

The Stoker

No. 168

February '18



Stoke Golding Village Magazine

Including

Dadlington Matters

50p



Note from the Editors



Firstly, welcome to the first issue of 2018. We hope the New Year has been treating you kindly so far. It's a time of resolutions - lose weight, drink less alcohol, spend more time with friends, change your job...I've (Ella)

been on a bit of a 'get active' regime at the gym and it's going well so far. Hope you're managing to stick to your 2018 plans, if you made some – one month done already!

As always there's been plenty going on in our villages and some super events to look out for over the next few weeks. Head for the What's On pages. Hopefully the weather will be a little kinder, so we can get out about without having to negotiate snow and icy conditions. As pretty as it can be, after a few days it's nice to be able to go out without fear of falling over! So now, make a brew, put your feet up and enjoy this month's issue.

Best wishes

Ella 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 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. This includes advertisements which are not checked or verified by us.

Cover picture: Did you make the Snow Dog at the top of Pine Close? —Photo by David Abbott

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Stoke Golding Charity Sleigh



Once again, many thanks for all your contributions and these are the organisations or events that have benefited: Stoke Golding Village Hall, Dadlington Village Hall, Scouts, Junior Football, Robin Hood Playschool, Pensioners' Lunch and the Flower Show (kids' section).

Can we also say a big thank you to Mark Fowler for pulling the sleigh on the Friday night and then the loan of his truck for use on the Saturday night. Thanks to Karl for driving on the Saturday night and thanks to the hard-working snowmen who did the collecting across both nights.

The Sleigh committee

Icy Conditions in Stoke Golding

Stoke Golding Parish Council has been busy topping up PC grit bins in the village following the recent cold weather and wishes to thank public spirited residents who have been seen spreading grit over icy roads and pavements in the village during the icy conditions. *Theresa C Case, Clerk to Stoke Golding Parish Council*



What haven't we been up to? A busy Christmas period for the Scout group

Where to start? There was a bit of a Xmas theme across the group. The Beavers performed their nativity play which, despite having only two rehearsals, went very well and they sang their hearts out at the end. It was when we had all that snow and ice, so well done to all those Beavers and families who braved the elements to support the play.



The Beavers made snow men out of paper plates which were hung in the church for the snowman festival. The Beavers and Cubs also did some 'cloak and dagger' deception by creating peg snowmen and then smuggling them into the church. Mystery solved and approx 32 appeared!!!!



The Cubs also had Xmas themed evening activities with card making, biscuit making, bell ringing and table decoration. A BIG thank you to Carolyn, Jane, Rachel, Doreen, Claire and Amanda for making the evening so successful.

The Cubs restored the vintage snowmen by reapplying the papier mâché, painting and decorating them as well. Fun was had by all.

The Scouts went caving in Derbyshire and did their creative challenge badge with an evening of performance and decorating gingerbread houses. As well as all this, there was the group Xmas party to end the year. All in all, what a busy Xmas themed time we had!

Jennifer Michie





Latest Update on Stoke Golding's Neighbourhood Plan

The Advisory Committee has been developing **Draft** policies on the following subjects:

Employment, Business and Local Economy Policies; Leisure and Wellbeing; Environment, Heritage and Areas of Open Space for Protection and Community Infrastructure and Facilities. A second look and review of these policies will be carried out in the last advisory committee meeting of January which will be in

The Methodist Hall on Monday, 29th of January, at 7 PM

Further meetings will occur in the Methodist Hall at the same time on the following dates and the following subjects:

26th Feb	Transport Policies and Agree Method to Discuss Housing Development
12th March	Transport Policies (if required) and Housing Development
9th April	Housing Development
14th May	Review of The Neighbourhood Plan wording, including all policies to date

The **draft** wording of The Neighbourhood Plan will be developed and then brought to the meeting in May for careful discussion and potential modification.

The Advisory Committee has reviewed The Neighbourhood Plan's project plan according to progress and is aiming to have as a plan fully adopted in September 2019. Much work lies ahead, although a large part of the latter work will be in the hands of our consultants and statutory bodies.

The Advisory Committee would like to thank you for your patience.

