

Stoneleigh Press Reports

Events in Stoneleigh
during some significant years
in the life of King Charles III
1948 : 1958 : 1969

Lisa Reay for the Stoneleigh History Society 2023

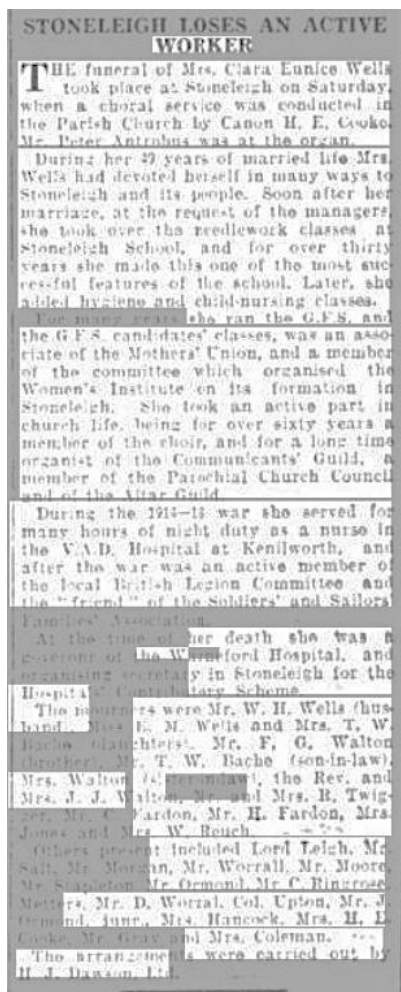
The logo is a horizontal rectangular banner with rounded corners and a decorative border. The background is a light beige color with a faint, repeating pattern of the words "Stoneleigh History Society" in a small, dark font. The main text "Stoneleigh History Society" is written in a large, bold, dark red serif font, centered within the banner.

Stoneleigh History Society

1948

The year in which Charles was born.





STONELEIGH LOSES AN ACTIVE WORKER

The funeral of **Mrs. Clara Eunice Wells** took at place Stoneleigh on Saturday when a choral service was conducted in the Parish Church by Canon H. E. Cooke. Mr. Peter Antrobus was at the organ.

During her 49 years of married life Mrs. Wells had devoted herself in many ways to Stoneleigh and its people. Soon after her marriage, at the request of the managers she took over the needlework classes at Stoneleigh School, and for over thirty years she made this one of the most successful features of the school. Later, she added hygiene and child-nursing classes.

For many years she ran the G.F.S. and the G.F. S. candidates' classes, was an associate of the Mothers' Union, and a member of the committee which organised the Women's Institute on its formation in Stoneleigh. She took an active part in church life, being for over sixty years a member of the choir, and for a long-time organist of the Communicant's Guild, a member of the Parochial Church Council and of the Altar Guild.

During the 1914 - 1918 war she served for many hours of night duty as a nurse in the V.A.D. Hospital at Kenilworth, and after the war was an active member of the local British Legion Committee and the "friend" of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association.

At the time of her death, she was a governor of the Warneford Hospital, and organising secretary in Stoneleigh for the Hospitals' Contributory Scheme. The mourners were Mr. W. H. Wells (husband) Miss E. M. Wells and Mrs. T. W. Bache (daughters). Mr. F. G. Walton (brother). Mr. T. W. Bache (son-in-law), Mrs. Walton (sister-in-law), the Rev. and Mrs. J.J. Walton, Mr. and Mrs. R. Twigger, Mr. C. Fardon, Mr. H. Fardon, Mrs. Jones and Mrs. W. Rench.

Others present included Lord Leigh, Mr. Salt, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Worrall, Mr. Moore, Mr. Stapleton, Mr. Ormond, Mr. C. Ringrose, Mr. Metters, Mr. D. Worrall, Col. Upton. Mr. J. Ormond, junr, Mrs. Hancock, Mrs. H. E Cooke, Mr. Gray, and Mrs. Coleman. The arrangements were carried out by H. J. Dawson, Ltd.



C5.10 Stoneleigh Churchyard

William Henry Wells and Clara Eunice Wells nee Walton

[Stoneleigh History Society](http://www.stoneleighhistorysociety.co.uk)

NEWS IN BRIEF

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DEMONSTRATION
of the
FERGUSON SYSTEM
of **CULTIVATION**

Wednesday, April 28th, 1948 — 11 a.m. at

MANOR FARM, STONELEIGH
(Coventry-Ashow Road)
By kind permission of Mr. J. Wharton.

ALL FARMERS WELCOME

**S. H. Newsome & Co. Ltd., Distributors for Northern
Warwickshire.**

The 'Ferguson System' – elements of which were patented throughout the 1920s – was in the end a triangular set of three attachment points by which the trailed implement would lock fully into the back of the tractor; and in such a way that concentrated pressure, and thus tractive power, lay down and towards the front of the ensemble.

Early tractors were being treated as simple substitutes for horses. Heavy ploughs (often the very same that horses had drawn) were being loosely linked to the backs of tractors by single couplings, and being passively dragged along. This was dangerous (if the plough hit an obstruction the tractor could flip backwards), slow-going and inefficient.

STONELEIGH

No Limit.—The County Roads Committee is recommending that no speed-limit restriction be imposed in the village of Stoneleigh. "To do so might convey the impression that a speed of 30 m.p.h. might be maintained whereas, owing to the narrow and tortuous nature of the roads, speeds must be considerably lower to be safe," states the report.

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STONELEIGH ASKS FOR SPEED LIMIT

Should there be a 30 m.p.h. limit sign in Stoneleigh village? Warwickshire County Council, in their Roads Committee report presented at yesterday's meeting of the Council, stated they had received a request from Stoneleigh Parish Council for the imposition of the limit, but had decided it was not at present justified.

Miss M. Rotherham asked that the matter should be referred back, and drew attention to the danger of traffic from the Coventry direction swinging over the river bridge.

Mrs. Hosking seconded, but Alderman Bigwood said the police had studied the problem carefully and had advised against it. The several accidents there had not been due to speed, said the speaker, and he thought Miss Rotherham would give the police credit for knowing their area.

A motion to refer the question back was lost.

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Cottage-Building for Stoneleigh

At last night's meeting of Stoneleigh Parish Council it was stated that 14 cottages are to be built in the village area in the next three months. Four will be reserved for agricultural workers and the remainder to relieve overcrowding in the village.

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Birmingham St. John men

By Our Own Correspondent

Fifty members of the Order of the Hospital of St. John went to St. John's Gate, London, yesterday, to receive insignia at an investiture held by the new Lord Prior, Lord Wakehurst.

A retired railway clerk, Mr. F. Overbury, of Leonard-street, Birmingham, who has been divisional superintendent of Snow-hill (Birmingham), "A" St. John Corps since it was formed in 1933, was invested as an Officer Brother of the Grand Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

Dr. F. L. Richard, of Lichfield-street, Walsall, was made a Commander Brother, and Dr. J. L. Rollason, of Stoneleigh, Coventry, an Officer Brother.

Also invested were the Earl of Onslow, Lady Slim—wife of Gen. Sir William Slim—and Lieut. the Hon. Peter Vanneck and Lady Millington-Drake.

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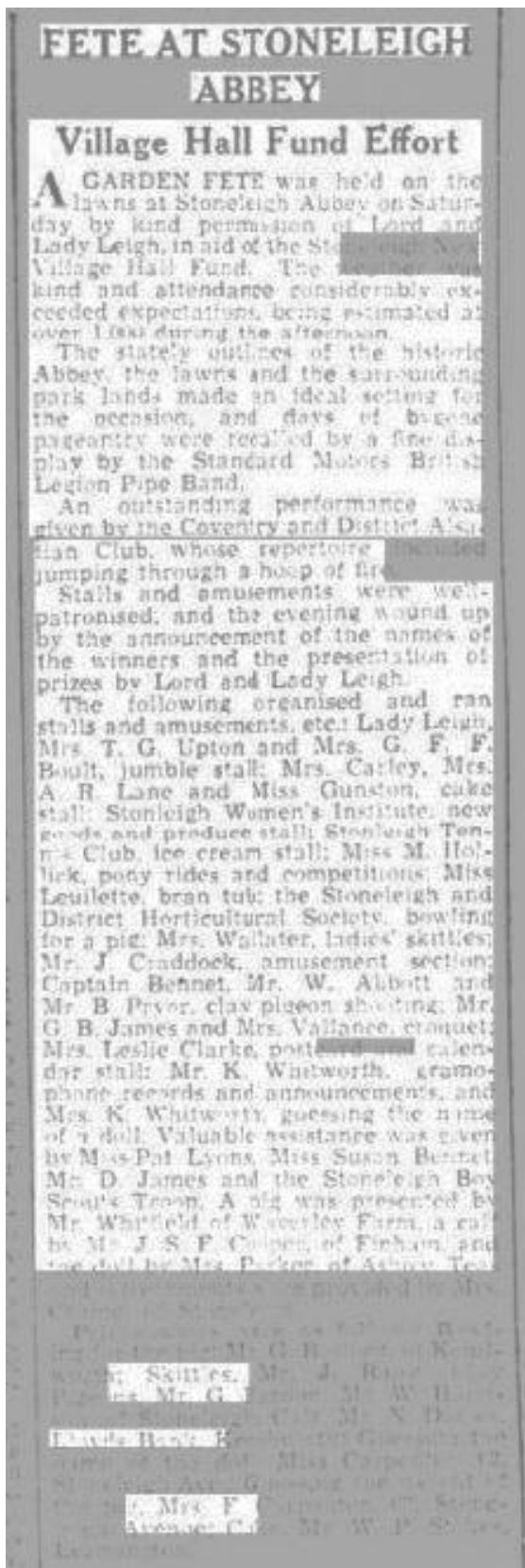
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FETE AT STONELEIGH ABBEY

Village Hall Fund Effort

A garden fete was held on the lawns at Stoneleigh Abbey on Saturday by kind permission of Lord and Lady Leigh, in aid of the Stoneleigh New Village Hall Fund. The weather was kind and attendance considerably exceeded expectations being estimated at over 1,000 during the afternoon.

The stately outlines of the historic Abbey, the lawns and the surrounding park lands made an ideal setting for the occasion and days of bygone pageantry were recalled by a fine display by the Standard Motors British Legion Pipe Band.

An outstanding performance was given by the Coventry and District Alsatian club whose repertoire included jumping through a hoop of fire.

Stalls and amusements were well patronised, and the evening wound up by the announcement of the names of the winners and the presentation of prizes by Lord and Lady Leigh.

The following organised and ran stalls and amusements etc.: Lady Leigh, Mrs. T. G. Upton and Mrs. G. F. F. Boulton, jumble stall: Mrs. Carley, Mrs. A.R. Lane and Miss Gunston, cake stall: Stoneleigh Women's Institute new goods and produce stall: Stoneleigh Tennis Club, ice cream stall: Miss M. Hollick, pony rides and competitions: Miss Leuilette, bran tub: the Stoneleigh District Horticultural Society, bowling for a pig: Mrs. Wallater, ladies' skittles: Mr. J. Craddock, amusement section: Captain Bennett, Mr. W. Abbott and Mr. B. Pryor, clay pigeon shooting: Mr. G. B. James and Mrs. Vallance, Croquet: Mrs. Leslie Clark, postcard and calendar stall: Mr. K. Whitworth, gramophone records and announcements and Mrs. K. Whitworth, guessing the name of a doll. Valuable assistance was given by Miss Pat Lyons, Miss Susan Bennett, Mr. D. James and the Stoneleigh Boy Scouts troop. A pig was presented by Mr. Whitfield of Waverley Farm, a calf by Mr. J.S.F. Cooper of Finham and the doll by Miss Parker of Ashow. Teas and refreshments were provided by Mrs. Craine of Stoneleigh.

Prize winners were as follows Bowling for the pig, Mr. G. Bostock of Kenilworth: Skittles, Mr. J. Rouse: Clay pigeons, Mr. G. Fardon, Mr. W. Harrison of Stoneleigh: Calf, Mr. N. Davies Lloyds Bank Kenilworth: Guessing the name of the doll, Miss Carpenter 62, Stoneleigh Avenue: Guessing the weight of the pig, Mrs. F. Carpenter 62 Stoneleigh Ave: Cake, Mr. W. P. Stokes, Leamington.

STONELEIGH

Tribute to Mrs. H. E. Cooke.—The Mothers' Union met on Thursday last to make a presentation to Mrs. E. M. Cooke, who is leaving the village on the retirement of Canon H. E. Cooke. The presentation was made by one of the oldest members, Mrs. M. Edmunds, and consisted of a prayer-book, pen and pencil. Tea was provided by the committee. Mrs. Cooke thanked all the members and hoped they would support the new vicar and his wife in the future. She also gave the Mothers' Union an invitation to visit Ludlow, Salop, where Canon and Mrs. Cooke will make their new home.

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TRICYCLING TO SUNDAY SCHOOL AT EIGHTY

Hon. Cordelia Leigh's Grand Work for Children

A RECORD of service in Sunday School work which can rarely have been equalled, in length of time or in devotion to the work, was completed by the Hon. M. Cordelia Leigh when she gave up recently her duties at Ashow Sunday School.

