

# **STONELEIGH AND ASHOW NEWS**



**OCTOBER 2026**



## **The Heart of Stoneleigh Defibrillator**

In the phone box on The  
Green

**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!**

***\* A second defibrillator can be found in the Village Hall \****

# Stoneleigh Village Club



**COFFEE MORNING**  
**Thursday**  
**October 15th, 29th**

**10:00am - 11:30am**

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

**£1 donation**



# Meet the Author at Stoneleigh Church

David J. Gatward is author of the *DCI Harry Grimm* series of crime thrillers, set in the Yorkshire Dales.

David grew up in Hawes, surrounded by the beautiful hills of Wensleydale. His writing reflects his intimate knowledge and love of the Dales, with local scenic spots, landmarks and venues featuring heavily in the books. *"The Dales feels like home,"* says Dave. *"I'm so lucky to be able to write about the most beautiful place on earth."* The series, which began with *Grimm Up North* in 2020, has sold over two million copies, and each of his new releases have ranked number one in Amazon English Crime. David also writes a spin-off series featuring DI Gordy Haig, set in the south-west of England. He now lives in Somerset with his two sons, and when he's not writing, Dave can often be found in the Dales, running, cycling and camping – all in the name of research, of course!

On 6th November at Stoneleigh Church he will be interviewed about his writing and the characters and the setting of his books. There will then be an opportunity over tea and coffee to meet and talk with David, to purchase his books and to have them signed.

*See poster opposite for details.*

*Tickets are £5 and will be available on the door. All proceeds go to support Stoneleigh Church*

This edition of Stoneleigh and Ashow News was compiled by Sarah Ballinger, who would like to thank all contributors.

The online colour version can be viewed on the

**Stoneleigh village Facebook page**

and on the [Stoneleigh History Society](https://stoneleighhistorysociety.org.uk/) website

(<https://stoneleighhistorysociety.org.uk/>).

The **November 2026** edition will be compiled by

Sarah Ballinger

[sanewsletter30@gmail.com](mailto:sanewsletter30@gmail.com)

Copy deadline: 16th October 2026

Join us for an evening of mystery with  
bestselling crime writer

# David J. Gatward

**Stoneleigh Church**

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November 7.30pm**

Bestselling crime writer David Gatward will be joining us for an evening of mystery. Hear David speak about his writing process and his journey to publication, followed by a Q&A and book signing.

Copies of David's books will be available to purchase at the event.

Tickets £5, available on the door.  
All proceeds go to support  
Stoneleigh Church.



stoneleighchurch

## Stoneleigh History Society

We began afresh after our summer break with an entertaining talk in September by Douglas Faulconbridge on his life from one end of the River Sowe to the other. It was good to see one another again and resume our meetings.

Nevertheless, the summer has been far from idle: many members have been pursuing complicated research, some of which is now available to read in the “Booklets” section of our website. Peter James has been looking at the long history of forestry on the Stoneleigh Estate, and Sheila Woolf has compiled a brief (ish!) guide to the notorious “bodies under the bridge” legend which absorbed both village and abbey for centuries. On behalf of a descendant, Lisa Reay has been delving into the complex history of an old Stoneleigh family, and Sue Crofts has been continuing an exhaustive examination of the story of the Deer Park, its residents and employees.

Together with this, at our October meeting Jill Kashi will be giving us the benefit of *her* research into the life and works of one of the most important writers and historians of Stoneleigh and Warwickshire – Mary Dormer Harris. Mary was born at Dale House Farm, and her works has left an enduring though perhaps not well-known legacy. All are welcome to join us to hear more, at 7.30pm at the Village Hall on Tuesday October 27<sup>th</sup>.

Next year we continue to share stories of past times in Stoneleigh and Ashow as well as further afield in Warwickshire, and our programme is available on the website.

**Sheila Woolf**

[www.stoneleighhistorysociety.org.uk](http://www.stoneleighhistorysociety.org.uk)

# The Mobile Library



The mobile library will visit these locations:

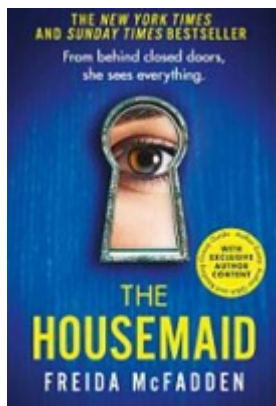
- Wren Day Nursery, Stoneleigh Park: 1:40–2:10pm
- Stoneleigh Village Hall: 2:20–2:45pm

on

- Monday 19 October
- Monday 16 November
- Monday 14 December

Email: [mobilelibraryservice@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:mobilelibraryservice@warwickshire.gov.uk)  
or call 01926 851031 for further information.