***Feedback on the process so far may be sent to
sgnpjimhope@btinternet.com***

“Tis the season for the annual Snowman Festival”



It is a pleasure to volunteer to review the Snowman Festival. As a cub leader we wander down on the Friday pm to set up the cub and beavers display. There is a faithful band of volunteers who work tirelessly to decorate the church and believe me it takes time. Thank you to our 2 cubs Samara and Freya who turned up to help us decorate the snowmen. The beavers decorated snowman plates and the cubs our now vintage snowmen. There were lots of other displays from mums and tots, Robin Hood Play group and the Sunday school to name but a few.



The skies darkened that night and we could see the wonderful snowman themed displays and the sparkling lights - simply delightful.

I returned with a friend the next day who was very impressed with the festival. Of course I did have to sample the refreshments and can conclude that the lemon drizzle cake was mouth watering. I can also report that the turkey batches were wonderful too.



Thank you to all those at the church for their hard work and raising approximately £1,700.00 on the day. Well done.

I did however hear that there was a secret stash of snowmen who appeared on a washing line through out the day and no one knew how they got there!!!

Jennifer Michie

STOKE GOLDING AND DADLINGTON - IMAGES FROM THE PAST



This new book of photographs of the villages of Dadlington and Stoke Golding has been produced and is currently on sale. This book is produced in a limited edition of 300 and is offered at the printer's price of £6.99 per copy. They are available from: SEHMBI STORES STOKE GOLDING or Denis Cash, 100 Sherwood Road, Stoke, Gill Webster, 91 Sherwood Road, Stoke, Bernard Arnold, 17 Hinckley Road, Stoke, or Eddie Smallwood, 3 Shenton Lane, Dadlington.

Poems from Year 9 Redmoor Students

Christmas Snow

White snow glistens,
As the children listen,
For the sleigh bells ringing,
And the choirs singing,
The stars shine bright,
In the night time light
No one can sleep
Thinking 'bout the present heap
The Christmas tree stands tall
Decorated with sparkling balls
On top an angel proud
Gathering such a crowd
Snow is falling down
Over the lively town
Children singing songs
Christmas won't be long
By Rebecca Sherry

Tears

Falling softly, running fast.
Leaving scorch marks on a mask.
Fading slowly, always scars
Mind now empty blocked by barbs.
Sight now blurring, never clear,
Dark abysses made by fear.
Falling softly, running fast,
Leaving scorch marks on their mask.
Hands now shaking, moving,
quaking.
Eyes will never see,
Colours draining, falling, fading
No hope left to see.
Falling softly, running fast,
Leaving scorch marks on my mask.
Sight now blurring, never clear.
Dark depressions made by fear.
By Ellie Charlesworth

Aftermath of the General Election

They decided our country's fate
Brexit took its toll
And the campaigns started so late.
Theresa May's feeling pressured
Corbyn prematurely smug
Farron's already resigned
Sturgeon- a face like a mug
Foster recruited to help
Paul Nutall out in a flash
Boris was left sulking alone
After this big political clash.

The General Election
They decided our country's fate
No one's really happy
But they all just thought they were
great.

By Leah Mistry and Luke Stevenson

Fool on the Hill

Thought for food.....

Mrs Fool was out at her Arc Welding class the other night and I was catching up on some essential televisual research. I chanced to find an unseen episode of wildlife in the raw presented, naturally, by our national treasure Mr Attenborough. This particular issue featured a troop of chimpanzees generally going about their apish lifestyle which involved rather a lot of loafing around, flea picking and fruit eating. Suddenly, the whole troop got an attack of the munchies that was obviously not going to be satisfied by a bunch of bananas. After a session of agitated chest thumping, they roared off into the tree tops with all the stealth and guile of a drunken stag party searching for a late-night kebab shop in Blackpool. In the tree canopy, the pack isolated and trapped a hapless monkey and promptly tore it apart and ate it. There was a dull thud in the Fool household as my jaw hit the floor. For a sensitive soul brought up on the jolly antics of those loveable little scamps the Brooke Bond Tea chimps, (young readers ask your Grandpa), this came as something of a shock. In the first place I had no idea that chimps eat meat and I was totally unprepared for the transition from convivial tea party guests to murderous thugs.

