STONELEIGH & ASHOW

News



SEPTEMBER 2025



"The Heart of Stoneleigh" Defibrillator

In the phone box on The Green and at Stoneleigh Village hall

Trained Volunteers

John Churchley	07885 496795
Laura Elliot	07738 222969
David Ellwood	07785 284482
Richard Hancox	07596 276829
lan Huston	07974 237331
Sharron McEldowney	07760 101775
Claire Neale	07557 675842
Martin Smith	07958 955629
Mary Taylor	07890 535506

Remember: Always ring 999 first!

There is also a defibrillator at Stoneleigh Village Hall.



Cover Image: Swanning about on the river, by Tim Sawdon.

Stoneleigh Ladies Choir

Pat Wightman

So happy to report that we finished our summer term on a high. On a beautiful summer's evening the choir performed music from the 60s and 70s to a full house which raised just over £1000 for the Music Man Project, a charity supported by our late Musical Director, Seb Farrall.

We start this term by welcoming our new Musical Director, Susan Morris, who has kindly agreed to take us on following Seb's untimely death. With so many of Seb's choirs seeking new leadership, we feel incredibly lucky that she has agreed to join us.



Sue has many years' experience and was indeed the MD of the choir at St. Michael's Church in Coventry for over 25 years. She has also taught in the Performing Arts Service, Adult Education leading choirs and teaching singing, ukulele, keyboard and performing arts to people of all ages as well as delivering KS2 Music Curriculum in primary education. Currently, Sue works freelance as a teacher of singing and piano and leads the choir for Myton Hospice which is made up of staff, volunteers and carers who have performed all over the country.

We would also like to welcome new members to the choir. We are starting with a bumper number of over 40 ladies who come to Stoneleigh Village Hall on Thursday afternoons (in term time) and enjoy good company and singing for the joy of it. If you are interested in giving us a try, visit our website: www.stoneleighladieschoir.org.uk

Stoneleigh Community Orchard Update

Pete Freeman

As the harvest season approaches, a frequently raised question is "When should picking commence?" My answer to this, in addition to yearly weather observations, is that ripening depends upon the variety of apple. In Stoneleigh Orchard there is a broad cross-section of varieties ranging from early, mid-season to late. The picking generally starts in late August and completes in late October though it can occasionally extend into early November. Our earliest varieties are the Katy and Hunts Early though we have a limited number of the latter variety.

In order to make an assessment of whether the fruit is ready to be harvested, a number of tests and observations can be made. The foremost of these is to simply bite into the fruit and if your teeth remain intact and sweet juice flows then the fruit is either close to or is ready to be picked. The flaw with this is that not everyone's palate is the same and so this undermines the observation.

I tend to observe the colour of the seed pips which transform from a white to a uniform dark brown colouration upon maturity. Finally, I rely on the starchiodine test in which the apple is cut in half and the surface cross-section dripped with potassium-iodide and iodine solution. Iodine has a property that stains starch a deep blue colouration. As starch is converted to sugar during ripening, they go from a dark iodine staining to lighter staining. I took the following photograph in mid-August that shows a Katy apple in cross-section and indicates an apple that is close to but not quite ripe. Furthermore, the adjacent seed is not fully brown. Another week is therefore required before harvesting this variety.



Readers of the July/August edition will recall that we had our struggles with an insect pest called the apple ermine moth. The orchard has been subject to a slash and burn intervention and has since recovered. Observations can however be superficial: we will only truly know how effective this treatment has been when the life cycle of the moth returns to the caterpillar stage. We may choose to treat the trees in advance of this in the spring of next year.

Our cider sales continue to do well as the Stoneleigh cider product broadens its client base, largely via word of mouth and local advertising such as Facebook and the internet. In addition to SVC our product is currently being sold at the Old Windmill on Spon Street in the centre of Coventry where we have received encouraging feedback.

With the harvest getting closer do keep an eye on the village Facebook page as a source of information about harvesting days in the orchard, or alternatively simply contact me at the email below or visit number 5 Church Lane.



