

STONELEIGH & ASHOW

News



SEPTEMBER 2026



'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: Always ring 999 first!

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



Cover Image: Sunflower on The Bank, by Bernice.

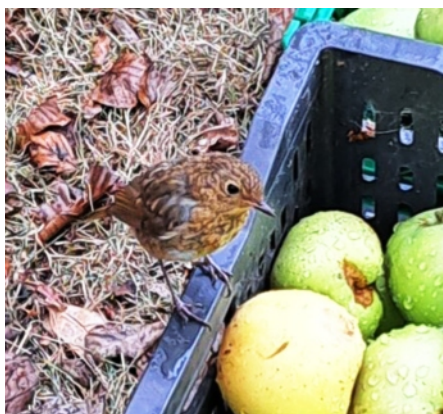
Stoneleigh Community Orchard Update

Pete Freeman

Given the exceptional summer heat experienced this year it is little surprise that Stoneleigh orchard, in common with most other agricultural enterprises, has taken a hit. It is indeed extraordinary to observe how few apples there are on the trees: a consequence not only of drought, but also of poor blossoms and a recurring infestation of the apple ermine moth. In short when combined these present a 'triple whammy'! There is little doubt that there will be a scarcity of product during 2027.

Stoneleigh Community Orchard has already risen to these challenges by commencing an advanced harvest on 3rd August of early apple varieties and at the time of writing the first press has just been completed.

It is also with some amusement that harvesting was briefly delayed by a nesting dove with her two chicks (otherwise called squabs) which fledged and flew the nest several days after discovery. Conversely, it is with some irony that apple pressing was attended by a young robin who oversaw the process by spotting and feeding on small insects during proceedings. At the Stoneleigh orchard we consider all such creatures to be welcome environmental assets.



Our next big orchard event will occur on 1st October at the East Chase Distillery where the launch of Stoneleigh Brandy will occur. This will be an invitation-only event on account of the limited number of bottles available, with 'Friends of the Orchard', regular helpers and customers being given priority. Amanda Freeman is currently working on the compilation and distribution of invites for this event.

September will also see Stoneleigh Community Orchard taking account of its finances. As in previous years, we will be making donations to community groups and causes. This year a donation was given early to help with the application for a grant by the Reverend Bistran for assistance with his administrative tasks, thereby allowing him to perform his ministry across an ever-increasing number of parishes.

Stoneleigh Community Orchard as a Community Interest Company welcomes applications for a donation from all local groups with our model, based upon a written justification of how the money will be used. In that way we can exercise our transparency to our friends as well as the broader community.



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

Pete Freeman (Chairman),
5 Church Lane, Stoneleigh.
PeteFreeman773@gmail.com

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

Stoneleigh Village Club



COFFEE MORNING Thursday September 17th

10:00am - 11:30am

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

£1 donation



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Ashow Parish Church Summer Lunch

Anne Gregory



Ashow Parish Church held its annual Summer Lunch on Sunday 19th July in the gardens of Ashow Village Club, bringing together parishioners and supporters for a warm, well-attended event.

The weather was kind for the occasion, with no rain and a pleasant temperature of 22°C, allowing guests to enjoy the outdoor setting comfortably.

The lunch menu included coronation chicken, vegetarian quiche, new potatoes, and tomato salad, followed by strawberries and cream.

Special thanks must go to Rosemary, Nicola, Kate, Susan, Jean, Peter, Rebecca and Mirela for preparing the food and helping to make the lunch such a success. Thanks also go to Nicola and Anne for the table flower decorations.

A raffle was also held which, once added to the monies raised from the ticket sales, totalled an amazing amount. The PCC were thrilled that the whole afternoon raised a wonderful sum in aid of the church. Thank you once again. It is wonderful to see such support for our village church.

Our thanks must also go to Tony Gregory, Robert Brown, and Phil Jones - the 'Three Just Men' - for erecting the gazebos on Friday morning, Robert and Rosemary for laying the tables in preparation for the lunch and to Tony for running the bar and keeping guests refreshed throughout the event.

Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir

Philip Jones

The choir is taking a well-earned break until rehearsals begin again on Wednesday 9th September in Stoneleigh Village Hall. Reports of our two very successful concerts in the walled garden in Stoneleigh Abbey and Kenilworth Manor are detailed elsewhere in the magazine.