It did rather make me think though, that the chimpanzee was pretty much on the same evolutionary highway as our Homo sapiens predecessors. So, it would seem logical to assume that our dietary requirements would have followed a similar path. Certainly, there is common ground in the food groups of meat, fruit and vegetables but while the chimps have stuck to the basics served raw, our highly evolved brains have led us to the culinary Nirvana that is the Greggs Sausage Roll. Given the choice between one of those and a lump of raw Howler Monkey, I confess that I might have to give the matter some thought. It is a sad reflection of our progress as a species that we have drifted so far from the simple food stuffs that seem to be keeping our ape cousins in a lot better shape than we are. Whilst being no expert on the subject of chimpanzee well-being, it did seem to me that the apes in Mr Attenborough's little programme were enjoying rude good health and a few other rude things besides. But I digress. As far as I could see there were no obese or diabetic members of the troop and you are certainly not going to catch up with a terrified monkey 60 feet off the ground if you are not possessed of a reasonable level of fitness.

Next time you go into Morrison's just take notice of the percentage of floor space given over to fresh food. The truth is we just love the sugary, fatty junk stuff. Why else would six million of us tune in to see someone baking a cake?

F.O.T.H.



Ten of a Kind

Solmonath was the Old English name for February, meaning mud month – how appropriate. Here are ten questions relating to mud.

1. What was the name of the first number 1 single for 70's glam rock band Mud, it being the highest selling single of 1974?
2. Which World War I battle that began on 31st July 1917, was fought under atrocious weather conditions that led to some soldiers and horses drowning in the mud?
3. Which US state gives its name to a chocolate-based pudding, described as a mud pie?
4. By what name was American blues singer McKinley Morganfield better known?
5. What kind of a creature is a mudskipper?
6. Which outspoken European Cup winning manager, when asked about women's football, said, "I like my women to be feminine, not sliding into tackles and covered in mud."
7. Which animal were Flanders and Swann singing about when they penned the lines, "Mud, mud, glorious mud. Nothing quite like it for cooling the blood."
8. What was sold on Mudeford Spit, near Christchurch on the south coast, for £280,000 in July'17, despite having no running water, mains electricity or toilet?
9. Glastonbury Festival is notorious for its usually muddy conditions. In which month is it held?
10. In the 18th and 19th centuries, what name was given to people who scavenged along the banks of the River Thames in London at low tide?

Answers on page 34



CASAG News

The theme for December/January was **Drinkaware.co.uk**

which is a very useful website for those who feel concerned about the amount of alcohol they are consuming on a regular basis and struggling to uphold the topical "dry January".

There is a new CASAG newsletter in the surgery and has **extended its opening time to 8am.** *Jennifer Michie*

Stoke Golding Youth Football Club



The U9's Stoke Golding team are delighted local company Rainbow International Restoration has sponsored the team providing each of the lads a fantastic training top. A local regular user of Stoke Club who works for Rainbow International Restoration and whose grandson plays for the team kindly introduced the company. The local business professional service matched the positive sporting values of the team. The managing director and senior staff even took the time to come and present each player with their own very smart top on a cold, frosty morning.

Rainbow International Restoration sponsorship is very gratefully received and it certainly helped, as in the first match after the presentation Stoke Golding recorded their best ever result with a 9-1 win!



At the start of this football season, it would have been safe to say that the U12's would be content with a mid-table finish and an enjoyable run in the first few rounds of a cup, considering that it is their first season in competitive divisions. However they are exceeding all expectations currently being the only team in all the U12 divisions who are unbeaten in all competitions. Their most recent triumph was a win against another division one side, Blaby and Whetstone Tigers (the score 2-0) progressing them onto the quarter finals of the U12's County Cup. Even with key players injured the team were still able to adapt, apply a resilient work rate and show an incredible team spirit to push them through to another unexpected, 'underdog' victory. Good luck for the next rounds lads and keep that cup glory dream alive.



Featured here are some of the U12's players celebrating the victory with their very proud manager. The Man of the Match was given the award for his persistent effort, determination and goal saving blocks.

