

**May '16**

**No. 151**

# *The Stoker*



**Stoke Golding Village Magazine**

*Including*

**Dadlington Matters**

**50p**



### *Note from the Editors*

Hello and welcome to the May edition of the Stoker. Spring has definitely sprung. It's blue skies and sunny at the time of writing, but as always with our English weather it is likely to have changed somewhat by the time you read this. Never mind, sunny or not, this is a wonderful part of the world to be living in.



We hope you enjoyed our 150<sup>th</sup> edition last month as much as we enjoyed putting it together. As you know, we are a team of volunteers. We get a lot of satisfaction interacting with those of you who together shape our Stoke Golding and Dadlington community.

Look at our cover photo. Our under 6 footballers got to practice their skills at the Leicester City training ground AND meet with Filbert the Fox. How exciting that must have been for the youngsters!

There are many interesting activities planned in May in both of our villages and a quick scan of the What's On pages reveals a few activities involve eating – a theme covered eloquently-ish by the Fool on the Hill!

Thank you for your support, we hope you enjoy the read,

***Jane and Steve***

### **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 **June 2016** issue of The Stoker **by 15th May** to:  
**The Editors, 45 Station Road, Stoke Golding/email**  
***janewhitesg@gmail.com***

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*

*Cover picture: Stoke Golding Under 6 Development Squad train at Leicester City*

## Thank you from Rob

The coffee morning, cake sale and raffle held in Stoke Golding Club on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March to raise money for LOROS in memory of local man Gary Bench raised a fantastic £1,495 pounds which, at the time of print, takes the total of donations to approximately £1,925.

It was such a fantastic turn out by everyone who came to support us; people were coming through the doors as it opened at 10am, the atmosphere was buzzing, with coffee and cake being served, donations being made and the ladies could not sell the raffle tickets quickly enough. We have been truly overwhelmed by the generosity and support we have had from the community.

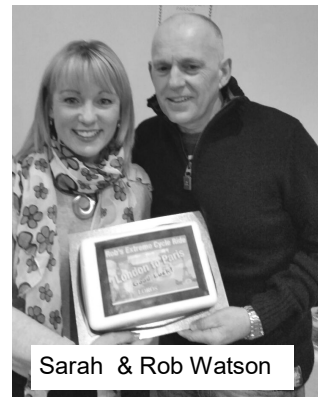
I would like to take this opportunity to thank my wonderful wife Sarah Watson who organised the event with special thanks to the staff, Marie and Helen, at Stoke Golding Club for their help and allowing us use of the lounge and bar area. In addition, a special thanks to Mel Scott, Tracey Ensor and Lisa Ferrar Wildebore and last but not least a huge thank you to all those who helped and supported us whether you donated cake for us to sell, donated raffle prizes, bought raffle ticket or just had a piece of cake and made a donation.

Without the support of the community the event would not have been such a tremendous success to raise such a substantial amount for a great charity. After the event came to a close that afternoon and everyone was full of cake and we could sell no more we passed on our charity with my wife, Sarah, taking and donating a couple of trays of cakes to Lawrence House in Hinckley.

For those that have not donated yet and would like to do so please see the link to my giving page below and now it's my turn to do the next part of the challenge by continuing my hard training to complete the 100 mile a day cycle ride from London to Paris on the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> June 2016.



Mel Scott, Tracey Ensor & Sarah Watson



Sarah & Rob Watson

**Rob Watson**

**[www.doitforcharity.com/robertwatson](http://www.doitforcharity.com/robertwatson)**

*We are pleased to print this thank you from Rob Watson, who is raising money for LOROS by doing the Extreme London to Paris bike ride in June 2016 as reported in previous editions of the Stoker. Don't forget to sponsor him.*



## Watch out for Strange Goings On

I thought I should let you know that we were burgled on the evening of 30th March. Entry was gained by smashing the rear patio doors. A reminder to all in the village to be aware of strange goings on.

*St Margaret's Road resident*

## Keep Keys out of Sight and Reach

Police would like to warn residents to keep keys out of sight to reduce their chances of becoming a victim of crime.

Over the last few weeks we have received a number of reports of break-ins where windows have been broken in order to reach keys left near windows or in doors. During these incidents, thieves managed to reach both house and car keys which were then used to either gain entry to the property or to steal the vehicle off the victims drive way.

We have also received reports of people reaching through letterboxes to steal keys left on side boards and hall way tables.

We would therefore like to urge all residents to ensure that they keep all keys out of sight and to keep them away from windows, doors and letterboxes, ideally in a locked drawer or cupboard if possible.

We would also like to urge people to report anything suspicious to us by calling 101 in a non-emergency or 999 for a crime in progress.

**Leicestershire Police**

## CASAG- Health Promotion



April is Bowel Cancer awareness month. Someone is diagnosed with bowel cancer every 15 minutes. Do you know the signs and symptoms of bowel cancer? Or who is at risk as well as how to reduce risk? For answers to these questions and more information on diet, advice to avoid processed meat as much as possible and advice on effects of alcohol consumption --

Look at the poster in the surgery or bowel cancer web site:  
[bowelcancer.org.uk](http://bowelcancer.org.uk)

### **Do you perhaps have a few hours a year to spare?**

Stoke Golding Garden Show committee currently have a vacancy for the post of **Treasurer** and would like to take the opportunity to encourage a new committee member to step forward to help out with this year's Show.

We are a very relaxed and friendly little committee, the members working together to keep this lovely village tradition going. It is worth noting that the Treasurer's role is supported closely by an unofficial sub-committee of the Chairperson and the Secretary, so that the job could never become an onerous task at any time.