The library is fitted with a lift and has a selection of books, including large print, spoken word, and books for young children.



Our recommended read this month is ***The Housemaid*** by Freida McFadden.

*The Housemaid* follows Millie, a young woman with a difficult past who becomes a live-in maid for a wealthy couple. She soon becomes entangled in a dangerous web of secrets, manipulation and power. Blending suspense, scandal and psychological tension, the novel keeps readers guessing. It was also adapted into a film earlier this year.

If you would like to recommend a book you have enjoyed recently, do please email [sanewsletter30@gmail.com](mailto:sanewsletter30@gmail.com) so that we can share your recommendation with readers in future editions of the News.



# Stoneleigh Village Club

[www.facebook.com/stoneleighvillageclub](http://www.facebook.com/stoneleighvillageclub)

[stoneleigh.villageclub@gmail.com](mailto:stoneleigh.villageclub@gmail.com)

Vicarage Road, Stoneleigh,

Warwickshire CV8 3DH

Dear Members of Stoneleigh Village Club and  
readers of the Parish Magazine,

I thought I would take this opportunity, as this is my first written entry to Stoneleigh and Ashow News, to introduce myself and my family origins in the village of Stoneleigh. My name is Phillip Neale and at the club's AGM a couple of months ago, alongside other new committee members, I was elected as the new Chairman. Our family has been associated with the village club since my great grandfather, Joe King, moved to 1, Vicarage Road, Stoneleigh in the late 1800s.

My grandfather on my mother's side, William King, along with all his elder and younger brothers was members and when he retired, he helped my Nan clean the club. On my father's side, my granddad Sid and my dad Bob Neale both members as well as my younger brother Steve who has also been a member for many years.

I would like to think I've followed in the long family tradition, having been a member since the age of 18 and now chairman of the club, a role to which I feel privileged to have been elected.

A longer version of this article can be found on SHS Website:

<http://www.stoneleighhistorysociety.org.uk/>

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT STONELEIGH VILLAGE CLUB

**Halloween** - Friday 30th October see poster for full details

**Bonfire Night** - Saturday 7th November

**Remembrance Sunday** - 11th November after Church service,

*free glass of port to servicemen past and serving.*

**Children's Christmas Party** - Saturday 12th December



# ≡ CLUB ≡ WORKING PARTY *VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!*



We're looking at arranging a working party to help with the general upkeep and maintenance of the club.



Before we organise the dates, times and list of jobs, we'd like to get an idea of who would be interested in lending a hand.



If you'd be happy to volunteer some time and help out, **PLEASE LEAVE YOUR DETAILS AT THE CLUB.**



Once we have an idea of numbers, we'll share the dates, times and details of what we'll be doing.



***THANK YOU!***

# STONELEIGH VILLAGE CLUB

# 100 Club

SUPPORT  
YOUR CLUB

WIN MONTHLY  
PRIZES!



A FUN WAY TO SUPPORT THE CLUB  
WHILE HAVING A CHANCE TO WIN!



JUST  
**£10**  
PER MONTH



DRAW HELD  
**LAST  
SATURDAY**  
OF EVERY MONTH



WIN  
**MONTHLY  
PRIZES**



**50% PRIZES  
50% SUPPORTS**  
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MAINTENANCE &  
FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS

*Support today. Win tomorrow.* ♥

**18+**

OPEN TO MEMBERS  
AGED 18+



CHOOSE YOUR NUMBER.  
BE PART OF SOMETHING  
*Great!*



# Stoneleigh Ladies Choir

Pat Wightman

It was great to be back after the summer break, but now eyes are firmly set on Christmas. Work has begun on learning a variety of music for a number of dates already fixed, including our own Christmas concert on 10th December.