Writing in the "Diocesan Gazette," Canon H. E. Cooke, now retiring from the vicariate of Stoneleigh says:—

"For 69 years Miss Leigh has been engaged in some form of this work, beginning at a very early age, when she lived at Stoneleigh Abbey, to take an infant class. This she continued to do for years, taking the junior and infants at Stoneleigh and Ashow as well as having a splendid class of elder boys who walked to her home every Sunday afternoon. She ran a Naturalists' Club in connection with the class. For many years she was known to a number in the diocese as hon. secretary to the Diocesan Sunday School Council, beginning under Canon Baillie, afterwards Dean of Windsor, she was hon. secretary for some years to the Provincial Sunday School Council under Archdeacon Tait, of Rochester, and was also appointed by Bishop Lisle Carr to be Sunday School adviser organising several summer schools and other gatherings for Sunday School teachers, the first being in 1915.

"When she left her old home for a time her keenness for the work followed her to London, where she taught a class of boys at Camberwell. Returning to live in Leamington, she has for years ridden her tricycle out to Stoneleigh two mornings in the week to give teaching to a day school class at 9 a.m. On Sundays she rode out to Ashow for a morning Sunday School there, lunched on the journey between there and Stoneleigh, and took the juniors and infants in the afternoon there, and rode back to Leamington in the late afternoon—a good Sunday's work for anyone much younger than for one well over 80. A record such as this devoted service to the Church in the cause of the young, is worthy of being recorded. May it be an inspiration to others much younger to give some of their time and talents to the work to which Miss Leigh has devoted so much of her life."

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STONELEIGH 'BULWARK' OF AGRICULTURE

Fifty-four farm workers, with a total of more than 2,500 years labour on the land to their credit, travelled to London today to be given long service medals by the Royal Agricultural Society.

The rule of the society is that to qualify for a medal a man must have completed 40 years with one employer.

80 YEARS A FARM WORKER

The oldest medal winner was John Henry Sweatman, of Stoneleigh Abbey, Kenilworth, who is 86. He had completed 45 years with one employer but thinks he has been a farm labourer for 80 years.

"I believe I started when I was six years old looking after chickens" he said. "I got threepence a day then."

Apologetically he admitted that he had not "done much" for the last two years.

Lord Halifax, who is president of the society, described the men to whom he presented the medals as "the rigid bulwark and solid rock foundation of the greatest of our British industries."

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PARTING GIFT TO VICAR OF STONELEIGH

Over 100 people, including Lord and Lady Leigh, were present on Wednesday at a social evening held in the Victory Hall and organised by the Parochial Church Council. The principal event of the evening was the presentation of a cheque for £166 0s. 6d. to the Rev. Canon H. E. Cooke, who is retiring unfortunately due to ill health. The cheque, which was presented by Lord Leigh, represented contributions from parishioners.

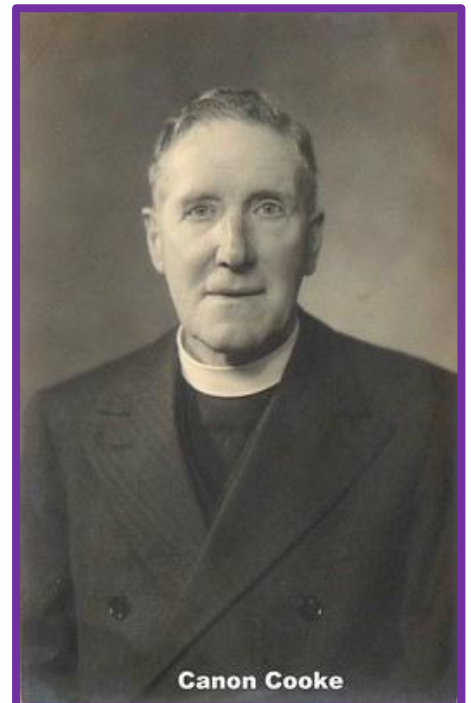
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"It is a solemn time for us as I end a ministry began 38 years ago," he said. "I have been immensely cheered and sustained by the loyalty which has been shown to myself and my wife."

"It is a grand inspiration to talk to such a full church; some of you here to-night were present when I started, including a number who have come out from Leamington."

As a new page is about to be turned in the history of the old Norman Church, Canon Cooke said he thought of the happy times they had spent together. "Anyone who comes to live here experiences the same kind of friendliness which is such a mark of Stoneleigh. I have valued its presence, created by worship, week after week, but the only way you can maintain this is by the furtherance of the Gospel. It is a grand reputation; keep it up!"

The Bishop of Coventry was present at a ceremony at St. Nicholas' Vicarage, Kenilworth, last week, when the clergy of the Deanery and their wives made presentations to Canon and Mrs. Cooke of an electric fire, books, and book tokens. Canon Cooke had been Rural Dean of Kenilworth since 1938.

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40, Burnaby Rd., Coventry.
SCARBROOKE - HARDY.—The engagement is announced between Robert Newman, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Scarsbrooke, Stoneleigh, near Coventry, and Beatrice Mary (Betty), youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Hardy, Ansty, near Coventry. Congratulations from both families.

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HEADSHIP CHANGES

At the end of the year there will be a number of staff changes in schools in the mid-Warwickshire area.

Miss C. Griffith, headmistress of Kenilworth St. John's Primary School has resigned her appointment, and Mr. Thomas R. Allen, of Warwick, deputy headmaster of Yardley Road Primary School, Acock's Green, has been appointed to fill the vacancy.

Mr. F. H. Cattell will relinquish his appointment as headmaster of Stoneleigh Church of England School, having accepted appointment as headmaster of a school in Buckinghamshire. In his place the managers have appointed Mr. F. E. Grant, assistant master at St. Paul's School, Leamington.

Miss M. E. G. North, headmistress of Warwick Borough Infants' School, is retiring, and will be succeeded by Miss G. M. Prestidge, assistant mistress at Shrubland Street Infants' School, Leamington.

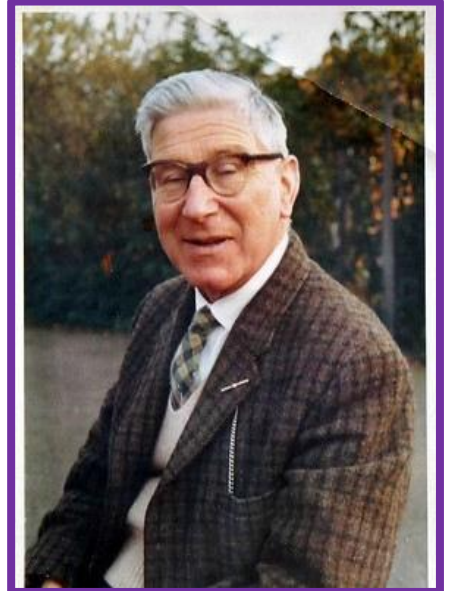
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Leamington Spa Courier - Friday 24 December 1948

NEW VICAR OF STONELEIGH

Induction of the Rev. G. H. Parkes.

Rev. Geoffrey Harper Parks, M.C., was instituted and inducted to the livings of Stoneleigh with Ashow on Monday, services being held at both churches. The Bishop of Coventry was assisted by the Archdeacon of Coventry. Robed clergy present included the Revs. O. A. Griffiths (Rural Dean); W. A. Williams, L. Parsons and R. C. Jones (Westwood); J. R. Ryecart (Leek Wootton); D. M. Davies (Finham); F. J. Archer (St. John's, Kenilworth); A. S. Webster (Baginton) and H. F. Tilbury.

The Bishop paid warm tribute to Canon H. E. Cooke, and, in commending the new vicar, asked the parishioners to give him their loyal support.

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Coventry Evening Telegraph - Tuesday 28 December 1948

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Leamington Spa Courier - Friday 31 December 1948

November Events

Nov. 5 - Motion Study Society of Great Britain conference at Town Hall.

10 - Alderman G. H. Bryant elected Chairman of County Council in succession to late Alderman T. H. Ryland

13 - Mr. W. J. Rodda, President of N.U.T., addressed meeting of Warwickshire Teachers Association.

14 - BIRTH OF SON TO H.R.H PRINCESS ELIZABETH and the Duke of Edinburgh.

15 - Warwickshire Symphony Concert at Town Hall.

16 - Presentation to Mr. H. G. Clarke, the Courier Press, by Newspaper Society's Labour Committee on his retirement from chairmanship.

18 - Leamington Chamber of Trade's annual dinner Opening of Repertory Season at Winter Hall.

19 - Laundry Industry Education Board opened four-day conference at Town Hall.

20 - Miss Pat Hornsby-Smith addressed Conservative meeting at Town Hall

21 - Canon H. E. Cooke's farewell at Stoneleigh after 30 years as Vicar.

30—Warwick Assizes opened with record calendar of 72 prisoners

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" 16.—Presentation to Mr. H. G. Clarke, the Courier Press, by Newspaper Society's Labour Committee on his retirement from chairmanship.

" 18.—Leamington Chamber of Trade's annual dinner — Opening of Repertory Season at Winter Hall.

" 19.—Laundry Industry Education Board opened four-day conference at Town Hall.

" 20.—Miss Pat Hornsby-Smith addressed Conservative meeting at Town Hall.

" 21.—Canon H. E. Cooke's farewell at Stoneleigh after 30 years as Vicar.

" 30.—Warwick Assizes opened with record calendar of 72 prisoners.. Held at Ashborne

PRINCE CHARLES CHRISTENED AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Royal Family Attend Private Ceremony in Music Room

PRINCE CHARLES OF EDINBURGH, four weeks old son of Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh, was christened at Buckingham Palace to-day by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Geoffrey Fisher.



The ceremony took place in the music room on the fifth floor of the Palace. The Royal Chapel, where Princess Elizabeth was baptised, could not be used because it is still unrepaired after its wrecking by a German bomb.

White flowers softened the formal splendour of the christening room, and the silver gilt font made for Queen Victoria, and used at the christening of all her descendants born in Britain, was utilised for the ceremony.

The King and Queen, Queen Mary and other members of the Royal Family, together with a few close friends of the father and mother attended the service. The Duke's mother, Princess Andrew of Greece is in Greece.

The Rev. M. Foxell, Precentor of the Chapels Royal, assisted the Archbishop at the service.

Historic Robe

The baby Prince wore the historic christening robe of Honiton lace made for Queen Victoria and lent for the occasion by Queen Mary. The same robe was worn by the King and all his brothers and the Princess Royal at their christenings and also by Princess Elizabeth, Princess Margaret and the children of the Duke of Gloucester and the late Duke of Kent.

Mr. John Stanley Clare, Registrar of Births at Caxton Hall, carrying a brief-case containing the register, arriving back at his office after his visit to the Palace this morning.

Six of the eight sponsors attended the ceremony—the King, Queen Mary, Princess Margaret, the Dowager Marchioness of Milford Haven, Lady Brabourne and Mr. David Bowes-Lyon.

The King of Norway and Prince George of Greece, the baby's great great-uncles, were not present, but were represented.

Parents' Wish

Besides the name Charles, by which he will be known, the Royal baby received three other names, Philip after his father Arthur (the King's third name) and George after his grand father and great-grandfather.

Though by his parents' wish the Prince is to be known as Prince Charles, it does not follow that if he accedes to the throne he will become King Charles III.

The present King was known in his younger days as Prince Albert and still used this name as his signature when he was Duke of York.

After the christening Prince Charles had his first official Press photograph taken and made his first appearance before the cine-cameras for the news reels.

In another room in the State Apartments the tall, white, iced christening cake, made from ingredients sent from the Dominions and presented by the baking and confectionery industry, stood ready for the small reception after the christening.

Registration of Birth

Mr. John Stanley Clare, Registrar of births at Caxton Hall, Westminster, went to the Palace this morning, to register the birth of Prince Charles. Under his arm was the dark red, oblong book—a little tattered now as the Prince's name will be the 500th entry beneath that of the child of a labourer.

The Duke of Edinburgh registered the birth and the young Prince's names and the details of the date and place of his birth were entered in the register.

Two women officials of the Ministry of Food went with Mr. Clare to the Palace. They handed to the Duke and Princess Elizabeth a child's green ration book for the baby Prince. The form was filled in a few minutes.



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The formalities occupied only a few minutes.



*Christening of Charles (centre, wearing the royal christening gown) in 1948:
(from left to right) his grandfather King George VI; his mother, Princess Elizabeth, holding him;
his father, Philip; and his grandmother Queen Elizabeth*

1958



Aged nine and a half, Charles was created Prince of Wales and Earl of Chester on **26 July 1958**.

His investiture was not held until 1 July 1969, when he was crowned by his mother in a televised ceremony held at Caernarfon Castle in Wales.

Coventry Standard - Friday 17 January 1958

STONELEIGH

PARTY. — Stoneleigh Victory Hall was crowded on Saturday when the local branch of the Women's Institute organised a fancy dress party with tea and games. The judges, Dr. Margaret Mitchell and Miss C. A. Jones found difficulty in making their awards, which were:—Under 6 yrs. of age: 1, Stephen Palmer ("Do It Yourself"); 2, Geoffrey Edmunds (Stanley Matthews); 3, Patricia Morgan ("Swan"). Under 10 yrs.: 1, John Fletcher ("Scarecrow"); 2, Jacqueline Wallsgrove ("Christmas mail"); 3, Karen Smith (Domino). Under 15 yrs.: 1, Roy Parker ("Christmas Tree"); 2, Beryl Edmunds ("Oxo"); 3, Jennifer Mitton ("Old Mother Riley").

M.U.—In the absence of the Vicar (Rev. G. H. Parks) the enrolling member (Mrs. F. Parish) conducted the service at Stoneleigh Mothers' Union meeting. A very much appreciated talk was given by Mrs. Chamberlain, of St. Alban's (Coventry) on the Lambeth Conference. Refreshments were served by Mesdames Hill, Mills, Milward, Parks and Varney.

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Coventry Standard - Friday 24 January 1958

Land Lease

The Massey - Harris - Ferguson concern have signed a 21 years lease with Lord Leigh covering a former Army camp site in Stone-leigh Park together with 300 acres of surrounding parkland.

