

February 2019

No. 178

The Stoker



Stoke Golding Village Magazine

Including

Dadlington Matters

50p



Note from the Editor

It has been a real pleasure to edit the first Stoker of 2019 and, my oh my, it was certainly quite a task fitting in all the news, reviews and thanks yous! It just goes to show what a wonderfully vibrant community we have in our two villages. We're sure you'll agree community spirit is still very evident from litter picking to enjoying social events together. We hoped you enjoyed your *free* issue of The Stoker which was delivered to every household in Stoke and Dadlington.

We are very grateful to the Thomas Barton Charity who funded the printing of the 1000 copies which kept us all in touch with events over the festive season.

If you don't want to miss an issue in the future, why not consider a yearly Stoker subscription? For a mere £5 you will get 10 issues delivered to your address throughout the year in time for the start of each new month. Of course, if you buy copies for family and friends, multiple subscriptions are very welcome. All you need to do is drop an email to thestoker@gmx.co.uk or let us know in person, if you see us out and about.

We were sorry to hear that Penny James has passed away. She was on the Stoker team and our eagle eyed proof reader for many years until she left the village.

So, dear readers, it's time to put the kettle on, find a comfy seat and enjoy this bumper filled issue.

Wishing you all good health and happiness in 2019

Ella

The Stoker Team

Editors: Jane White (01455 212416), Steve Smithers (01455 213798)

Production Team: Rosemary Collier, Beth Ellis, Richard & Ella Orr, Jan Pettyfer, Jill Webster, Jennifer Michie, Michael Dix.

Please send articles for the **March** issue of The Stoker **by 15th February** to:
The Editors, 45 Station Road, Stoke Golding.
Email thestoker@gmx.co.uk

If you can submit articles by e-mail or on a memory stick (Microsoft Word) it makes our job much easier, (**500 words maximum** please).

All correspondence, including e-mails, must include your full name, home address and home telephone number.

N.B. All advertising enquiries to Ella Orr - ella42@sky.com

Publication of any articles or letters submitted does not imply approval of, or agreement with, any views and comments contained, and are published without prejudice.

Cover picture: February photo from the Stoke Golding calendar compiled by resident Bill Shearer. Many thanks to Bill.

Starting the year in true community spirit



A small group of dedicated residents carried out a litter pick on Saturday January 5th and their efforts were much appreciated by many in our two villages. In just one hour, they collected **eight** large bin bags of rubbish from Stoke Road outside St Martin's School down to Rogues Lane. Our thanks to Stephen, who organised the clear up, and Bob, Di and Andy who worked together

removing the litter and getting to know each other. We are informed it was a rather sociable gathering!

Stephen said,

'The villagers have been so appreciative of our attempts to collect the litter that has accumulated by the roadside, mostly from passers-by throwing waste out of their car windows. Plastic waste is an environmental disaster and it really affects the local wildlife. Many villagers already litter pick on a daily basis and many thanks to them.'

Would you like to join the next litter pick?

The next litter pick is planned for Saturday 2nd February from 12pm to 1pm. They will meet at the George and Dragon and afterwards Katie/Alex have very kindly agreed to supply some sausage rolls for those who volunteer on the day. Stephen is hoping to get some grabbers from HBBC which will help in removing more from the hedgerows.

If anyone would like to join them, you are very welcome to the group: the more the merrier! Please wear boots, jeans and importantly gloves. Stephen will provide refuse sacks. The group is happy to take suggestions for where to collect, so please let them know if you think there is an area that particularly needs a clear up.

'Come and join us if you can' is Stephen's advice.

The Eds.



Facebook group

Information about the litter pick was circulated through the Stoke Golding Facebook group which is thriving now with over 750 members. It is easy to join and is another useful resource for updates and events in our community. Just look for **Stoke Golding Community** on Facebook.



We have received some lovely thank yous about events over the festive season in our villages. We would like to thank Charles Frisby for our beautiful hand-drawn Happy New Year and thank you card - Eds.

Stoke Golding Charity Sleigh

Many thanks to you all for your generous contributions. The following organisations have benefitted: Stoke Golding Village Hall, Dadlington Village Hall, Engine Shed Boxing Gym, Robin Hood Playschool, Childrens' section of the Garden Show, Scout Group and Stoke Golding Junior Football Club.

Many thanks again

Charity Sleigh Committee



St Margaret's Snowman Festival

A huge thank you goes to all those who decorated the church, to those who donated items to sell, and to all those who baked, made jams and pickles, and prepared the delicious food. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way. It was our most successful Snowman Festival raising £2,000 for church funds.



Thank you to the Garden Show members, and to Jo and Garth Tomlinson for their generous donations. There were 272 snowmen in church, so well done Libby for guessing 271. Our last thank you goes to all our many visitors who made it so successful.

Margaret Croxall

A Big Breakfast Thank you

Thank you to my family and friends and everyone who helped and supported our big breakfast in November. We achieved a grand total of £628 for the A.R.D.S research.

Thank you all once again.



Margaret Villiers and family

A musical thank you!

Take It From The Top would like to say a big thank you to all those who came to their Christmas dance, we had a wonderful time and it was great to have Dean Thomas singing with us making it a very special occasion.

Your generosity surpassed all expectations, with a sell out gig, additional donations, a gift from the Stoker magazine and a very well patronised raffle. The band 'swelled the coffers' the following morning when they played carols in the Britannia Centre.

Profits from the two events meant we've been able to donate the grand total of £500 to Prostate Cancer UK.