Before all that, the choir is looking forward to playing host to a visiting choir from Wales. The Abertillery Ladies Orpheus Choir contacted us with a view to sharing time during their visit to Warwickshire. The plan is to spend a day singing, learning new songs, and entertaining each other. The day will end with a short concert highlighting all that we have learned, for family members who would like to attend. We hope it will be a fun day for everyone.

Scheduled for October is tea and cakes in aid of Macmillan after our rehearsal on Thursday 1st October. Everyone is welcome to coming along at 3pm. Also, a Quiz Night will take place on Friday 16th October.

For all these events please contact Sharron for more information, her contact details are below.

*Our new term started at the beginning of September so you're thinking of joining us, this is a great time to give us a try.*

*We meet at Stoneleigh Village Hall on Thursday afternoons from 1.30 to 3pm (no turning out on dark nights).*

*There are no auditions and no need to read music; however, you will be guaranteed a warm and friendly welcome.*

*There is more information on our website:*

[www.stoneleighladieschoir.org.uk](http://www.stoneleighladieschoir.org.uk)

or email: [sharronmced@gmail.com](mailto:sharronmced@gmail.com)

Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir  
with  
Good Vibrations Community Choir  
Presents

*A CONCERT*

at

Stoneleigh Church

*In aid of Stoneleigh and Ashow Churches*  
on

Saturday 17 October at 7.00pm  
Tickets £15 (including refreshments)

are available from

Philip Jones Tel: 01926 853511 Mob: 07910240453  
email: [kathryngjones@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kathryngjones@hotmail.co.uk)

*There will also be a food collection for the  
Kenilworth Food Bank*

# Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir

Philip Jones

After our summer break, the choir is refreshed and rehearsing for our next event which is a concert with the Good Vibrations Community Choir from Kenilworth. This will take place in Stoneleigh Church on Saturday 17th October, details of which can be found elsewhere in the magazine.

Our Christmas Concert in December will once again be held in St. Francis of Assisi Church Kenilworth. More information will appear in the November edition of the magazine.

In August it was with great sadness that we heard of the death of one of our members, Jim Easter. Jim was an enthusiastic and loyal member of the choir as well as for many years serving as choir treasurer. He will be greatly missed. At his funeral some of the members of the choir with Peter Arch as soloist sang 'Always Look on the Bright Side of Life', a most appropriate song as it summed up Jim to a tee. The choir send their sympathy to his family and friends.

The choir received further sad news when we learned of the death of Janet Gibson whose husband David was for many years a stalwart of the choir. Janet was a great supporter of the choir who worked tirelessly behind the scenes at many of our concerts, and shows, as well as organising the raffle at numerous Summer Serenades before moving up north to live closer to their daughter and family. We send our sympathy to David and the family.

*If anyone is interested in joining the choir, please come along to one of our rehearsals which are held every*

*Wednesday evening at 7.30pm in Stoneleigh Village Hall,*

*or contact Philip Jones on 07910240453, or*

*email [kathryngjones@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kathryngjones@hotmail.co.uk) or [stoneleighmalevoicechoir.co.uk](http://stoneleighmalevoicechoir.co.uk)*

# Stoneleigh Community Orchard Update

Pete Freeman

By the time that this article goes to print and becomes available to the readership the orchard should have had its brandy launch scheduled to occur on 1st October and so a report on this will be available in the November edition.

Our collaborative brandy product represents a zenith in our product development and takes the cider to new levels of alcoholic concentration. It is worth briefly touching on the process involved in achieving these summits. First, it is important that cider used for production already arrives with an elevated alcohol content and this is achieved by adding quantities of sugar to the raw cider, then allowing the yeast to convert the additional sugar to alcohol. We currently supply 300 litres of cider to East Chase Distillery at an alcohol level in the vicinity of 8.5% Vol.

In its simplest form the process of distillation involves heating the cider. Because water and alcohol boils and subsequently condenses at different temperatures, it is possible to separate the components and thereby concentrate. The collection of purified liquid, called the distillate, drips into a separate container leaving impurities or higher-boiling components behind. The distilled cider, after botanical adjustment, is then aged and matured for at least three years in cherry-wood barrels prior to release.

Both East Chase Distillery and Stoneleigh Community Orchard are excited to have embarked on this collaboration and eagerly await the results with great anticipation.