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Coventry Evening Telegraph - Wednesday 29 January 1958

Engagements

CAVE-SPILLETT. — Mr. and Mrs. W. Spillett, 71, Vicarage Lane, Exhall, announce the engagement of their eldest daughter, Joyce, to Peter, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Cave, of Stoneleigh. — Congratulations.

Engagements CAVE-SPILLETT.

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STONELEIGH

PRIZE-GIVING.—A large congregation was present at the Family Service at St. Mary's Church, Stoneleigh on Sunday, when prizes were awarded to the Sunday School pupils for their attendance during 1957. Senior scholar Irene Ball received a Bible story book. Bibles were awarded to Julian Birditt, Jane Ball, Margaret Weller, James Ball, Kathleen Wilkins, Jennifer Wilkins, Edward Fardon and Norman Stagles. Prayer Books were presented to Garry Birditt, Janet Roberts, Graham Roberts, John Roberts and Janet Grocock, while story books were presented to Celia King, Christine Warburton, Paul Grocock, Joy Bayliss and Patricia Morgan.

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STONELEIGH

CHURCH MEETING. — The Vicar (Rev. G. H. Parks), presided over St. Mary's Church, Stoneleigh annual meeting, when deep appreciation was expressed to Mr. F. E. Grimes for his sterling work as churchwarden and treasurer for 38 years. Although willing to continue as churchwarden, Mr. Grimes asked to be relieved of the other post and Mr. G. E. Fardon was elected treasurer. Mr. E. King was again elected as the other churchwarden. The accounts showed that from a financial standpoint the past year had been quite satisfactory, income from collection having increased considerably. There was a balance of about £450 in the general fund, £60 in the Churchyard Fund, and nearly £60 in the Free Will Offering Fund. But it was known that nearly £300 would have to be spent immediately on essential repairs. The Vicar stated the number of communicants remained at about the same figure as in previous years, and the recently introduced family services had proved quite a success. Nearly £100 had been donated to extra parochial charitable objects.

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Birmingham Daily Post - Wednesday 16 April 1958

Post Office Required by Village

Stoneleigh Parish Council has informed Warwick Rural Council that "a most extraordinary situation has arisen" in the area because it is not served by a post office. Stoneleigh is on the outskirts of Coventry where housing has developed rapidly in recent years.

A woman with a good knowledge of Post Office routine has told the local authority that she is prepared to buy a house near the shopping centre at Green Lane and to make the front room available as a temporary post office.

Warwick Rural Council has refused permission on the grounds that it would be wrong to allow a private house to be used for business purposes in the village's residential area.

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Birmingham Daily Post - Monday 28 April 1958

STONELEIGH Women's Institute, which has just celebrated its fortieth birthday, has been congratulated by Miss Margaret Rotherham, former president of Warwickshire Federation of W.I.s, on preserving the character of "a real village," and "not allowing yourselves to be engulfed by Coventry."

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Birmingham Daily Post - Monday 05 May 1958

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Coventry Standard - Friday 23 May 1958

Grant — Ward

The vice-captain of the Stoneleigh Cricket Club, Mr. Ian Grant, was married on Saturday at Allesley Parish Church, Coventry, to Miss Pauline Margaret Ward. The service was conducted by the Rev. G. A. Hughes.

Mr. Grant is the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Grant, of The Old Vicarage, Stoneleigh, and Miss Ward is the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Ward, of 27, Browns Lane, Allesley.

The bride was given away by her father and wore a full-length dress of white lace over satin and carried a bouquet of pink orchids and lilies of the valley.

The bridesmaid, Miss Janet Marion Ward, the bride's sister, wore a dress of pale blue nylon over pink taffeta. The best man was Mr. Colin Grant, the bridegroom's brother.

The reception was held at Allesley Parish Rooms, and the couple spent their honeymoon in the Channel Islands.

Mr. Grant is employed at the Midland Bank, Coventry, and is a bellringer at Stoneleigh Church. The bride is employed as a secretary and is a lieutenant in the Allesley Girl Guides.

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Coventry Evening Telegraph - Tuesday 10 June 1958

OAKLEY.—Percy. Funeral from 68, Northfield Road, Wednesday, June 11, 2.30 p.m.; Interment at Stoneleigh Church at 3 p.m.

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B1.16 Stoneleigh Churchyard

Alfred Percy Oakley

[Stoneleigh History Society](#)



Stoneleigh Abbey from across the River Avon

Stoneleigh Abbey to Recall 'Three Glorious Days'

A HUNDRED years ago this Saturday there was a great fuss at Stoneleigh Abbey. Housemaids' dusters flicked over green silk damask in a room looking south over the terrace gardens; the ladies busied themselves with flower arrangements; on the lawn, Warwickshire Yeomanry went through martial paces; villagers bustled about with garlands and flags, and it was good weather. Or, as the ladies—daughters of a long line of lords—wrote to her Majesty the Queen, "The weather was good, the day was fine, and the people were very good."

Stoneleigh Abbey today Lord and Lady Leigh are holding a buffet luncheon to mark the centenary of the royal visit.

Journal Details
The suite of rooms occupied by Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort remain unaltered.



The elaborately-carved bed in the Prince Consort's room at Stoneleigh Abbey. Made with mahogany and a green damask pattern, the bed was ordered by the Countess Maria Louisa, wife of Napoleon I.

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It was good weather. Or as Georgina Leigh, younger sister of the then Lord Leigh wrote in her private journal: Nature itself donned her loveliest garb to do honour to our beloved **Queen Victoria**.

At Stoneleigh Abbey today Lord and Lady Leigh are holding a buffet luncheon to mark the centenary of the royal visit.

Journal Details

The suite of rooms occupied by Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort remain unaltered.

Visitors can still see the bedspread with the decoration of swans' down and pink roses specially made in Coventry for the Queen's use, and the furnishings which Georgina Leigh described with such animation.



Her journal is of considerable interest, for she wrote down in detail the happenings of the "three glorious days" from the moment when she first heard "the noise of the hammer, the busy sounds of going and coming" which heralded the forthcoming visit, to her farewell to "Victoria the Great and the Good."

Banquet was Held

On the occasion of the visit, she reports no-one was admitted to the Park without special permission “for fear of rabble.” But booths, waggons and carts were drawn up along the road outside the lodge, where a dense crowd of “the rustic population” awaited the Queen.

That night a banquet was held - gold plate and Minton china, the band of the Life Guards playing on the terrace - followed by a select gathering in the Silk Drawing-Room.

She wrote of the Queen: Her countenance when speaking is most expressive and she seems to have the gift of always saying the right thing to the right person.

The following day Queen Victoria travelled to Birmingham where Georgina Leigh found what she calls “the black people” - presumably Black Country people - very good-natured and thoroughly respectful.

Queen Planted Oak

Back at Stoneleigh Abbey another banquet, was followed by a presentation at which, it is regretfully recorded “the good county of Warwick did not show to great advantage of its ladies.”

The reason? “Many of the fairest and the highest in the county were unavoidably absent and of course all those whose absence might not have been so much regretted mustered in full force...”

Next day the Queen planted an oak and the Prince Consort a Wellingtonia Gigantia in the Abbey grounds, before driving off to Warwick. Left behind was £150 for the servants, £100 to be distributed among the household, £50 amongst the stable hands.

The journal makes this final comment: “I trust all true-hearted Warwickshire folk will respond to the sentiment that their county is become if possible dearer to them since its soil has been trodden, its beauties visited, and its scenery admired by the beloved Sovereign of these Realms.”





FRAMED in the doorway of Stoneleigh's age-old forge, "neath a spreading chestnut," sits Mr. John Goode, blacksmith in the village for fifty-five years.

Born in Styvechale, Mr. Goode became apprenticed in Stoneleigh forge as a boy in 1903, doing both farriery and wheelwright work. He occasionally helped in Styvechale forge.

When Mr. W. A. A. Sparrow, Lord Leigh's tenant, died in 1942, Mr. Goode took sole charge of the Stoneleigh forge and now, at the age of seventy, does general farriery and other ironwork.

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Sports Argus - Saturday 26 July 1958

PRINCE OF WALES

Prince Charles is to be Prince of Wales, Queen announced in message broadcast at end of Empire Games at Cardiff.

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Birmingham Daily Post - Wednesday 30 July 1958

VILLAGE HALL SCHEME

The Warwickshire Rural Community Council agreed yesterday to support the scheme for the building of a village hall at Stoneleigh. It was reported that the building, to cost £6,105, would provide all the facilities needed, and £2,600 had been raised locally.

The local education authority had questioned whether the cost was not too high for a parish with a population of only 600.

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Birmingham Weekly Post - Friday 01 August 1958

Stoneleigh Abbey grant

STONELEIGH ABBEY, near Kenilworth, is among the 19 historic buildings in England and Wales which, the Ministry of Works announced this week, are to receive grants towards their preservation. Five buildings in Scotland have also qualified for grants.

Other buildings included in the list are Preston Trust Homes, Preston-on-the-Weald Moors, near Wellington, Shropshire, and Hardwick Hall, Derbyshire.

Stoneleigh Abbey was built to designs of Francis Smith, of Warwick, and has remained in the possession of the owner's family (Lord Leigh) since the 16th century.

Among the building's notable features are the giant Ionic pilasters, pedimented doorcase and windows, heavy cornice and crowning balustrade.

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Stoneleigh Abbey
NEAR KENILWORTH, WARWICKSHIRE.
One of Britain's Stately Homes
Open Daily to Mid-October, 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.
(including Sundays and Bank Holidays). Admission:
2/6 Adults; 1/3 Children. Special terms for booked parties and
schools and special times by arrangement if required. Modern
catering facilities in the Conservatory Tea Room — Special
catering to order.
Visitors are encouraged to wander in the gardens and spend
the afternoon there if they wish. No extra charge for Car Park
and Gardens.
Further particulars from: The Agent, Stoneleigh Abbey. Ken. 116



Looking down Stoneleigh Hill. A staff photographer captures the quiet atmosphere surrounding the picknickers by the river.

Marriage

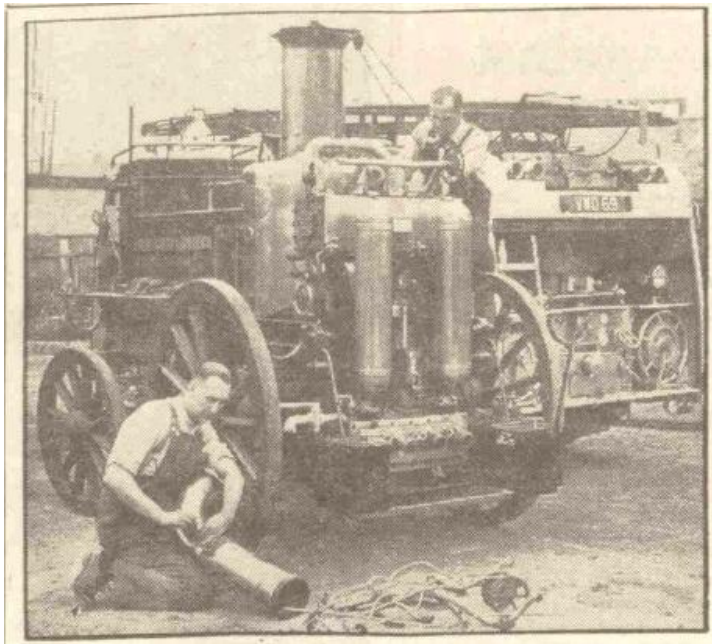
NORTHWOOD — WHITFIELD. —

On August 23, at St. Mary's Church, Stoneleigh, Peter James only son of Mr. and Mrs. Northwood, of Brunton Park, Gosforth, Newcastle-on-Tyne, to Sara, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Whitfield, of Waverley Farm, Stareton, Kenilworth.

Marriage

Northwood - Whitfield

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MUSEUM PIECE

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Since 1949 the fire engine, believed to be about 75 years old, has been on loan to Nuneaton Fire Station for use on special occasions including reviews.

Two of the station staff, Leading Fireman Bracewell Howard and Fireman Ron Alton, have been devoting their spare time to restoring the historic appliance.

It has meant dismantling and the cleaning and polishing of hundreds of parts before re-assembling, which is nearing completion.

Said Leading Fireman Howard: "We are enjoying every moment of it. I used to chase this type of fire engine when I was a boy and that gave me the idea of becoming a fireman. It has always been my ambition to dismantle one of the old fire engines. This type did not go out of use until about 1920.

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Coventry Standard - Friday 19 September 1958

STONELEIGH

MOTHERS' UNION. — The monthly meeting of Stoneleigh and Ashow M.U. was held at Stoneleigh Grange on Thursday by invitation of Mrs. H. P. Hall. Members were given an address by Mrs. Simpson, of Rugby, who chose as her theme, "Angels." She was thanked by Mrs. F. Parish (enrolling member) who also expressed the members' appreciation of Mrs. Hall's hospitality.

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Coventry Standard - Friday 03 October 1958

STONELEIGH

W.I. — Led by their president, Mrs. H. Kirby, and secretary Mrs. J. Wharton, the committee of the Stoneleigh Women's Institute organised a highly successful rummage sale on Saturday when about £40 was raised for their funds. Winners of a competition for the best-made cake were Mrs. Millward and Mrs. Rensch. Stallholders were Mesdames Ball, Craddock, Grant, Millward, Parks, Rensch, Smith, Smith - Clarke, Thomas, Tommy, Walden, Wallsgrove, Wheatley and Miss C. Wallsgrove. Winner of a competition was Mrs. E. M. Egerton of Pensby, Wirral, Cheshire.