**So what is involved and how can we tempt you? We absolutely promise that it is really not very time consuming and, even more tempting, no experience of vegetable growing, flower growing, home baking is needed.**

You would maybe need to consider offering something in the region of:

1. Approximately one hour a month from May to September, to attend an evening meeting (in the bar at Stoke Golding Club) to ensure none of the essential preparations get overlooked.
2. Availability from approximately 11am on Show Day (this year it will be Saturday 3rd September) to help with the smooth running of the Show – however we are very flexible if you are not able to commit to the whole day.
3. Availability the following day, or day after, to work with the Chairperson and Secretary to count the takings and to deposit them in the bank. This usually takes no more than an hour and involves tea and cake.
4. The Treasurer has overall responsibility for the bank account and cheque books plus any withdrawing/depositing/bill payments and organising of the prize money for Show day.
5. The Treasurer is also responsible for producing a mini account statement for the post Show meeting in September and a short report for the AGM the following May. Guidance for this is always available and nothing too grand is expected at all.

**A fabulous High Tea is included on Show Day – this is a major perk of the role – and you get to be an integral part of a longstanding village tradition. The Show day activities are a great deal of fun to be involved in and we do our best to raise money for a chosen Charity each year.**

*Please also be aware that we are always on the look out for general committee members who can give even less time during the year, but more so on Show day. Our committee numbers are dwindling (and aging...but I won't be popular for writing that) and we currently haven't got enough pairs of hands or the energy needed to cover all of the various activities!*

### **Please consider helping us out this year?**

**If you would like to have a chat about the role please contact Tina Waters on 07809629690/01455 213291 or simply knock on the door at 3 Shenton Close.**

# Dadlington Matters

## *Picnic for The Queen on The Green*

*Sunday May 22<sup>nd</sup> From 1pm*

*Bar, ice creams, tea and cakes and the usual Dadlington fun & games!*

*Bring your picnic and share in an enjoyable family afternoon.*

*No need to book - just pencil the date in your diary!*

*Let's celebrate our Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday together.*



## Dadlington Flower Festival



You are invited to St James' Church Dadlington for the Annual Flower Festival, with artistic contributions from the Earl Shilton Flower Club.

**12 noon – 5pm on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April, Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May and Bank Holiday Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Lunches 12 -2pm,**

### **Book Signing in Dadlington**

Author Beth Ellis of Stoke Golding read excerpts from her fascinating autobiography "The Choice – Footlights to Faith" to a rapt audience on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April in Dadlington Village Hall. Humour, pathos, tragedy and wonderful self-deprecation combined to give us all an insight into Beth's journey from the stages of the West End to a Mission in the jungles of the Philippines.

There was an air of a Waterstones book signing as we queued for our copies of this life-affirming story – please contact the Stoker to order your own copy (£7.99).

*Simon Rees-Jones*



## What's in a Name?

The names of our villages, Stoke Golding and Dadlington, sound very English and one might imagine there are other places in both Britain and the Commonwealth where you would find other Stoke Goldings and Dadlingtons.

The Englishness comes from their Anglo-Saxon derivations: stoke and ton (tun) were both words indicating a place to live: a hamlet, a stockaded abode, a little settlement. According to local historian, Jill Webster, the derivation of the word Golding, first appearing in 1570, is unknown. The most likely answer is that the village's name is a corruption of the name Stokeholden, there being two fields called 'The Oulden' on the edge of the parish in 1605.

A search of the United Kingdom shows many Stokes but only one Stoke Golding. There are eight places called just Stoke, with two Lower Stokes and two Upper. There are also North (3), South (2), East (3) and West (2) Stokes. The Battle of East Stoke, coming two years after Bosworth, could be considered the very last battle in the War of the Roses. Henry VII defeated the Yorkist pretender to the throne Lambert Simnel. Of the 63 Stokes, two are Little, one is Great, but none, other than our own, is a Golding. The closest in name is Stoke Goldington, a village that lies midway between Northampton and Milton Keynes, next to the M1.



As for Dadlington, the UK gazetteer comes close with Darlington and Doddington. There's even a

Didlington, just north of Thetford Forest in Norfolk, but only one Dadlington.



What then, about overseas? During the age of exploration, many British settlers chose to name their new homes after the ones they'd just left: there are in fact twelve Londons and eight Stratfords in the USA. So you might expect to find a Stoke Golding or a Dadlington in one of our former colonies. However, there is only one Stoke in Canada, 100 miles east of Montreal, none in the USA, Australia or South Africa and the only mention of Stoke in New Zealand is the name of a suburb of Nelson on South Island. There are no ex-colonial Dadlingtons at all. So we live in unique places – but we knew that anyway.

*Michael Dix*

### Dadlington Village Hall Lottery

A new venture - a village lottery for you to join in with. The winning number will correspond to the Lotto Bonus Ball on the first Saturday of each month.

Briefly: cost is £1 per week (annual cheque for £52), you will receive a lottery number between 1 and 59, the first draw is in May 2016, monthly prize of £75 (and £200 in December!)

Contact John and Jill Whitehead 01455213244 or [jf\\_whitehead @ hotmail.com](mailto:jf_whitehead@hotmail.com)

***But make it quick as lottery tickets are selling out fast!***

## A Cathedral Journey – Part 2: Four to Savour

In an earlier edition, I told of how, in 1994, my friend Andrew and I had embarked upon visiting all the Anglican cathedrals in England. We'd made three visits that year and the following year we clocked up another four. It has to be said that after that the pace slowed considerably but back in 1995 our enthusiasm was at its height. The draw for the third round of the FA cup that year paired Leicester with Portsmouth, and so we decided to combine an away game with a cathedral. Thus it was, on a cold January morning, that we found ourselves in front of... Winchester Cathedral. I've not a clue why we didn't go to the perfectly acceptable cathedral in Portsmouth: that had to wait for another time.