Orchard Friends' subscriptions and yearly renewals for 2025 remain at £10 and can be made to Pete Freeman as Chairman or to Richard Hancox as Treasurer. Cheques should be made payable to Stoneleigh Village Community Orchard, however why not become a long term Friend and set up a direct debit?

Pete Freeman (Chairman), 5 Church Lane, Stoneleigh. PeteFreeman773@gmail.com Richard Hancox (Treasurer)
Richard.Hancox@nationalhighways.co.uk

Stoneleigh History Society

Sheila Woolf

Stoneleigh History Society

Our lovely weather over the summer has meant that many visitors have been welcomed to our displays in the Leigh Chapel, and we have been delighted to read their comments in our visitors' book. Now we are ready to resume our programme of talks for the rest of 2025, and our 2026 programme has already been planned!

Recently we were saddened to hear of the death of Laurie Clarke, who rescued Moat House Cottage from dereliction and lovingly restored it to the memory of Sir Henry Parkes, whose birthplace it was. For many years Laurie and his wife Marilyn welcomed visitors from Australia who were eager to see the first home of our "grand old man of Australian politics", born and educated right here in Stoneleigh.

Laurie was very helpful to us when we were arranging our commemoration of Parkes' bicentenary in 2015, and he is owed an enormous debt of gratitude for his contribution to the history of Stoneleigh and to Parkes' legacy worldwide.



Moat House Cottage



Are you or anyone you know searching in our churchyard for the grave of an ancestor? Stoneleigh History Society has researched all the graves which have headstones, and created a database of the burials. You can search by accessing our website (address below) and clicking "Burial Database". There is then a search box into which you can input the name you require. You can then click on "Grave maps" and find the exact position of the grave you are looking for.

Alternatively you can use this QR code. Do try it!

St Mary the Virgin Church Graveyard and index Plan



www.stoneleighhistorysociety.org.uk

At our next meeting Lisa Reay and I will be talking about these researches, which over a ten-year period have led us to the stories of those buried in our churchyard - this time we shall be focussing on some surprisingly eminent people, some Abbey servants, "notorious" 19th century burials and our oldest tombs, from the 1600s.

Do please join us on Tuesday September 23rd at 7.30pm in the village hall. Visitors are *always* welcome, and there is a small charge of £3 to cover refreshments.

Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir - Summer Serenade 2025

Rod Owen

Those hazy, lazy days of Summer are on us again. How do we know that? Super hot weather and the arrival of the Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir Summer Serenade Concert in the Residents' Walled Garden, Stoneleigh Abbey! Around 250 people gathered on Sunday 13th July to enjoy and celebrate the Choir's 24th Annual event.

The Choir this year was again joined by the Coventry City of Culture Orchestra Jazz Ensemble who caressed the audience's ears with delightful summery jazz themes such as "Just A Closer Walk With Thee" (brought to the fore years ago by Monty Sunshine amongst others), "The Bare (Bear?) Necessities" (From 'Jungle Book'), a jolly version of "Londonderry Air" and the classic standard "In The Mood".

Around these and other jazz notes were draped the impressive tones of SMVC adding new songs to their repertoire under the direction of the recently appointed Kevin Stannard following the retirement of the long serving and dear friend of the Choir, Life President Alan Biddle. Cinema buffs will have recognised the theme tune to Barry Norman's Film Review "I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel To Be Free" recorded in the late 1960s by Nina Simone and sticking with film themes the Boys [sic!!!] ran through "Moon River" from the Audrey Hepburn movie "Breakfast At Tiffany's" made famous, you may recall, by Danny Williams. Introducing a touch of class, a lovely version of Mozart's "Ave Verum Corpus" followed by another newbie, "How Do You Keep The Music Playing?" composed by Michel Legrand. These numbers were liberally interspersed by a few old favourites very warmly received (and not just because of the weather, although the glasses of "fizz" may have helped!) by an appreciative and supportive audience.