Also, a huge thank you to all those who helped to make the village hall look so festive and with the clearing up after - you are all stars!

TIFTT - Sarah, Jane, Andrew, Justine, Marie, Paul, Mike, Alison and Dave



Why has the village noticeboard gone?

Just before Christmas, whilst visiting the shop, I was horrified to see the Village notice board being dismantled and taken away on a trailer! It transpires that the New Business moving into the old post office didn't want it in that location, ownership of the land was disputed and consent withdrawn, and had been applying pressure for its removal!

Along with many other villagers I feel it seemed a rather radical step, bearing in mind the information on the board is informative, kept up to date, and is relied upon by very many interested villagers.

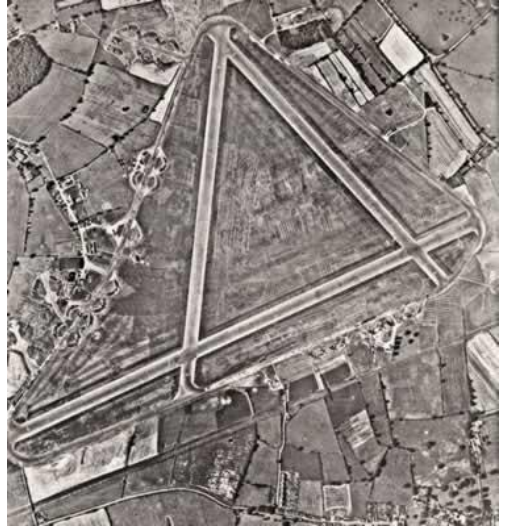
Following a recent parish council meeting, it transpires that, at some expense, the board will be relocated nearby along Church Walks beyond the Parish Council Boards.

Tammy Hair Salon are happy to oblige. Thankyou for the tolerance of the PC! and thank you, Tammy, for being community minded and for your understanding of how our village ticks!

Judy Spokes

RAF Nuneaton

MIRA has hit the headlines in recent months because of their plans to extend their site over part of Bosworth Battlefield. They have been in the area since 1948 when they took over the disused airfield that had been RAF Nuneaton (also known as RAF Lindley) for the last few years of the war. Allied planes had begun bombing Germany in 1940 and, as the number of raids increased, along with the casualty rate, there was a growing need for new crews. The Midlands was an ideal location for training airfields, with operational squadrons flying from the east and south of England where they had less far to travel to the European mainland. Nearby RAF Bramcote was a training airfield but by 1942, it was operating at near capacity and so a new linked airfield was created in fields to the north of Watling Street near Higham.



There was concern locally about the disruption the airfield would have once training flights began and one particular objection came from the Bishop of Leicester. The flight path to the airfield passed directly over St Margaret's church in Stoke Golding, and there were fears that a low flying plane might clip the 120-foot high spire. After six months of negotiating, the matter was resolved and 60 feet of spire was dismantled, each brick being numbered so that it could be returned to its former position once the war was over. Stoke also acquired an RAF observation tower which still stands off the Wykin Road, owned nowadays by Terry Bottrill.

As the main training base was at Bramcote, only one hangar was constructed along with other facilities for upwards of one thousand personnel. One group of airmen, stationed at Bramcote, who may well have gone out on training from Nuneaton were Poles who had fled their country when the Nazis invaded, and who were now keen to help get them out again. The airfield's role for training bombing crews lasted about a year until June 1943 when RAF Transport Command moved in. As planning for D-day began, it became clear that air transport was going to become a crucial part of the operation, for both flying troops in and for delivering equipment and supplies.

They kept the same Wellington bombers they'd used for training purposes and one captain, stationed there in 1944, complained that flying a Wellington was nothing like handling a real transport plane, as that

some of the navigational aids they were learning to use wouldn't be available when they were posted to Indo-China to fight against the Japanese.

The base was abandoned in 1946 although it remained in government hands until 1950. Much of the site is as it was back then, with a triangle of three runways used for testing vehicles these days. The buildings were adapted by MIRA, although the old control tower was relocated to the Imperial War Museum at RAF Duxford some years ago.



Michael Dix



They Came, They Sang, They Conquered

Performing to what was probably their largest ever audience in a packed St Margaret's church, Ambion Voices provided a smorgasbord of festive cheer at their annual Christmas concert. The programme featured a number of yuletide songs including The Twelve Days of Christmas, a jolly romp through said number of carols and Christmas songs. The audience got to join in with a couple of carols and there were also two readings, one from the late Denis Cash that featured shepherds with Yorkshire accents. After a beautifully reflective final piece, sung a cappella, the choir invited the audience to join them for refreshments, so satisfying both body and soul.

Michael Dix

Methodist Church Christmas Fayre

What a start to December with the Christmas Fayre to kick start the festive season. What can I say but a warm welcome, beautifully baked cakes, as well as other refreshments and support of the local community ,raising funds for The Methodist Chapel.

I particularly enjoyed the German Honey cake and haven't sampled the black currant jam as yet.

It was a lovely gesture to see the chef from the " White Swan" drop off some shortbread which were swan shaped to boost the funds. I did hear from a very reliable source that the shortbread swans were indeed " excellent " .

So all in all a festive occasion and £474.00 was raised. Well done to all involved.

Jennifer



CASAG News

It's that time of year when new year resolutions have been made and possibly broken by now !

So if you are struggling with the concept of a dry January and possibly lost a bit of control with your drinking over the festive period, then the drinkaware motto of " have a little less, feel a lot better " is for you.

