

STONELEIGH & ASHOW NEWS



FEBRUARY 2010

Don't forget to take a look at the village website on a regular basis – it is being continually updated.

You can use it as a “one-stop-shop” for accessing links to the websites of Warwick District Council, the Safer Neighbourhood Team, St Mary the Virgin Church and many more. As time goes on we shall add more links for local services and businesses.

You can also view local news, the bus timetable and postal collection times and see the agenda for forthcoming Parish Council meetings and minutes from previous meetings. The *What's On* guide provides an up-to-date list of events and you can read about the various clubs and organisations in the village, and how to join them. And if you misplace your copy of *The Stoneleigh & Ashow News* you can read it online!

If you would like to suggest further improvements – perhaps you would like to announce a special family anniversary or birthday, for example, or publicise a fund-raising event – or if you would like to contribute photographs to our growing collection, do please get in touch with me via email at shewoolf@hotmail.co.uk or use the Contact button on the website itself. The success of the venture will depend on providing what you, the people of Stoneleigh, require of it.

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed so far!

Sheila Woolf





Forthcoming events

Saturday 6th February	Six Nations Rugby - England v Wales 5.00pm kick-off Club open from 4.30pm Hot snacks available
Sunday 14th February	Six Nations Rugby - Italy v England 1.30pm kick-off Club open from 12.00pm Hot snacks available
Friday 26th February	Indian Night Fabulous curries and Indian-themed quiz. Tickets available from the Club.
Saturday 27th February	Six Nations Rugby - England v Ireland 4.00pm kick-off Club open from 3.30pm Hot snacks available
Saturday 13th March	Six Nations Rugby - Scotland v England 5.00pm kick-off Club open from 4.30pm Hot snacks available
Saturday 20th March	Six Nations Rugby - France v England 6.45pm kick-off Club open from 6.00pm Hot snacks available

This month's edition of *Stoneleigh and Ashow News* was compiled by

Robin Bussell

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STONELEIGH WI

A traditional Christmas meal was served, accompanied by a glass of wine and followed by tea or coffee and mince pies at the village lunch on December 1st. The Leigh Group Carol Service took place at West Orchard United Reform Church, Coventry on Sunday December 6th. On December 11th 50 members and friends visited Waddesdon Manor. We had a tour of the house, which was beautifully decorated for Christmas and did some Christmas shopping at the food fair. At the meeting on December 7th Rhona Pownall entertained us with her readings of amusing and light-hearted verse. We also enjoyed an American supper and a visit from Father Christmas and one of his elves. Our Christmas activities concluded with a walk at Brandon Marsh on December 30th. The walkers warmed up before the walk with mulled wine and mince pies and enjoyed lunch afterwards in the coffee shop.

Sue Stretton of the healing Hands Network spoke at our Meeting on January 4th. She described the work she does, for two weeks each year, as a holistic therapist helping survivors of the conflict in Sarajevo.

During December members of the craft group made Catherine wheels and perforated paper Christmas ornaments. The project for January was plastic canvas work. The books discussed at the January meeting of the Book Club were “Agatha Raisin and the Quiche of Death” by MC Beaton and “The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo” by Steig Larsson.

The next village lunch will take place on Tuesday February 2nd and the menu will be stuffed chicken breasts with roast potatoes, carrots and sprouts followed by pancakes with lemon and sugar. If you have put your name on the list and are unable to come or if you wish to add your name to the list please let Rachel Gill know on 02476 414030.

Rachel Gill

J L HUTHWAITE

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Jason Huthwaite



STONELEIGH CHURCH FLOWERS

Thank you to everybody who attended the Flower Group coffee morning that was held before Christmas and to those who subsequently made donations to the flower fund. The event was generously hosted by Jean Bussell at The Oaks and with invaluable help from the Flower Group ladies.

A total of £520 was raised and this will enable the Flower Group to continue to decorate the Church so beautifully for the yearly festivals of Easter, Harvest and Christmas.

Your support and generosity is much appreciated.

Mandy Gibbs



Stoneleigh Village Club

The Club has been very busy over the festive period, and we would like to wish you all a *Happy New Year!*

Thanks to everyone involved in the festivities, in particular Santa for distributing the generous presents from the Grotto on Christmas Eve. Once again Michelle Cooper doing us all proud with her organisation and flair, the committee and everyone who volunteered their much appreciated time and effort for the children and adults enjoyment!