The concert concluded with a rip-roaring selection of sea shanties in which the gathered throng, having found their sea-legs, joined in robustly and, in memory of those who didn't make VE day, everyone sang together "White Cliffs Of Dover", "We'll Meet Again" and the National Anthem.

The Choir, as usual, was kept in order by the inimitable Judy Hadfield who conducted throughout with enthusiasm and gusto (that's nothing to do with home ordered meals, by the way!). Which reminds me to mention that the pre-concert and interval food was superbly provided by caterers 'A Bit Of A Do' to whom the Choir are grateful for their help.

A wonderful afternoon. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, raffle proceeds and gate money resulted in substantial donations to our chosen charities. These were "The Music Man Project" (in memory of our friend, Seb Farrall who was a great supporter of it) and "The Esther Project".

And finally once again the Choir are indebted to the Residents of Stoneleigh Abbey who have enthusiastically given us again the use of the Walled Garden for the weekend. We couldn't do it at such an apposite venue without them.

Thanks to all who made all this possible and generously supported our little show.

stoneleighmalevoicechoir.co.uk

Stoneleigh W.I.

Liz Sykes



As is usual there was no monthly meeting in August. At our July meeting we learned about the history of Melton Mowbray pork pies. Interesting. We also had a demonstration on how to make them. At the end of the talk we had a bring and buy sale that was very successful.

During the break we've met for lunch a couple of times and also some coffee mornings.

At the September meeting we will have a talk about the Warwickshire Search and Rescue team. It is based in Stoneleigh at the showground. The meeting is on September $\mathbf{1}^{\text{st}}$ at 2pm in the village hall.



Let's do something amazing

Let's do a Macmillan **Coffee Morning**

Come along and help us do whatever it takes to support people living with cancer.

Place: STONELEIGH VILLAGE
HALL
Date: 264 SEPTEM BER

Time: 10am - 2pm

CONTact: AMANDA FREEMAN



Simply scan this QR code with your phone to donate direct to your host's Coffee Morning.

It's easy, quick and secure. Thank you.



Film Night

Jane Taylor

For our next film night, we will be showing: MR BURTON



Mr. Burton tells the true story of the relationship between Port Talbot schoolmaster Philip Burton and a wild young schoolboy called Richard Jenkins. Richard dreamed of becoming an actor, but his ambitions were in danger of being derailed by a combination of family trouble, the pressure of war, and his own lack of discipline. Mr. Burton recognised the raw talent in his pupil, becoming his tutor, strict taskmaster and eventually his adoptive father.

Stars: Toby Jones as Philip Burton, Harry Lawtey as Richard Burton, Aneurin Barnard and Lesley Manville.

Friday September 12th 2025 in Stoneleigh Village Hall Meet 6.45pm for a 7pm showing

Entry price £4.00, to cover refreshments and room hire.

Please bring a cup and a plate: coffee, tea and pastries will still be served in the interval.

To reserve a place and a pastry call Jane on 01926 858315 by Wednesday September 10th

HS2 Update

Martin Smith for the Stoneleigh Action Group.

Works to open the Ashow Road (B4113) overbridge have resulted in that road being closed until 'early October', according to HS2, to get this section completed. The Dalehouse Lane full road closure has now been delayed until the end of the year or early 2026.

It is possible now to see the emerging form of the line of rail route. The works at Burton Green, for example, are extensive. However there is a long way to go before the civil engineering works are completed.

Whilst there may be some hope that the A46 roundabout works will restart soon, HS2 works continue in isolation. I think many readers might agree that these incomplete works remain dangerous for some road users.

The recent heavy downpour also resulted in a lot of silt being washed down the Birmingham Road, potentially off disturbed ground to the north of the village.





<u>Dame Alice Leigh's Almshouse</u> Summer Garden Party - July 18th

Residents and their guests plus the Almshouse Trustees held a summer gettogether on the lawn at the rear of the Almshouse. It was the first time in many years, and it was lovely to relax and enjoy each other's company while tucking into strawberries and cream and the odd tipple or two!

