

Stoneleigh and Ashow News



Photo by Will Blagburn

February 2014



HS2 LATEST

In late November HS2 Ltd published a 50,000 page 'Environmental Consultation' in which full details were given of the current proposals for the route of HS2, together with descriptions of the likely impact the project will have before, during and after construction.

The deadline for comment *was* 24 January which is generally agreed as being far too short a period, not only given the length of the documents but the fact that the consultation period included Christmas and New Year when many people (including HS2 Ltd staff who were supposed to be on hand to answer queries) were on holiday; also several omissions and errors in the documents have been identified.

The details are mind-boggling although even a cursory glance at the documents indicate that little or no notice has been taken of the many requests for mitigation which action groups along the route have proposed. However, publicity about the size of the document has meant that more people have now realised the extent to which they will be personally affected in the short term - not only with such possible problems as selling property but also the likely effects on communities of road closures etc. during construction; in our area, the *Kenilworth Weekly News* has alerted readers to the likely problems.

Much publicity has also been given to the fact that the Government failed to publish a highly critical report produced by its own watchdog body - the Major Projects Authority. Despite this publicity and numerous highly critical articles and broadcasts, it seems that the Government is determined to press ahead with the project, although continued all-party agreement is cited as a condition.

The deadline has been extended until **Monday 10th February** due to procedural irregularities (i.e. the omission of 877 pages of information) and you can send your responses to:

www.gov.uk/government/consultations/hs2-phase-one-environmental-statement

Please note that the HS2 Ltd website is no longer operational. Relevant documents were transferred to the official Government website just as the Environmental Statement was published!

Margaret Wallis on behalf of the Stoneleigh Action Group

Stoneleigh Village Club

Following a full and enjoyable range of festive activities during Christmas and the New Year, the social committee has started work on the 2014 programme. Please make a note in your diary of the following:

Saturday 15th February: Quiz Night (By the Handbell Ringers)

Friday 21st February: Chairman's Fish Pie Challenge

February & March: Six Nations Rugby

Tuesday 4th March: Pancake Night

Saturday 15th March: Pre-St Patrick's Night with live music

Please watch the notice boards for further details (the fish pie challenge is issued on page 14 in this News).

Social Committee

Let your wind blow free!...

If you were to pick up any magazine or newspaper at this stage of the year, there are the inevitable articles about detox, diet and fitness. Let's make this no exception - it's cold, wet and miserable outside - stretch up to draw the curtains, bring your legs in to curl up on the sofa and eat chocolate! I guarantee you will feel better – if only momentarily!

With the beginning of the year, the determined amongst us will have made resolutions; with Lent coming the devout among us may contemplate giving up our luxuries or disciplining ourselves to take something up for our spiritual formation. With all this opportunity for rigorous self-improvement, the empty wrappers beside me on the cushion are glaring at me accusingly!

Before taking up this space on the sofa, I took a local walk (you see, I am justified in this brief moment of indulgence!) and my attention was drawn to one of the lovely stone walls that is a feature of this area. The challenging weather of recent years has taken its toll and the wall has tumbled down in places and is in need of rebuilding by someone who has the traditional stone-walling skills. It was explained to me once that the secret strength of a stone wall is not in the stone so much as in the gaps. Without the spaces for the fierce wind to blow through, without the spaces that take the stress, then however solid your material, collapse is imminent. I don't honestly know if that is true for building stone walls – that's not my area of expertise - but I do think it can be true of our lives and resulting wellbeing.

If you are also feeling a bit tumbled down, then my suggestion is that in rebuilding, consider the spaces we allow ourselves in filling our days. Little pools of peace and oases of calm can regenerate us, give us perspective, take the stress and make the stuff that makes up our lives enduring and stable. For me those moments are infused with prayer, which can be as simple as sitting in the quiet church building or, as I did earlier, walking quietly along. Our beautiful church buildings and churchyards lend themselves to this – use the space – I am praying that will help.

God bless

Rev'd Sharon Goble

Come and See...

On the **Prayer Table** near the door of Stoneleigh church are resources available to you. A new addition to the table is a tribute written for the late Mavis Reay, who worshipped at Stoneleigh church. It is always interesting to find out the stories of those who have been part of our communities and history, and some of you will remember her. I hope that her story is an encouragement and inspiration to you when you take the time to read it.