Other popular events included:

The Post Christmas Quiz which was well attended, and kindly donated £70 to the Birmingham Children's Hospital – thanks Nigel.

The New Year's Eve Party which proved most popular this year, thanks to Dave for the disco! A good time was had by all. As a result of these events and others the Club is doing much better.

However, the committee would like to make a request:

WOULD THE PERSON WHO TOOK THE LOGS THAT
BELONG TO THE CLUB KINDLY RETURN OR REPLACE
THEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

Forthcoming events:

29th January – Fish & Chip Supper – 8.00pm start

6th February – Jane's 40th Birthday Party – 8.00pm start

12th February - Valentine's Event featuring Fletch's finest Cocktails!

20th March – Kelly's Quiz Night 8.00pm start

Please see noticeboard for full details of all events.

There is also a meat raffle every Friday – drawn at 9.00pm – fab joints!

Reminder: Membership Renewal due shortly.

Sue Brooks

DON'T ‘GIVE UP’ ON LENT!

Well, we’ve said goodbye to Christmas and Epiphany is almost behind us. Already the focus of the Church Calendar is turning to Lent as a time of preparation for Holy Week and Easter. February 17th is Ash Wednesday – the start of Lent.

Lent is traditionally a time of fasting, penitence, and self-examination with the aim of trying to put right those things which are wrong in our lives. To avoid the temptation of eating all the wrong things in Lent, the idea was to get rid of them from the house by the previous evening – hence the feasting and festivities of ‘Pancake Day’ (otherwise known as Shrove Tuesday or Mardi Gras). Then, when it comes to Ash Wednesday, we are able to be more reflective. The intention is not to be miserable – nor to make other people miserable – but to recognise our own frailty and mortality, and with it our need of God’s help and his gift of eternal life. At our special service on the evening of Ash Wednesday, people are invited (though not obliged) to come forward to kneel at the altar rail and to have the sign on the cross made on their forehead using ash – a traditional mark of repentance and sorrow. At the ‘imposition of ash’ the following phrase is used. “Remember that you are but dust, and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.” Sometimes, we try to forget our mortality – yet to do so can also have the effect of us failing to make the best of life. Lent encourages us to value every moment we have as a gift from God. It also helps us to appreciate the simple pleasures of life rather than always be striving for that which is just beyond our grasp. It is a time for meeting with others for prayer and Bible study – something which can be a lot more exciting and fulfilling than it sounds. Lent also, by focussing on our mortality, helps us to glimpse eternity more clearly and to understand just what Jesus has done for us in defeating the power of death and opening the way to eternal life in heaven.

So please don’t think of Lent as being about ‘giving up chocolate’. It is a positive season of forty days, aiming to cleanse mind and soul (and body if it needs it!) and to open ourselves up to receive all the good things that God has for us. Come and join us at Stoneleigh Church on Ash Wednesday at 7pm, or contact me for details of other Lent opportunities.

Jim Perryman

LAST MONTH(S) IN THE CHURCHES

All the hectic activity which fills December seems long past – yet it was a great time with many people joining in the different styles of festivities in all three parishes. The different ‘flavoured’ Carol services held in each church were all very joyful occasions. January tends to be somewhat quieter, and the wintry weather has added to this somewhat. (*Why are the British always amazed when we get wintry weather during winter?*) Nevertheless, our regular acts of worship have continued – even if the handshakes at the “Peace” have been a bit colder (in temperature only!)

The social side of the churches has kept active. Our “Advent Break-fasts” at Stoneleigh Village Hall were as tasty as always – and the discussion times which followed were good too. More recently, the latest Quiz evening was another great success. Many thanks to the Social Committee and other helpers for all their hard work. Thanks, too, to the Flower Arrangers and Christmas Tree decorators who made the Churches so beautiful over the Christmas period.



Bridge afternoons at



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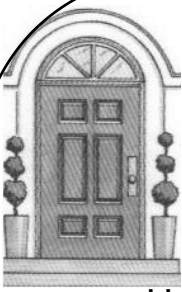
4th Wednesday of every month

First meeting: Wednesday 24th February 2010

Time: 2.00pm

Cost: £2 (to include refreshments)

No need to book in advance - just turn up!



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New Years Day

The first of January dawned cold and bright and, for anyone with a slight fuzziness in the head, a good walk was an instant cure. Around 60 people and numerous four legged friends turned out for the annual Stoneleigh village walk organised by Marian Murray.

