

STONELEIGH & ASHOW

News



APRIL 2026



“The Heart of Stoneleigh” Defibrillator

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

Coordinator: David Ellwood

07785 284482
(Text if no reply)

Trained Volunteers

John Churchley	07885 496795
Laura Elliot	07738 222969
David Ellwood	07785 284482
Richard Hancox	07596 276829
Ian 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: Daffodils in the churchyard, by Mike.

Stoneleigh Community Orchard Update

Pete Freeman

When it comes to produce diversity, it can be argued that Stoneleigh Community Orchard has recently taken a huge step forward in its collaborative venture with East Chase distillers to create “Stoneleigh Brandy”.



This represents a product zenith and follows a lot of skilled preparatory work not least by Jules Storer whose label captures art that I developed centred on a historic scene of “The Bank”, Stoneleigh.

Readers may recall that the February 2026 edition of S&A News mentioned an imminent visit from the Warwick District Council Environmental Health Officer as part of a periodic site inspection. The inspection duly occurred on 19th February, and I have recently received positive feedback that we have been awarded a 5-star rating which underlines our commitment to maintaining high food hygiene standards.

I believe it was the Roman philosopher Seneca who stated that "Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity". Given the above, we

continue to draw from the wealth of team experience as Quentin Compton-Bishop and Mandy Freeman work hard planning for the orchard "Spring festival" on Saturday 16th May at 2pm.

Finally, with some amusement, do keep an eye out for an unusual visitor to the orchard and surrounding countryside which looks like some sort of parakeet. They're quite a common sight in the parks of London. It seems that they may be flying north to visit Stoneleigh.

Orchard Friends' subscriptions and yearly renewals for 2026 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

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Stoneleigh Village Club



COFFEE MORNING **Thursday** **April 16th and 30th.**

10:00am - 11:30am

*Come along, enjoy a hot drink
and catch up with friends.
Everyone is welcome!*

£1 donation



Stoneleigh History Society

We continue to be busy with our researches, many of which have now been published on our website - address below. We are evidently extending our reach as we have had over 3 million visits to the site!

In April we have another favourite speaker, David Fry, who will be telling us about the Marton Museum of Bygones. He is bringing a selection of objects, and we shall be invited to guess what they were used for! We meet on Tuesday 28th April. Please come along as a visitor, the charge is just £3 which includes refreshments.

You would be particularly welcome to join if you are new to the village and would like to find out what we're all about. Perhaps you'd like to find out more about your house's history, or the village in general. Each meeting is held at 7.30pm in the Village Hall on the last Tuesday of the month, with the exception of July and August. We shall be standing at the Spring Festival, too, on May 16th - come and say hello!

Sheila Woolf

The Ashow Club was packed on Tuesday 10th March, as David Clark delivered a presentation about Ashow's history, including its church, notable buildings, and former residents.

Maps were shown during the presentation, illustrating how the area has hardly changed over time. The event also featured photographs and newspaper articles, making for an enjoyable and insightful evening.

Lisa Reay

www.stoneleighhistorysociety.org.uk

Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir

Philip Jones

The choir is looking forward to our next concert at St Oswalds Church, Rugby on Tuesday, April the 28th.

All the tickets for the concert on March 21st in aid of Fighting Prostate Cancer were sold and there will be a full report in the May edition of the magazine.

Dates for your diary

July 12th Summer Serenade in the Walled Garden, Stoneleigh Abbey

Oct 16th Joint concert in Stoneleigh Church with Bad Vibrations, a mixed choir from Kenilworth.

Further details of these two events will appear in later issues of the magazine.



If anyone is interested in joining the choir, please come along to one of our rehearsals which take place on a Wednesday evening at 7.30pm in Stoneleigh Village Hall, or contact Philip Jones on 01926 853511, mobile 07910 240453 or Email kathryngjones@hotmail.co.uk

stoneleighmalevoicechoir.co.uk

St. Mary the Virgin Stoneleigh Church

You are warmly invited to our

Coffee Morning

in aid of **Teams4U** (the shoebox charity)

25th April, from 10:15 am

There is no charge for the coffee, tea and cakes but any donations will be made to Teams4U to help with the shoebox transportation.

There will be packed shoeboxes and examples of the items that go into them.
At 11:00 am there will be short talks from a charity representative, distribution volunteers, and recipients of the shoeboxes.
There will also be a video from last Christmas.



All welcome, including children!

T4U

real people making
a real difference



Film Night

Jane Taylor

For our next film night, we will be showing: The Choral



As World War I rages on, Dr. Henry Guthrie takes over a British choral society that's lost most of its men to the army. The community soon discovers that the best response to the chaos of war is to make beautiful music together.