We were very lucky with the weather and needed to shelter from the strong sunshine under the gazebos provided by Gordon et al.

Let's hope that this is something we can repeat next year!



Fred Pauling. An Obituary.

Martin Smith, on behalf of the Stoneleigh Ringers.

Fred Pauling, who has died recently aged 88, was a friend and help to many. Born in Hull, Fred came to Coventry with his family at the start of the Second World War. As he commented, "having witnessed the bombing of the docks in Hull, we got there just in time to see Coventry in flames". Fred trained as a metallurgist for Massey Ferguson, and his work took him around the world.

In retirement he had many interests, including bell ringing here in Stoneleigh which took him out and about both physically and mentally, with his radio hobby, where he could talk to people around the world from his shed.

Over recent years Fred had to curtail many of his activities due to physical mobility issues. A visit to Fred always involved a mug of tea and a packet of biscuits, if not something a bit stronger. Conversations would be wide ranging well beyond HS2 which became his neighbour.

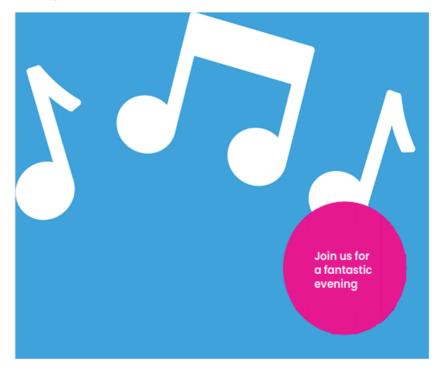
Fred had a great sense of humour and he loved the time he spent with his wife Wendy on the farm, his favourite place nurturing flora and fauna, where he has been laid to rest.

We will miss him.





Together we are beating cancer



Cancer Research UK Kenilworth Committee invites you to a musical evening with

Cwm Dare Voices and Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir

(Welsh Male Voice Choir from Aberdare)

Saturday 18 October 2025 / 7:00pm start St Mary's Church, Church Lane, Stoneleigh, CV8 3DN

Admission £20 includes drink and canapes

To book tickets email kenilworthcruk@gmail.com or book via eventbrite

Cancer Research UK is a registered charity in England and Wales (1089464), Scotland (SC041666), the Isle of Man (1103) and Jersey (247). Registered address: 2 Redman Place, London, E20 1JQ.





St. Mary the Virgin Church - An apology

Gordon Gatward on behalf of the Churchwardens

The letter below was written to thank everyone in the village for the support that the local community gives to the church both practically and financially and to let them know of two new initiatives we've taken to make financial support easier. The intention was to do a letter drop round the village but perhaps naively we hadn't realised how this could create anxiety for some who would be afraid that it was a scam. As soon as this was pointed out to us, the letter drop was discontinued, and we sincerely apologise to anyone who was upset or made anxious by it. Hopefully by including the letter in this month's Village News any such anxieties can be allayed.

Dear Parishioner,

We are truly blessed in Stoneleigh to have such a caring and supportive community. At the heart of our village stands the beautiful and historic church of St. Mary the Virgin, the focus of worship, reflection, fellowship and community life for nearly 1000 years. The church, both inside and out, is lovingly maintained by dedicated volunteers who generously give their time and effort — not only to preserve our sacred space and this valuable and important historic building but also to enrich the spiritual lives of those who walk through its doors or who just enjoy the peace and tranquillity of walking or sitting in the churchyard.

Many of you already support the church's ministry and upkeep through your generous financial contributions, whether by Standing Orders, Direct Debits, or other means and your giving is deeply appreciated. However, as time passes, it is easy to forget that a contribution set up many years ago may no longer have the same impact due to inflation and rising costs. Regular giving sustains our church, ensuring that it remains a place of welcome, worship, and service for this community for generations to come.