The health implications of excessive drinking of liver disease, cancer and mental health and relationship problems are well documented to name but a few.

There is help out there and it's confidential so contact Drinkaware or your GP , to feel better in all ways.



Jennifer

Ten of a Kind

If you were born towards the end of February, you will have the star sign Pisces. So, this month's ten of a kind questions are all fish related.

1. Which comic features a long running cartoon strip called Billy the Fish?
2. Where in the UK is the National Sealife Centre?
3. What kind of fish is a kipper before it's smoked?
4. According to St John's gospel, how many fishes did Jesus have to feed five thousand people?
5. Which two former pythons appear in A Fish Called Wanda?
6. Which species of fish makes use of the ladder in Pitlochry, Scotland, built to help them avoid a dam in the river they use to spawn?
7. A popular piece of classical music, the Trout Quintet is written for a string quartet and piano. Who was the composer?
8. Who said at a press conference, "When the seagulls follow the trawler, it's because they think sardines will be thrown into the sea?"
9. What is shark's skeleton made of?
10. The bummalu or lizard fish, when dried, is a South Asian delicacy. However, when it appears in shops and on restaurant menus it bears the name of a bird: what is it?

Answers on page 15

Would you like to do Tai Chi in Stoke Golding?

We want to keep our Tai Chi group going in Stoke Golding but, due to recent losses, our current membership is dwindling. However, we will be having a number of new participants, from outside of the village, hopefully joining in the coming weeks. The group has been meeting in the village for many years (well over a decade) and the activity has become a 'social' event we all prize. We meet on a Monday morning at the Methodist Church Hall from 10.30 to 11.30, after which we have half an hour of tea and chat.

If you'd like to give Tai Chi a try, please contact John Starbuck on 07821 633678.

A Stoke Golding and Dadlington Miscellany

During the summer of 2018 Denis Cash gave me a call and asked to see me. He was bright, cheerful, and I had no idea he was ill until he told me. We talked about “Old Stoke” and “Dado” and he told me a little about his own interesting background. We both expressed an interest in local history and I told him I knew of several people who had collections of local historical material which I should like to see made available in some way to local people.

As I left he gave me two CDs which he said might interest me and a month or two later he asked me to call again. I did so and he gave me another five discs. I’m ashamed to say I didn’t look at them in any detail until I heard the sad news that Denis had died.

To say I was astounded is an understatement and the further I looked the more astounded I became. The archives which the discs contain are a veritable Aladdin’s Cave of information about our two villages, going back to the Magna Carta at least and probably beyond. I have barely scratched the surface of them yet, but know already that this is a unique and prodigious collection worthy of the highest praise and much too valuable to be left lying around in any individual’s filing cabinet.

The content of the first 5 discs is divided into 108 volumes and those volumes contain 2,160 files. The remaining discs contain another 90 files, a total of 2,250, amounting to 4.5 gigabytes of information. I haven’t yet counted all the photographs but already I’ve found around 2,000 and an index I have put together runs to 13 double-column pages, in very small print. By any standards this archive contains a colossal amount of invaluable information which must have taken years to collect.

Denis referred to many of his files as “A Stoke Golding Miscellany” and when I started to compile an index my instinct was to “tidy them up” and put them in what to me would appear to be some kind of logical order. For example, “The Papers of R.E. (Reg) Flavell” moved into one file rather than three separate files in three different volumes; all the obituaries in one file, in chronological order and the Stoke Golding files separated from the Dadlington files.

On reflection, however, I decided to leave the archive as Denis compiled, titled and presumably intended it, a Miscellany, a medley if you like, of events, people, places, stories and statistics, to dip into as

you might a newly discovered treasure chest, not knowing what precious gem you might find. Perhaps a mundane “Street Signs in Stoke,” an intriguing “Female Village Blacksmith,” a bizarre “Goose Strangling in Dadlington 1870” or a priceless “Ancient History of Stoke Golding.”

I’m currently refining the index and exploring ways in which the Miscellany might be made more widely available.

Bob Quinney

Stoke Golding 2018 Christmas Lights Switch On “A Great Success”

This year’s annual Christmas Lights Switch on within the grounds of Park House really drew in the crowds. A few hundred villagers gathered together, enjoying hot mulled wine and mince pies, whilst being treated to Christmas songs played by a wonderful brass band. Children were able to meet Father Christmas and discuss what presents they would like and even the weather was kind to us.

A big thank you all who helped on the night and especially to the Charity of Thomas Barton for funding the whole event.



Stoke Golding website: www.stokegolding.co.uk

Dadlington Matters

The Lights go on in Dadlington

For many years, the residents of Dadlington shivered by the steps to the village hall as the official switch on of the Christmas lights took place, but not any more. Now the hall boasts a giant tree adorned with lights and baubles, and it was this that was illuminated on the first Friday in December. About forty locals turned up to witness the spectacle and indulge in mulled wine and mince pies. The task of turning the lights on fell to a number of village children who each had one hand on the plunger.



Thanks go to the village hall committee for organising the event and providing a constant supply of drink and food during what was a very convivial evening.



Have you been to the Screen on the Green? Dadlington's community cinema enters its second year with a full programme of films for young and old. Full details are available on the website: www.dadlingtonvillagehall.co.uk/screen-on-the-green.htm and on the noticeboards in both villages.