FOOTBALL.—A most enjoyable match was seen on Saturday when Stoneleigh entertained Heswall F.C., a team from Wirral, Cheshire. The visitors were deservedly winners by six goals to one, in a game played in a really sporting manner. Afterwards the teams were taken on a visit to Stoneleigh Abbey. A happy social in the Victory Hall followed before the visitors left on their long homeward journey.

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Coventry Evening Telegraph - Wednesday 08 October 1958



SPOT THE MISTAKE

SCORES of people travelling from Leamington to Coventry today were puzzled by this new road-sign at the bottom of Stoneleigh Hill.

Of the many who telephoned "The Coventry Evening Telegraph" about it, one suggested that it might have been a "deliberate mistake" an effective way of drawing motorists' attention to this important warning. This was not the case; the workman simply had his stencils mixed.

Coventry Standard - Friday 10 October 1958

STONELEIGH

HARVEST.—Visitors to the Harvest Festival Services at St. Mary's Church on Sunday might have been pardoned for doubting reports of this year's disastrous harvest, for the church was more profusely decorated with flowers than usual and though vegetables were fewer, they were of striking quality. At the Family Service in the morning the children offered gifts which were accepted by the Vicar (the Rev. G. H. Parks), who officiated at all the services. The choir sang the Harvest Anthem by Barnby, the soloist was Mrs. M. Kelman. The collections were given to the Bishop's Appeal Fund.

W.I. — Mrs. H. Kirby presided over Monday's meeting, when the members of the C.E.M.S. attended, together with other friends, to hear a talk given by Dr. Ruth Watson on her work as a medical missionary. The talk was illustrated by coloured slides and the speaker was thanked by Mrs. Walkden (W.I.) and Mr. G. Fardon, chairman of the C.E.M.S.

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Birmingham Daily Post - Saturday 01 November 1958

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**J. AND J. CASH
DIRECTOR
DIES, AGED 68**



MR. HAROLD KIRBY, who was joint managing director of the Coventry textile firm of J. and J. Cash Ltd., died in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, on Sunday night, following an operation.

Mr. Kirby, who was 68, retired from full-time service with J. and J. Cash Ltd., two years ago, but continued as a member of the board, on which he had served since 1919. He was appointed joint managing director in 1930 following the death of Sir Reginald Cash's father.

Mr. Kirby, whose home was at 14 Stoneleigh Road, Gibbet Hill, Coventry, was son of the late Mr. Alfred Kirby, a well-known Coventry solicitor.

He leaves a widow and stepson, Mr. G. M. M. Tonge, who is a director of J. and J. Cash Ltd.

The funeral service will be held at Stoneleigh Church on Friday afternoon.

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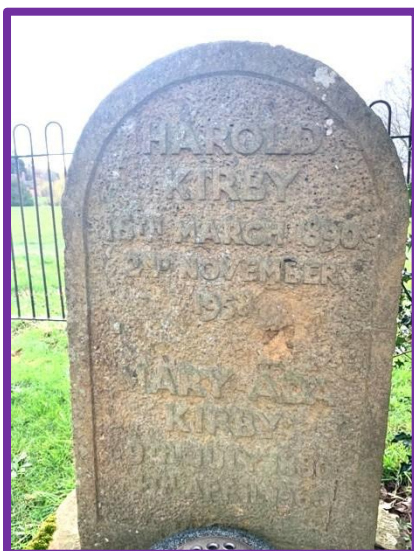
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KIRBY.

On November 2, 1958, at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham. Harold, dearly-loved husband of Nancie May (Tonge, nee Cook). Funeral service at Stoneleigh Church, near Coventry, at 2 p.m., Friday, November 7. Flowers to the church. No mourning.

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B1.15 Stoneleigh Churchyard
Harold Kirby and his sister Mary Ada Kirby

[Stoneleigh History Society](http://www.stoneleighhistorysociety.co.uk)

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He leaves a widow and stepson, Mr. G. M. M. Tonge, who is a director of J. and J. Cash Ltd.

There is also an adopted daughter Priscilla, aged 12.

Mr. Kirby was at Cash's Australian factory when World War I broke out. He came back by sea and joined the Royal Flying Corps, later becoming a bomber pilot. He was shot down over Belgium, and was a prisoner of war for two years. He was mentioned in despatches.

In the Second World War his main task was to help to keep things going at Cash's factory in Coventry, and as this was very badly damaged both in the November blitz and in the April raids, he had a big responsibility. He spent many nights fire-watching, and the experiences he went through in common with many Coventry citizens were very tragic.

He was a member of the Coventry Textile Society and of the Stoneleigh branch of the British Legion and the local cricket club. He also took an interest in the Women's Institute, of which his wife is president.

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STONELEIGH

CRICKET CLUB.—The Rev. G. H. Parks presided over the annual meeting of Stoneleigh Cricket Club recently, when a most cheering financial report was presented by the treasurer, Mr. C. Hancox. This showed that in spite of very heavy expenditure during the past few years upon a new pavilion, water supply, practice pitch, equipment, etc., all debts were now cleared and there was a credit of over £5. Mr. K. Grant (captain) stated that slightly fewer matches had been won than lost with one tied, that against their old opponents Adlestrop (Glos.). It had been an outstandingly happy season of very sporting games. The club would welcome more local youngsters as the number of playing members was rather small in view of the heavy fixture list. There was no difficulty in obtaining fixtures, the match secretary having been unable to accept applications for games from teams as far afield as Leicester. After much discussion a proposition that trophies be given to players for best performances during the season was defeated. It was decided that a Sunday captain and a Saturday captain should be elected instead of a captain and vice-captain as formerly. The following officers were elected: President, Lord Leigh; chairman, The Rev. G. H. Parks; vice-chairman and Treasurer, Mr. C. Hancox; Hon. secretary, Mr. F. Fox; match secretary, Mr. C. Grant; Sunday captain, Mr. K. Grant; Saturday captain, Mr. R. Turley; committee: Messrs. R. Ansell, T. Enoch, D. Farmer, N. Pratt, J. Sturgess, H. Taylor, and W. Waite.

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A large congregation attended St. Mary's Church when the Stoneleigh and Ashow branch of the British Legion and the local branch of the Women's Voluntary Services were present. Mr. R. Faxon was Standard bearer, and the parade was under the command of Mr. J. Craddock. After the service the salute was taken by Lord Leigh.

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Coventry Standard - Friday 14 November 1958

STONELEIGH

SALE OF POPPIES.—Organised by Mr. W. Varney (hon. secretary) and Mrs. J. Wilkes (hon. treasurer), the sale of Poppies in Stoneleigh and Ashow again constituted a record. The collectors were Mrs. E. Darlow (Ashow), Mrs. J. Fletcher, Mrs. W. Varney, Mrs. W. Waite, Miss Craine, Miss Hall and Miss N. Hall. Total receipts were £83 1s. 8d., which included church collections of £35 10s. 9d. and £4 5s. by sale of wreaths.

LEGION SUPPER.—On Monday the members of Stoneleigh British Legion held a very enjoyable supper in the Victory Hall, the Rev. G. H. Parks presiding. Winners of an exciting drive were Mr. J. Walden (highest score), Miss N. Hall (highest lady), and Mr. Hesmer (highest gent.).

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Coventry Evening Telegraph - Tuesday 18 November 1958

HONE.—Frances Anne, dearly loved wife of W. A. Hone, on November 16, 1958, at her home, Stareton, in her 69th year. Funeral service at Stoneleigh Church on Wednesday at 12 noon.

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B 2.13 Stoneleigh Churchyard

Arthur Hone and Frances Annie Hone

[Stoneleigh History Society](#)

Coventry Evening Telegraph - Saturday 29 November 1958

WILKINS.—Charles Edwin, aged 58 years, of 27, Hall Close, Stoneleigh, beloved husband of Gwen and dear father of Gerald, Charles, Arthur, Ken, Margaret, Marion, Eileen, Jennifer and Kathy, passed away on November 27, in hospital. Sadly missed by all. Funeral at Stoneleigh Church on Tuesday, December 2.

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B 2.14 Stoneleigh Churchyard
Charles E. Wilkins and Irene Gwendoline Wilkins

[Stoneleigh History Society](#)

Coventry Standard - Friday 19 December 1958

STONELEIGH

M.U.—On Thursday, members of Stoneleigh Mothers' Union were guests of the Enrolling Member (Mrs. F. Parish) at a Christmas party. After tea, a sequence of games and competitions organised by Mrs. Thomas occupied the evening and with the cutting of the mammoth Christmas cake members extended thanks to their hostess.

ALMSHOUSES.—After months of dislocation, the residents of the Elizabethan almshouses at Stoneleigh are hoping that the modernisation of their homes will be completed very shortly. The work has involved not only re-arrangement of the existing rooms—new staircases and windows, provision of cooking units and moving of doors, but also the addition of a bathroom and modern sanitation, with a larder and fuel store. By skill and forethought the architect has blended the new buildings with the old so that they are almost indistinguishable. Stoneleigh's very old houses have thus become the most modern without losing their character.

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1969



Prince Charles is 21 and his investiture as Prince of Wales takes place at Caernarfon Castle on 1st July 1969.

Birmingham Daily Post - Saturday 04 January 1969

WHITFIELD. — On January 1, 1969. David Procter, aged 63 years, of Waverley Farm, Stareton, Kenilworth, died at the Warneford Hospital, Leamington Spa. Funeral service at Stoneleigh Church. Monday, January 6, 1.30 p.m.

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B10.5 Stoneleigh Churchyard
David Procter Whitfield

His headstone spells his middle name as Procter.

StoneleighHistorySociety

Coventry Standard - Thursday 16 January 1969

Below: Mr. Ronald Flynn, of 8, Hall Close, Stoneleigh, and Miss Karol Soar, of 79, Wyken Avenue, Wyken, at St. Mary Magdalen's Church, Wyken.



MARRIAGE

Mr. Ronald Flynn of 8, Hall Close, Stoneleigh and Miss Karol Soar, of 79, Wyken Avenue, Wyken, at St. Mary Magdalene's Church, Wyken.

KENILWORTH ROAD TO LOSE TRUNK STATUS

THE BUSY Kenilworth Road, Coventry, will no longer be classified as a trunk road when the Kenilworth Eastern By-pass is built.

This is one of the effects of the By-pass proposal that has been under consideration by the Transportation and Highways Committee of Coventry City Council.

They have been told that the Ministry of Transport are preparing orders to enable the by-pass to be built and maintained. It is to be made on a line outside the city but it ends at its northern end with a multi-level interchange at Stonebridge Highway, Coventry, on the Coventry By-pass.

This interchange also forms part of the southern end of the proposed Styvechale-Cheylesmore By-pass.

The committee are to tell the Ministry that in addition to the Stonebridge Highway interchange, a multi-level interchange should also be provided to serve Stoneleigh Road and Dalehouse Lane, to form a southern terminal point to the proposed university valley route.

The committee also say that Kenilworth Road should remain a trunk road until the Kenilworth Eastern By-pass is actually open to traffic.

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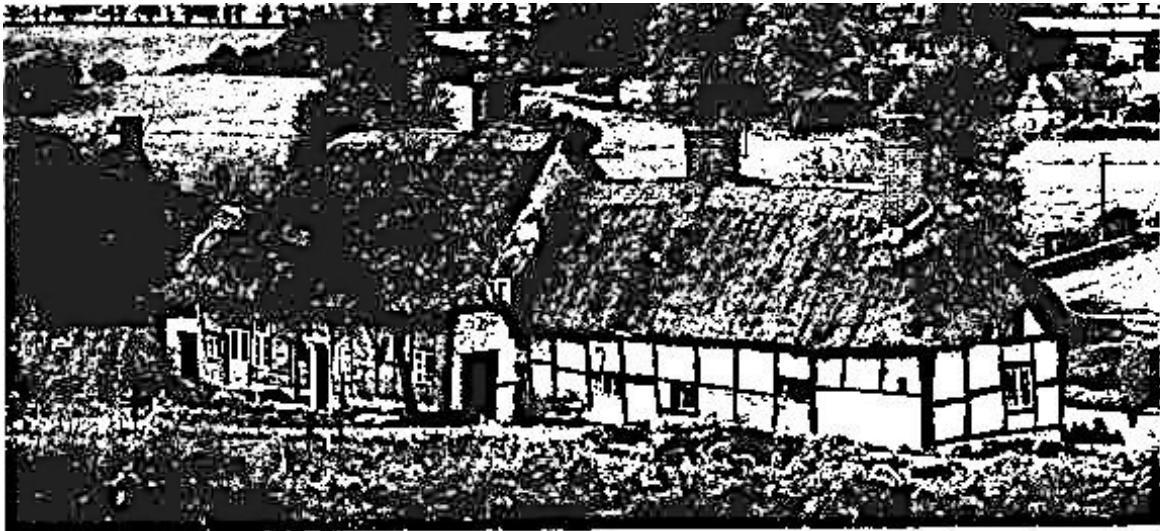
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The rural charm of Stoneleigh—a character worthy of preservation.

Conservation plans for six Warwickshire villages

CONSERVATION plans for another six villages, all in the mid Warwickshire area, have been published by the County Council.

They are: Ashow, Barford, Cubbington, Offchurch, Sherbourne and Stoneleigh.

Conservation areas are designated by local planning authorities under the Civic Amenities Act of 1967 and the object is to control the growth of development of whole areas of particular merit, including their landscape value. The criteria is that conservation areas should be "areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance."

Previously local authority preservation powers were limited to individual buildings or groups of buildings.