Lent Meditations from 12 noon to 1 pm on Wednesdays through Lent in Stoneleigh church. Beginning with a Service with the Imposition of Ashes for Ash Wednesday on 5th March and then using resources to aid reflection on 12th, 19th, 26th March and 2nd April. You are welcome to join in any or all of these sessions. There is also the possibility of offering the same material at the alternative time of 7 pm to 8 pm on Thursdays in Ashow church. If this is a more suitable time for you and you are keen to come, please let me know.

Lent lunches from 1 pm to 2 pm on Wednesdays through March and including 2nd April. We invite you to come together for a simple lunch of fruit, cheese and crackers served in the Leigh chapel in Stoneleigh church. We invite donations to cover the costs and to give to the work of Tearfund. There is a sheet to sign at the back of Stoneleigh church to help with numbers for catering and there is rumour of homemade flapjacks to accompany the coffee and tea.

Sharon Goble

Christmas Giving

I would like to thank everyone who, once again, gave so generously to my Christmas-time hobby of flying a flag to wish friends and neighbours the ‘compliments of the season’ instead of sending, or delivering, Christmas cards.

I sent cheques totalling **£625** to the Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance.

“Thank You”

Robin Bussell

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Christmas at Ashow 2013.

Ashow had two memorable Carol Services by candlelight this year, the Advent one at the end of November, and the Christmas Carol Service in December. The music organized by Susan Spencer was wonderful and the choir performed brilliantly on both occasions, helped by the Leek Wootton Handbell Ringers at the Christmas Carol Service.

The PCC would like to thank everyone who contributed, and also all those who helped decorate the church for Christmas; particularly Diana Holt and Margaret Cotton who created the large arrangements, the children who decorated the splendid tree and the Stoneleigh Estate who donated the tree.

Christmas Day saw a delightful family Holy Communion led by Rev'd Sharon Goble.

Cheques for £128 each were sent to Zoe's Place and The Children's Society, from the collections at the carol service and on Christmas Day.

We would also like to thank everyone on the Flower and Cleaning Rotas who have worked so hard over the last year, and those who have helped with the annual Spring Clean and Churchyard tidy-up. Also Neil Collett who winds the clock, and Janet Charlesworth who delivers this magazine to all in the Village and surrounding area.

Stephen Harvey



After the carol service, the congregation gave an impromptu and rousing rendition of "Joy to the World".

Stoneleigh Village Community Orchard

The Orchard group would like to thank all those who attended the December tree planting and in doing so have helped to add to the amenity of this area of the village.

The Stoneleigh Village Community Orchard is looked after by a small Committee of volunteers and most of the work in establishing the orchard and then its upkeep has been done by you the villagers. The land had been generously allocated by the Meadows Society.

The original funding for the orchard was money from Defra and the EU through the LEADER group. The LEADER money has long since run out and for the last year or two we have been funding the management of the orchard from money donated by villagers who wished to become “friends of the orchard”.

The general upkeep of the orchard consists of looking after the trees and grass cutting. Other funds have been spent on additional trees and wild flower seed.

This year we are hoping to help commemorate the 100th anniversary of the start of the 1st World War by planting an area in the vicinity of the “Victory Oak” with poppies as well as other assorted wild flowers.

Obviously the upkeep and the investment in poppies will cost money so please can I ask that more and more of you consider becoming “friends of the orchard” and donate just £10 a year to this excellent community project.

Donations can be made to Pete Freeman as our Chairman or to myself as Treasurer, cheques made payable to Stoneleigh Village Community Orchard. However, why not become a long term friend and set up a direct debit to avoid having to remember to renew your friendship each year?
Many thanks for your time.

Richard Hancox
Treasurer, Stoneleigh Village Community Orchard

At: richard.hancox@amey.co.uk



Stoneleigh History Society

2013 ended with a very pleasant get-together at the Club, when our new History Society website was launched. We hope in this way to be able to share the knowledge we have accrued and to encourage others, wherever they are in the world, to contact us with useful information of their own which might help in our researches. Our village has a plentiful and richly varied history!