To make giving easier and more efficient, we have recently introduced two new ways for people to support the church's ministry and the maintenance of the church building and the churchyard :

The Parish Giving Scheme offers a simple, secure on-line facility for both regular and occasional giving. All contributions are processed by the diocesan finance team and are directed into the Stoneleigh church account at no cost to the local church. To sign up for the scheme just visit: www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/stoneleigh-st-mary-the-virgin-coventry/ or to learn more about how it works visit the general website at: www.parishgiving.org.uk and use parish code 110611059.

You can also use this QR code with a smartphone:

Thank you for your kindness, generosity, and commitment to our church community.

Teams4u Stretton Shoebox Appeal

After successfully packing 600+ boxes for boys and girls aged 12 years+ we are now looking towards the final push of the appeal for 2025. We doubt anyone else is ready for Christmas this early!

We will be packing again in October and with this in mind, we ask that any items you are looking to donate are dropped off **before the end of September**. This way they can be checked for age groups and added to boxes, as we do not have storage to hold items for 2026 – it all has to go!

We are always looking for sweets to complete our boxes e.g. Haribos / Maoams / Swizzles (not chocolate please) and BBE Mar 26. If you are buying any for Halloween, please consider getting an extra bag or two for our shoeboxes. (Sweets can be dropped off in October.)

We have drop off locations within the village – please text for an address, as this can change on a weekly basis



Contact:

Pam - 07526 337437 / Joanna - 07906 398752 Facebook page - search for "Teams4u Stretton"

Come to me...and bring a pillow

Revd Petrică Bistran

I hope you've all had a restful and enjoyable summer - maybe a holiday away, or at least a chance to spend time with friends and family. Rest is something we all say we want more of, yet we rarely manage it - unless you've reached those green pastures of retirement, which I often dream about, even though I still have a lot of asphalt to cover!

I am sometimes guilty of what I call "tired vicar syndrome". It's when you're so busy that you put the milk in the cupboard and the cornflakes in the fridge - or say "Amen" at the start of a sermon instead of the end (yes, it has happened...).

But Jesus, who was busy saving the world, knew how to rest - and He invited His followers to do the same: "Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, Jesus said to them, 'Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." (Mark 6:31)

What a beautiful invitation! He doesn't say, "Go away, sort yourselves out, and get some rest." He says, "Come with me... and rest." Rest isn't apart from God; it's with Him. Rest is not a reward at the end of a busy week - it's the starting point. On Day Seven, our first full day on Earth, Adam and Eve were assigned to rest, enjoy creation, and enjoy God.

I will never again be offended if someone falls asleep during one of my sermons. What better place for a holy nap than in the house of God, in His presence, right? If you come to church next week and spot someone snoring gently in the pews, don't nudge them awake. Just smile, thank God for them, and maybe join in.

Jesus' invitation to rest is more than a Sunday afternoon nap (though I strongly recommend one) - it's an invitation to live from a place of peace and trust, knowing God is at work even when we are not. So may the gentle start of this new season be for you not a time of running on empty, but of resting in Him who said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Amen - and rest well!

Mobile Library

A Warwickshire County Council Service

About the service

The mobile library is fitted with a lift and has:

- A selection of books, including large print
- Spoken word
- Books for young children

Contacts for the Mobile Library Service

- Email: mobilelibraryservice@warwickshire.gov.uk
- Telephone: 01926 851031
- W.C.C. Libraries Website

The Mobile library will be at Stoneleigh Village Hall from 14:20 to 14:45 on the following Mondays:

15th September, 13th October, 10th November and 8th December 2025





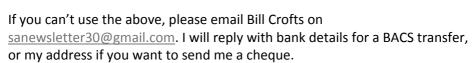
Voluntary Contributions from Residents

Bill Crofts

If you value the receipt of a paper copy through your door, please consider making a donation to S&A News.

If you are familiar with using a QR code on your mobile phone, the one shown will take you to a page where you can make a payment directly from your chosen bank account.