If you would like to be kept up to date by joining our mailing list then please send an email with your name to screenonthegreendadlington@gmail.com. Entry to the screenings costs £2.50 for your first drink. Monthly Friday night shows begin at 7:30pm, Thursday morning films begin at 10:45am and Sunday family films begin at 2:30pm. The doors open 30 minutes before the film starts.

New to Dadlington? Moved in in the last 5 years?

You are invited to come and meet other new residents (and a few old ones!) and enjoy wine and nibbles.

Dadlington Village Hall Committee invites all new residents to a FREE wine/nibbles/cake gathering 7:30pm Friday 15 th February.

It is a chance to meet your new neighbours for a glass or two of wine and a chat.

Also there will be members of the Village Hall Committee and other villagers who can try to answer any questions about the village, its History and events such as "Screen on the Green" film programme, Flower Festival, Quiz nights, Cream Teas, Litter Picks, Coffee Mornings and more.

There is no catch or commitment, just a nice welcome to Dadlington. To assist planning, please contact John & Jill Whitehead if you would like to attend.

Telephone 213244 or e:mail [jf_whitehead @ hotmail.com](mailto:jf_whitehead@hotmail.com)

Kitchen Corner

PORK CHOPS WITH SAGE AND TOMATOES

INGREDIENTS

- 4 Pork chops (trimmed)***
- 1tblsp. Olive Oil***
- 1oz. Butter***
- 1 clove of Garlic***
- 1oz. (25gms.) Plain Flour***
- 15fl. ozs. (425ml.) Chicken Stock***
- 3fl.ozs. (75ml.) White Wine***
- 2tsp. Tomato Puree***
- 1tsp. Dried Sage***
- 4 Spring Onions, peeled and sliced***
- 3 Tomatoes, peeled and chopped***

METHOD

Pre-heat the oven to 160C/325F or Gas Mark 3-4

Cook for 3-4 minutes each side until well -browned. Remove the meat and place in an oven-proof gratin dish in a single layer.

Heat the butter in the pan and the crushed garlic and flour and cook for one minute stirring all the time. Slowly add the stock , wine and tomato puree, and stir constantly until the sauce boils and thickens.

Pour the sauce over the chops, add the sage and spring onions, cover the dish and place into the oven for 1 hour. Remove from the oven and add the tomatoes, return the dish to the oven and cook for a further 20 minutes.

BOOK FOLDING FUN

The first meeting of the New Year for the members of Stoke Golding W.I began with the usual good wishes to everyone and with remembering the delightful times we had during December when we all enjoyed our Christmas meal, the Carol Service and the Christmas party with especial memories of our Secret Santa.

We were having a demonstration on book folding which became very hands on much to our delight. Two of our own members, Kate McReight and Jill Whitehouse, were going to show us what to do and they began by distributing old unwanted paperback books to everyone. Seeing the delightful hedgehogs that Kate and Jill had made and we were hopefully going to produce made us all eager to begin.

So we began folding the pages in the books as Kate had instructed us and, as we had to fold approximately 120 pages, the sound of conversation soon took over from concentration, although being ladies we could do both. So we had soon brought all those on our tables up to date on Christmas and New Year news, our families and put the world to rights and surprisingly enough the 120 pages were soon completed. This was no small feat as the more pages folded the more difficult it was to hold them, but fold them we did.

Then following further instructions we glued bases, ears, eyes and noses and, much to our delight, we had constructed some very attractive hedgehogs. Our thanks went to Kate and Jill and we were all able to take home some really cute animals that we had made ourselves.

Our next meeting at the Methodist Hall is on February 13th and John Parnell 'The Hoop Guy' is coming along to talk to us. We look forward to finding out quite what a 'hoop guy' is and anyone who would like to come along and join in are welcome.

Val Hartwell

Stoke Golding Parish Council Update

Village Noticeboard

Following a change in the tenancy of the former post office and lengthy negotiations with the new tenant, the village noticeboard has been removed from its position in the centre of the village and safely stored by the Parish Council. The Parish Council will take this opportunity to renovate the noticeboard. Once renovated the noticeboard will be relocated to a temporary position on the land adjacent to Tammy's Hair Design on Church Walk. The Parish Council would like to thank Tammy's Hair Design and the landowner for their written permission to use this land. The Parish Council will continue to investigate other more central permanent locations for this valued village service.

Parish Council Elections

The Parish Council is approaching the end of its current four-year term and the local elections will take place on 2nd May 2019. The official notice of election will be published no later than the 26th March 2019. If you would like to know more about the work of the Parish Council and the role of a Parish Councillor, please feel free to attend the Parish Council meetings to observe. The Parish Council has a monthly meeting on the first Wednesday of each month in the Methodist Church Hall at 7.00pm. Further information and nomination papers will be available from the Clerk after the 26th March 2019.

If you require any information contact the Clerk on:

clerk.stokegoldingpc@gmail.com

Stoke Golding Heritage Group - February meeting

Drones have hit the headlines recently for the wrong reasons. However in the right hands they are a powerful tool in surveying sites that are difficult or expensive to survey. James Rawlings runs a firm, based in Hinckley that uses drones to survey Heritage Assets such as National Trust properties. On Thursday Feb 21st at 7.30pm in the Baxter Hall, James will give an illustrated talk on "Drones & Heritage". Non members are welcome but there will be a nominal charge of £2.50.

Roy Mitchell

What an end to the term!

What can I say but white paint, coal, glitter, glue, card, chocolate Krispies, polystyrene cups, snowman festival and 3 D snowflakes.