Winchester is one of the largest cathedrals in the country with the longest gothic nave in Europe. In Saxon times, an earlier building stood, in what was the capital city of the kingdom of Wessex. The present building contains the remains of several Saxon and Norman monarchs in mortuary chests, including William II, killed in the nearby New Forest and Canute or Cnut, of tide turning fame. The bishop is one of the country's senior clergy, being one of three bishops, London and Durham being the others, who automatically have seats in the House of Lords. The rest seem to get in on a kind of 'who's been bishop the longest' rota.

We had a good look round, bought our postcards and maps and then set off for the game. In this amazing Premier League season of 2015-16, an away win for Leicester has become quite the norm. In my previous 37 years of going to a three or four away games a year, a win was anything but. Away days were characterized by an outward journey full of optimism and excitement, followed by the return, laden with gloom and despair. My lowest moment came on a visit to Cambridge United where I initially went to the wrong ground, missed most of the first half running to the right one, including Leicester's only goal, heard Cambridge equalize as a policeman gave me a leg up over the closed turnstiles, and saw their winning goal as I took my seat: ah, memories. However, Portsmouth broke the mould and we went and won. Maybe it was the cathedral visit beforehand.

I think my favourite cathedral has to be Wells, which was next on our list. It was a year since we'd gone away on holiday together to Yorkshire and begun the collection. This time, accompanied again by our wives, we were down in the West County. We had already paid a visit to Bath Abbey, once a cathedral in its own right until Wells took the crown; in fact the bishop is called the Bishop of Bath & Wells. What is so appealing about this building is its magnificent west face, which is a true celebration of the stonemason's art. It fronts a large green so that the awe-inspiring view you get is unimpeded. The guidebook told us that, unlike many other medieval cathedrals, most of Wells was constructed in just the one style – Early English Gothic. There are also a number of buildings in the surrounding area associated with the cathedral, including Vicar's Close, the oldest surviving residential street in Europe.





Having found that, as couples, we got on well on our short break holidays together, we planned a week long summer holiday with our young families in Bamburgh. The Northumbrian coast is wonderfully unspoilt, with spacious beaches for building sandcastles, and real castles perched high above, guarding England's border country. It seemed sensible, as we were in the most northerly part of the country, to tick off its two cathedrals, Newcastle and Durham, whilst we were there. I devised a cunning plan to tie in a visit to Hadrian's Wall for a bit of Roman history before we split into two groups, women and children to the Metro Centre, Andrew and I off to Newcastle cathedral. It didn't go according to plan.

Unfortunately, I'd been a little too liberal in my estimations of distance, and when we finally pulled into Housesteads Fort, the "it'll only take half an hour" journey was into its third hour. I was not popular, and so, it was with a sense of relief that I was able to escape to the cathedral in Newcastle. With no disrespect to that fine city, which I've always found a very vibrant, friendly place, of all the cathedrals we were to visit, this was the blackest, grimmest, most disappointing. I won't regale you with its architectural merits because they evaded us both. Instead, I'll move swiftly on to Durham, where we stopped on our homeward journey.

Set on a hill, formed within a loop of the River Weir, Durham Cathedral stands majestically fronting Palace Green, and facing Durham Castle, once the home of the Prince Bishops. It oozes history. The County of Durham was, for many centuries, almost an independent state; a buffer between the rebellious Scots and Northumbria, and the rest of England to the south. The Prince Bishop had virtually the same powers as the king. He could hold parliaments, raise taxes, form armies and pass laws. The grandeur and power are reflected in the cathedral building, one feature that sticks in my mind, for no apparent reason, being an enormous west door.

This being a family holiday, we explored the building with our two eldest children. This was a richly rewarding experience. Despite my son Matthew telling me when he was just two and half that he'd heard all my stories already, he did go on to do an MA in history, so maybe he was still listening to me as I held forth with interesting facts about the cathedral. I must admit, I was reading with sneaky glances from the ubiquitous A4 cathedral fact sheet seconds before regaling them to one and all.

*Michael Dix*

### **Dadlington Remembers Richard III**

A service of Evening Prayer was held at St James' Dadlington, a year after that day in 2015, when Richard III's funeral cortege came to the village.

It seemed well received by those attending. Since it was the Monday of Holy Week we thought about the events leading up to the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus, as well as the anniversary of the journey of the mortal remains of Richard III to Leicester Cathedral for re-interment. Part of Psalm 31, the one specified for the day, was particularly fitting, and we used again the prayers from the service one year ago to pray for those who had died in the Battle of Bosworth, and to give thanks for the legacy passed on to our community today. The congregation was swelled by members of 'Ambion Voices' choir who sang 'Dona nobis pacem' [Give us peace] as a fitting finale.

Cheese and wine was served in the newly refurbished Village Hall after the service. Many thanks to all who contributed in any way.