Starring: Ralph Fiennes; Roger Allam; Mark Addy; Alun Armstrong; Robert Emms; Simon Russell Beale

Friday May 8th 2026 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 May 6th

HS2 Update

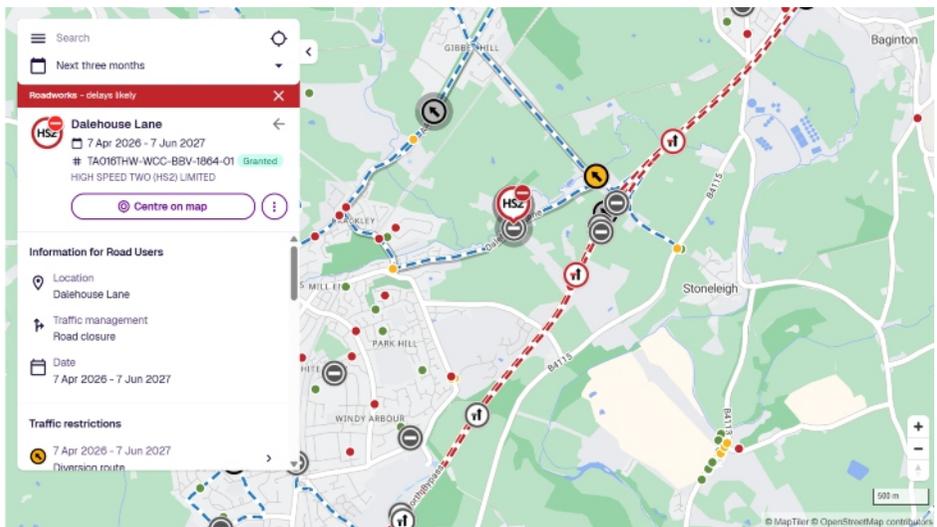
Martin Smith for the Stoneleigh Action Group.

Residents are reminded that the proposed closure of Dalehouse Lane is to start in early April. Please look out for signs. Once the road is closed, it will remain so for 14 months, so that would be June 2027. Of course timings can shift depending on the pre-closure works. Access to Kenilworth, therefore, will be restricted to the overloaded Crewe Lane and the A46, without taking a wider diversion.

The B4113 outside of Stoneleigh Park is also closing (apparently) from 23rd March until mid April.

Many notable engineering achievements have been carried out by the contractors responsible, in our area being BBV (Balfour Beattie Vinci, a joint endeavour company). A recent bridge slide over the Grand Union canal is one example.

Sadly, that does not detract from the confusing premise behind the whole project and sadly the gradual erosion of the initial vision.



For an interactive map of all planned roadworks go to:

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/roadworksmap

Stoneleigh Community Orchard Spring Festival

Saturday 16th May 2026. 2.00-4.30 pm



Show your country crafts and activities and sell your produce at the annual Spring Festival in Stoneleigh Orchard's beautiful riverside location

Visitor attractions include: guided tours of the Orchard; children's activities; cider tasting and sales; plant sales; photographic competition (details to follow); tea & cakes; Morris dancing and live music from Peter Robson, Stoneleigh Ladies Choir and R&B Blues

Exhibitors confirmed so far: Stoneleigh Honey, Gatward Country Crafts, Barnacle Hedgehog Rescue, Redefining Fabrics by Nina, Nora's Plants, Tregunter Preserves, Cheese on the Green, Anna Clarke Art, RNLI, Stoneleigh History Society, Warwickshire Beekeepers, Warwickshire Search and Rescue, Warwickshire Metal Detecting Club

Upcyclers - Exhibit and sell your creations. If you only have a few items to sell, we will arrange a shared space with other artists. £10 to reserve your pitch.

If you would like to exhibit in the Stoneleigh Orchard Spring Festival or volunteer in setting up the event, please contact Amanda Smith at

asmith@goinglean.co.uk

Seeking volunteers – To help set up the event on Friday 15th May from 9am. Any time you can give putting up gazebos, tables, signs, etc. would be much appreciated. Bakers also wanted to supply the Tea & Cakes tent.

Stoneleigh Ladies Choir

Pat Wightman

The choir is currently rehearsing for a very special event. On Sunday 3rd May, our choir will join forces with Sing It Loud, Bad Vibrations, Burton Green Choir together with the Coventry City of Culture Orchestra and the Coventry Salvation Army Band and Choir for a Massed Concert in Butterworth Hall at Warwick University, a tribute to our late Musical Director, Seb Farrall. Seb led all of these groups, giving everyone the opportunity to sing or play regardless of experience. He was an active supporter of The Music Man Project, an award-winning performance service for people with learning difficulties and money raised from the concert will be donated to this charity. Tickets are currently on sale, £19 adults and £9 for under 16's and are available from Warwick University Arts Centre.