We also had the Beavers nativity play and group Xmas party, which about 80 scouts, cubs and beavers attended which was noisy and FUN.

The leaders went off for a well earned rest over Christmas. Thank you to all for all your hard work behind the scenes and on the nights.

Jennifer



Answers to Ten of a Kind

1. Viz
2. Birmingham
3. Herring
4. Two
5. Michael Palin & John Cleese
6. Salmon
7. Schubert
8. Footballer Eric Cantona
9. Cartilage
10. Bombay Duck

Village Arts Exhibition raises money for LOROS

On a busy Saturday at the beginning of December I, as well as a lot of others, made the time to pop down and view the work of local artists. I know I have said this before, but I am always amazed at the depth and extent of local talent and I was not disappointed. Well done to Di Sinclair and Pauline Goodsell for hosting this event. A quote from Pauline says it all....

"We would like to thank everyone for the great support we had on Saturday 1st December at the Art Exhibition and Sale. With commissions from sales, donations and the proceeds from the refreshments we have sent £220 to LOROS. Whether visitors bought anything or just looked round there were a lot of 'arty' conversations and also requests to have another exhibition!

Many thanks from Pauline and Diane".

Jennifer Michie



What's On

Coffee and Chat

Coffee and Chat is a monthly coffee morning for people living in Dadlington and Stoke Golding – although we also welcome people from outside of the villages. It is held at Dadlington Village Hall on the first Thursday of every month from 10.15am – 12.15pm.

Come and join us for some delicious homemade cakes and coffee or tea and chat to your friends and neighbours - or get to know new people in the community. We usually have about 40 people coming along each month.

The coffee morning is non profit-making - you can buy a cake and a cuppa for a total of £1 and, when we take possession of our new coffee machine, we will also be offering filtered coffee at £1. We donate any surplus funds to charity. You will be made very welcome, so why not give it a try? – we would love to see you there.

Jane White



StokeArts at the Village Hall **Dates for your diary, 2019

Saturday 16 March: Rag Mama Rag – A return visit by Ashley and Deborah Dow 'who have built up their reputation as one of Europe's finest Country Blues acts, making use of an interesting and wide range of instruments'.

Saturday 27 April: Sounds of Simon – A tribute to the wonderful music of Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel.

Saturday 22 June: Richard Durrant, A Midsummer Concert. We are delighted to welcome Richard back to the village hall for the fourth time to entertain us with his exquisite guitar playing.

Saturday 21 September: Claude Bourbon returns for the second time performing Blues.

Saturday 30 November: Flossie Malavialle in Concert. 'Flossie came over from France and wowed everybody with her sensational voice, her gutsy guitar style, eclectic repertoire and Franglais patter'.

All concerts start at 8pm (doors open 7.30pm).

Bring your own drinks and nibbles.

Tickets for all concerts: £10 (£8 child).

<https://stokearts.yapsody.com> or tel: 01455 213798

email: stokearts@g.mail.com





Little Acorn Production Company

Those of us lucky enough to attend the recent production of 'Three Cracking Comedies' by the award-winning Little Acorn Production Company at the village hall had the most enjoyable evening.

The five members of Little Acorn Production Company performed a trio of one act comedies. Each play had the audience laughing out loud. First up was a deliberately clichéd take on suicide, followed by a surreal look at motherhood and lastly a comic tale of revenge on childhood bullies.

Between the plays we were first treated to fish and chips, and then cake and tea.

Thank-you very much to Vicki Laws for organising such a wonderful night out.

A murder mystery event by the same group is organised for the 17th and 18th May and is sure to be just as entertaining!

StokeArts at the Village Hall

Saturday 16th March
8.00pm start (Doors open 7.30pm)

Rag Mamma Rag



Tickets £10 (£8 child)

<https://stokearts.yapsody.com/>

or tel: 01455 213798

email: stokearts@gmail.com



The Royal Arms Hotel Spring Wedding Showcase

*Sunday 3rd March 2019
12.00pm - 4.00pm*

Meet with over 25 suppliers to the wedding industry for advice & inspiration & turn your dream wedding day into a reality

Bridal Catwalk Show at 1.30pm

Free entry & all pre registered couples will receive a free gift & entry into a prize draw to win a luxury hamper

Hosted by Violet Rose Events - Pre register via our Facebook Page

My friends are all getting older! We regale each other with stories of our other elderly friends and relatives - and their health. And then, after Christmas I get those tentative phone calls, from life-long friends from afar. I pick the phone up with glee, longing to hear all their latest news, but first I must reassure them that it *is* really me. Martin's a case in point: *"Oh Martin how lovely – we saw you on the telly yesterday, being a perfect English butler in something or another"*. Martin played my son in a wonderful Neil Simon comedy, "Barefoot in the Park," all those years ago, so I guess he must be getting into his 70's now, twenty years younger than I am. There's a nervous laugh at his end and then; *"Well we were so looking forward to your wonderfully funny annual Christmas letter from your sock factory in the Midlands and ..."* his voice tails off. I explain; *"Oh darling - sadly I was stuck in hospital until nearly the big day itself, so there was just no time."* He pauses at the end of the line, and then asks; *"So what was it Beth darling?"* I laugh trying to make light of it. *"Can you believe it love, apparently I had pneumonia."* I'm suddenly aware of a shocked silence - and then: *"Oh you **poor** thing darling, you **poor** thing! I'd better let you go."* I manage to persuade him, I'm OK now, but he's obviously longing to put his phone down and escape from any contagion. Mind you, I have to admit I'm always waiting for that airmail from Australia, with the photos of my oldest cousin Enid, ninety-eight last year. I want to make sure she's still with us. Thankfully there she is in her wheelchair - a mirror image of me and my daughter in my first wheelchair trip of the year, yesterday, at Dobbies. Ooh! What a comfort it is – being trundled around by someone, but I must beware – or otherwise I might truly become **a poor thing!** One of my newer friends called in this morning. He had just come from the Methodist's coffee morning and, at eighty-eight, is one of the most active friends I have. *"So, where are you off to next John?"* I discover he has a coach trip planned to Scotland and, as he so rightly says, *"I'd better do it while I can. You never know how I'll be next year. My world seems to be diminishing."*