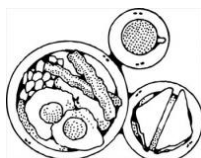
*Carolyn Patullo*

## What's On

Coming Soon By Popular Demand

### THE BIG BREAKFAST

at The Baxter Hall  
Stoke Golding



June 12th 8.00am - 2.00pm

**Come along for a fabulous breakfast  
£3.95 each**

Proceeds for the Lung Foundation and ARDS  
Research

**Methodist Church**

**Coffee morning**

**Saturday May 7th  
10.00-11.30**

**For Christian Aid**

### Methodist Church FLOWER FESTIVAL "INSPIRING JOURNEYS"



Saturday 28th, Sunday 29th,  
Monday 30th May  
Saturday and Monday 10.00-5.30  
Sunday 12 noon-5.30

**Ploughman's lunches & Cream  
teas, Various stalls, Refreshments**

**The Reality Youth Bus**  
is heading your way

Stoke Golding Village Hall  
Car Park 4.30-6pm on the  
following Thursdays: April  
28th, May 12th & 26th, June  
16th & 30th and July 14th

Ages 11-19

Loads of activities

Find out more at:  
[Facebook.com/Realitybus](https://www.facebook.com/Realitybus)

## Stoke Golding Heritage Group

By the time the May Stoker is published the group will have had its first talk from this year's programme. The talks scheduled for the rest of the year are as detailed below. All talks are held in the Baxter Hall commencing at 7.30pm. The £10 membership fee covers all meetings up to March next year. Non-members are welcome at all meetings at a nominal charge of £2.50

May 19<sup>th</sup> Tales from a Farmer's Wife – Jane Barnes NB Stilton Cheese will be on sale.  
Sept 15<sup>th</sup> The Fascination of the English Language: - David Siddons  
Oct 20<sup>th</sup> British Trees - Sally Cunningham  
Nov 17<sup>th</sup> Sacrifice and Remembrance. 1<sup>st</sup> WW and the beginning of the  
Commonwealth War Graves Commission. – Ken Lowles

## Coffee Morning at the Church

We often advertise events in The Stoker and the committee thought it would be a good idea to write an article as well as advertise them. Hence why I found myself joining the Coffee Morning at St Margaret's church on Wednesday 10.30 am to 12 noon.

Everything was set up by the time I got there, people were already there and more trickled in.

Norma looked after the group, Carolyn Patullo normally helps as well. The group was mixed and were very welcoming and supportive of each other.

They have apparently been up and running for approximately 4 years and up to 20 attend. During the summer months they often get people from the passing canal boats and the dustbin men have been known to pop in as well.

Conversation flowed with the tea and cake, local and current affairs as well as a bit of history supplied by local Dadlington historian Charlie Frisby.

I spoke to one lady who was a relative new comer to the village and had met others through the coffee morning. Since the demise of the Stoke Golding Companions, the coffee morning is an excellent opportunity to meet other villagers.

There is also the opportunity to buy some local homemade jam and marmalade which tasted delicious.

So if you have some free time on a Wednesday morning, pop down to the church to meet the friendly, chatty villagers and the tea, coffee and cake are very nice too.

*Jennifer*



## Ten of a Kind

Spring is a time of new beginnings in nature. All the answers to this month's quiz contain the words "new" or "news".

1. Which group had a 1971 UK number 1 with "I'd like to Teach the World to Sing"?
2. Which TV panel show did Angus Deaton chair from 1990 until 2002?
3. What was the name given to a series of reforms brought in by Franklin D. Roosevelt when he first became president?
4. Four U.S. states begin with the word "new". New York and New Jersey are two of them. What are the other two?
5. In 1971, when decimalisation took place, what value in new money was the old shilling?
6. What name was given to the army that the parliamentary Roundheads set up in 1645 to fight King Charles I?
7. Where in Britain would you find the Rufus Stone, near to the town of Lyndhurst, marking where William II was killed?
8. In which TV series did Rik Mayall play the politician Alan B'Stard?
9. Which national newspaper closed in 2011 in the wake of the phone hacking scandal?
10. What is the popular name for Dvorak's 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony, part of which is well known as the music to the Hovis advert?

*Answers on page 22*



## From St Margaret's Church

### Relatively Speaking

May is a month of relatives.

It starts off on 1<sup>st</sup> May with our relationship to the very earth which we inhabit. Rogation Sunday requests God's blessing on the land and reminds those of us who don't farm of our dependence upon and relationship to those who do.

On 5<sup>th</sup> May we ponder the idea and doctrine of the relationship of Jesus to the Father. The feast of the Ascension is the sealing of Jesus' ministry on earth and affirmation of his oneness with his Father. This relationship is added to and celebrated again at the end of the month.

On 14<sup>th</sup> May people in the Leicester Diocese welcome our new bishop, Martyn Snow. It reminds us of our relationship with other churches, of all denominations, in Leicestershire. And personally, it reminds me of the passing of the years as Martyn Snow is the same age as our son!

The day after the bishop's welcome is Pentecost, the old Whitsun, and also the beginning of Christian Aid Week. People from many countries assembled in Jerusalem on the first Pentecost. They came to realise their common family relationships under one Father through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

And we who profess the sisterhood and brotherhood of man live out that sense of universal relationship by supporting those in need throughout the world through Christian Aid.

The month of May ends with the central relationship in creation of Father, Son and Holy Spirit – the Holy Trinity.

The mystery of the Godhead, the 'not be fully understood' relationship at the core and heart of all that exists is a useful reminder to us in our multiple relationships with the universe and people and animals we share our planet with. There is mystery at the heart of each created being which should give them an aura of dignity in our relationships with them.

May your May be relationship full!

Alan Davis



Fritillaries on the new Bennett Close mini wildflower meadow.

