



**STONELEIGH  
PARK**

Warwickshire

# news

THE NEWSLETTER OF STONELEIGH PARK

Spring 2017



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## Welcome

to our latest issue of the Stoneleigh Park newsletter, keeping you informed of developments on the estate.

The twice-yearly newsletter is just one of the ways we keep our tenants, neighbours and stakeholders informed about what is happening at Stoneleigh Park, from the latest refurbishment projects to celebrating the successes of businesses on site.

Our annual survey of tenants is a great indicator and the latest results just in reveal a record number of people are employed on site. The employee headcount stands at 1,298 which is 150 more than the previous year. And to top that, a further 76 posts are expected to be created within the next 12 months. We also have the highest number of businesses ever recorded on site with 88 in total. An additional 13 are located here but do not have a day-to-day presence.

The record numbers show that Stoneleigh Park is thriving and the next few pages will give you a flavour of what has been happening in recent months.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition and if you do have any news relating to Stoneleigh Park, please do drop me a line at [colin.hooper@eu.jil.com](mailto:colin.hooper@eu.jil.com).

Don't forget the Stoneleigh Park website has a regularly updated news section – visit us at:

[www.stoneleighpark.com](http://www.stoneleighpark.com)

or follow us on Twitter

@Stoneleigh\_Park

## Digital hub for land based skills launches

**A new national 'virtual college' to champion skills development for land based industries has launched a digital hub from its base at Stoneleigh Park.**



From left to right, Leigh Morris (CEO of NLBC), Luke Harmer (Digital Manager at NLBC), Sarah Purdell (Programme Development Manager at NLBC), and Liz Burkinshaw (Manager of Rural Innovation Centre).

The National Land Based College (NLBC) has gone live with a new website which will be central to achieving its aim of improving workforce skills and promoting careers within the sector.

It sets out the NLBC's strategy to promote the land based sector as a professional and progressive career, increase industry engagement in the skills agenda, develop qualifications to deliver the skills employers need, and maximise digital and flexible learning opportunities.

The site also enables people registering with NLBC to be kept up-to-date with careers, education and training, and professional development information within farming and industries connected to the land and environment.

The NLBC has been founded as an employer-led virtual college to help address the need to improve workforce skills and the industry's overall quality and productivity.

It will work closely with land based industries and 30 member specialist land based colleges and universities operating from 67 campuses across the UK, their membership organisation Landex and awarding body partner City & Guilds.

Since being formally launched by George Eustice, Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, at the House of Lords in May last year, a core team of four headed by CEO Leigh Morris has established an office within the Rural Innovation Centre.

Leigh said: "Stoneleigh Park is the heart of the land based sector with leading organisations including the NFU, AHDB, BALI and Lantra on site and so it was central to our plan to run our operations from here.

"The NLBC is very much employer-led and will work collaboratively through a hub and spoke model, linking industry with specialist land based colleges and universities and providing a focal point for skills development.

"The website has been developed as a go-to place for land based skills, from career guidance and information on apprenticeships and qualifications to online teaching.

"The NLBC has the potential and ambition to be game changing for skills development within the land based sector and is a golden opportunity for industry to have a massive steer on how training and skills are developed and by doing that, we can make a huge difference."

[www.nlbc.uk](http://www.nlbc.uk)



## Meet the team:

### Liz Burkinshaw and Amy Rogers

Managers at the Rural Innovation Centre

The highly successful Rural Innovation Centre at Stoneleigh Park is jointly run by Liz Burkinshaw and Amy Rogers, on behalf of LaSalle Investment Management.

They accommodate and look after the needs of the small businesses based within the 35 serviced offices, as well as overseeing bookings for the two conference rooms, manning reception and other administrative duties.

Liz was appointed ahead of the official opening in September 2013 and has shared the role with Amy since October last year.

The centre was fully let in around six months and its success resulted in it being extended last August, with Liz playing an instrumental part in the expansion.

She said: "The demand for this style and size of office space has been huge. I think that's partly due to the quality of the building but also due to the rural location of Stoneleigh Park and the open space on site.

"One of the things I enjoy most is seeing the passion that the businesses put into their operations. Their dedication is really inspiring.

"It's fantastic to see them growing and taking on more office space or staff, like Wallis Lynch and iVentiv who both moved in during the first year, and to think that we might have helped is really gratifying."

Amy said: "It's a very friendly working environment and there's a great sense of community among the businesses.

"I really enjoy interacting with all of our tenants and being able to help with whatever they need."

To find out more about the centre, contact **02476 998 500** or email **enquiries@ricoffices.co.uk**



Iain Heaton, left, with Colin Hooper at the national office of The Pony Club.

## Milestone makeover for The Pony Club

**The national office of The Pony Club has been given a facelift in its 50th year of being based at Stoneleigh Park.**

New windows and doors have been installed at the office of the organisation, which is one of the longest standing tenants on the estate managed by LaSalle Investment Management.