All those who enjoyed this very welcome outing thank Brain Warren (Chief Executive, RASE) for allowing us to walk on Showground property and Alan Hunt (farm manager) for preparing the route.

The Village Club was the usual post-walk venue and there we enjoyed club hospitality and sandwiches made by Marian, Judy Hadfield and Janet Gibson. Donations for the sandwiches raised £63 for the church flowers fund.

It was a lovely start to the year and thanks to all those who contributed and participated. See you next year!

A Walker (with slight fuzzy head – quickly cured!)

ASHOW CHURCH

The Churchwardens, David Holt and Stephen Harvey, would like to thank everyone who came to decorate the Church for Christmas on both Friday and Saturday mornings, and in particular Diana Holt and Margaret Cotton who did the large arrangements.

The church looked lovely lit by candlelight at the Carol Service on the Sunday evening, and the Ashow Choir organised by Susan Spencer sang beautifully.

There was another memorable service on Christmas Day when Bishop John came to celebrate Holy Communion. The proceeds from this collection (£223) have been sent to Acorns Hospice.

Our grateful thanks go to the PCC, sidespersons, David Wareing who maintains the churchyard, everyone on the Cleaning and Flower Rotas and to Neil Collett who winds the clock, for their help in 2009.

ASHOW PARISH MEAL

Thursday 11th February at 7.15 pm.

At the Clarendon Arms, Castle Hill, Kenilworth.

3 Course Meal, Raffle, £20. (Profits to Church Funds)

Limited Tickets, from Stephen Harvey, tel. 01926 852543





Wednesday Social Mornings

2nd Wednesday of every month

An opportunity for local people to get together not just for a catch-up and a cuppa, but to possibly learn a new skill, exchange ideas or to hold fundraisers.

At our first meeting, we'll discuss how we'd like these mornings to go forward and the kind of events we'd like to see happening, eg a Macmillian coffee morning in October, a plant exchange in May. The possibilities are endless and it's open to all!

First meeting: Wednesday 10th March 2010

Time: 10.30am

Refreshments available

We look forward to seeing you there!

The Ashow Village Club Social Committee

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Meetings

The February Ordinary Council Meeting will be held at the **University of Warwick, University House, Kirby Cross Corner at 7.30 p.m.** on 11th February 2010.

Parking outside the Almshouses - Stoneleigh

It has come to the notice of the Parish Council that some motorists are parking across the paths leading from the almshouses thus making it difficult for the residents. The Parish Council are trying to get Warwickshire County Council to paint Access Protection Markings which hopefully will relieve the parking issues. In the mean time if you park outside the almshouses will you please park with consideration to the residents.

Pat Maddison - Parish Clerk

STONELEIGH MALE VOICE CHOIR

“Where Did All Those Years Go?”

A musical trip through past decades.

That is the title of the next show to be presented by the Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir in the Village Hall.

Show dates are 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th March 2010 and each show will include a hot two course meal. Tickets are £18 and may be obtained through Jim Harris (024 7641 5209) or any choir member.

There will also be a preview evening on Wednesday 10th March (starting at 8.00pm) and to which we would like to invite Stoneleigh Senior Citizens (at no charge). Tickets for this, too, are available from Jim Harris.

Robin Bussell

A VILLAGE SKILLS DIRECTORY

It has been suggested that residents might find a ‘village skills directory’ helpful in locating local and reliable tradesmen/women. It is envisaged that such a directory would feature trades people who live locally and who are prepared to respond reliably and quickly in response to enquiries from residents of Stoneleigh or Ashow. The directory might be in the form, for example:

“John Smith, qualified electrician, tel: 024 123456 or 07788 123456”
Plainly, such a directory could not be a guarantee of quality of service but the S & A News would retain the right to exclude entries at their discretion.

Entries would either attract a nominal fee or be free of charge and would be published (perhaps annually) as part of the S & A News. To establish the level of interest, anyone who provides a skill or service is invited to e-mail the S & A News Chairman to express their interest: ms.wallis@virgin.net - before 1st April, please.

A MESSAGE FROM 'OZ'

"Dear Friends

I have just spent an enjoyable and interesting couple of hours browsing the village website online and reading the December issue of the Stoneleigh and Ashow News. There were so many names of old friends to remember and places to recognise that I had to write and record my appreciation and send greetings to those who might remember us.