Back in late August the Women's Cycling Tour of Britain allowed a unique opportunity to view the orchard from an aerial perspective courtesy of the race helicopter. It was a surprise to me to observe just how prominent the orchard is within the village setting. Perhaps its definition was aided by the colour contrasts with the arid condition of the surrounding countryside? Either way I was left pondering the old village and the relatively new orchard and how they seemed to complement each other. It was a perspective that I hadn't fully appreciated until that moment.

*Orchard Friends' subscriptions and yearly renewals for 2026 will cost £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](mailto:Petefreeman773@gmail.com)*

*Richard Hancox (Treasurer)*

*[Richard.Hancox@nationalhighways.co.uk](mailto:Richard.Hancox@nationalhighways.co.uk)*

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## **Placing an advertisement in Stoneleigh & Ashow News**

Our page format size is A5. Rates **per annum (10 editions)** are:

|                                                                          |             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Full page</b> (13 x 19cm)                                             | <b>£100</b> |
| <b>Half page</b> (13 x 9.5cm)                                            | <b>£50</b>  |
| <b>Quarter page</b> (portrait or landscape)<br>(6.5 x 9.5cm or 13 x 5cm) | <b>£25</b>  |

Rates for advertising in a **single edition** are:

|                                                         |            |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Full page</b> (1 edition + £10 each extra edition)   | <b>£20</b> |
| <b>Half page</b> (1 edition + £5 each extra edition)    | <b>£10</b> |
| <b>Quarter page</b> (1 edition + £5 each extra edition) | <b>£10</b> |

### **How to create your advertisement**

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

A registered charity

A graphic for Samaritans with a teal background. On the left, the text 'Whatever you're facing' is in white, 'We're here to listen' is in dark teal, and the Samaritans logo is at the bottom. On the right, white text reads: 'If you're going through a tough time, you don't have to face it alone. Call free day or night on 116 123'. The website 'samaritans.org/coventry' is at the bottom right.

**Whatever  
you're facing**

**We're here  
to listen**

**SAMARITANS**

If you're going through a tough time, you don't have to face it alone.

Call free day or night on  
**116 123**

samaritans.org/coventry

Cover photo by



Sarah Ballinger

# Step into Spring with Happier Feet Clinic



Foot care in the comfort of your own home

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[happierfeet4u@yahoo.com](mailto:happierfeet4u@yahoo.com)

Happiness Reed : DipFHP RFHP | Registered Foot Health Practitioner

## MillPiece Gardens



Fresh Veg, Salads, and Fruit  
grown in Bubbenhall  
from May to November



Price list sent out every week  
Pick up at field on Saturday

Join our mailing list- contact us at  
[millpiecegardens@gmail.com](mailto:millpiecegardens@gmail.com)



<https://www.instagram.com/millpiecegardens/>

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



***SERVICES FOR OCTOBER 2026***

|             |                                                                                         |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday 4th  | 11.00 am United Holy Communion at Stoneleigh                                            |
| Sunday 11th | 9.30 am Harvest Festival Celebration at Ashow<br>11.00 am Morning Praise at Stoneleigh  |
| Sunday 18th | 9.30 am Celtic Service at Ashow<br>11.00 am Celtic Holy Communion Service at Stoneleigh |
| Sunday 25th | 9.30 am Village Service at Ashow<br>11.00 am Holy Communion Service at Stoneleigh       |

***From the Registers***

***Funerals***

Friday 11th September 12.30 pm - Richard John Ashley  
Funeral Service at Stoneleigh

***Baptism***

Saturday 22nd August 11.00 am - Ethan Buckworth Conselmo - at Stoneleigh

***Priest in Charge:*** Reverend Petrica Bistran 07572 193260  
email: [revpbistran@gmail.com](mailto:revpbistran@gmail.com)

***Churchwardens:***

**Ashow:** Kate Jones 01926 853511 and Anne Gregory 01926 713066  
Deputy Warden: Peter Shrimpton 024 7509 6477

**Stoneleigh:** Gordon Gatward 07776 211276  
and Paddy Bryniarska 07947 472297

Deputy Warden: John Woodward 024 7641 8272

Or please contact the Parish Administrator,

Jackie Cubitt, 024 7641 5506 email: [stoneleighchurch@hotmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12964) for Stoneleigh

[www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12954](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12954) for Ashow