



Stoneleigh Abbey

A season of talks for 2018

Stoneleigh Abbey will be celebrating a variety of anniversaries in 2018:

- The bicentenary of Humphry Repton
- The bicentenary of first publication of Jane Austen's *Persuasion*
- The centenary of women in the UK first winning the vote
- The centenary of the First World War

Throughout the 2018 season there will be a talk on the last Monday of the month, at 2pm in the Gilt Hall, given by the Abbey historian,

Sheila Woolf.

Admission £5 which includes Grounds Entry. Reserve at Reception

01926 858535

All talks take place on **Mondays at 2pm** in the **Gilt Hall**. Each will last approximately one hour.

- * **March 26** *A brief history of the Abbey Gardens*. Humphry Repton, the great landscape designer, whose Red Book can be seen at the Abbey, died on March 24 1818. This talk looks at his and others' contribution to the landscape at Stoneleigh.
- * **April 30** *Here Come the Girls* At the end of the 19th century many aristocratic young men found that what their estates needed was cash! Beautiful young American women often supplied this need. From Coombe to Stoneleigh to Wellesbourne...this talk gives you "Downton Abbey" with a local twist.
- * **May 28** *Jane Austen and her Warwickshire Family*. Most people associate Jane Austen with the south of England, but her connection with Warwickshire was strong: her mother's maiden name was Leigh. Hear about Jane's connection with Stoneleigh and how fact became fiction...
- * **June 25** *The true story of Aunt Betty Wentworth*. To celebrate the bicentenary of the publication of *Persuasion*, this talk gives for the first time the full story of the inspiration for Austen's heroine Anne Elliot.
- * **July 30** *George Eliot's Warwickshire*. The great 19thc author is usually connected with the north of the county. Come and hear how Stoneleigh Abbey played its part in her novels, too!
- * **August 27** *Cordelia Leigh and WW1*. This talk focuses on the extraordinary work done by Lord Leigh's daughter during the First World War.
- * **September 24** *A Tale of three Alices*. Three women called Alice Leigh with three very interesting husbands! Links with Queen Elizabeth I, Robert Dudley and the Gunpowder Plot.
- * **October 29** *The Leighs at War*. Finally, as the centenary of the end of WW1 approaches, discover how the family at Stoneleigh contributed to the war effort – from assisting the wounded, to caring for the welfare of war horses.