A brilliant start to league football from our U7's as 2017 came to a close, four wins from their first five games featured in their red and white away kit.



www.pitchero.com/clubs/stokegoldingfc

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Stoke Golding WI

WELCOME TO 2018.

Before we welcome in 2018 perhaps we can have a quick look back to December 2017. The month began for the ladies of Stoke Golding W.I. with a very enjoyable Christmas meal at Ashfields restaurant in Earl Shilton. Next came our Christmas party which proceeded with much fun and laughter until news of a heavy fall of snow filtered in to the hall. So with quick wishes of a Merry Christmas to all we swiftly returned safely to our own homes. Unfortunately the snow fall meant a cancellation of the Carol Service the next day which was a great disappointment especially as it was Stoke Golding W.I who were hosting the service and to the many members who enjoy our final get together before our own family celebrations.

When our January meeting evening arrived the weather did not stop our members arriving in eager anticipation of a new year of interesting speakers, demonstrations and outings which began with a games evening. After first putting forward our votes for the resolutions we began with the old favourite, Bingo, although even with this well-known game there were some of us, myself included, who became confused much to the amusement of the more 'with it' members. This was followed by an extremely entertaining and hilarious game of drawing pub names for other members of the team to guess. Needless to say I don't think any of us will become a rival to any of the great artists, but we would like to thank Ann Fullagar for all the hard work she put in to organising the game and to our Bingo caller June White for her efforts. Our next meeting on February 14th will see us make Easter decorations. It will take place as usual at the Methodist Church Hall so please come along and have some fun, as you will be most welcome.

Val Hartwell

Let's Walk the Length of England 1 : The Cotswold Way

There was a plan: it's just that what we ended up doing was a different plan. The original plan was to try to do a walk in every county in England and after some pleasant treks in Lincolnshire and Wiltshire, we walked a part of the Cotswold Way in Gloucestershire. Then in 2006, my cathedral visiting friend Andrew turned 50, and we joined a group of his friends and relations for a celebration that involved walking another part of the Cotswold Way.



We started at Birdlip Hill, rising high above Cheltenham, and continued along the escarpment, through woods and pretty villages, with magnificent views over the Severn valley towards Gloucester. We stopped for afternoon tea at a little café in the middle of nowhere, run by a frail, seemingly confused, old lady who got our orders completely mixed up. It turned out that her son was something big in the annual cheese rolling festival that takes place on nearby Cooper's Hill. It also transpired that the prices on the menu were rough guides, because

the final bill was far in excess of what it should have been, but you can't argue with a frail, seemingly confused old lady, so we paid up. I suspect she wasn't as confused as we thought!

When my wife, Sue, and I met up with Andrew and his wife Helen, we talked about what a great walk we'd had. Andrew suggested we abandon our 'County' plan and have a "Walk the Cotswold Way" plan, and before long we found ourselves at the start of the 102 mile National Trail in Chipping Camden. We are not striding out walkers who cover great distances, so it took us ten separate walks to reach the city of Bath at the southern end. Along the way, we climbed Broadway Tower, perched high on a hill, passed the remains of Hailes Abbey and visited the 'Queen of the Cotswolds', Painswick where the churchyard used to have 99 yew trees. Legend had it that the devil would pull up any 100th tree, so when the church was given one as part of the millennium celebrations, they had a dilemma. They planted it anyway but so far, the devil hasn't kept his side of the bargain.

On the southern stretches we found two monuments, one dedicated to a son of the Duke of Beaufort who served at Waterloo, the other in honour of William Tyndale, a translator of the New Testament who was born nearby and who was executed as a heretic by strangulation. The walk also passes the English Civil War battlefield of Landsdowne before descending into Bath. Toasting our completion of the walk with a glass of bubbly in front of Bath Abbey, whilst studiously ignoring the alcohol free zone notices, we congratulated ourselves on our achievement. We'd fulfilled our 'Walk the Cotswold Way' plan, but I had an even better plan formulating, a 'Let's Walk the Length of England' plan. Time to share it with the others.