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Strict control

Conservation plans for two Warwickshire towns, Warwick and Alcester, have already been confirmed, and a number of others are expected to be approved in the near future.

County planning officers are inviting official comments on the latest plans before making firm proposals.

In Ashow, says the County Planning Officer, Mr Ronald Norris, there must be strict control over any new development. He warns against a decline of the old part of the village, which contrasts with the affluence of modern housing.

Stringent control must be exercised in Barford over the use of materials, and the design and siting of new properties. The

report says it is a village where the distortion of the character can be all too easily inflicted.

The suggested conservation area for Cubbington includes Church Lane, Church Hill and parts of New Street and High Street. Open space around the church, the vicarage and to the west of Church Road has been included as having special landscape value.

Practically the whole of Offchurch should be designated a conservation area, suggests the report. Its setting, centered around the Norman church, gives the village its character.

Any alteration to Sherbourne, which has few houses, would upset the appeal and balance of the whole village.

The suggested conservation for Stoneleigh includes all the old part of the village together with the river, the ridge and the meadow as having special character worthy of protection.

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Prime Residential Area

£9,750. — STONELEIGH CLOSE, Stoneleigh

Attractive Detached Residence in excellent order and having full oil-fired central heating. Porch, entrance hall, fitted cloakroom (with w c and wash - basin), large lounge communicating with dining area, fitted kitchen, study (or fourth bedroom), three good bedrooms, bathroom with coloured suite, boiler room, garage with access over, semi - circular drive, neat and secluded gardens.

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DIARY

Busy days

MR. JOHN KEYSER has found that retirement opens the door to a wide variety of activities.

He "retired" (if that is the correct word) at 60, two years ago, from Massey-Ferguson (U.K.) Ltd., Coventry, where he was general public relations manager.

Almost at once a job dropped on his doorstep. He lives at Stoneleigh, and the opportunity came to take up an international public relations job for the Royal Show, established in its permanent home close by.

It involves visits to the show-ground all the year round, corresponding with 90 countries, and preparing brochures to bring foreign visitors and buyers to the show.

That is a paid job. Mr. Keyser's voluntary jobs are many. They include being a churchwarden at Stoneleigh and editor of the parish magazine, a member of the Diocesan Conference, chairman of the Spencer Industrial Arts Trust, a governor of Bremond College, secretary of Coventry and South Warwickshire Council on Alcoholism, an executive committee member of Coventry Appeal for the Mental Health Trust, a governor of Coventry College of Art, Press officer of South Warwickshire executive committee of the N.S.P.C.C., and work for Murray Lodge, the "halfway house" for young offenders where he is chairman of the house committee and Press officer.

Finding spare time somewhere, Mr. Keyser has just added another job—he has become a co-opted member of Coventry Probation Committee.

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No. 206 SOLUTION AND WINNERS

There are three winners for "Spot the Ball" Competition No. 206:

MRS. L. M. GEE, 92, Dudley St., Bell Green, Coventry;

MR. A. J. KEENE, 35, Hathaway Road, Tile Hill, Coventry;

MR. W. A. SMITTEN, 43, Bushberry Ave., Tile Hill North, Coventry;

who receive £500 each for First Prize.

The eight "Near-misses" receive £31/5/0 each.

They are:

MRS. JANET BATES, 76, Lime Tree Avenue, Tile Hill, Coventry.

MRS. D. BEECH, 10, Stoneleigh Close, Stoneleigh.

MRS. ADA BRITTEN, 78, Watercall Avenue, Coventry.

MRS. M. KING, 112, Cubbington Road, Coventry.

MRS. C. MORGAN, 276, Allesley Old Road, Coventry.

MRS. MARION SMITH, 40, Barton Road, Bedworth, near Nuneaton.

MR. P. J. E. SMITH, 81, Prince of Wales Road, Coventry.

MR. J. W. YATES, 33, Mason Road, Coventry.

SPOT THE BALL

Mrs. D. Beech, 10 Stoneleigh Close, Stoneleigh receives £31/5/0 for a "near-miss"



NEW HOUSES

STONELEIGH ROAD,
GIBBET HILL.

NEW DEVELOPMENT BY J. McGRATH

of
FOUR INDIVIDUALLY DESIGNED HIGH QUALITY
DETACHED FREEHOLD RESIDENCES

each on superb Sites of approximately half an acre and having an internal floor area of 2,500 square feet (excluding garage block).

**FULL DETAILS OF PLOT 1 at £21,500 and PLOT 2 at £21,600
NOW AVAILABLE.**

Princess Anne to open club in April

Evening Telegraph Reporter

PRINCESS ANNE will open the new premises of the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs at Stoneleigh on April 25.

The Y.F.C. staff will start to move into their new headquarters at the National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh, on March 11, after leaving their offices in Gower Street, London, the previous day.

At a cost of £30,000 to provide and equip, the new building will include not only offices but rooms for conferences and weekend seminars. The young farmers will have their own Royal Show stand immediately adjacent.

400 pc rent rise

A spokesman for the Federation said that among the reasons for moving to Stoneleigh were the fact that it was already a big agricultural centre and was well-placed geographically.

"But main committee meetings will continue to be held in London for some time," he said.

"Another important reason for the move," said the spokesman, "was that we faced a 400 per cent. rent increase. And as a voluntary organisation that is the sort of thing we cannot cope with."

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WHEN a builder buys a large house in an expensive area, then pulls it down and uses the site for more building, he is likely to be providing something rather special.

A large house in Stoneleigh Road, Gibbet Hill, Coventry, recently disappeared, and now details of the first two of four houses to go on the site are announced by the builders, J. McGrath.

The houses, costing about £21,600, are being handled by Robinson, Osborne and Moules. The first is expected to be ready in June.

Pine-clad

Each plot of nearly half an acre will have frontage of 73ft. and a depth of about 240ft.

The houses, of about 2,500 sq. ft., have four bedrooms—one in a master bedroom suite—two bathrooms, three separate living rooms and a utility room. Each is separately designed.

By JOHN STOLLS

The first house has the top half clad in Columbian Pine. The roof sweeps low to one side in a shallow pitch.

The hall is provided with a clothes cupboard and a separate cloakroom with w.c. and wash-basin. The 25ft. lounge faces on to the garden. It has a Parana pine ceiling and the fireplace is in brick. The dining room, nearly 15ft. by 12ft., has aluminium sliding windows opening on to a patio.

Core

Over 14ft. square, the kitchen is big enough to satisfy any housewife. It is provided with a double-drainer sink unit and a

host of working surfaces and cupboards.

In addition there is a study, over 10ft. square, and a utility room with another sink unit and a plumbing point for a washing machine.

The core of the first floor is the master bedroom suite. The suite, 22ft. by 18ft., is divided into a large bedroom, separate area with built-in wardrobes, and a personal bathroom with a separate shower, bath, hand-basin and w.c.

The other three bedrooms all have built-in wardrobes with sliding doors in sapele, and there is a vanitory unit in one bedroom. A second bathroom is also on this floor.

Also built-in or attached to the house are a boiler house, a store and a double garage.

As one might imagine, the specification of the house is high. There is full-height tiling in the cloakroom, master bathroom and second bathroom; internal doors will have sapele finish, and power points, shaver points and telephone points will all be built-in.

The architect for the development is Roy Geden.

WHEN a builder buys a large house in an expensive area, then pulls it down and uses the site for more building, he is likely to be providing something rather special.

A large house in Stoneleigh Road, Gibbet Hill, Coventry, recently disappeared, and now details of the first two of four houses to go on the site are announced by the builders, J. McGrath.

The houses, costing about £21,600, are being handled by Robinson, Osborne and Moules. The first is expected to be ready in June.

Pine-clad

Each plot of nearly half an acre will have frontage of 73ft. and a depth of about 240 ft. The houses, of about 2,500 sq. ft., have four bedrooms — one in a master bedroom suite — two bathrooms, three separate living rooms and a utility room. Each is separately designed.

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'Must a child die first?'

PARENTS in Stoneleigh fear that one of their children will have to be killed before a speed limit is put on the road through the village.

Evening Telegraph Reporter
PARENTS in Stoneleigh fear that one of their children will have to be killed before a speed limit is put on the road through the village.

The road is part of a well-used cross-country route between Stoneleigh Bridge and Gibbet Hill, on the Kenilworth Road, Coventry.

first?'

Several times the parish council have taken up the proposal, but each time they have been told that the road has a good accident record and there is no need for restriction. Now the Vicar, Canon G. H. Parks, has joined the fight for "the slight protection of a speed

limit." Of the response to the village's request, he said: "This kind of stubborn official immobility is almost criminal."

"Are we to suppose that they will not move until a Stoneleigh child is killed?"

In recent years the amount of traffic using the road had increased, and it went at a "terrific speed," he said.

"What particularly concerns us is that a number of children have to cross the road to get to the school at the worst time of day, and there is no warden to see them across," said Canon Parks. "It is true that there have been no fatal accidents in the village in recent years, but why should we have to wait until then before something is done," he said.

And a crossing

Miss Una Thorley, who has lived in the village for many years, said that traffic had increased to frightening proportions in recent years.

"It is as much as you can do to get across the road on a Saturday morning the cars go through so fast," she said.

"It would certainly help to have a speed limit, and I would like to see a crossing on it somewhere," said Miss Thorley.

Miss Catherine Craine, a member of the parish council, said the annual meeting was being held next Thursday, and it was probable that the question of the speed limit would be raised.

"It is one of those things that come up at almost every meeting, but so far we have not been able to get police backing for the idea," she said.

Police had made checks on the traffic passing along the road, she said, but the results did not help the village.

"It is not so much what it is like, as what we fear may happen," said Miss Craine.

In addition to many school-children there were a number of old people who found crossing the road very difficult, she said.

A spokesman for the County Police said the last request for a speed limit had been made in 1965 and there had been no official approach since then.

The imposition of a speed limit was a Ministry decision, he said, not directly a police matter therefore there was no further comment he could make.

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AIR NOISE MAY DRIVE COUPLE OUT

A retired Warwickshire couple are selling their dream home because disturbance from low flying aircraft at a nearby airport.

The noise particularly at night became unbearable for Mr. and Mrs. William Perry so they decided to sell their bungalow home, which was especially designed for their retirement at Stoneleigh near Kenilworth.

They have already started looking for another house further away from the noise of aircraft at Coventry Airport, Baginton.

MP's ACTION

But Mr. Dudley Smith MP for Warwick and Leamington, is taking up the fight to reduce the amount of flying from the airport.

Mrs. Kathleen Perry said: "It is good news. We love it here apart from the noise and would hate to leave. We designed every inch of this house ourselves saving most our married life".

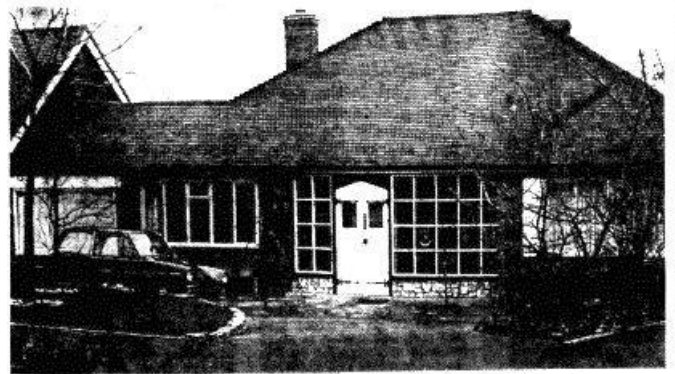
"But we cannot stand incessant din" she added.

The trouble is being caused by trainee pilots who are using the airport at Baginton for "circuit and bumps." Their flights pass over the Stoneleigh and Bubbenhall area.

CIRCUS ACT

Another Stoneleigh resident, Mr. Harold Taylor, said: "It is a continual irritation. They circle above like a circus act." Other people have complained of lack of sleep and of children being unable to do their homework.

Mr. Smith is intending to ask the President of the Board of Trade to introduce a law to prevent the use of airports like Baginton, which are near to urban areas, for airline pilots training.



The bungalow belonging to Mr. and Mrs. W. Perry at Stoneleigh.

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Evening Mail Reporter

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8 Coventry Evening Telegraph, Monday, March 17, 1969



HELLO AND GOODBYE TO JOHN

AFTER her wedding in St. Mary the Virgin Church, Stoneleigh, Miss Jennifer Currie was greeted by her horse John Jorrock, which she rides with the North Warwickshire Hunt.

The bride, daughter of Major M. Currie, of 72, Daventry Road, Coventry, and Mrs. T. Kilcoyne, of Bournemouth, said farewell to her mount before she and her bridegroom, Mr. David Frost, of Baginton, went to their reception.

Afterwards the couple left for Southampton to join a ship which will take them to Australia.

Mr. Frost, the son of Mr. and Mrs. K. G. Frost, of The Homestead, Stoneleigh Road, Baginton, is a self-employed carpenter.

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Taylor Bros.
Mr. David Frost, of "The Homestead," Stoneleigh Road, Baginton and Miss Jennifer Suzanne Currie, of 72, Daventry Road, Coventry, at St. Mary the Virgin Church, Stoneleigh.

Horses galore, but no workers

WHILE Coventry is becoming choked with cars, Mr. Tom Allison, the village farrier at nearby Stoneleigh, still has so many horses to shoe that he has to turn business away

Between them, he and his younger brother Tim, to whom he is teaching the craft, shoe about 50 horses a week, though not all of them in the forge

Hunters and hacks are shod there, but several days a week Tom is out dealing with racehorses in their stables as far away as Stratford-on-Avon or beyond. Sadly, there isn't one working horse on his books.