Please have a look, at www.stoneleighhistorysociety.org.uk . Our thanks go to our own Mark Bonnett for his expert help in establishing the website; we hope it will grow.

In January we did not have a formal meeting, but a general chat about our researches. At present we are making great strides in investigating the men from Stoneleigh who served in the Great War, and who were fortunate enough to return. It is not too late for you to help us! We should still be very grateful for any recollections, photographs etc which you may have, as we intend to mount an exhibition as part of this year's Centenary Commemorations. All the names are on the Roll of Honour in the Village Hall (the top section refers to the men who served from 1914-1918). Obviously the greatest care would be taken of your precious memorabilia: with your permission we would take photographs or copies. Please contact me on the number below if you can help.

At our February meeting, in the Village Hall on Tuesday 25th February at 7.30 pm, we are looking forward to seeing a number of Shirley Ball's photographs, an ever-popular event. You would be very welcome to join us!

Sheila Woolf

Tel: 024 7641 8759

MOLE PROBLEMS?

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SATURDAY 8 MARCH 2014

at 7.30pm

Guy Nelson Hall, Warwick School

Peter Donohoe - guest conductor

Philip Martin - piano

Capriccio Italien - Tchaikovsky

Piano Concerto No. 3 - Rachmaninov

La Mer - Debussy

Peter Donohoe, international piano virtuoso, friend & Patron of the WSO, conducts with Philip Martin, the celebrated Irish pianist, returning to perform Rachmaninov's expansive Piano Concerto No. 3

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"A unique & exceptional musical event"

Events at Stoneleigh Park during February

“Militaria” - Sunday 2nd February, 9.00 am to 4.00 pm.

This is Europe's premier indoor militaria show and collectors' exhibition. On display will be a wide range of quality British, American, German and Russian militaria collectables. Tickets are £10 per adult on the door. Parking is on site. The surrounding area will be busier than normal with around 1,550 vehicles expected.

“Stoneleigh Indoor Car Boot Sale” - Sunday 9th February, 6.00 am to 1.30 pm

The event is under cover in the Exhibition Halls and Blackdown Buildings. Entry is 50p per person and from £10 per seller for a car or small van.

“The British Shooting Show” - Friday 14th - Sunday 16th February, 8.30 am to 4.30 pm

This event is the public showcase for gun retailers and shooting accessory suppliers. Tickets are £18 for adults, £8 for eight to 15-year-olds and free for younger children. This is a popular event and around 7,900 vehicles are expected to enter the site over the weekend.

“Race Retro” - Friday 21st – Sunday 23rd February, 9.30 am to 5.30 pm

This is a show for historic Motorsport. Tickets are £26 per adult. This is another busy event, so there will be an increase in traffic.

Subscribe to the Stoneleigh Events Visitor Newsletter:

The Stoneleigh Events monthly newsletter is available from:
www.stoneleighevents.com/subscribe.aspx

Contacts for Stoneleigh Events:

Tel: 024 7669 6969; out of hours contact number: 07557 651704.

Email: info@stoneleighevents.com; www.stoneleighevents.com

Stoneleigh Ladies' Choir – A New Venture

The Stoneleigh Ladies' Choir's first rehearsal/meeting was held on 17th October 2013, in the Village Hall and has met almost every Thursday afternoon 1.30-3.00 pm ever since.

As a choir we have moved forward considerably – performing at the Carol Service in Stoneleigh Church in December and receiving many positive comments and a great deal of encouragement from locals and further afield. This being our first performance we realise that we need to perfect our technique even more and relish the challenges ahead.

We also entertained a small group of villagers at one Thursday afternoon rehearsal, which was held in the village club, providing our visitors with a cream tea. This created the community spirit we wish to develop as a group.

The Church has been kind enough to offer us rehearsal space when the village hall is unavailable for which we are very grateful and our thanks go to Sharon Goble and the churchwardens who have made the choir feel very welcome.

We have made real progress and look forward to the next twelve months of stimulating rehearsals under the guidance of our choir Leader, Karen Whyte, who brings such a wealth of knowledge and professionalism ensuring we not only learn a great deal but also have fun in the process.