Forthcoming Events:

- 18th - 20th September: Berkswell Festival.
- Saturday 17th October - Joint Concert with Good Vibrations Community Choir at Stoneleigh Church (please see below).
- Wednesday 9th December - Christmas Carol Concert at St Francis of Assisi RC Church, Kenilworth. (Details to follow).

Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir
with
Good Vibrations Community Choir
present a
CONCERT
at
Stoneleigh Church

In aid of
Stoneleigh and Ashow Churches

 **On Saturday
17th October
at 7.00pm**

 *To include
refreshments*

Tickets £15
are available from:

 Philip Jones. Tel: 07845 668799
 email: kathryngjones@hotmail.com

 **There will be a food collection for the Kenilworth Food Bank**

If you are interested in joining the choir, please come along to one of our rehearsals every Wednesday evening at 7.30pm in Stoneleigh Village Hall, or contact Philip Jones on 07910 240453, or Email kathryngjones@hotmail.co.uk
stoneleighmalevoicechoir.co.uk

Film Night

Jane Taylor

September's film will be:
The Devil Wears Prada 2



Twenty years after the first film we have *The Devil Wears Prada 2*. An unemployed Andy Sachs returns to *Runway Magazine* as features editor to help Miranda Priestly navigate a PR crisis and corporate takeover. Emily Charlton, now a Dior executive, plots to buy the magazine alongside her billionaire partner, leading Andy and Miranda to forge a surprising alliance.

Stars: Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway, Emily Blunt, Stanley Tucci and Kenneth Branagh.

**Friday September 11th 2026 in
Stoneleigh Village Hall**

Meet 6.30pm onwards for a 7pm showing

Entry price £5.00, to cover refreshments and room hire.

Please bring a cup and a plate.

Coffee, tea and pastries will still be served in the interval.

To reserve a place and a pastry, text or call Jane on 07535514127 by Wednesday September 9th. Just leave a message and I will put you on the list!

Ashow

Church

HARVEST FESTIVAL and LUNCH

Sunday 11th October

9:30 am - Harvest Festival Celebration at Church

1pm for 1:30 pm - Harvest Lunch at Ashow Village Club

Come to both or just to lunch!

All Are Welcome!

The Harvest Lunch includes a two-course meal,
with vegetarian options, and is a fundraising event for the church.

Tickets: £20 per adult

For more information and to reserve your place, please contact

Kate: 07910 240453 / kathryngjones@hotmail.co.uk or

Anne: 07724 234479 / annegregory2k@hotmail.com

or any member of the P.C.C.

**ST MARY THE VIRGIN,
STONELEIGH**

HARVEST

Festival & Lunch

Sunday 27th September

**11:00 am - Harvest Festival
Celebration at Church**

**12:30 pm - Harvest Lunch at
The Village Hall**

Come to both or just to lunch!

**The Harvest Lunch includes a two-course meal,
with a vegetarian option.**

Just bring your own drinks and glasses!

TICKETS: £12 PER ADULT

**For more information and to reserve your place, please
contact: Jackie at Stoneleighchurch@hotmail.com
or Jane at 07535514127**

**Harvest flowers will be arranged on
Saturday 26th September at 10:00am in church.
Everyone is very welcome to come and help. We will also
be collecting donations for the **Coventry Foodbank**.**

All are warmly welcome!

Stoneleigh Ladies Choir

Pat Wightman

Stoneleigh Ladies Choir finished for their summer break on a high note (pardon the pun). Their concert, 'Songs for a Summer Evening', was another complete sell-out and the audience enjoyed an evening filled with lovely music including spiritual, pop and songs from musicals, together with polished performances by soloists Rachel Winsor (flute) and John Boyd (clarinet). The evening was rounded off with desserts, many made by the choir members themselves.



Photo - Choir singing Reach (for the Stars) with audience participation

Something new and exciting is happening on Saturday 3rd October when the choir will play host to a visiting choir from Wales. The Abertillery Ladies Orpheus Choir is visiting the area for a weekend break, and we will spend the day singing together and generally having a fun time getting to know each other.

Our new term starts again on Thursday 3rd September. If you have been thinking of joining a choir, this would be a great time to come along and give us a try. We meet at Stoneleigh Village Hall on Thursday afternoons from 1.30 to 3pm (no turning out on dark nights). There are no auditions and no need to read music; however, you will be guaranteed a warm and friendly welcome.