Michael Dix

A Snapshot in Time: Dadlington in 1891

After a visit from the Ordnance Survey in 1888 and the census enumerators in 1891, we have a good idea about what Dadlington looked like and who lived there just over 120 years ago. Imagine going back in time and approaching the village down the Hinckley Road. The first buildings you will encounter are two farms: Manor Farm on the right, the home of James and Mary Ratcliffe and their three children, the other farm on the left borders the green. The majority of housing in the village is clustered around the green or on the right hand side of what was called Shenton Road as it leaves the village towards Dadlington Wharf on the Ashby Canal. Most of the 141 houses are small workers' cottages, crammed tightly together and destined not to last long into the coming century.

There will be some buildings that you would recognise, such as the church and The Dog and Hedgehog, run by publican George Surm. The locals would no doubt want you to see their Parish Room across the road - a red brick building with a steeply pitched roof. In the five years since the parishioners raised the £100 for its construction, it has been a focus of village life, the venue for social events and the weekly Sunday School. A cluster of cottages beside the Parish Room border the old gravel pit which covers a good two thirds of our 21st century green. Maybe, as you stand looking at this relict from the past, you will hear the sound of a steam train, trundling on the embankment to or from Shenton Station as it has done now, for the past 18 years.

And what of the residents you might meet. Most of the men are agricultural or general labourers. In contrast to 40 years previously when half the population were framework knitters, there is now only the one: 72-year-old William Pratt. The village's oldest resident at 82 is Ann Grimes, and she is still working too, as a seamstress, along with five other women in the village, making and sewing clothes. Not that this is a village of old people. The average age of the men of the village is only 30, and that of the women, 26. Whilst only just over a third of residents were born in the village, the majority were born locally in Leicestershire and Warwickshire. Susan Petter, the 17 year old governess to the Scrivener family, has travelled the furthest, having been born in the Scottish county of Forfarshire.

Maybe you will meet 36 year old James Dawkins who is a petroleum dealer. Whilst the earliest cars had been invented at this time, they were still a rarity, (the law requiring someone to walk in front of a combustion engine with a red flag would not be repealed for another five years) so it is unlikely that James was supplying the motor trade. More likely James is dealing in paraffin, a major source of fuel for home lighting in these Victorian times.

Michael Dix

Events and opening times of Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre 2018

Each Sat & Sun in Feb – Guided Walks 11.30 & 2.00pm

27th February – Paranormal Ghost Walk 7-10pm

Exhibition, Shop, Tithe Barn Café & Country Park Opening times

<http://www.bosworthbattlefield.org.uk/christmas-new-year-201718-opening-times/>

Further events; dates and times to be confirmed

Mark Wilkinson, Leicester Count Council

Dadlington Matters



Coffee and Chat at Dadlington Village Hall

Come for a friendly chat with other residents from Dadlington and Stoke Golding while enjoying delicious home-made cakes and a cuppa.

**Thursday 1st February
10am - 12.15pm
All Welcome**

St James' Church Dadlington PANCAKE SUPPER

at

**Hall Farm
Dadlington**

**On Saturday 3rd March
(Please note changed date)**

At 7.30pm

Dates for your Diary

Regular Practice Dance
at Dadlington Village Hall, 3rd March 8-10pm

Ballroom Latin, Rock n Roll etc
Bring Your Own Drinks
£4.50

Pudding Night

Saturday 24th March, Dadlington Village Hall 7pm onwards

Indulge yourself! Enjoy a succession of wonderful puddings and desserts in the new village hall.

Proceeds to support the Village Hall. £7.50 each. A bargain for this delicious experience. Bar available.

Tickets - e-mail: [jf_whitehead @ hotmail.com](mailto:jf_whitehead@hotmail.com) or contact any committee member to book your places.

CINDERELLA

more details at stanleyopera.co.uk



13TH 17TH 19TH & 21ST APRIL

Treat yourself
to a night at the opera
Come and see Rossini's
gorgeous rom-com at the
**HINCKLEY
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The perfect show for
romantics young and old
Tickets £12 + £11 (£10 groups of 10)

BOOK TICKETS concordiatheatre.co.uk/cinderella
Public booking from 27th January **01455 615005**



25.02.18

Dadlington Cycle Event

Date: 25th February 2018

Location: Dadlington Village Hall

Event: 3 hour Bike Orienteering on roads with checkpoints on unique landmarks.