Sitting here at my laptop, I can really identify with that. Our wonderful view is diminished by the mist over the fields. I can just see the shape of the sheep moving through it. The BBC News suddenly shows the world a grief-stricken Andy Murray having to accept the diminishing of his entire world, his identity. Thankfully though he gave us those wonderful years, and climbed the peaks of success, before the unexpected came.

I sit and stare at the television, before glancing at the cuttings John left me. As usual, it's another interesting 'celebrity' cutting, this time on the wonderful Dame June Whitfield - from The Guardian's Obituaries. Looking charming, in a pale blue hat and dress at Buckingham Palace, showing her CBE to the photographers, and looking totally undiminished, as if she knew all those years later, she deserves not just one column but a complete full-page. Aah...at last the sun is breaking through, maybe a gentle drive out - while we can, and before I forget A VERY HAPPY & HEALTHY NEW YEAR.

Beth Ellis

More super photos from the Beavers Nativity.



Church Matters

From St Margaret's Church



Candles

At Higham's Carol Service in December the church was filled with lit candles and no other lights. It was very atmospheric. A brass quintet greatly added to the sense of awe and joy. All went well for me as I conducted the service, until my needing to move to the lectern to read the last lesson. The print of my bible was very small and the light in church was rather dim and I realised that I couldn't read the first chapter from John's Gospel! Luckily my wife stepped forward with an over-sized candle, stood by me, and I was able to read. As I explained to the congregation afterwards, not for the first time, she was the 'light of my life'!

I am into candles and so are we as churches. We have candles on our altars, huge Paschal candles to represent the risen Christ at Easter, small candles given to children coming for Baptism, candles in oranges at Christingle services – I could go on. My wife and I always light a candle, when one is available, when we visit cathedrals or other churches. This is to particularly remember our grandson who died aged thirteen two years ago.

Sometimes it seems good to 'do something' when words alone aren't quite enough; it's good to have a symbol or sign of what is in our hearts.

2nd February is sometimes called Candlemas – a celebration of candles. It is a day to notice the wax vapour going into the heavens, like prayer ; it's a day to particularly recognise the candle's light shining in the darkness. Candlemas is a good day to remember once again that Christ is the 'light of the world'.

The passage from John's Gospel that I was eventually able to read, thanks to candlelight, contains the following words about Jesus: "What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all

Church Matters

people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”.

Alan Davis

Church of England February Services

St. Margaret's Church

St. James's Church

3rd 10.30am All Age Service
 10th 10.30am Benefice Service
 Dadlington
 17th 10.30am Holy Communion
 24th 10.30am Morning Worship

3rd 9.00am BCP Morning Prayer
 10th 10.30am Benefice Service
 Dadlington
 17th 9.00am BCP Holy Communion
 24th 9.00am BCP Morning Prayer

The Methodist Church February

Zion Baptist Chapel February Services

3rd 10.30 am At Higham
Methodist Church
 10th 10.30 am Circuit service at
Sapcote Methodist
Church
 17th 10.30 am Mrs Gwen Coley
 24th 10.30am Mr John Cooke

3rd 6.30pm John Needham
 10th 6.30pm Mark Menzfeld
 17th 6.30pm Steven Connor
 24th 6.30pm Malcolm Welch

COFFEE MORNING at the Methodist Church

SATURDAY
 FEBRUARY 9th
 10.00-11.30



For Mission Funds

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER (sent from Slovenia)

Friday, 1st March 2019

St. Margaret's Church,

Stoke Golding

A long tradition of skating on Stoke Golding “Cut” (Canal)

Skating on the “cut” in Stoke goes back a long time. I have a pair of skates in my garage that belonged to my aunt. She must have been skating in the early part of the 1900’s. Legend tells us that she was very good.

But to more recent years. I bought my first pair of ice skates in January 1953, a few months before my 16th birthday. The cut would freeze over most winters at that time (so much then for global warming). Many people would turn out then to skate. We beginners would look up to such older skaters as Reg Jones, Bob Mayne (my aunt’s



(Alan, Luisa & Richard Quinney)

son),
Sheila,
my
sister,
Arthur

Cromack from Higham, and Frank Hall J.P. of H.J. Socks, to name but a few.

The 1960’s and 1970’s were possibly the two greatest decades. I remember winter 1962-63 when the ice froze with no snow, clear as a sheet of glass and one of the only

two years when we skated on Christmas Day.

But the greatest memory of all, I was amongst the first group to skate from Stoke Wharf to the Lime Kilns, an old fashioned pub at that time on the A5 road. It was to become a tradition. On a Tuesday evening we would meet at 7pm and set off about 7.30. It took about three quarters of an hour to reach the destination where we were made most welcome. The Rev. Bill Quinney was a regular member of this group. He would play the old upright piano in the bar and a good time was had by all!!