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VILLAGERS 'BUILD US A BRIDGE' PLEA TO ARMY

MILITARY AID may provide the answer to Stoneleigh's pressing problem of providing a safe way for pedestrians to cross the bridge over the river on the outskirts of the village.

The Parish Council is asking about the possibility of Army engineers constructing a foot bridge alongside the road bridge and overhanging the river as an exercise.

It is hoped to arrange a meeting between Parish Council members, representatives of the County Council and the Army.

Danger

The Parish Council has endeavoured to find means of reducing the dangers of the bridge for years. The parapets have been scarred from end to end by vehicles. It is too narrow for a pavement.

A Parish Council suggestion that traffic lights be installed to restrict crossing to one way was not adopted.

The County Council's attitude is that the Kenilworth Eastern bypass, to be constructed within the next few years, will considerably reduce the number of vehicles using the bridge.

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Sale list

SIX properties in Warwickshire are included in a list of buildings offered for sale or lease, issued by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings.

It includes the Lunt Cottages, Baginton, Coventry, two 16th-17th century cottages for which the City Estates Department are seeking a tenant on a lease for 14 years or more. They are thought to be possibly the wings of an early house. There is a mediaeval cruck truss at one end, and a 16th century dressed stone chimney.

Also listed are the west wing of Stoneleigh Abbey, built of stone about 1726 (with 30 rooms in all), which is for sale; Heath Farm, Rugby Road, Brinklow, a Georgian brick house with cottages, for sale at £13,000; the

barn at Lavender Hall Farm, Berkswell, 300 years old and for lease at a nominal rent; Weston Hall, Weston Lane, Bulkington, mid-16th century, with 19th century addition, for sale, and Ansley Hall, near Nuneaton, for sale or lease.

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The smiling Princess...

PRINCESS ANNE, the young Royal carrying out her first official engagement in the Midlands, won the hearts of all who saw her at Stoneleigh.

Her easy manner and ready smile, her keen interest in all that was going on about her, wavered only occasionally in the face of whirring and clicking cameras.

The choice of the Rover Company at Solihull and the National Agricultural Centre at Stoneleigh was fitting for her first major Royal duty.

Her stetson

She drives a Rover car and as she said after visiting the factory: "I know a lot more about my car now." And at Stoneleigh, the Royal Family's renowned love of horses was amply catered for with a visit to the National Equestrian Centre.

While at Stoneleigh, Princess Anne also opened the new Young Farmers' Club Centre.

The Princess, wearing a black

EVENING TELEGRAPH REPORTER

stetson hat with a stone coloured double-breasted, belted coat over an emerald green dress, arrived in the Midlands to an overcast sky and chill wind.

But by the time she reached Stoneleigh the sun was through, and apart from a brief shower, continued to shine until she left in a helicopter of the Queen's Flight.

At the Equestrian Centre she was greeted by the director, Mr. Dorian Williams, who introduced her to Lord and Lady Leigh, of Stoneleigh, and officials of the British Horse Society and the British Show Jumping Association.

'Very interested'

In the centre's arena, she saw 13 youngsters, all members of the Centre of England Group of "Riding for the Disabled," being given riding training. Ten of the children were from Exhall Grange School, near Coventry.

She talked to the founder of

the group, Mrs. Elizabeth Arkwright, wife of Capt. P. F. Arkwright, Master of the North Warwickshire Hunt.

Mrs. Arkwright said: "The Princess was very interested in the children, asked about how they got the help, and about the ponies. I told her that one of the children who had learned to ride had now also begun to walk."

At the Y.F.C. Centre, the Princess was welcomed by Viscount Lambert, president of the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs. After cutting white ribbon to open the new centre, the Princess met members of the staff, and Mr. T. Bates, of Thomas Bates and Son Ltd., main contractors for the centre.

A smiling Princess Anne (right) at the National Equestrian Centre, Stoneleigh. Below: The Princess being welcomed to the Centre by the Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire, Alderman C. T. M. Smith-Ryland.



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Coventry Evening Telegraph - Wednesday 14 May 1969

St John honour for Lord Leigh

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As a member of the St. John Council for Warwickshire, Lord Leigh has done much to further the work of the St. John Ambulance Brigade in the county.

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Moke races to aid Stoneleigh Church

A DONKEY DERBY and a charity cricket match are expected to attract top sportsmen to Stoneleigh this summer as part of a drive to raise urgently-needed funds for the parish church.

Repairs to the roof of the church costing £4,000 have exhausted all church funds.

"There is absolutely nothing left. If anything else goes wrong we will have no money to pay for it," said the Vicar, Canon G. H. Parks. "I am most concerned about this state of affairs."

He said that a large number of money-raising events had been planned for the village during the next few months in an effort to offset the cost of the roof repairs.

"We have already had a number and they have been very successful. Money keeps coming in steadily," he said.

Celebrity cricket

Mr. John Leigh, of the Gatehouse, Stoneleigh Abbey, Kenilworth, who is organising the donkey derby, said that he is already assured of a good number of entries, and it was hoped that some well known jockeys would be riding.

The event will be staged at the Abbey on Sunday, August 24, and there would also be a celebrity cricket match during the summer months, he said.

Money raised at the events would go to the church funds, and also the Stoneleigh Tennis Club.

"Tennis facilities for the village are badly needed," he explained.

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Town Clerk's daughter weds



THE Town Clerk of Coventry, Sir Charles Barratt, with his daughter Helene after the wedding at St. Mary's Church, Stoneleigh.

Helene, younger daughter of Sir Charles and Lady Barratt, of Kenilworth Lodge, Kenilworth, designed her own Edwardian style wedding dress in white cotton voile.

The bridegroom, Mr. Michael Lloyd Robert Ward is the only son of Mr. L. E. Ward, of Oulton, and Mrs. R. Ward, of Mauls Mill House, Coventry.

The couple first met when they became pupils at Coventry Preparatory School on the same day 16 years ago and met later in life through mutual friends.

Miss Barratt, educated at Malvern Girls' College, left Bristol University before taking her degree, and is woman's editor on the "Solihull News"

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The lifting of a dove descending

By Paula Goodman

IT took six men and one removal van to move the 12ft. square tapestry — the largest ever produced by the School of Embroidery at Birmingham College of Art — to the medieval parish church at Stoneleigh, near Kenilworth.

The tapestry, which took 200 hours to produce, was designed by Diploma of Art and Design student Mary Wills. She was doing a year's advanced study of weaving and embroidery in the Faculty of Fashion and Textiles.

Mrs. Joan Cleaver, head of the School of Embroidery, who sat in a pew directing launching operations as the tapestry was eased into place on the baptistry wall, said: "I was so worried it wouldn't fit—though I'd measured that wall so many times."

The tapestry, which depicts a dove descending, is made from furnishing fabric, felt, P.V.C. gold and silver kid, with machine embroidery and wool plaited, crocheted and corded.

Chevron patterns, symbolic of feathers, repeat detail on the chancel arch of the 12th century church, and the brown and cream fabrics used tone with its sandstone walls.

The tapestry, provided by family and friends in memory of Mrs. Evelyn Hill, a former parishioner, was commissioned by the vicar, Canon J. H. Parks.

The commission was the result of a centrepiece made by the school for the church stand at the Royal Show two years ago. Canon Parks was so impressed by the collage that when he arranged for the church organ to be moved to its original place in the gallery, he asked for a tapestry to cover the bare wall where the organ had been. The font is to be placed beneath it.

"There are people who think perhaps the tapestry is a little modern for the church," he admitted. "But the majority are very much in favour."

Picture: Alan Hill



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Picture courtesy of Sheila Woolf



Her choice

MISS HELENE BARRATT, daughter of Sir Charles Barratt, Town Clerk of Coventry, who was married at St. Mary's Church, Stoneleigh, to Mr. Michael Ward, formerly edited the newspaper at Bristol University.

She did so with such success that after discussing it with her tutors she decided to go at once into full-time journalism, rather than take a third year at the university, where she was reading English, French and Italian.

She already had some knowledge of journalism. During vacations she had spells with local newspapers and is now woman's editor of the "Solihull News."

Mrs. Ward also has an aptitude for design. She designed her wedding dress and those of her bridesmaids. Miss Margaret Welsh, a university friend, and Miss Elizabeth Tate, a school friend. Best man at the wedding was Mr. Clive Barker-Davis, a local solicitor.

Her choice

MISS HELENE BARRATT, daughter of Sir Charles Barratt, Town Clerk of Coventry, who was married at St. Mary's Church, Stoneleigh, to Mr. Michael Ward, formerly edited the newspaper at Bristol University.

She did so with such success that after discussing it with her tutors decided to go at once into full-time journalism, rather than take a third year at the university, where she was reading English, French and Italian.

She already had some knowledge of journalism. During vacations she had spells with local newspapers and is now woman's editor of the "Solihull News." Mrs. Ward also has an aptitude for design. She designed her wedding dress and those of her bridesmaids, Miss Margaret Welsh, a university friend, and Miss Elizabeth Tate a school friend. Best man at the wedding was Mr. Clive Barker-Davis, a local solicitor.

Royal 'Prince in colour' Show

Evening Telegraph Reporter
ROYAL Show visitors will be able to watch the investiture of the Prince of Wales on colour television.

The investiture—on July 1—coincides with the first day of the show at Stoneleigh.

Twelve 25-inch sets are being installed at vantage points both inside pavilions, and in the open air.

Visitors will also be able to see colour broadcasts from Wimbledon, and ATV's outside broadcasts on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from the showground will give people the chance to see themselves on the screen.

Ten sets will be situated in public bars. The open air sites are still uncertain, but one is likely to be near the grandstand.

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The Royal Show's hospitable diplomat

The most notable guest that Mr. and Mrs. John Keyser are entertaining in their home at Stoneleigh this week is the OWA of Ijeshaland — the elected ruler of quarter of a million people in Western Nigeria who was elected from more than 1,000 eligible contenders, all members of his own family clan.

The Owa bought with him one of his six wives, a British-trained state registered nurse who, though third in order in marrying, ranks as senior wife through virtue of bearing the Owa a male heir.

The Owa must be addressed as His Highness, must not ride in the front of a car and must always eat alone — though when John Keyser asked, out of curiosity, whether he would accept a sandwich in company if it were offered to him; he replied he would not consider it beneath his dignity to eat in an Englishman's own home.

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Delicate

Such guests, and the sometimes delicate situations they can create, are almost commonplace in the Keyser household. Three years ago when John Keyser, at the age of 60, decided to retire from his public relations job with Massey-Ferguson, he was invited by the Royal Agricultural Society of England to be its international relations officer which meant looking after all the needs of foreign visitors to the Royal Show. Being experienced in agricultural public relations, having travelled extensively throughout the



Mr. and Mrs. Keyser at their home near Stoneleigh

world, having worked at the United Nations Assembly, and moreover living in Stoneleigh, he fulfilled all possible qualifications.

This year foreign visitors

to the Royal Show have been received from 90 different countries — including 10 ministers of agriculture and 17 ambassadors. It has been a record year for international representation, with the ministers of agriculture alone representing such widely varying countries as Ethiopia and Israel, Barbados, Czechoslovakia, Rumania and Greece.

Differences

Political differences are no more likely to be deferred over a drink in the pavilion bar than they are likely to be at the international conference tables of the world. When exports are the overriding object of the exercise, you do not introduce representatives of opposing countries over a piece of agricultural machinery that, one hopes, might be sold to either of them.

John Keyser has, above all, to play the part of diplomat. "We have to be very careful not to receive an Arab and an Israeli at the same time. One quite consciously has

to keep them apart because it would be very bad tactics to let them meet." Last year the hospitality to foreign visitors was increased even further when the Royal Show Bursary scheme was introduced by which groups of African farmers are not only invited to the show but also entertained in English homes. The Owa, who not only grows almost every possible crop but also cultivates edible fish which he profitably "harvests" every year, is one of this year's group.

No briefings

John Keyser, rather than swallow huge chunks of special briefings on the habits and etiquette of his guests, tends to play it by ear. Which is possibly just as well. The Owa, for instance, is Christian and surprised him by proving completely non-denominational when asked which church he would like to attend the Owa said that any Christian church would do. Another African delegate however is Moslem, prays five times a day, and carries a compass to ensure that he kneels

precisely in the direction of Mecca.

Mrs. Keyser, after a married lifetime of entertaining mainly European guests, is delighted to receive African guests for a change. She is an experienced hostess who once, having stayed up very late waiting for the arrival of a guest who was to be accommodated in a rather inaccessible bedroom in their previous house, an old rambling former vicarage, hit upon the bright idea of unrolling a trail of lavatory paper from the front door to guide him to his room.

'Big family'

An African she entertained last year paid tribute to her in his written report by describing her as "the ideal mother of the big family of mere strangers we were." Further on in his report he referred to them — "to the delight of our children and grandchildren" — as "elderly, kindly people," a back-handed compliment that even if they don't in the least feel elderly, nevertheless charms them.

All the entertaining, all the interminable arrangements that have to be made, is done primarily in the optimistic expectation of exports. John Keyser's job is to persuade foreigners to visit the Royal Show, to make sure they see what they wanted to see, and to help them talk through interpreters if necessary with British exhibitors.

"We act as the catalyst, working throughout the year to make contacts around the world and to bring over as many foreigners as possible concentrating on potential purchasers rather than tourists."

Frustration

Unexpectedly, the hardest part of the job is apparently to discover just what export orders are achieved. One would expect that manufacturers would be only too happy to announce triumphantly their export successes. Some do, many through a complicated network of professional secrecyes and jealousies, do not. "The most frustrating thing of all," says John Keyser, "is to bring all these people to the show, and then never knowing what orders were made."