There is more information on our website: www.stoneleighladieschoir.org.uk or email sharronmced@gmail.com

Summer Serenade - 25th Anniversary Concert. 12th July 2026

Rod Owen

In the year 2001 not only was there 'A Space Odyssey', according to Stanley Kubrick's film, but members of the Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir decided it would be a good idea to have a jolly good sing in somebody's garden with plenty of fizz and canapés and the 'Summer Serenade' was born. Judy Hadfield, our founder, conductor and one of the event's main instigators was there, as she was on the 25th Concert the other Sunday. The event has moved in recent years from one person's front garden to the garden of many, The Stoneleigh Residents' Walled Garden at Stoneleigh Abbey.

On a warm sunny day with a playful little breeze mischievously sweeping away any unguarded paperwork, the Choir entertained 250 guests and were brilliantly supported by the Coventry Consortium Big Band in its first public concert for two years.

The guests were regally welcomed with a glass of fizz and canapés before settling down in their gazebo shelters to hear the choir burst forth with a lively first set of numbers, opening with a Zulu chant, Battle Hymn of the Republic and the Zulu hymnal 'Siyahamba' (We are Marching in the Light of God). Once the 'smoke' from the battlefield cleared, the boys wanted to know 'How It Would Feel To Be Free'. The set finished with choir soloist Les Austin talking with our local satellite in a beautifully mellifluous 'Blue Moon'. Kevin Stannard provided, as usual, the direction, accompaniment and exquisite keyboard bridges.

Coventry Consortium Big Band then upped the ante as they were 'In The Mood' and their soloist Sue Starr was 'S'wonderful', although then admitted 'The Lady is a Tramp' which she later described as 'Almost Like Being in Love' A joyous and punchy performance. The band concluded with claiming to be 'A Smooth Operator'. Smooth and really swinging, it was a superb interlude under the direction of their Leader, Adrian Clarke.

Back came the choir to take us up to the lunch interval. Following a robust and yet at times tender selection from 'Jesus Christ Superstar' then crossing a 'Bridge Over Troubled Waters' under an 'Orange Coloured Sky', the lads

turned their hands to serving a range of tasty sandwiches to the now ravenous audience. Ravenous? Yes, ravenous for more great songs and the guys served them up in the second half on a silver platter. Starting thoughtfully with 'Nature Boy', then a gentle, soothing 'Ave Verum' by Mozart drifted across to an appreciative audience, and the set was completed by a swim down 'Moon River'.

Time for more rousing big band numbers as the Consortium took the stage this time evoking 'I Got Rhythm' which they certainly had. Sue Starr told us in a really marvellous vampish way that 'Diamonds Are A Girls Best Friend' and that 'Something's Gotta Give' and it was Sue who made way for the band to get the audience dancing with some good 'boppy' numbers concluding by going on an 'American Patrol'. The audience went wild.

SMVC then joined the Big Band that kept the party swinging with 'Sweet Caroline' (uh uh Oh!) and finishing the afternoon off their way with 'My Way' in which our wonderful conductor, Judy Hadfield, joined us to keep us 'in time' and word-perfect with her word mouthing technique. What an afternoon!

At the end of the concert we were able to present cheques to two local charities for £1000 each - The Sir Charles Barratt Memorial Foundation (which funds talented young people from distressed backgrounds to pursue their musical dreams) and the Friendship Project (that provides mentor support to youngsters in personal home difficulties). All thanks to the generosity of our audience.

SMVC would particularly like to thank Coventry Consortium Big Band and soloist Sue Starr. We are also indebted to our friends, the Residents of Stoneleigh Abbey, for the use of their delightful gardens; Stoneleigh Abbey for their support helping us put on the event; Kenilworth Lions International for their continued support with tents and person power; HS2 Community Support Team for their help moving all the equipment about the neighbourhood; Kate McCutcheon, who kindly put together 5 hampers for the raffle; Jackie Wigley and her team for organising the super raffle prizes and ticket selling; John Milne, our sound man, who made us heard; and a special thanks to Tom Hayes who manned the first-aid tent. Thanks also to our wonderful, singing, dancing and generous audience.

Kenilworth Manor Summer Garden Party - 18 July 2026

Rod Owen

SMVC were once again privileged to be asked to perform at the Garden Party in Thickthorn Orchards. It was one of the occasions at which the Mayor of Kenilworth, Alison Insley, was promoting her chosen charities for her year of office - Warwickshire Search and Rescue and first responders Warwickshire Hearts.