*Ruth Fisher*

## Church Matters

### Church of England    May 2016 Services

#### St. Margaret's Church

1st May	10.30am	All Age Service
8th May	11.00am	Benefice Rogation Service, Gosling's Farm, Dadlington
15th May	10.30am	Holy Communion
22nd May	10.30am	Morning Worship
29th May	10.30am	Benefice Service

#### St. James's Church

1st May	6.30pm	Songs of Praise
8th May	11.00am	Benefice Rogation Service, Gosling's Farm, Dadlington
15th May	9.00am	BCP Holy Communion
22nd May	9.00am	BCP Morning Prayer
29th May	10.30am	Benefice Service Stoke Golding

#### Zion Baptist Chapel May 2016 Services

1st	6pm	Malcolm Welch
8th	6pm	Steven Connor
15th	6pm	Bill McIntyre
22nd	6pm	John Needham
29th	6pm	Richard Cotton

#### The Methodist Church

1st	10.30am	Revd Wes Hampton
8th	10.30am	Mrs Joan Ledson
15th	10.30am	Mr Neville Spark
22nd	10.30am	TBA
29th	10.30am	Revd Wes Hampton Flower Festival
29th	6pm	Mr John Cooke

#### St Margaret's Church Coffee, Chat & Book Swap

Free coffee, tea and a chat on Wednesdays

**10.30am - 12 noon in Church**

Everyone is welcome, we do hope you will join us.



## Memories of Stoke Golding - Vera Taylor

Vera Taylor has lived in Stoke Golding all her life and had many memories to share with me. She attended the infants school in The Old School next to St Margaret's Church and then went to the junior school which is now Baxter Hall. At the junior school one of the pupils' jobs was gardening. The girls did the weeding whilst the boys did the digging in the gardens behind the Hall where the current St Margaret's Primary School is. From the junior school she went to the Alma school for Girls in



Hinckley. After leaving school she worked as a dress maker in The Corner Silk Shop in Hinckley and then at the Co-op until she retired.

Vera and her family have been actively involved in the Zion Baptist Chapel. She started at the Chapel attending Sunday school which at one point had up to 30 children. They went on several outings by bus with the Sunday school.

Interestingly although the Chapel Building hasn't changed much over the years apart

from a new porch, it was originally behind a row of cottages with gardens ( now the allotments) and thus was known as the " chapel in the garden".

She can remember growing up in Stoke Golding and the grocers' shops, bike shop, cobblers and the bake house which was behind the current " Birches " house in High Street. Her aunt and uncle ran the grocers shop next to the Birches. Vera reminisced about the war memorial in the front of The George and Dragon pub and everyone standing around it on Remembrance Sunday and Stoke Golding station and the goods trains. The farmers used to go down to the station to collect their animal feed. Vera also went on trips out to Leamington and Matlock by train from Stoke Golding. Work buses went to Hinckley with the workers, taking them there in the morning and bringing them back at night. There weren't as many cars then.

During the war she worked in the hosiery factory in Stoke Golding, making socks for the troops. There were about 20-30 women employed in this task. Vera told me about the black outs and the air raid wardens patrolling the streets, the search lights in Fisher's fields and the two bombs which were dropped in Hinckley Road behind the houses and one which exploded in the fields behind the Doctor's surgery. No one was hurt just large craters were left. Vera stood on a pile of grit outside Morris' farm and saw Nuneaton ablaze. She also remembers the steeple being removed from St Margaret's church and hearing the Lancaster bombers and planes going overhead. There were children evacuees from Coventry and Birmingham in the village. Her Uncle Frank posed for the local artist, Mr Thomas Shilton, in his 1st World War uniform for the large oil painting " Gateway of the Dawn" which is hung in St Margaret's church. The artist's daughter posed as the angel in the painting. Mr Shilton also painted the sign for The White Swan.



Vera's father worked for the railways in many local stations and was at Weddington Station when Weddington was bombed.

Vera played a lot of tennis and played locally on the old tennis courts behind Hinckley Road before they moved to the Convent. She also biked to Hinckley and played tennis there.

Vera was one of three daughters and has one surviving sister who lives in the village and she sees her on a regular basis.

I enjoyed a lovely afternoon listening to Vera's memories of village life and thank her for taking the time to share it with me.

*Jennifer Michie*

### **What do you do with paper, cardboard, raw eggs and a ladder?**

The answer is that you have the Great Easter Egg challenge for Cubs and scouts which involves designing a protective container for the raw egg to be dropped off the 15 ft ladder and hope it survives. If it does that a small edible chocolate egg is the prize ( everyone got one in the end). So the village hall floor was covered with the paper and cardboard, sellotape and designers.

The Beavers went to Foxes Covert for a play, games, marking a trail with arrows and an egg hunt.



On return from their Easter holidays, the Cubs went to

Nuneaton fire station for tour of the station, the engines and a supervised play with the water hoses.

Excitingly whilst we were there the tenders were called out to a real fire so the Cubs had to leave quickly. Undeterred the Cubs and leaders went out for a walk in the rain , found a park and had a play before going back to the station to be picked up.

*Jennifer Michie*



### **Leicester City Training Experience.**

Stoke Golding Football Club under 6's development squad were invited to Leicester's training ground to participate in an hour long session under the watchful eye of the professional coaches.

A great experience for all involved, and best of all a photo opportunity with Filbert the fox!

*Andy Beale*

*See photo on the Stoker cover*

## **The Fool on the Hill Why the NHS would benefit from a good breakfast...**

Mrs Fool has been putting up with my eccentricities for a significant number of years and, as part of a year of celebration, we returned to the scene of our honeymoon in Stratford upon Avon. Little had changed in the intervening years in the home of the bard, aside from the fact that most of the cars were no longer made by British Leyland. We were enjoying temporary residence with a hotel chain much favoured by a certain comedic son of Dudley who must, for legal reasons, remain nameless.

Recently we have acquired the status of fully fledged, state funded pensioners, and true to the ethos of this burgeoning sector of the population, we secured a room at a rate pleasing to our wallets but probably ruinous to the hotel chain in question. This included a full buffet style breakfast with fare that ranged from pious natural health foods to weapons grade artery clogging fried items. For the majority of the population, my good self included, this presents something of a moral dilemma. Many and varied are the TV programmes that highlight the prevalence of obesity in our population. Our national press seems to delight in pointing out the dangers in eating just about everything whilst encouraging us to jog everywhere. So, when faced with the unfettered choice of whatever takes your fancy and, remember, you have already paid for this so technically the more you eat the cheaper your stay becomes, do you follow the path of righteousness?