Patricia Ashdown-Sharp

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COUNTY finalists in Warwickshire Rural Community Council's best-kept villages competition have been announced.

A total of 73 villages from eight rural districts entered.

Successful among the large villages were Studley, Hartshill, Marston Green, Clifton-on-Dunsmore, Tysoe, Harbury, Quinton and Stoneleigh.

Small village winners were Aston Cantlow, Birchmoor Village, Berkswell and Barston, Withybrook, Tredington, Farn-

Which village is the tidiest?

borough, Clifford Chambers, and Rowington.

The best kept churchyards competition drew 58 entries.

The following are finals com-

petitors: St. Laurence, Bidford-on-Avon; St. Lawrence, Ansley; Corley churchyard; St. Leonard, Willey; St. Nicholas and St. Barnabas, Birmingham; St. Leonard, Priors Marston; St. Peter, Wellesbourne; All Saints, Sherbourne; and St. Bartholomew, Binley.

Trophies will be presented in September.

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Two Doctor of Philosophy students wed



TWO former London University students, Miss Janet Mary Norman and Mr. Richard Brook Sykes (left), who were married in St. Mary's Church, Stoneleigh are both hoping to become Doctors of Philosophy.

The bride, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. K. W. Norman, of Fieldings, Kenilworth Road, Coventry, recently gained a degree in chemistry and physiology.

Mr. Sykes obtained a degree in micro-biology, and will join his wife in post-graduate work at Bristol University.

The bride's father is deputy managing director of Alfred Herbert Ltd., Coventry.

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**£2 may
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IF YOU have never owned a winner, the chance is there to see an animal of your choice, carrying your colours, and ridden by the jockey you have picked, come streaking past the post first. All it will cost you is a couple of pounds.

The animal, by the way, will be a donkey, and it's part of an own-a-winner scheme, which the Hon. John Leigh has for the donkey races at Stoneleigh Abbey, on Sunday, August 24.

The donkeys have been hired and trained to race on the flat, and also to take part in sulky races to add a little variety to the programme.

Sponsors are wanted for the donkeys, and the sponsorship is £2 a race. There will be eight races, and among the stars from the National Hunt world who have already said they will be available to take rides are: Bob Davies, the current joint-champion; John Buckingham, of Foinavon fame; Dick Pitman, Ken Begley and Roy Edwards.

The event will be in aid of joint funds of Stoneleigh Church Roof Repair Fund and Stoneleigh Tennis Club.

There will also be a representative cricket match between a team of National Hunt jockeys and local sporting stars. This will start at 2.30 and the racing at 3.0. Gates will be opened at 1.0.

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Donkeys' whims decide race results

UNEXPECTED extra fun was enjoyed by spectators at donkey races at Stoneleigh Abbey when it was declared that the Heart of England event must be re-run.

With two low jumps on the course, it was the only over-the-sticks race on the programme. National Hunt jockey Brough Scott, riding Chadwick, was first to finish in the original race, but the disfavour of officials was good-humouredly incurred because the donkey, declining to rise over the second jump, evaded the issue by trotting round one end of it.

In the re-run, 17-year-old Sheila Pritchard, of Whatcote, near Edge Hill, had a narrow win over Barbara Lowe, of Knowle.

Whether ridden by professional jockeys or people having a go, the events all proved that results depended more on the whims of the mounts than the ability of whoever was on their backs.

Cricket match

Some races were for ridden donkeys and others of those pulling sulkies. The final event, styled the Stoneleigh Abbey Donkey Derby, included both. It was won by Sheila Pritchard, in a sulky, Barbara Lowe, astride a donkey was runner-up, and jockey Graham Rickers, in a sulky, third.

Also on the programme was a 20-over cricket match between Coventry R.F.C. and National Hunt jockeys. The rugger players won by 12 runs. They knocked 138.

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Donkey Sulky Racing
Shirley Donkey Derby 2010

Stoneleigh & Ashow Parish Magazine - September 1969

STONELEIGH'S BUSY WEEK-END

From a social point of view the week-end of August 23rd and 24th was probably one of the busiest that Stoneleigh has witnessed for many years. There were two major events - the first was the

VILLAGE FETE

This took place on the playing field and in the Village Hall. It was organised by a working Committee composed of Mr. Peter Simpson as Chairman, Mr. & Mrs. Wilkes, Miss Nancy Craine, Miss Irene Ball, Mr. Maurice Gray, Mr. Ron Craddock and Mr. Tony Craddock, assisted by a larger Committee which included the Secretaries of various Village Organisations.

The Fete, which, fortunately, was blessed with good weather, was opened by Lady Leigh, who was accompanied by Lord Leigh. The attendance was more than satisfactory and it was pleasing to note that among the hundreds who came there was a large proportion of visitors from beyond the Stoneleigh boundaries. The following stalls were organised:

"Going for a Song" and a raffle (Stoneleigh Church):
Produce and Cakes (W.I.): Plants and Flowers (Flower Group):
Tombola (British Legion): Ladies' skittles and handkerchiefs (M.U.):
Bowling for a Pig (Cricket Club): Barbecue (Youth Club):
Bran Tub (Junior Youth Club): Coconut Shies (Conservative Association):
Goal Kicking (Football Club): Raffle (Darby & Joan): Sack Tossing
and weight of Pig and Sheep (National Agricultural Centre) and
Bowling (C.E.M.S.) In addition, there were a number of events including sports for children between the ages of 5 and 14 (and also "Veterans" races, notable for the number of falls); Tug-of-War; a display by the Foxford Keep Fit Class; Pony Rides; and a Pig Roast.

The second major event was:

THE DONKEY RACES

These races took place on 24th August in the Home Park at Stoneleigh Abbey (by kind permission of Lord Leigh and the Stoneleigh Cricket Club). Again the sun shone on the fifteen hundred people who attended. A great deal of amusement was provided for both the participants and the spectators. There were eight races including 'flat and 'over the sticks'. In some, the donkeys were ridden and in others driven in sulkies. The Champion donkey was the well-known JASPER owned by Mrs. C.T. White and Mrs. E.J. Willes. Of great local interest was Lady Leigh's three-year-old donkey, FLIP, which, considering its youth and inexperience, performed above expectations.

Apart from the races, there was a Celebrity Cricket Match, in which a Coventry Rugby Football Club side narrowly defeated the National Hunt Jockeys team, which included such well-known riders as Buckingham, Pitman, Begley and Scott (who also rode in the races). A display of falconry was given by Lorant de Bastyai.

The whole event was devised and organised by the Hon. John Leigh, to whom full credit should be given, assisted by some friends. It was in aid of the Stoneleigh Tennis Club and the Stoneleigh Church Roof Fund.

Final Reminder
SALE NEXT WEDNESDAY
★
PYPES MILL & PYPES MILL
COTTAGE, STONELEIGH
★
Wednesday, September 10th,
1969, at 4 p.m.
at Hotel Leofric.
★
LOCKE & ENGLAND,
128, Queen Victoria Road,
Coventry.
Phone 26011/2.

Back home

CANON G. H. PARKS, Vicar of Stoneleigh who has been in the Warneford General Hospital for the last six weeks, is now back at home and getting ready for a touring holiday.

Canon Parks is only "semi-working" at the moment and does not yet know when he will get back into the full swing of his work. He described his recovery as "rather slow."

Lay preachers carried on the Canon's work while he was in hospital.

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Stoneleigh and District
Pig Club
—
MEETING in Stoneleigh Village
Hall on 23rd September, 1969,
at 8 p.m.
BUSINESS
Winding-up of the Club and
Disposal of Assets.
W. R. RENCH,
Hon. Secretary.
Vicarage Road,
Stoneleigh,
near Coventry.

VICAR'S PLEA FOR DIVORCEES

THERE is a common misconception that divorcees are barred from Holy Communion, says an article in the Stoneleigh and Ashow parish magazine.

The article, entitled "The Church of England and Divorce," says that although a Church marriage is forbidden when one of the partners in a divorce is living, the husband and wife should not be excluded from the Church.

"The Church has a clear, pastoral responsibility to the couple," it says.

The Vicar of Stoneleigh, Canon

G. H. Parks, commenting on the article, which has been contributed, said he thought the Church would have to take a broader view on the acceptance of divorced people in future.

"The practice in Stoneleigh is that divorced people are not able to have a normal marriage service, but if the Bishop gives permission, they may be given a private service of blessing. This is so long as the person is not the guilty party."

The Church, he added, had a difficult job in trying to be as charitable as it could to divorced people, whilst keeping to its view on the insolubility of marriage.

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Coventry Evening Telegraph - Saturday 20 September 1969

Pypes Mill, the 15th century house between Finham and Stoneleigh, recently offered by auction through Locke and England, was withdrawn at £17,500 and sold immediately afterwards for an undisclosed price.

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'Professionals' in rally complaint

SOME of the competitors in Leamington's first road safety rally on Sunday are grumbling that it was won by "professionals."

First prize went to Mr. Eric Bilbie, of West Street, Warwick, a Ministry of Transport vehicle examiner. Joint runners-up were driving instructors Mr. Peter Holt, of Wagstaffe Close, Harbury, and Mr. Eric Fardon, of Birmingham Road, Stoneleigh. The Mayor, Alderman George Robbins, who presented the prizes, said today that several people had told him they thought it was "a bit unfair."

"They can't make an official complaint because the rally was an open event. I don't think people realised they would be competing with specially qualified drivers," he said. "In my view, professional drivers should not have entered. I was surprised to see them there and I am afraid it might put ordinary drivers off another time. It is like playing a first division football team against amateurs."

He hoped that if the rally was to be open to all-comers in future, separate cups could be awarded to professional and amateur drivers.

The man who organised the rally, for Leamington Safety Council, Police Sergeant Ian MacDonald said he did not know of any dissatisfaction. "We excluded policemen from entering, but otherwise we were not interested in competitors' occupations. I didn't know the runners-up were driving instructors" he claimed. "We didn't go into people's occupations. After all a lot of people are professional drivers - van drivers and so on."

Birmingham Daily Post - Thursday 02 October 1969

'Unfair' rally denied

Birmingham Post
Leamington Staff

Salesman Mr. Peter Holt, one of 64 drivers who took part in Leamington's first road safety rally, last night denied criticism that the rally was unfairly organised.

Some of the competitors told the Mayor of Leamington, Ald. G. Robbins, who presented the awards, that they thought it rather unfair that ordinary motorists should have to compete against those who drove for a living.

Not professional

Mr. Holt, of Wagstaffe Close, Harbury, said he drove as part of his job. He had a small territory to cover, but he would not call himself a professional driver.

He was placed equal second with Mr. Eric Fardon, of Birmingham Road, Stoneleigh. They both lost five penalty points, while the winner, Mr. Eric Bilby, of West Street, Warwick, incurred only two faults.

The police said the standard of driving was high, and Leamington Safety Council, which sponsored the rally, says it would like to make it an annual event.

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Evening Telegraph Reporter

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Coventry Evening Telegraph - Saturday 04 October 1969

Bellringing beekeepers at rally

BEES, as a species, are no respecters of persons when they swarm, they are not particularly fussy about where they settle.

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Coventry Evening Telegraph - Thursday 09 October 1969

BEEKEEPERS' ANNIVERSARY DINNER

THE Mayor and Mayoress of Leamington, Alderman and Mrs. G. Robbins, joined about 100 members of Warwickshire Beekeepers' Association at a dinner to mark the 90th anniversary of the association.

The dinner was part of a convention held at the Regent Hotel, Leamington, which was attended by bee-keepers from all over the country. Some had come from as far afield as Kent, Yorkshire, Dorset and Sussex to the convention, which was jointly organised by the British Bee-keepers' Association, the Central Association of Bee-keepers, and the Warwickshire Bee-keepers' Association.

They heard lectures on all aspects of bee-keeping and had a tour of local beauty spots. The convention ended with a harvest festival service at **Stoneleigh Parish Church**. The bell-ringers who summoned members to the service were all bee-keepers, and the Vicar of Stoneleigh, Canon G. H. Parkes, officiated.

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Very welcome

A RADIO broadcast of hymn-singing from Stoneleigh Church resulted in some "fan-mail" from listeners as far away as Bournemouth and Glamorgan.

One, in a letter published in the Stoneleigh and Ashow parish magazine for October, says it took her mind back to when she was an organ student and often deputised for the organist in Stoneleigh Church.

The listener, Mrs. Joyce C. Massey, of Boscombe, Bournemouth, also wrote: "I enjoyed the programme and the quality of singing, and felt better for listening."

Another letter was from Mrs. Nellie Howell, of Glamorgan, who says she left Stoneleigh many years ago. She says how enjoyable the programme was and adds that it brought back memories of the time she attended Sunday School at Stoneleigh.

An elderly Surrey listener says that, as an arthritic unable to go to church, programmes such as the one from Stoneleigh are a very welcome beginning to Sunday. The Stoneleigh programme was "especially heartening."

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WALKABOUT — By Roland Smith

From Baginton to Stoneleigh — via the foam

ONE of the best-known footpaths in the Coventry district is that which connects the two villages of Baginton and Stoneleigh to the south of the city.

But when I walked it the other day, it was well and truly desecrated by the hand of "progress."

A large proportion of the northern end has disappeared under a wide, dirt road, ploughed through by contractors on the Sowe Valley sewer scheme, and the pleasant river views which used to be a feature of the walk, are marred by a thick layer of detergent foam which covers the river from the Fulham Sewage Disposal Works almost to Stoneleigh.

It is small wonder that the footpaths in the country are becoming more and more deserted.