Coming up shortly is the popular Quiz Night open to all comers. This will take place on Friday 17th April (not 24th as previously published - oops!) at Stoneleigh Village Hall starting at 7pm. Tickets are £10 and include a fish and chip supper.

The choir meets on Thursday afternoons in term-time only, and guarantees new members a warm welcome. More information and contact details may be found on our website www.stoneleighladieschoir.org.uk or telephone 07817 899097.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Annual General Meeting of Stoneleigh Village Hall and Playing Fields Trust

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General meeting of the above Trust will be held on Tuesday April 14th at 7.00pm at Stoneleigh Village Hall.

All residents are invited to attend the meeting.

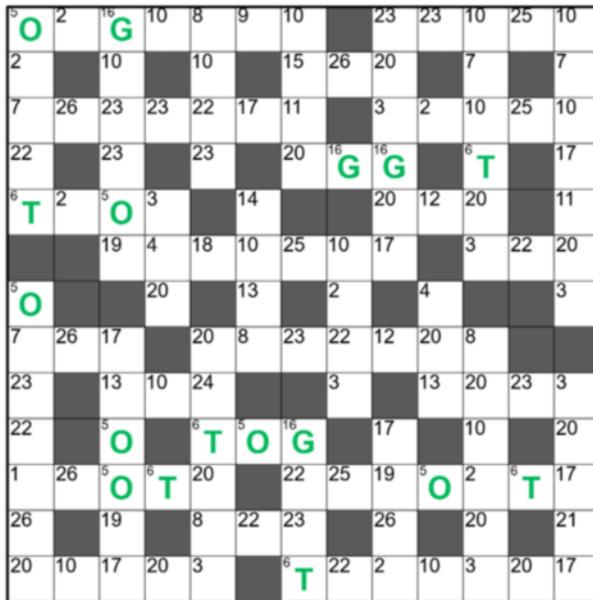
Stoneleigh WI

Liz Sykes



We had an interesting meeting in March, and we look forward to the next one on April 13th (a week late because of Easter). May's meeting will also be a week late because of the Bank Holiday.

Our speaker in April will be Shirley Ball talking to us about Stoneleigh. She will bring with her some old minute books that she has acquired from Federation House - a history of our WI.



A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

How to Play Codewords

Codewords are crosswords with no clues! Instead, every letter of the alphabet has been replaced by a number, the same number representing the same letter throughout the puzzle.

All you have to do is decide which letter is represented by which number!

To start you off three letters have been revealed, you should have enough information to start guessing words and discovering other letters. Solution on page 17.



The mobile library will visit the following locations in 2026:

- Wren Day Nursery, Stoneleigh Park: 1:40–2:10pm
- Stoneleigh Village Hall: 2:20–2:45pm

Visits will occur on the following dates:

- 10th April • 8th May • 1st June • 29th June
- 27th July • 24th August • 21st September
- 19th October • 16th November • 14th December

The library provides lift access and offers a diverse selection of books, including large print editions, audiobooks, and children's literature.

For further information, please contact the library via email

mobilelibraryservice@warwickshire.gov.uk

or telephone 01926 851031.

Book Bingo!

After the success of the launch of the Book Bingo challenge for adults in 2025, and to celebrate the National Year of Reading, Warwickshire Libraries are excited that in 2026 they will have three different Book Bingo challenges so that everyone can join in!



<https://library.warwickshire.gov.uk/reading/book-bingo-home>

Stoneleigh Church Easter Flowers

We will be decorating the Church for Easter on Saturday 4th April at 10am.
Please do come along and join us. Everyone welcome!



If you would like to make a donation towards the Easter lilies, then please do so at the Church or to myself.

Thank you

Amanda Freeman



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Stoneleigh Village Club



It is so good to see the first signs of Spring around the village and snowdrops and daffodils everywhere.

Thank you to those who came to the finance meeting. We shared with members how the club needs to rebuild its coffers after some extraordinary expenses over the past couple of years. I also shared how disappointing it is to hear negative remarks about the committee from some. This committee has worked extraordinarily hard over the past three years and although we do not expect applause, it is demotivating to hear criticism especially when those who share negative views are often people who have never been part of the committee or seen just what it entails.

Without the committee, the club would close. It is an important community resource and most of us enjoy spending time there at some point. Please, if you have views about how things might be done better or differently, share those views with the committee or better still, join us and offer your support.