With the dire warnings of the Pine Close surgery still ringing in my ears, I went largely down the fresh fruit and muesli path. I do have strong connections to Lancashire and therefore, I am morally obliged to sample Black Pudding in whatever form it is presented. This I then rate on a scale of 1 to 10 against Chadwick's of Bury, the benchmark against which all others are judged. The same level of vital research applies to sausages since those produced in Stoke Golding, were their ever to be a sausage Olympics, would undoubtedly be in gold medal position.

The thing is, there is safety in the knowledge that even if we do neglect ourselves we have the National Health Service to fall back on. They can always be relied on to do a Dyno Rod job on our arteries or bolt on a new organ or two. But what if that safety net was not there or if we were charged pro rata for the amount of wilful neglect that we inflict on our bodies with food, alcohol or nicotine?

In those circumstances the couple at the next table to us at breakfast might have wished to review their menu choices. A first course of six pancakes covered in bacon was followed by a second course of pancakes covered, nay smothered, in Maple Syrup.

Presumably because the Maple is a tree, they considered it as one of their 5 a day.



*F O T H*



**Meeting of Stoke Golding W.I. 13<sup>th</sup> April 2016.**

Members were not quite sure what the contents of talk by the Reverend Canon Alan Haydock at the April meeting, were going to all be about but once again we all found ourselves rolling in our seats with laughter. If you had come to the meeting a little bit down in the dumps you certainly went home a lot happier.

He began by telling us of his affinity for the W.I. One of the reasons for this being the curate at one of his parishes had married the original 'Calendar Girl' many years after the death of her husband on whom the whole idea of raising money and then going on to make the film was based.

But from then on it was one funny story after another and at one time there was at least one lady who was seen wiping her eyes as the tears ran down her face.

There was his tale of a standing ovation at the Haemorrhoids association, the telephone explanation to the bishop that he was hitting the bottle in the kitchen and therefore couldn't talk, visiting a psychiatrist and the following visit to the Clinton Arms in Nottingham and many many more. The stories just kept coming and coming. All agreed by the end of his talk that really we would have liked him to continue on for much longer but time was not on our side. Maybe another time perhaps.

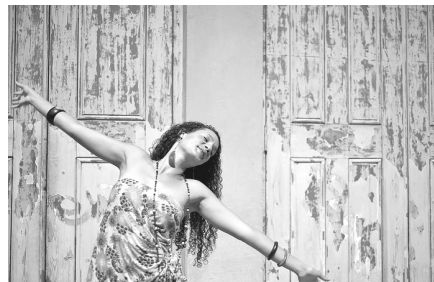
Our next meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> May at the Methodist Hall is a social evening and discussions on the resolutions to be put forward to the annual meeting of the W.I. Please come along as you will be most welcome.

*Val Hartwell*

**StokeArts@thevillagehall**

**Beautiful Music**

Namvula Rennie performed her thought provoking repertoire at Stoke Golding Village Hall accompanied by a brilliant five piece band which included African drums, saxophone and guitarists. Her songs included stories from Zambia, where her mother came from, arranged in a fascinating mix of African rhythm, folk and jazz. She held the audience in the palm of her hand with her beautiful, rich voice and her gentle personality.

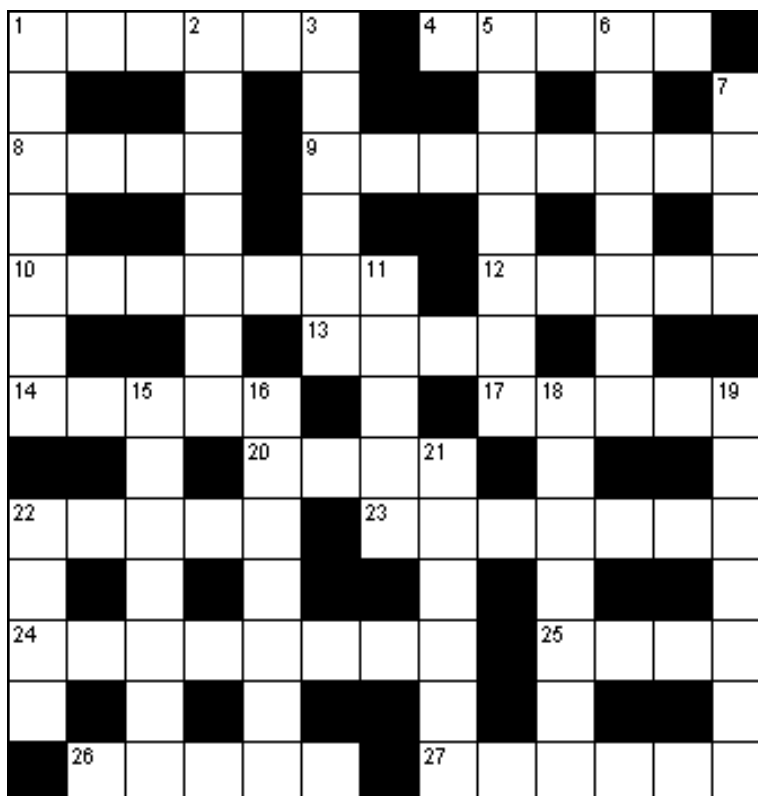


Many of the audience could not resist her invitation to dance towards to end of the concert, moved by the rhythm of the beautiful music, and once they started they did not want to stop!