Please remember to add your name as the reference so I know who you are.



Thank you for your support!

This edition of **Stoneleigh and Ashow News** was compiled by Bernice and Mike Evans who would like to thank all contributors.

The online colour version can be viewed on the <u>Village Facebook page</u>.

The October 2025 edition will be compiled by Sarah Ballinger (sanewsletter30@gmail.com) Copy deadline: 16th September 2025

Placing an advertisement in Stoneleigh & Ashow News

Our page format size is A5.

Rates per annum (10 editions) are: Full page (13cm x 19cm): £100 Half page (13cm x 9.5cm): £50; Quarter page (6.5 x 9.5cm or 13 x 5cm): £25

Rates for advertising in a single edition are: Full page (1 edition + £10 each extra edition): £20; Half page (1 edition + £5 each extra edition): £10

Quarter page (1 edition + £5 each extra edition): £10

To place an advertisement or for general enquiries, please email the Treasurer, Bill Crofts (sanewsletter30@gmail.com).



Stoneleigh Village Club Committee

By way of an update, Jim will not be returning to work at SVC and we will be advertising for an SVC Club Steward in the near future. This new appointment is an important step in securing the management of the club into the future and it will be afforded time, effort and consideration to ensure the right decisions are reached.

Financially the club continues to go from strength to strength, most recently reporting a £3,000 + profit to the end of July. Thank you for your continued support.

Gary Large has joined the committee along with Lynda Rice and Jan Whitehouse. We are delighted to see the committee growing - many hands make lighter work! Continued thanks to all the committee but especially to Liz Wrist and her band of merry helpers who have been magnificent in arranging events and Rory O'Connor who puts in so many hours of support to the club day-to-day.

As always, keep an eye on the information board outside the club for further event details / last minute changes.

Dates for your diary

6th September - Quiz by Steve 27th September - Bingo 7pm

3rd October - Marrow weigh-in

4th October - Jacket potatoes and beef stew

11th October - Quiz

Why not join us for an event? Or arrange to meet your friends or neighbours one night at Stoneleigh Village Club?

www.facebook.com/stoneleighvillageclub

Stoneleigh.villageclub@gmail.com



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



SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

Sunday 7th 10.00 am United Holy Communion Service at Ashow.

Sunday 14th 9.30 am Holy Communion Service at Ashow

11.00 am Morning Praise Service at Stoneleigh

Sunday 21st 9.30 am Celtic Service at Ashow

11.00 am Celtic Holy Communion Service at Stoneleigh

Sunday 28th 9.30 am Harvest Festival Service at Ashow

11.00 am Holy Communion Service at Stoneleigh

From the Registers - Funerals

Monday 23rd June – Jean Bussell – Funeral Service at Stoneleigh Church followed by burial in Stoneleigh Churchyard

Monday 30th June – Peter Gray – Funeral Service at Stoneleigh Church

followed by burial at Ashow Churchyard

Friday 11th July - Frederick Pauling – Funeral Service at Stoneleigh Church Wednesday 16th July – Betty and Ted Hind - Interment Service at Stoneleigh Churchyard Thursday 17th July – Brenda Allcock – Interment Service at Stoneleigh Churchyard

Baptisms

Sunday 20th July - Louie Gilbert Penlington – Stoneleigh Church

Priest in Charge: Reverend Petrica Bistran 07572 19326. Email: revpbistran@gmail.com Churchwardens:

Ashow: Kate Jones 01926 853511 and Anne Gregory 01926 713066

Deputy Warden: Peter Shrimpton 02475 096477 **Stoneleigh:** Gordon Gatward 07776 211276 and

Ashley Toogood 07771 888618

Deputy Wardens: Richard Ashley 07708 097187, John Woodward 02476 418272 and Paddy

Bryniarska 07947472297

Or please contact the Parish Administrator,

Jackie Cubitt, 02476 415506 email: stoneleighchurch@hotmail.com Website: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12964 for Stoneleigh

www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12954 for Ashow