At turning out time we would make our way back to Stoke, often someone would fall through the ice, usually one of the very foolhardy or a heavyweight. I will not name names at this point!

My own daughter, Luisa, skated to the Lime Kilns in later years. On Monday 5th November, I was in London to see her skate in a synchronised skating group competition at Lee Valley Ice Rink.

Great times, happy memories!!

Alan Quinney



(Liz Gillet, Nicholas Clifford, Richard, Alan & Luisa Quinney - around 1975)



Obituaries



We offer our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Ken, Betty, Coral, Charles, Clarice, Frank and Penny.

Ken Dowdeswell

Ken Dowdeswell passed away in Moreton, near Liverpool, at the end of October, aged 85 years. Beloved husband of Ann, loving dad to Mark and Wendy and loving grandad and great grandad. During the 1990s Ken and Ann ran the White Swan public house and will also be remembered for organising trips to London and Dublin. Ann wishes to express her thanks to all who sent their condolences during this sad time.

Betty Tomlinson

Betty Tomlinson of Stoke Golding, formerly of Sutton Cheney, passed away on 13th November aged 85 years. Beloved wife of the late Lol, much loved mum of Jayne, Diane, Ian and Julie and much loved grandma and great grandma. Her funeral took place on 3rd December and any donations in memory of Betty can be made to St James' Church, Sutton Cheney via Sellars of Upper Bond Street, Hinckley.

Coral Burford

Coral Burford of Stoke Golding passed away on 19th November aged 77 years. Wife of the late John Atkins, partner to Rex and mum to Jason and Nicole. Coral's funeral took place on 7th December and any donations in memory of Coral can be made to LOROS through Sellars of Upper Bond Street, Hinckley.

Charles Broadhurst

Charles Broadhurst of Elmesthorpe passed away on 20th November aged 85 years. Beloved husband to Sheila and much loved dad to Denise and Sarah, father in law to Adam and Guy and loving grandpa to Kate, Matt, Josh, Joe, Sam and Beccy. Charles had lived in Dadlington and Stoke Golding and had been church warden at St James' Church, Dadlington for several years. His funeral took place on 10th December and any donations in memory of Charles can be made to St Mary's Church, Hinckley.

Obituaries

Clarice Spencer

Clarice Spencer of Dadlington passed away on 8th December aged 91 years. Beloved wife of the late Kenneth, loving mum to Ian and Jane and much loved grandma to Lisa, Andrew, Owen, Christopher and Alice and great grandma to Dorian, Theo, Benjamin and Evelyn and devoted sister to Lilian. The funeral mass took place on 28th December and any donations in memory of Clarice can be made to St Peter's Church, Hinckley via Sellars of Upper Bond Street, Hinckley.

Frank Lawton

Frank passed away on 3rd January 2019 at George Elliot Hospital aged 89 years.

He was born in Huddersfield on 30th May 1929 and was, for his whole life, a Huddersfield Town sympathiser. In his teens he became an accomplished brass band musician, playing in the local Boarshurst Silver Band in Greenfield, Yorkshire for many years – a passion that would stay with him all his life. After leaving school he completed his National Service in

the RAF where he served as an armourer and musician. Discharged in 1949 he returned home and met his future wife Sheila, marrying in 1952.

He went to work for the Co-operative Society as a butcher before moving to Cambridge and then Harbury, Warwickshire. In 1973 he bought the butcher's shop in Burbage where, with Sheila, he ran the shop for another 9 years before taking early retirement. Frank and Sheila moved to Stoke Golding for the peace and quiet of, in Frank's words, "a lovely village". Frank then spent the next few years as a window cleaner in the village and could regularly be seen walking around the village until he fell and broke his hip in December 2017.

Frank was always a cheerful man with a keen sense of humour who loved to see his family and he will be very sorely missed by his two sons, Cameron and Simon, grandchildren Robert, James, Alex and Samantha and by all who knew him.

Frank's funeral will take place at the Heart of England Crematorium on Monday 28th January at 2.45pm. Family flowers only and any donations to NSPCC.



Obituaries

Penny James

Penny passed away peacefully at home on the 6th of January 2019.

She was born in Birmingham in 1955 where she grew up with her parents and older sister Liz. She went to school in Solihull where she enjoyed her time there, she was in the school choir and enjoyed languages. After leaving school in 1973 she moved to London where she spent the next 14 years of her life, studying IT and working for lots of computer companies. In her spare time she loved to travel, and spent years travelling round India, Asia, South and North America, and in later years Australia and more. Her son Tom was born after which her father was taken ill and died, so she, her mother (Doris) and Tom moved to Stoke Golding in 1989.

Penny loved living in Stoke Golding and was very active in the community, even though she worked full-time as a computer programmer. She spent her spare time helping with various village groups including the Stoker (from its inception in 2001 until 2010 when she moved from the village), St Margarets and St Martins (as a governor and on the PTA) the scout group and was one of the 3 people who set up Stoke Golding Youth Club. She took a real interest in the village and would always support local events and activities. Her friends and neighbours really enjoyed her company, especially her positive nature and her sense of humour. Penny will be sorely missed by many life long friends, neighbours, colleagues and mostly her loving family.

Penny's funeral will take place at St Margaret's Church on the 29th January at 11.45AM. Any donations welcome to Cancer Research.