Once again we were treated to a first rate show and could not believe it was in our very own village hall.

*Jane White*

# crossword



## Across

Answers on page 22

- 1 After 64 years the Queen has a great deal of this (6)
- 4 Raise glasses to the Queen (5)
- 8 Mid-day (4)
- 9 Hotel in Kenya where Queen was when father died (8)
- 10 'Leader' of House of Commons (7)
- 12 Sorrowfully (5)
- 13 Anger (4)
- 14 Grades in army, navy & air force (5)
- 17 In perfect condition (2-3)
- 20 Part of a comparison e.g. bigger \*\*\*\*, smaller \*\*\*\* (4)
- 22 Med; island where Queen & Philip stayed after marriage (5)
- 23 Pranksters (7)
- 24 Bacardi is this (5-3)
- 25 Looked at something (4)
- 26 See 7 down
- 27 The Queen's age this year (6)

## Down

- 1 Queen's castle near London (7)
- 2 Philip was Prince of Greece & this Nordic country (7)
- 3 The Queen is this to Charles (6)
- 5 Way offshore water (4)
- 6 Princess Margaret's husband's surname (7)
- 7 & 26across Kids game \*-\*\*\* with \*\* little \*\*\*(1-3 2-3)
- 11 Indian ruler (5)
- 15 To declare void (7)
- 16 \*\*\*\*\* home - house of titled person (7)
- 18 The number of sovereign states in commonwealth (7)
- 19 When you do your laundry (4-3)
- 21 First name of Queen's wedding dress designer (6)
- 22 Where coaches are kept at Buckingham Palace (4)

## **BETH'S CORNER**

## **COUNCILLOR REG WARD**

Reg is such a well-known figure around our neighbourhood, that like me, you will all know him at first sight. When I first moved into the village, I would often pass him in my car constantly working either in his large garden, or up the lane trimming back the hedges on either side. Obviously he is highly conscientious about the maintenance of his property, and a man who isn't afraid of hard work. It wasn't until I was asking Rachel Terhege if I could interview her for my next Stoker article, when she pointed me in no uncertain manner to Cllr Ward. So it was fortunate that, on rounding the bend by his ground, I spotted him apparently 'slashing and burning' shrubs alongside another helper. Jumping out of the car, I ran across calling out his name 'Reg'? *'That's me.'* *'I'm Beth, and Rachel Terhege insists you have the perfect story for the next Stoker.'* There's a pause; *'Oh, so I have her to blame for this have I?'* - with a dry chuckle. On the Saturday morning, the door buzzes on the dot of eleven, and Cllr Ward is ready to answer all my questions. *'Let's start at the beginning.'*

He was born, the son of a farmer at their farm at Corley, one of three sons and a daughter. One of the boys died tragically young from a rare illness, at the age of thirty four. His elder brothers worked alongside their father, and as usual in farming families everyone lends a hand. Eventually his Dad leaves Corley, buys Basin Bridge farm, and in 1947 Reg becomes a pupil at St Margaret's. He has many happy memories, remembering especially how the older pupils were responsible for laying the lunch tables and how they were allotted a small garden each to grow vegetables to take home but how, when they left school, these would benefit the next boy or girl, showing them the principle of sharing. He moves to Westfield, having missed the Grammar school by only three points. However he is convinced he had a well-balanced academic education, plus metal work and carpentry, and all the sciences. He speaks highly of the maths teacher, who also taught Scripture and had been in the army, stationed in Palestine, and brought the Bible stories alive for all the children. Reg was given the chance to take the eleven plus once again, and this time he sails through, and is asked to stay on. Sadly, around this time, his father becomes very poorly, and Reg is needed to help bolster family finances. He starts working with the pigs at Lindley Hall Farm for five years, but eventually takes on the milk deliveries for Higham, Stoke and Dadlington villages, getting up at five every morning. I love hearing how in those days milk was delivered at the back door, put somewhere in the shade and sometimes cups were put over the tops of the bottles to keep any small animals, including birds, getting a beak full. Between 1958 and 1988 the 40gallons he started delivering rose to 1,400gallons, being delivered by fourteen employed van drivers. I learn that one man can deliver a maximum of 100 gallons in a day. By 1988 he sells the flourishing business, admitting that the five o'clock start is a younger man's working day. In 1960 he marries Patricia (Pat) from Higham and they buy their first family home in Sherwood Road. In 1961 Jonathan is born, followed by Edward and finally Elizabeth. Today, in 2016 they have seven grandchildren, and one great grandchild. In spite of all his family commitments however he next gets involved in the property market, buying the old school playground in the village, and building four houses on it. He also sells the old school house, and buys other properties in Hinckley.

*(Continued on next page)*

In 1991 he is reluctantly persuaded onto the Parish Council. *'They insisted that they needed a man who knows the village and its needs. I was eventually persuaded as Deputy Chairman, and this was soon followed by Chairman'*. He stood down in 2015. The present Chair is Rachel Teerhege, who is responsible for this! He is then persuaded to join the Borough Council and is proud of the fact that his majority has risen from one to 800. He believes this comes by canvassing people individually 'face to face'.

Reg represented the village as Chair of the Parish Council at the re-interment of Richard III, starting with the blessing of the Casket at Fenn Lane Farm. They then continued on to the full ceremony at Bosworth Battle Field, before the cortege moved to the villages, and eventually to Leicester. He was also present four days later for the final interment at the Cathedral.

Finally I ask him what achievement is he most proud of. There is little doubt when he talks about helping to organise the refurbishing of the Village Hall when he was part of the committee. With a new roof and better facilities in the toilets and kitchen, this is now used by many different groups in the village. Now coming into his 79<sup>th</sup> year, he assures me that **'Family comes first'** and I am sure that Mrs Ward ( Pat) will be glad to hear it.