Castle walls

The walk starts near the delightful 13th century parish church of St. John the Baptist in Church Road, Baginton. The church itself is well worth a visit, if only to see the very fine 15th century brasses of Sir William and Lady Margaret Bagot, which are on the south wall of the chancel.

West of the church is the site of Baginton Castle where excavations have revealed walls seven feet thick.

A finger post points to the path, which leads down a track and in front of some rose-covered cottages. Cross a stream by a convenient plank and there is a wide, dirt track, made by excavators on the new sewer scheme.

Workmen told me that the track would remain and the surrounding area of bare earth was to be replanted with grass.

Keeping the river on the right, you will see the greens and bunkers of the golf course on the opposite bank and catch glimpses of the river below.

Stump step

The concrete structures of a new sewerage plant then appear on the river bank and you must cross a fence, and then walk round the perimeter fence of the new buildings and the new footbridge. Keep to the edge of the field after leaving the perimeter fence and walk along the top of the bank above the flat meadowland near the river's edge.

Cross another fence by an oak marked by a tree and a stump from the same tree offers a convenient step.

Go down towards the river bank and you will see the weir from the Fulham Works across the river. Descend in the sl. there, here fall the river with white foam up to a depth of two feet as it comes from the weir. Turning away from the weir, to the left stretch verdant pastures filled with grazing sheep, and marked by the red earth of cultivated fields.

The first houses in Stoneleigh are seen ahead on the drive. The path is clear on the bank of the Sowe and soon you will hear the noise of traffic on the A 46, Coventry-Leamington road, just over the river.

Footbridge

Walk past a footbridge with sandbagged supports and go through a gateway in a gap in the bridge on the left. There is a steel and concrete footbridge at the end of this field which can be crossed into the water meadows where the Sowe divides. Follow the path to another footbridge, this time crossing the main stream, and you might be lucky enough to see, as I did, a magpie's nest on a small birch. There were two adults and three almost fully-grown cygnets on their home, which was surrounded by the clinging foam.

Through a blazing gate and another small footbridge over a weir and you are on the main road into Stoneleigh. Pass along the main road through the Redbrick and Black-crowned colts of this attractive village and along the bridge on the road to Leamington.

This is quite risky, with traffic charging past and no footway for the pedestrian. Go straight up the hill towards Hammerhill and you will see the tall chimneys of Stoneleigh Grange among the fields on the left.

At a crossroads, take the left-hand road, opposite the private

drive to the Deerkeeper's Lodge of the Stoneleigh Abbey estate.

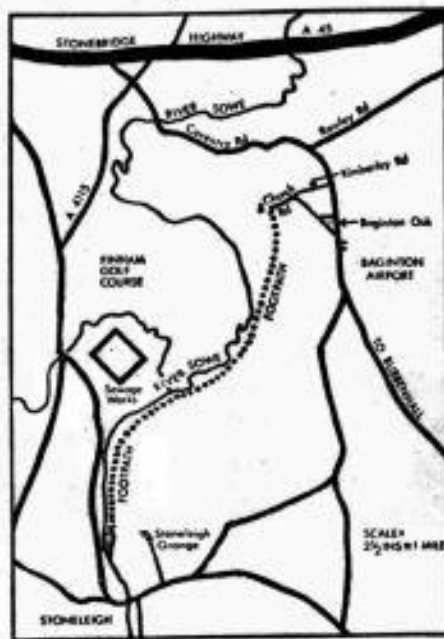
This long, now much frequented by traffic, and even worse, rubbish dumpers, wanders through the field and by some extensive private woods. Bear left at the Leamington road junction and soon, over the Sowe on the horizon, the spire and tall flint of Coventry can be seen.

You pass the landing lights of Baginton Airport on the right, then, where you join Hammerhill Lane, bear left again into the village of Baginton, past the airport entrance and the famed Baginton Oak.

Although, as I have said, this route is spoiled on much of its way along the river, it is still passable, and remarkably well-marked. Even by the following banks of the polluted river there are meadows, mounds and many woodpiles.

I wonder what they must think of our modern sewerage schemes.

How to get there: By car either follow the signs to Baginton from the Whitwell roundabout on the A 46, or from the A 464, Leamington Road. By Coventry Corporation bus, No. 24 from Broadgate.



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Keeping the river on the right, you will see the greens and bunkers of the golf course on the opposite bank and catch glimpses of the river below.

Stump step

The concrete structures of a new sewerage plant then appear on the river bank and you must cross a fence, and then walk round the perimeter fence of the new buildings and the new footbridge. Keep to the edge of the field after leaving the perimeter fence and walk along the top of the bank above the flat meadowland near the river's edge.

Cross another fence by an oak blackened by fire and a stump from the same tree offers a convenient step.

Go down towards the riverbank and you will see the weir from the Finham Works across the river. Detergents in the effluent here fill the river with white foam up to a depth of two feet as it comes from the weir.

Turning away from this unnatural, yet compelling scene, to the left stretch verdant pastures filled with grazing sheep and broken by the red earth of cultivated fields.

The first houses in Stoneleigh are seen ahead on the skyline. The path is clear on the bank of the Sowe and soon you will hear the noise of the traffic on the A444, Coventry – Leamington Road, just over the river.

Footbridge

Walk past a footbridge with sandbagged supports and through a gateway in a gap in the hedge on the left. There is a steel and concrete footbridge at the end of this field which can be crossed into the water meadows where the Sowe divides.

Follow the path to another footbridge, this time crossing the main stream, and you might be lucky enough to see, as I did, a swan's nest on a small island. There were two adults and three almost fully-grown cygnets on their home which was surrounded by the clinging foam.

Through a kissing gate and another small footbridge over a weir and you are on the main road into Stoneleigh. Pass along the main road through the red-bricked and black-timbered cottages of this attractive village to cross the bridge on the road to Leamington.

This is quite risky, with traffic charging past and no footway for the pedestrian. Go straight up the hill towards Bubbenhall and you will see the tall chimneys of Stoneleigh Grange among the fields on the left.

At a crossroads take the lefthand road, opposite the private drive to the Deerkeeper's Lodge of the Stoneleigh Abbey estate. This lane, now much frequented by traffic, and even worse, rubbish dumper, wanders through the field and by some extensive private woods. Bear left at the Leamington Road junction and soon, over the fields on the horizon, the spires and tall flats of Coventry can be seen.

You pass the landing lights of Baginton Airport on the right. then, where you join Bubbenhall Lane, bear left again into the village of Baginton, past the Airport entrance and the famed Baginton oak.

Although, as I have said, this route is spoiled on much of its way along the river, it is still passable, and reasonably well-marked. Even by the billowing foam of the polluted river there are moorhens, mallards and many woodpigeons.

I wonder what they must think of our modern sewerage schemes.

How to get there: By car: either follow the signs to Baginton from the Willenhall roundabout on the A45 or from the A444 Leamington Road. By Coventry Corporation bus, No. 24 from Broadgate.



Thatched roof damaged in blaze

Evening Telegraph Reporter

THE THATCHED roof of this old cottage in Stoneleigh was severely damaged by fire yesterday afternoon.

Piles of smouldering straw were ripped from the roof of "Croombe Cottage," Birmingham Road, which belongs to Lord Leigh.

The tenants, Mr. and Mrs. L. Bennett, stayed in part of the 40ft.-long cottage while workmen removed the straw and hosed it down.

The cottage was formerly two separate dwellings, but was made into one over ten years ago.

The part that used to be called "Jasmine Cottage" was the only area affected.

Crowds of villagers watched as six firemen worked on the roof for over an hour.

They eventually removed all the smouldering straws, and prevented the fire from spreading any further.

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Coventry Evening Telegraph - Wednesday 05 November 1969



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Coventry Evening Telegraph - Saturday 15 November 1969

Work starts on repairing the thatched roof of the old cottage at Stoneleigh village, near Coventry. The cottage was recently damaged by fire.



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GUEST COLUMN

Charles Lines

I WENT to Stoneleigh to take photographs, the morning glorious with Cerulean sky and brilliant sunshine, and just a pleasant nip in the autumn air.

The venture was not an outstanding success, for the sun was nearly always just where I didn't want it, and drays delivering a considerable quantity of beer — Stoneleigh seems a thirsty place — were apparently glued into position.

Then by seconds — and is anything more aggravating? — I missed the 'bus home and a little madly decided I would walk from Stoneleigh to the Kenilworth-Leamington road, taking in Ashow on the way. After all, the day was perfect, the Warwickshire trees never lovelier, and what is nicer in the wide world than a good walk in such conditions?

LAST GLIMPSE

The distance, I remembered, is only three miles or thereabouts, but I had forgotten that since I last walked that way, motor traffic has grown tremendously — or should one say abominably?

Except for one small stretch the humble pedestrian — and judging from the times friends ask me where I have "parked the car," I think I must be a member of a species rapidly becoming extinct — the humble pedestrian, I repeat, is not catered for on that road.

Fortunately, I could step off the tarmac at frequent intervals; indeed, it was vitally necessary, for the almost uninterrupted procession of vehicles that whizzed by made me positively tremble for life and limb.

Hopping on and off the verge, I must have presented a slightly weird spectacle, as if trying to perform some traditional African dance or possibly those morning exercises I never do.

Country walk—the hard way

It is true, I did get a last glimpse of Stoneleigh village nestling below the park trees (it might quite seriously have been the very last, had I not been pretty alert). I did see sheep and shapely oaks and roadside elms.

I did observe the warm colour of newly-ploughed earth and the hard, black shadows of fence and trees on the busy roadway.

Which was more, I guess, than the motorists did as they went flashing by and merrily overtook one another in what seemed to me, poor, ignorant creature on foot, a most dangerous and inconsiderate manner.

I am sure that they were nice people at home, kind to their wives and children and the dog, yet why is it that when so many get behind a steering-wheel they seem afflicted with a daring and selfishness and become beings possessed with a devil.

DASHING VANS

I tried right-hand side (correctly) and left-hand side (incorrectly). Both seemed equally dangerous. I tried counting the speeding vehicles, but soon gave it up. I do know that about everything save an ambulance and an armoured car passed me in that nightmare-walk, including one fast-moving funeral cortege and a not-so-fast tractor.

Mini, stately limousine, vast

tankers of milk and petrol, transporters of car or cattle, pantechnicons for furniture, lorries full of ashes or manure, lorries with huge crates of something or other, natty dashing little vans.

But for the speed, I could have illustrated a textbook on modern road transport before I got to the Grecian Lodges of Stoneleigh Abbey.

It was highly significant that I encountered neither bicycle nor fellow walker. As I paused to photograph chestnut leaves suffused with heavenly light, I thought of days when labourers trudged to work and little children safely walked miles to school.

WELCOME

I remembered my father telling me of main roads where you might go for twenty miles and meet no more than a farmcart. And I thought just how ghastly it would be if one had to walk that particular road by night, or, in fact many another English road of the 1960s.

The thoughts recurred to me in the comparative safety of Ashow where, even by the glinting river, if not in the white "Dutch" interior of the little church, one could hear the menacing growl of lorries on that road.

As I found the welcome foot-



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path behind the hedge on the bit from the Ashow turn to Chesford Bridge, and as the bus carried me safely home, I pictured the madness I had witnessed and the road where, save for my dancing on and off the dusty bank, that passing funeral could have been mine, as an Irishman would have said.

What was it all in aid of? Was speed and more speed progress or just plain, unadiluted lunacy? Did it add one jot to human happiness? One thing was quite certain. The pedestrian was not getting a fair deal in the second half of the 20th century. Make way for the juggernaut and let pedestrians perish seemed the order of the day!

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Leamington bus staff problems ease

Evening Telegraph Reporter

STAFFING problems at the Leamington Midland Red depot, which earlier this year left the bus company short of 25 drivers and conductors, have greatly improved over the last few weeks.

Drivers are almost up to full strength and there is a shortage of only six or seven conductors, according to Mr. A. W. Townsend, the Leamington Traffic Superintendent.

"The situation has improved greatly. There is no doubt about that. It has made things very much easier," he said.

"We are only short of conductors because quite a number have left recently but that is one of the transport industry's problems.

"There is no reason why we have lost several conductors. It is just one of those things, and I have informed the Employment Exchange," said Mr. Townsend.

One of the effects of the improvement in staffing is that there are fewer instances of scheduled services falling to run.

The unreliability of the service has often been taken up by the M.P. for Warwick and Leamington, Mr. Dudley Smith.

Complaints

The latest instance is the service to Stoneleigh which has brought a number of complaints from villagers.

Mr. Smith had talks with Mr. J. K. Isaac, the Midland Red Traffic Manager, who told him that with the improvement in staffing, the service should also improve.

The Stoneleigh buses had always been poorly used because of the sparse population, said Mr. Isaac. Therefore, they had to be limited to times most suitable for business, shopping and pleasure.

He could see no justification for an increase of the service, he told Mr. Smith, but it was appreciated that disruption of the timetable was serious in view of the long interval between buses.

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No competitor was judged to have "Spotted the Ball" correctly for Competition No. 251.

Six Competitors were judged to be equal second prize winners and share the complete prize-money of £4,250. They each receive £708 6s. 8d. They are:

MRS. G. M. GARLICK, 51, Frankton Avenue, Styvechale, Coventry.

MRS. A. OLNER, 49, Robert Road, Exhall, Coventry.

MRS. M. MOORE, 30, Morris Avenue, Wyken, Coventry.

MRS. M. A. LOVELL, 2, The Bank, Stoneleigh, Nr. Coventry.

MRS. J. THOMAS, 37, Links Road, Radford, Coventry.

MRS. N. ROBSON, 10, Aston Road, Earlsdon, Coventry

SPOT THE BALL COMPETITION No. 251