An appreciative audience enthusiastically received the choir's performance which included a selection from this year's Summer Serenade programme plus one or two old favourites to get the audience singing and clapping, rounding off with 'Hey Jude'. The choir are immensely grateful to Alison Boyd who stepped in to provide such a musically talented accompaniment.

A delightful array of cakes and summer drinks were served, designed to torpedo any submariner's slimming efforts. A successful afternoon in all respects blessed by plentiful splashes of sunshine.

The members of Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir thank all those who continually support our efforts and hope you enjoy the rest of the summer in peace and good companionship.

Women's Cycling Tour of Britain - Stage 5

Mike Evans

Stop press Stoneleigh turned out to noisily encourage the riders on their 77-mile round trip from Leamington Spa.

A great spectacle!

[YouTube Link](#) (34 minutes in).



Lord, Send Us Some Rain

Revd Petrică Bistran

I've been in this country for eighteen years, and I can honestly say I have never seen the grass so yellow. When people ask me why I came to live in England, I usually joke: 'For the rain!' For most of those eighteen years, the joke has felt remarkably accurate. But now people have started asking me to pray for rain - a prayer request I never imagined I'd receive in the UK!

We all love a good summer. There is something wonderful about long evenings, warm sunshine, sitting outside and enjoying a barbecue with family and friends. But when the grass turns yellow, the ground dries out and gardens begin to look increasingly desperate, we are reminded that rain is not merely an inconvenience. It is a gift. Perhaps climate change is also reminding us that the weather we have taken for granted cannot always be taken for granted.

Strangely enough, extreme weather can teach us something about our spiritual lives too. For one thing, it reminds us that we are not as much in control as we like to think. We can organise our diaries, answer our emails and plan our lives, but we cannot make it rain. We can pray for it, prepare for it and complain about its absence - but ultimately, we receive it as a gift.

The heat also teaches us to slow down. At 30°C, even the most energetic among us suddenly discovers the spiritual discipline of sitting still. The garden can wait. The emails can wait. Even the Hoover can definitely wait! Perhaps God is inviting us to discover that rest is not laziness. Sometimes stopping is an act of faith: trusting that the world will continue turning even when we are not running around trying to keep it going.

And then there is gratitude. We rarely appreciate something fully until we experience its absence. We complain about rain - until we desperately need it. The same can be true spiritually. We can take our health, family, friendships, prayer and even God's presence for granted. Sometimes it takes a season of dryness to make us realise just how precious these gifts really are.

So perhaps that is the prayer this strange summer is teaching us: 'Lord, teach us to recognise your gifts when they come and to receive them with grateful hearts. Amen.'



heritage open days

Marton Museum of Country Bygones

19th & 20th September

10.30 – 4pm

Visiting Blacksmith

Spinning Wheel

Activities for children

Refreshments



CV23 9SA

Find out more:



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@heritageopendays
@heritageopendays

www.heritageopendays.org.uk

In partnership with
 National Trust



1/1

Stoneleigh History Society

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday September 22nd at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, when our own Douglas Faulconbridge will be speaking on his life journey: '64 Years from Source to Mouth.' Remarkably, Douglas was born at one end of the River Sowe, at the Mill House in Alderman's Green, and now lives here in Stoneleigh...at the other end of the river! We all know what a busy man Douglas is and so it would be great to welcome friends and visitors to hear his presentation.



During the summer we paused our programme of talks and devoted ourselves to yet more research, and on Duck Race Day Lisa Reay was pleased to welcome many visitors to the displays in the Leigh Chapel. It's always good to hear stories about family connections to the village and to share what we know, if we can. Displays and other research material are always available to see in the chapel during church opening hours, or you can follow us on our Facebook page or via our website: www.stoneleighhistorysociety.org.uk.

Our summer outing took us to Marton, following an excellent talk earlier in the year by David Fry. David and a group of enthusiastic volunteers run the Museum of Country Bygones there, which is open free of charge every Sunday until the end of September. It's a fascinating place and well worth a visit...the cakes are lovely, too!

Discover more at www.martonmuseum.co.uk (and the facing page).

Sheila Woolf

Stoneleigh W.I.