The Pony Club, which has around 40,000 members all over the UK, has been at Stoneleigh Park since 1967 and moved into its current building in 2009 when it was officially opened by HRH The Princess Royal.

The improvements are the first significant refurbishment since The Pony Club took over the offices.

Alterations have been made to the front on both floors with new windows and doors installed to improve the efficiency of the building.

The main reception has also been moved to the front of the building to create a larger, more functional and more welcoming area. The original reception is being turned into a break out area to improve facilities for the 21 members of staff.

Iain Heaton, director of finance and operations for The Pony Club, said: "We are delighted with the improvements to our office which is firmly established here at Stoneleigh Park.

"Stoneleigh Park has a long-standing equine tradition, and the address is known to many people in the horse world.

"It provides the best of both worlds to The Pony Club; it's in a central location so is easily accessible but it's also in a beautiful rural setting close to a number of other equestrian organisations."

Colin Hooper, estates director at Stoneleigh Park, said: "The refurbishment will enable The Pony Club to change the way it uses the building.

"It is part of LaSalle Investment Management's on-going programme to revitalise buildings at Stoneleigh Park to house new occupiers and also to adapt to the changing needs of existing tenants of whom The Pony Club is one of the longest standing."

## NFU President welcomes Kendalls

**NFU President Meurig Raymond welcomed marketing and PR consultancy Kendalls to its new offices at Stoneleigh Park at a celebratory networking reception hosted at the Royal Agricultural Society of England's council chamber.**

Mr Raymond was joined by colleagues from the NFU and guests from many of the leading land-based organisations based on the estate to mark the official opening of Kendalls' head office.

He spoke of his great admiration of Kendalls' long track record over 40 years of championing the UK food and farming industry, and other rural enterprises, as the consultancy begins a new chapter at the national home of agriculture.



Andrew Kendall, left, with Meurig Raymond and Sarah Peacocke, Kendalls director.

Managing director Andrew Kendall said: "I would like to thank Meurig for his kind words and support, and we look forward to working with organisations on site here at Stoneleigh and across the country to lead UK agriculture and rural businesses through a time of much challenge, but also of great opportunity."



## New MD at FEC Energy



Chris Plackett, left, with Andrew Kneeshaw at FEC Energy.

### FEC Energy, the energy consultancy specialising in agriculture at Stoneleigh Park, has appointed a new managing director.

Chris Plackett takes over from Andrew Kneeshaw who, after 17 years in the post, is stepping down to take a general directorial role prior to his retirement later this year.

Chris started with FEC Energy in 1993 and has held the post of commercial director for 11 years. He said: "Andrew is handing over at a time when FEC Energy is in a very strong position and this is going to allow us to capitalise on the opportunities that the UK energy market presents."

## Meet the tenant: NAEC Stoneleigh

### The National Agricultural and Exhibition Centre (NAEC) Stoneleigh manages the event venue at Stoneleigh Park.

With 22,000 sq m of indoor space and over 800 acres of outdoor space, it is one of the most versatile venues in the country and hosts more than 300 events a year from meetings, team-building sessions and celebrations to shows, conferences and exhibitions.

NAEC Stoneleigh, which is part of the Grandstand Group based on the estate, took over managing the event venue in January 2013. Sixty people are employed full-time, with a further 60 on a part-time basis.

It has since invested £2 million to improve event facilities, which included creating a third exhibition hall. The investment has also seen improvements to traffic management on and around the site to enhance the experience for both visitors and local residents.

Helena Pettit is managing director of NAEC Stoneleigh and says the venue's unique mix of indoor and outdoor space combined with its reputation for flexibility and service is a big attraction.

Free parking, a 58-bedroom hotel and in-house catering are additional reasons for new and returning organisers making NAEC Stoneleigh their venue of choice.



Helena Pettit, managing director of NAEC Stoneleigh

"It is a unique event venue and with its facilities and our great team, we feel we are able to offer more than our competitors," said Helena.

"Since taking over, we have made a significant investment to grow NAEC Stoneleigh as an event venue and that is reflected in the increasing number and type of bookings.

"We are looking to grow further but at a manageable rate. We would like to attract more agricultural events and those that sit well with the site."

The Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers is returning to NAEC Stoneleigh for Dairy-Tech 2018, joining other agricultural events already at the site including Grassland & Muck and the Kenilworth Show. As well as agriculture, Stoneleigh Park has a long association with equestrianism and the British Showjumping National Championships and Stoneleigh Horse Show in August is a prestigious date in the venue's calendar.

"Over the last four years, we have made significant strides to establish the NAEC Stoneleigh at Stoneleigh Park as a leading venue at a regional and national level, and we are always keen for more people to come and see what we have to offer," said Helena.

She said: "Relocating to Warwickshire has been a fantastic move for us. The site sits in the heart of the Warwickshire countryside whilst still providing invaluable transport links."

Jane spoke about her previous employment as Editor of Farmers Weekly, and the challenges she now faces in her new role to deliver a step change in farmers' ambition and performance.