This year we'll visit the UK in April and May and hope to fit in our usual visit to St Mary the Virgin Church and renew old friendships. Should any 'Stoneleighans' be thinking of visiting the wonderful world of 'Oz' they would be most welcome in Highton, Geelong.

May 2010 bring happiness, prosperity and peace to every one in Stoneleigh.

Dickie and 'Nibs' Briggs"

Editor's Note: The Briggs were long-standing members of the church community before emigrating several years ago and, before their departure, Dickie was responsible for raising a large sum of money for the restoration of the Dame Alice Leigh memorial in the church.



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STONELEIGH NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

We have had only one burglary since the last magazine. This was between 16 November and 5 December in Hall Close. A padlock on a garage was forced, a pressure washer and a microwave cooker were stolen. Well, since then, the weather has had one benefit: no crime reported to me. Sadly that does not apply to Warwick University where there have been a lot of burglaries. There have also been thefts from vehicles in Baginton, Bubbenhall and a lorry in a lay-by on the A46. You will know about the very sad case of the lady who was killed trying to stop thieves stealing her car. Foolishly she had left the engine running to warm up the car, something seen most mornings in Stoneleigh during the cold weather, despite many published warnings. We all tend to think it won't happen to me.

The police have issued a warning about a firm saying they are approved by the police and want to come and give you a free consultation on the security of your property. They are not approved by the police who have issued previous warnings about them, published in this magazine in earlier years.

If you did not attend the meeting of Warwick Rural East Community Forum on 21 January, you should put the next one in your diary. It will be in Offchurch Village Hall on 22 April. These meetings allow us to discuss problems with the police and set priorities. They also consider and approve grant applications of things of benefit to our village. For example, the January meeting considered an application for a CCTV camera and in the past approved grants for a rain shelter for young people to use. The police are usually at the meeting an hour early for informal discussions. They also visit all villages with their mobile office to meet us for the same reason. Something which you have failed to do in the past. Therefore you may care to note that they will be in the Village Hall car park again from 16.00 to 16.30 hours on 17 April. It is no good complaining about the police if you are not prepared to talk to them.

Roger Gilbert 024 7641 5205

RECIPE

WHITE HOUSE PECAN PIE.

This recipe was obtained by Hazel Wozencroft on a recent visit to the United States. It is recognised as a White House speciality having been devised by Mrs Zephyr Wright who has cooked for the President for many years.

Ingredients:

½ cup butter	1 cup sugar	1 cup dark corn syrup
½ teaspoon salt	1½ teaspoons vanilla	3 eggs
2 cups coarsely chopped pecans		
Fluted unbaked pastry shell in a 9 inch plate or pie pan		

Allow the butter to stand in a covered medium mixing bowl at room temperature until it is extremely soft. Add sugar, corn syrup, salt and vanilla and, with a sturdy hand rotary beater or mixing spoon, beat until thoroughly blended. Add the eggs and beat gently until just blended. Fold in the pecans. Pour into the pastry shell.

Bake in a moderate (375 degrees f) oven on a rack directly below the centre rack until the top is roasted brown and the filling is set in the centre when the pie is gently shaken - about 40 to 50 minutes. Pastry edge should be browned and the bottom pastry a pale gold.

If the top of the pie gets too brown towards the end of the baking time, place a tent of foil over it.

Cool on a wire rack. If desired, serve with unsweetened whipped cream.



THE UNITED BENEFICE OF

THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY, ASHOW

and

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, STONELEIGH



SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2010

	ASHOW	STONELEIGH
Sunday 7th	9.30 a.m. Holy Communion	11.00 a.m. Holy Communion
Thursday 11th		10.30 a.m. Holy Communion
Sunday 14th	9.30 a.m. Holy Communion	11.00 a.m. Sung Holy Communion
Wednesday 17th Ash Wednesday		7.00 a.m. Ashing Service
Sunday 21st	9.30 a.m. Holy Communion	11.00 a.m. Fellowship Holy Communion
Thursday 25th		10.30 a.m. Holy Communion
Sunday 28th	9.30 a.m. Village Service	11.00 a.m. All Age Worship

FROM THE REGISTERS

Monday 25th January - Funeral Service at Stoneleigh of
Mrs Eileen Hudson, followed by interment of ashes in the
garden of remembrance.