmail.co.uk) / 07910240453,

Jackie: [stoneleighchurch@hotmail.com](mailto:stoneleighchurch@hotmail.com)

or Anne at 07724 234479



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## Voluntary Contributions from Residents

**Bill Crofts, SandA News Treasurer**

If you value the **receipt of a paper copy** through your door, and you require information on donating to SandA 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](mailto: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.

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## Voluntary Contributions from Residents

This edition of **Stoneleigh and Ashow News** was compiled by **Lisa 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](#) website ([www.stoneleighhistorysociety.org.uk/](http://www.stoneleighhistorysociety.org.uk/)).

The July/August 2026 edition will be compiled by **Lucy Morris** ([sanewsletter30@gmail.com](mailto:snewsletter30@gmail.com))

**Copy deadline: 16<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

### Placing an advertisement in Stoneleigh and Ashow News

**Our page format size is A5**

<b>Rates per annum (10 editions) are:</b>	
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

<b>Rates for advertising in a single edition are:</b>	
Full page (1 edition + £10 each extra edition)	£20
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### How to create your advertisement

To place an advertisement, or for general enquiries, please email the Treasurer, Bill Crofts at [sanewsletter30@gmail.com](mailto:snewsletter30@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, to have each edition ready for printing, we need to complete the above by the 16<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to your first requested edition, e.g. 16<sup>th</sup> 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 JUNE 2026***

Sunday	7 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	United Holy Communion Service at Stoneleigh
Sunday	14 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Holy Communion Service at Ashow
		11.00 am	Morning Praise Service at Stoneleigh
Sunday	21 <sup>st</sup>	9.30 am	Celtic Service at Ashow
		11.00 am	Celtic Holy Communion at Stoneleigh
		5.00 pm	Taizé Service at Stoneleigh
Sunday	28 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Village Service at Ashow
		11.00 am	Holy Communion Service at Stoneleigh

***Priest in Charge:*** Reverend Petrică Bistran  
07572 193260 email: [revpbistran@gmail.com](mailto:revpbistran@gmail.com)

***Churchwardens:***

**Ashow:** Kate Jones 01926 853511 and Anne Gregory 01926 713066  
Deputy Warden: Peter Shrimpton 02475 096477

**Stoneleigh:** Gordon Gatward 07776 211276 and Paddy Bryniarska 07947 472297  
Deputy Wardens: Richard Ashley 07708 097187

and

John Woodward 02476 418272

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

**Website:** [www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12964](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12964) for Stoneleigh  
[www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12954](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12954) for Ashow