Our treasurer Trudi Lowe has announced her intention to step down at the next AGM. We are looking for a new Treasurer to work with Trudi NOW so a proper handover can take place before Trudi leaves us. She has provided a thorough and detailed service and will be sorely missed. Please, if you have the skills and want to help the village club, let one of the committee members know or leave your details with Fletch behind the bar and we will be in touch.

Liz Wrist is, as ever, doing her best to think of ideas to support the club. The meat raffle continues to run every Friday evening. For those who are not in the club to buy a ticket, consider setting up a standing order and Liz will make sure your ticket goes into the draw and will let you know if you are the lucky winner.



Liz is also proposing a '100 Club' draw at a cost of £10 a month (pay by cash or standing order). You choose a number from 1-100 and the numbers go into a draw which is held on the last Saturday of the month. The prize is 30% of the cash takings with the balance going into a building fund so we can plan the repairs that are so desperately required. See posters in the club or speak to Liz.



Bank Details - Stoneleigh Village Club
 Sort Code - 40-27-06
 Account number - 62283697
 Please add "100 club" and your name as the reference
 e.g. 100 CLUB - DAVID ATTENBOROUGH.

Dates for your diary - March / April 2026

- March 28th - Eyes down for SVC Bingo at 7.30pm
- March 28th - SVC 100 Club draw at 8pm
- April 4th 4pm - Come and decorate your Easter bonnet to wear on Sunday 5th for the Easter Egg hunt which will take place at 12 noon.

Look out for posters promoting upcoming events.
 We look forward to seeing you soon at the club!
Your SVC committee.

O	R	G	A	N	Z	A		L	L	A	M	A
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B	U	L	L	I	S	H		D	R	A	M	A
I		L		L		E	G	G		T		S
T	R	O	D		F			E	V	E		H
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BOWLS OPEN DAY

BOWLS COACHING

LILLINGTON BOWLING CLUB

LIME AVENUE, LILLINGTON, LEAMINGTON SPA CV32 7DB

Come and give bowls a try at our event
for **FREE** on our Super Green:

**SUNDAY 3RD MAY
10AM - 4PM**

All ages welcome.
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Only flat shoes required.
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www.lillingtonbc.co.uk

Chris: 01926 881229 | c.venn@sky.com
John: 07956 487378 | johnbuggins@hotmail.co.uk



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 [Village Facebook page](#). and on the Stoneleigh History Society website stoneleighhistorysociety.org.uk

The May 2026 edition will be compiled by Emily Mort-Reay (sanewsletter30@gmail.com) **Copy deadline: 16th April 2026**

Placing an advertisement in Stoneleigh & Ashow News

Our page format size is A5.

Rates **per annum (10 editions)** are:

Full page (13 x 19cm)	£100
Half page (13 x 9.5cm)	£50
Quarter page (portrait or landscape) (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

How to create your advertisement

To place an advertisement, or for general enquiries, please email the Treasurer, Bill Crofts at sanewsletter30@gmail.com. Please state:

- The size of ad that you would like. Please provide your artwork if you have it ready.
- The editions in which you would like your advertisement published.

Once artwork has been received and size/dates agreed, you will be invoiced based on your request. Please note that, in order to have each edition ready for printing, we need to complete the above by the 16th of the month prior to your first requested edition, e.g. 16th August to publish in the September edition. We are happy to provide help with any advertisement requests.)



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



SERVICES FOR APRIL 2026

Thursday 2 nd	Maundy Thursday 6.00pm Agape Meal at Stoneleigh
Friday 3 rd	Good Friday 2.00pm Hour of the Cross at Ashow
Saturday 4 th	Easter Eve 8.00pm Easter Eve at Stoneleigh
Sunday 5 th	Easter Day 9.30am Easter Day Celebrations at Ashow 11.00 am Easter Day Celebrations at Stoneleigh
Sunday 12 th	9.30 am Holy Communion Service at Ashow 11.00 am Morning Praise at Stoneleigh
Sunday 19 th	9.30 am Celtic Service at Ashow 11.00 am Celtic Holy Communion Service at Stoneleigh
Sunday 26 th	9.30 am Village Service at Ashow 11.00 am Holy Communion Service at Stoneleigh

From the Registers - Funerals

Sunday 1st March 2026 – Mary Adele Newman
Interment in Stoneleigh Churchyard

Priest in Charge: Reverend Petrica Bistran 07572 193260
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

Or please contact the Parish Administrator,
Jackie Cubitt, 02476 415506 email: stoneleighchurch@hotmail.com
Office Hours Wednesday 9.00 am to 12.00, Thursdays 9.00 am to 1.00 pm

Website: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12964 for Stoneleigh
www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12954 for Ashow