Notes from Stoke Golding Parish Council, January Meeting (Draft)

A report by County Cllr Ivan Ould was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting and the following issue was discussed:

1. Concerns regarding proposals for an elderly facility in Stoke Golding which is still at pre-planning stage.

Borough Cllr Reg Ward reported on the following:

1. Anti-social behaviour and crime at Convent Drive and Bosworth Manor has been reported to Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council.

2. Meetings with residents regarding the proposals for an elderly facility in Stoke Golding.

3. Parking issues at St Martin's Academy.

The following points were noted:

- Residents and the Parish Council have written to the housing associations re anti-social behaviour.
- Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council has no policy targets for provision of elderly care.

Public participation:

A member of the public attended the meeting to comment on the removal of the village noticeboard and this item was brought forward on the agenda.

Planning Applications:

New Applications:

Land east of Higham Lane – erection of a steel barn for the purposes of agriculture and to provide a dog day care facility.

Clerk to request further information and an extension from the planning officer.

Permission approved:

- 16 Ivy Close – detached double garage.
- 1 Church Walks – proposed external alterations and installation of glazed panel to the front elevation.
- 16 Stoneley Road – two storey and single storey rear extension, first floor front extension over garage.

Minutes of Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee (NPAC) meetings and update on the Neighbourhood Plan

- Minutes of the NPAC meetings held on the 17th December were pending.
- The appointment of a consultant was discussed and a comparison of the quotations was noted.
- It was agreed to proceed with Planit-X up to the limit of the Locality Grant.
- The Chair of the NPAC to confirm that the contract would only proceed to further work if funding was available.
- Cllr Beale to claim the Locality Grant on behalf of the Parish Council.

Update on Sport in Stoke Golding (SISG)

Cllrs Terheege, Beale and Pegg will attend a meeting regarding the Developing Communities Fund Implications of Website Accessibility Regulations

- A report by the Clerk on the implications of the Website Accessibility Regulations for the Parish Council was noted.
- All document content published after September 2018 will be accessibility checked, formatted as necessary and published as an accessible PDF.
- The clerk will continue to update the documents on file for future publication.
- The website provider/designer has confirmed he will carry out the necessary work to the design to ensure the section of the website where the Parish Council publishes its documents will be compliant by the deadline of September 2020.
- The Clerk will continue to liaise with the website provider/designer to ensure design changes are implemented and to prepare an Accessibility Statement for publication by September 2020.

Date of the Annual Parish Meeting

- It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting should take place on 18th April 2019 at the Methodist Hall.
- Location and dates of meetings of Council and committees for 12 months from May 2019

- It was agreed that all parish meetings take place on the first Wednesday of each month except for Tuesday 7th May 2019 and Tuesday 7th January 2020
- Dates for NPAC meetings until October 2019 were agreed
- Cllr Fisher to publish meeting dates on the village website.

Precept and Parish Element of Council Tax

- The tax base figure for 2019/20 has increased from 744.2 to 775.1.
- It was agreed that the Band D figure should increase from £51.71 to £58.47 which will give a precept of £45,320.00 to cover the cost of a pro-active budget and medium-term planning requirements.
- The Clerk to inform HBBC of the Parish Council's precept requirements.

Works at Hinckley Road Cemetery:

Wall and Gate Damage

- Work to the wall has been completed to a satisfactory standard.
- The Clerk to forward a copy of the invoice to the contractor who has agreed liability for the damage.

Trees

Permission is still pending subject to approval by the Diocese of Leicester Ecological Advisor.

Litter Basket

- The application will be considered by the Diocesan Advisory Committee on 6th February 2019.

Boundary

- Further correspondence from a resident was discussed. The Clerk will liaise with Cllrs Pegg and Mitchell to draft a further response to the resident.
- It was agreed that the Parish Council should consider re-instating the hedge previously taken out.

Memorial safety – gravestone repairs:

Memorial safety inspections will begin after 21st January, starting with St Margaret's Churchyard.

Update on works to St Margaret's Churchyard wall:

The Clerk reported on a meeting with the Conservation Officer and his advice was noted. The Clerk will seek quotes for the recommended work and update the PCC. (Parochial Church Council)

Maintenance of the gate at Wykin Lane wild area

The urgent repair of the gate was agreed at a cost of £55.

Update on the 1485 Trail:

Councillors will attend a meeting with Broadbent Studios on the 14th January to discuss the concept and view the proposed site for a sculpture in Stoke Golding.

Communications received by the Clerk:

Written:

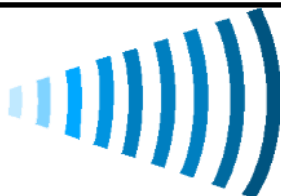
A resident's query regarding the salt bin on Crown Hill Close was noted - the Clerk to arrange for the bin to be refilled.

A resident's query regarding the canal tow path was noted and the Clerk to reply.

Verbal:

Cemetery Administrator – it was agreed that the burial of RA will qualify for discretionary residents' rate due to a proven long term, continued association of the deceased with the village of Stoke Golding.

Next meeting: Methodist Church Hall, Wednesday 6th February at 7pm



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*******Yoga With Adele*******

**Winter
timetable**

Mon 6.15 pm & Mon 7.30 pm George Ward Centre, BARWELL
Tues 12 midday S APCOTE Pavilion
Tues 6.30 pm The Stute, EARL SHILTON
Wed 6.15 pm DADLINGTON Village Hall
Thurs 10.00 am SHARNFORD Community Centre
Thurs 12.15 pm The Parish Rooms, MARKET BOSWORTH
Fri 10.00 am S APCOTE Pavilion

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