We were overwhelmed by Lynne Fletcher's generosity in donating her late mother's (Betty Craddock) high quality keyboard to the choir for use at rehearsals and concerts, when necessary. To know that so many people are behind us, in every sense of the word, is both uplifting and encouraging.

We draw members from the Coventry and Warwickshire area as far afield as Stratford and our membership now stands at thirty-eight but we look forward to welcoming new members – don't be afraid to come and join the choir because a warm welcome awaits you.

Kate McCutcheon

on behalf of the Stoneleigh Ladies' Choir

Stoneleigh Church - a date for your diary

Friday March 7th 2014 - 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Join us for an evening with

John Burton from The George Eliot Fellowship

John will be talking about the journals of Alison Evans from 1903 until 1918. Alison was the great niece of George Eliot and daughter of the distinguished rector, Canon F R Evans.

The talk includes wonderful diary entries which reveal a delightful girl with a sense of humour growing up in Edwardian Bedworth.



**Tickets: £16 and include
a supper of chilli-con-carne with baked potatoes,
trifle and a glass of wine.**

**ALL PROFITS WILL GO TO THE ROOF AND STONEMWORK
APPEAL**

Tickets are available from: Sarah 02476 715256 or Jackie, at the parish office 02476 415506 or email admin@stoneleighchurch.co.uk

Stoneleigh Village Club

Chairman's Fish Pie Challenge!

Friday 21st February 2014

Do you make a fantastic fish pie? Will you accept the Chairman's challenge:

“to make and donate a 6 to 8 portion fish pie to your own recipe and deliver it (hot) to the Club at 7.00pm on 21st February where it will be tasted and judged by the members?”

Rules. Up to 10 pies will be accepted into the competition and presented for the tasting anonymously.

Tasting members will pay £5 to taste all pies and select their favourite. Tasting will commence at 7.30.

The Club will provide supporting material: hot cupboard, plates, cutlery, condiments, peas, bread etc.

A prize will be awarded! Proceeds will go to Club funds.

To enter the challenge, please give your name to Jim behind the bar. Anyone is welcome to be a tasting judge and have a wonderful supper but please buy a ticket from the bar before 20th February (so that we have an idea of numbers who will need a fish pie supper). Competing chefs will, of course, not be expected to buy a ticket.

This is not a rival to the Great British Bake-Off, but just a fun night at the Club – with a difference!

Chairman
SVC



WI REPORT

The meeting in December was our Christmas party. Party games and a quiz were followed by an American supper and carol singing. Members visited Wightwick Manor on 11th December and members of the Craft Group visited Dobbies Garden Centre on 16th December for lunch and to make table decorations for Christmas. In December the Craft Group made glitter cards and bead fairies. The Book Club met on 17th December to celebrate Christmas and to discuss "The Little Coffee Shop of Kabul" by Deborah Rodriguez and "Shadows of the Workhouse" by Jennifer Worth. The Theatre Group saw "Private Lives" at the Loft Theatre on the 4th December. There was a games afternoon on 17th December.

The village lunch in December took the form of a traditional Christmas meal served with a glass of wine. The meal was sponsored by the Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir and some of the choir members sang Christmas songs after the meal. Everyone joined in some carols and a lively rendition of "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

At the meeting in January Kevin Barfield talked about the life and work of George Formby which he illustrated with clips from radio programmes of the era. He also sang a selection of George Formby's hits accompanying himself on the ukulele. It was an interesting and entertaining evening.

Members of the Craft Group made amulet purses in January.

The next village lunch will be on Tuesday 4th February. If you would like to book a place please, please contact Liz Sykes on 024 7641 8301. The coffee morning will be on Tuesday 18th February.

At the next meeting on Monday 3rd February Liam Darcy will talk about China.

Rachel Gill

A Calendar for Stoneleigh

Are you a keen photographer? Perhaps just a “happy-snapper”? The Stoneleigh History Society has plans to create a calendar for 2015, which would feature pictures of our lovely village – an ideal addition to the kitchen wall, and a super present for friends and relatives elsewhere!