Nora Blagburn



We are back with our autumn programme of interesting and different speakers starting on Monday 7th September with:

'A Fireman's Tale'

by Darren Gough

Meetings are on Mondays at 2pm in Stoneleigh Village Hall.

Visitors are very welcome - do come, we would love to see you!

Enjoy the speaker, who will be followed by tea, biscuits, chat, raffle, and books to borrow. Also we meet up at various venues for coffee and lunches.

Contact our Secretary Chris Ward on 02476 4596664 for further information about local or national WI events.

A registered charity

A graphic for Samaritans with a teal background and white text. It includes the Samaritans logo at the bottom left and the website URL at the bottom right.

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

Call free day
or night on
116 123

Email
jo@samaritans.org

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SAMARITANS

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It's time for a Macmillan Coffee Morning and you're invited

**Let's do whatever it takes to make cancer
care better for everyone, whoever and
wherever they are**

Place: Stoneleigh Village Hall

Date: 25th September 2026

Time: 10am - 2pm

Contact: Amanda Freeman



**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**



Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (261017), Scotland (SC039907) and the Isle of Man (604). Also operating in Northern Ireland. MAC20383

Mobile Library Service

mobilelibraryservice@warwickshire.gov.uk 01926 851031



The mobile library will be touring on the following Mondays in 2026:

- 21st September
- 19th October
- 16th November
- 14th December

At these locations and times:

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

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

This month's recommended read is ***Homecoming*** by Kate Morton.



Seeking comfort in her past, Jess discovers a true-crime book at Nora's house chronicling a long-buried police case: the Turner Family Tragedy of 1959. And within its pages she finds a shocking personal connection to this notorious event – a crime that has never truly been solved . . .

If you would like to recommend a book you have enjoyed recently, do please email sanewsletter30@gmail.com so that we can share your recommendation with readers in future editions of the News.



FUNDRAISING QUIZ

Do you have what it takes to be a quiz champion?

Join us for our fundraising quiz afternoon & raffle
(with Quiz Master Dave Williams)

**to support
Douglas, Emily & Mia**

who have been selected as International Service Team members at the
World Scout Jamboree in Poland in 2027.

This is your chance to show off your knowledge and have fun!

**Sunday 27th September -
Arrive from 2.00pm / Quiz starts 2.30pm
Kenilworth Scout & Guide Centre
Fishponds Road, Kenilworth, CV8 1EY**

**£5 per person
includes Afternoon Cream Tea**

**To register your team and pay
please email:**

thescout1961@live.com

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Pick up at field on Saturday*

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- General foot care

07935 816 385

happierfeet4u@yahoo.com



Happiness Reed : DipFHP RFHP | Registered Foot Health Practitioner

This edition of Stoneleigh and Ashow News was compiled by **Mike and Bernice Evans**, 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:

<https://stoneleighhistorysociety.org.uk/>.

The October 2026 edition will be compiled by **Sarah Ballinger**.

sanewsletter30@gmail.com

Copy deadline: 16th September 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 (portrait or landscape) (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 any artwork.)
- 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 SEPTEMBER 2026

Sunday 6 th	10.00 am United Holy Communion at Ashow
Sunday 13 th	9.30 am Holy Communion Service at Ashow 11.00 am Morning Praise at Stoneleigh
Sunday 20 th	9.30 am Celtic Service at Ashow 11.00 am Celtic Holy Communion Service at Stoneleigh
Sunday 27 th	9.30 am Village Service at Ashow 11.00 am Holy Communion Service at Stoneleigh

From the Registers - Funerals

Monday 29th June 2026. David Skinner - Funeral Service at Stoneleigh.
Friday 31st July 2026. Thelma Mabel Hollingsworth - Interment at Stoneleigh.
Wednesday 5th August 2026. David Skinner - Interment at Stoneleigh.
Thursday 6th August 2026. Janette Garratt - Funeral Service at Stoneleigh.
Friday 7th August 2026. Pauline Peggy Goodwin - Interment at Stoneleigh.

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 Paddy Bryniarska
07947472297

Deputy Wardens: Richard Ashley 07708 097187, John Woodward 02476 418272
Or please contact the Parish Administrator,

Jackie Cubitt, 02476 415506 email: stoneleighchurch@hotmail.com

Office Hours Wednesday 9.00 am to 12.00, Thursdays 9.00 am to 1.00 pm

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