Our purpose is to inspire farmers, growers and the industry to succeed in this rapidly changing world in order to fulfil our vision of becoming a world-class food and farming industry inspired by and competing with the best," she added.



## King addresses Champions

Jane King, Chief Executive of the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB), was invited to be a keynote speaker to a recent Coventry & Warwickshire Champions event.

More than 150 guests attended the breakfast meeting at Coventry University TechnoCentre to hear Jane talk about the AHDB, and why Stoneleigh Park is the perfect place for its headquarters.

## News in brief:



### The trio behind the Rural Innovation Centre has been invited back to celebrate its off-spring.

Louise Bennett, chief executive of the Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce, David Ayton-Hill, of Warwickshire County Council, and Denis Chamberlain, of Stoneleigh Park, made the case to create the centre. Its success prompted LaSalle Investment Management to extend the offices.

### A technology and research consultancy is leading a pioneering project to develop an environmentally friendly alternative to fracking.

Nota Bene Research has moved into the RIC where it will work on a drilling technology to extract UK shale gas reserves. The company estimates its 'no-frack' system will increase well output by at least a factor of three, in a shorter timescale and without the environmental obstacles of hydraulic fracturing.

### Researchers with a company that aims to revolutionise the semiconductor industry have made their base of operations at the RIC.

Advanced Epi Materials and Devices is the brainchild of managing director Gerard Colston and technical director Dr Maksym Myronov who are developing high quality silicon carbide as an alternative to silicon semiconductors.

### An innovative guitar school says it has hit the right note at its new home.

PlayableGuitar has moved into the RIC and the business builds on the website which has provided free resources to aspirational guitar players, schools and colleges for the past two years. The new office has facilities for music editing, producing tutorial videos and even has its own small recording studio.

# On your bike for Comic Relief

**Colleagues and customers at Farmers Fayre at Stoneleigh Park got on their bike to raise money for Comic Relief.**

They planned to cycle the 603 miles from Land's End to John O'Groats on a static Watt bike but exceeded their target with a final count of 685 miles and a huge £704 raised for the charity.

Businesses on the estate were among those who joined the Farmers Fayre team in the five-day challenge which culminated on Red Nose Day.

A group from CrossFit Coventry got involved with one of them cycling 6.57 miles, the longest distance in a 15-minute slot, to win a recovery pack prize from Stoneleigh Park's Rejuven8 Physiotherapy, which also provided the bike.

Nicola Reece, director of Farmers Fayre, said: "We were overwhelmed by the sense of community spirit within Stoneleigh Park and surrounding area. We'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who donated their time and money to help us raise such a fantastic amount for Comic Relief.

"We're also looking forward to our next charity fundraiser which will be our annual rounders tournament on Thursday, July 6!"



Colleagues from Farmers Fayre and Rejuven8 Physiotherapy as the challenge got underway.

## Dates for your diaries...

**World of Park & Leisure Homes Show** – June 9 to 11

**Kenilworth Show** – June 10

**Midsummer Motorhome Show** – June 23 to 25

**British Showjumping National Championships and Stoneleigh Horse Show** – August 8 to 13

**Coventry & Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce Business & Trade Expo** – September 15

**The Glamping Show** – September 21 to 23

## Stoneleigh Rally duo at Crufts



Leanne Ward and Brodie with Rachel Bradley, head trainer at Stoneleigh Rally

**A member of a new dog training club at Stoneleigh Park was selected to represent the Midlands in a sport which made its debut at this year's Crufts.**

Leanne Ward and her rescue lurcher Brodie belong to Stoneleigh Rally which launched in February to offer tuition in rally, the canine sport fast-growing in popularity.

The duo only started rallying a year ago and yet qualified for a team of eight representing the Midlands which was placed third overall in an inter-regional competition.

Leanne, a senior customer service advisor at the NFU at Stoneleigh Park, said: "It was a long day at Crufts - very busy and a great experience. I will continue training with Stoneleigh Rally and will definitely be trying out for the Midlands team next year too."

Stoneleigh Rally holds classes every Monday evening at the Kennel Club Building. For more information, visit [www.stoneleighrally.co.uk](http://www.stoneleighrally.co.uk) or email [stoneleighrally@gmail.com](mailto:stoneleighrally@gmail.com)

## New attractions at Kenilworth Show

**The Kenilworth Show is set to host a UK national championship and stallion stars of the small screen for the first time this year.**

The agricultural show will feature the UK national stickmaking championship and see the Atkinson Action Horses stunt riders, of Poldark and Peaky Blinders fame, perform live.

Thousands of people from across the country are expected to flock to the Kenilworth Show on the showgrounds opposite Stoneleigh Park on Saturday, June 10, from 9am.

The traditional country show, organised by Kenilworth and District Agricultural Society, will feature a full day of agricultural,

countryside entertainment along with a main ring programme.

Stoneleigh Park is proud to once again be sponsoring the Kenilworth Show, the largest one-day agricultural show in Coventry and Warwickshire. For tickets and further information visit [www.kenilworthshow.co.uk](http://www.kenilworthshow.co.uk)