This venture is open to everyone regardless of age; all submissions should be in .jpeg or .jpg format and of a high resolution. They can be emailed to me on woolfsheila@gmail.com or put on a memory stick and dropped in at 9, The Bank, as can any already-printed pictures. Don’t forget to label your photographs as appropriate with your name and contact details. If under 16, please tell us so!

The closing date will be July 31st, so you have six months to get creative!

Sheila Woolf

PIE and PANCAKES SUPPER

on Shrove Tuesday 4th March 7.15 pm

At the Clarendon Arms, Castle Hill, Kenilworth.
2 Course Meal (choice of main courses and puddings),

£16.

This event is in aid of Ashow Church Fabric Fund

Tickets from Stephen Harvey, (tel 01926 852543).



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 13th February 2013.

Pat Maddison - Parish Clerk



Neighbourhood Watch

Stoneleigh - There have been a couple of incidents in December 2013 – burglaries to outbuildings and sheds. Police investigations are ongoing.

TAKE A FEW SIMPLE STEPS TO AVOID BECOMING A VICTIM OF BURGLARY

1. Set a timer switch to turn your lights on when it gets dark – unlit houses are a give away that no one is at home.
2. Lock your doors, patios and downstairs windows – even when you are in. Make sure you check them again before you go to bed.
3. If you have a burglar alarm, make sure you set it when you go out and also when you go to bed.
4. Don't leave car keys, ID cards or valuables near windows, doors or letterboxes, where burglars can reach through and steal them.
5. Lock your garden gates and side entrances. Don't leave tools lying around in the garden, which could be used to break in to your home.

IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT A BURGLARY PHONE THE POLICE ON 101. IF YOU WITNESS AN OFFENCE TAKING PLACE, DIAL 999 STRAIGHT AWAY.

Tony Hanselman

Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir

The spring entertainment from the Choir will be a **Music Hall** in the Stoneleigh Village Hall on Friday, Saturday and Sunday 14th, 15th and 16th March 2014. A hot two course supper will be served. The show will start at 7.30 pm on Friday and Saturday and 5.00 pm on Sunday.

Tickets; £20

Obtainable from Phil Jones, tel: 01926 853511
or through any choir member.

There will be a **Preview Night** on Thursday 13th March at 7.30 pm and to which the Senior Citizens of Stoneleigh are invited as our guests. Others may purchase tickets for £5. Light refreshments will be served.

Robin Bussell
Secretary SMVC

This edition of the **Stoneleigh and Ashow News** was compiled by Robin Bussell and printed by WarwickPrint at the University.

We also thank all our contributors.

The March edition will be compiled by

Sheila Woolf

9 The Bank, Stoneleigh., CV8 3DA

shewoolf@hotmail.co.uk / editor.sandanews@gmail.com

We prefer A5 digital copy, but paper copy may be submitted as an alternative.

Advertisements: £30 per full page (A5) or £15 per half page, accepted at the editor's discretion and subject to S & A News policy.

A colour version of the News may be viewed on the village website:
www.stoneleighvillage.org.uk



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

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2014

Sunday 2 nd	11.00 a.m. United Holy Communion service at Ashow
Sunday 9 th	9.30 a.m. Holy Communion at Ashow
	11.00 a.m. All Age Worship at Stoneleigh
Thursday 13 th	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion at Stoneleigh
Sunday 16 th	9.30 a.m. Holy Communion at Ashow
	11.00 a.m. Fellowship Holy Communion at Stoneleigh
Sunday 23 rd	9.30 a.m. Village Service at Ashow
	11.00 a.m. Sung Holy Communion at Stoneleigh
Thursday 27 th	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion at Stoneleigh

From the registers:

Interment of Ashes:
Thursday 12th December: Margaret Jean Gait

Contacts:

Vicar: Rev'd Sharon Goble 01608 682282 or 07799220407

Churchwardens :

Ashow: Stephen Harvey 01926 852543. Kate Jones, 01926 853511

Stoneleigh: Ian Smith 01926 853238. Sarah Ballinger 02476 715256

For Pastoral Care or to arrange a baptism, wedding or a funeral, please contact
Rev'd Sharon Goble.

For any other matter please contact the Parish Administrator,
Jackie Cubitt, 024 7641 5506
email: admin@stoneleighchurch.co.uk