*Beth*

### **Notes from Stoke Golding Parish Council Meeting – April (not ratified)**

Borough Cllr Reg Ward reported on the following:

Jitty on Hinckley Road – gap has been left between gate and residents' wall.

Safety issues were discussed and disability/pushchair access. Clerk will contact Highways to arrange a site visit with PC.

Morris Homes – times on site been exceeded at both ends of the day.

*Matters arising from March's meeting*

*Grave railings at St Margaret's churchyard* – the church council has agreed to carry out repairs to the gate and will have the railings made safe at the same time.

*Pavilion roof* – a 15 year guarantee for the work to the roof has been received.

*Planning Application Matters:*

*New applications*

Tithe Farm, 12 Wykin Lane – erection of a barn – possible restrictions to ensure building is not used for commercial or residential use in the future were discussed.

20 Andrew Close – felling of 4 conifer trees.

*Appeals*

36 Station Rd – erection of single dwelling (outline-access only).

*Appeals Dismissed*

48 Roseway - proposed dwelling and access.

Mark Laidlaw of *Morris Homes* reported that they are investigating options for housing associations to manage the social housing. He asked if the any Neighbourhood Plan surveys had been carried out which might give an indication of housing needs in the village. Clerk to report the evidence in the village plan highlighting a need for more housing for younger people and also the work already done by Stonewater Housing on the Mar City Development.

#### *External audit changes and website publication*

The Parish Council must publish the approved annual return, internal audit report and notice of commencement of the inspection period on 2<sup>nd</sup> June. In addition to the PC notice board, all PC agendas and Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee agendas and minutes will be published on Stoke Golding village website.

#### *Neighbourhood Plan*

The Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan boundary document has been amended to take account of the submission of Higham on the Hill's Neighbourhood Plan boundary document. This will now be submitted to HBBC for public consultation. The appointment of a consultant was discussed. It was agreed that the Parish Council should see references for the consultants' previous work before making a decision. Although a consultant could be agreed in principle the committee would need to take steps to secure government funding prior to any appointment.

#### *Sport in Stoke Golding*

All clubs have now submitted a development plan and Cllr Pegg is in the process of arranging a meeting with Graham Chilvers of Leicestershire and Rutland Sport (LRS) at HBBC to discuss how best to proceed with the project.

#### *Play equipment*

Cllr Fisher presented three quotations for outdoor table tennis tables. It was agreed that the Parish Council should proceed with the quotation from Red Lynch. It was also agreed that the Clerk should submit a claim for 106 monies to cover the cost of this project.

#### *Village Hall maintenance*

Cllr Beale reported that Alan White has sought legal advice on the lease agreement and all maintenance of the village hall is the responsibility of the Village Hall Management Committee.

#### *Environmental Improvement Programme – Church Walks and grave repairs*

Grant money is not available for hedges and borders unless part of a larger project to re-surface Church Walks, which is the responsibility of LCC Highways department; Paul Grundy is liaising with them to ascertain their views. Money could be available to repair grave stones in Hinckley Road Cemetery, previously laid down for safety reasons.

#### *Convent Site Community Land*

A proposed agreement from Mar City to grant a licence for use of the land adjacent to the development was circulated to all councillors. Cllr Goodsell suggested that Cllrs Pegg and Goodsell should meet with Phil Day of the Allotment Society to ascertain his views and consider the implications of the agreement. Cllr Terheege suggested that legal advice could also be sought from Peter Tustain.

#### *Any other business*

Cllr Fisher asked for a budget of £100 for wildflower plugs for Bennett Close wildflower patch - agreed.

The Methodist Church has asked for a donation of £25 towards electricity for the defibrillator - agreed.

A letter from the potential new councillor was read out. The Clerk will put together a pack of information for the applicant and offer support.

Cllr Beale asked if she could organise a picnic at the recreation field for parents and children, with use of the pavilion for toilets and tea making - agreed.

**Next meeting: Methodist Church Hall, Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 7pm**

### Answers to Ten of a Kind (page 8)

1. New Seekers
2. Have I Got News For You
3. The New Deal
4. New Hampshire & New Mexico
5. 5 new pence
6. New Model Army
7. The New Forest
8. The New Statesman
9. The News of the World
10. New World (From the New World)



#### OBITUARY



#### AVRIL TOMLINSON

We are sad to report that Avril of High Street passed away peacefully in the George Eliot hospital on 3rd of April 2016 aged 75 years after a long and courageous fight against cancer. She was the beloved wife of Michael and a much loved mum to Frances and Edward and loved Nanny Av to Thalia and Elijah. The funeral service was held at the Heart of England Crematorium in Nuneaton. Donations to Myaware may be sent if so desired via Devall and Son, Funeral Directors, Attleborough, Nuneaton.

We offer our sincere condolences to Avril's family and friends.

#### CROSSWORD ANSWERS (from page 19)

ACROSS :- 1 Wisdom 4 Toast 8 Noon 9 Treetops 10 Speaker 12 Sadly 13 Rage 14 Ranks 17 As New 20 Than 22 Malta 23 Hoaxers 24 White rum 25 Eyed 26 My Eye 27 Ninety.

DOWN : - 1 Windsor 2 Denmark 3 Mother 5 Open sea 6 Snowden 7 I spy 11 Rajah 15 Nullify 16 Stately 18 Sixteen 19 Wash day 21 Norman 22 Mews.

**COPY DEADLINE for June 2016 ISSUE: 15th May**

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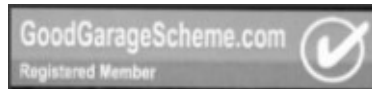
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