Online entries at www.bmbo.org.uk

All check points located on minor roads.
Closing date for entry 23/02'18 although
entries will be accepted on the day.

Registration: 8.30 - 10.00

Start anytime between 9.00 - 10.30



Exhibition, Shop, Tithe Barn Café & Country Park Opening times

Day & Date	Heritage Centre & Shop	Tithe Barn café	Country Park & Toilets
Thurs 1st Feb	CLOSED	10am to 4pm	7am to 5pm
Fri 2nd Feb	CLOSED	10am to 4pm	7am to 5pm
Sat 3rd onwards	10am to 4pm (last admission 3pm)	10am-4pm	7am-5pm

What's On



Simon Phillips
BRITAIN'S NUMBER ONE
CABARET ENTERTAINER

With Guest Star
Simon Henley
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ASK IN THE CLUB FOR DETAILS,
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He's Back!
February 10, 2018 Tickets £10.00
VALENTINE'S NIGHT SPECIAL

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Top Cabaret Entertainer

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Call in or ring 01455 212221
For details all club events
**A great venue at the heart of
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Valentine's Dance

 Saturday 17th February 2018
Dancing to the sound of

Take It From The Top

The little band with the big heart
Stoke Golding Village Hall
Doors Open 8pm

Tickets only £5 each

Email or phone:
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Band playing from
8.30 - 9.15pm
10 - 11pm

Bring your own
drinks and
nibbles
(no bar)

Entry by Ticket Only

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA



Classic silent film from 1925
With live musical accompaniment by **MINIMA**
"one of the leading bands accompanying silent film in Europe" - Barbican Centre, London

Tickets £10



StokeArts @ Stoke Golding Village Hall
Friday 9th Feb: Doors open 7.30 for 8pm
<https://stokearts.yapsody.com> or
Steve Smithers 01455 213798

What's On

SHORT MAT BOWLING IN STOKE GOLDING

Nothing to do on a winter Wednesday evening?



Why not come along to the Stoke Golding Club and play Short mat Bowls. In 1995 a group of members got together and decided to set up a short mat bowling team. The idea of short mat is that the mat (the Green) is only as long as the hall or room in a concert room in a club. A short block of wood is placed in the middle of the Green to prevent "Firing" at the head. The skill is therefore in guiding the Bowl around this to the Jack in the head.

We joined the Nuneaton Short Mat Bowling League in Division 2 and had reasonable success getting promoted to Division 1. We eventually fielded a second team. Times have changed, and these traditional games seem to be fading away and our membership fell so we decided to come out of the League and only play at home in the Stoke Club to prevent members travelling. If you would like to try your hand at the game and to get you out of the house during the winter come along on a Wednesday evening at 8.00 and have a go.

Bowls are provided. Only wear soft shoes.

We will be playing up until March so come along at any Wednesday till then, hope to see you there. *John Burton*

Methodist Church

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday February 10th

10.00-11.30

For Mission Funds



The Stoke Golding Comedy Night

Friday 16th March, Stoke Golding Liberal Club
Doors 7.00 Comedy 8:30, Tickets £12 each
Over 16 only, Strictly ticket ONLY

Available From Stoke Golding Youth Football Club
Members, Committee and Stoke Liberal Club



Everyone can do with a mentor, someone who believes in you, encourages and stretches you in your chosen career. In my case this was with an extraordinary woman director called Joan Kemp-Welch. She began her acting career on stage and films in the 1920's and thirties, before crossing over into directing. In the fifties she was responsible for 'Cool for Cats' one of the first televised Pop Music programmes with stars like Tommy Steele. She also directed one of the first television performances of Harold Pinter's plays, "The Lover", and followed this in the sixties with Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet'.

I first met Joan in 1974 when at the age of 68 she had retired from her television contracts, and was back directing for the theatre. She cast me in as Clementine Churchill in a "Man and His Wife" a fascinating new play about Winston and Clemmie, from the time they met in his early career in Parliament, through the two world wars, to his final rejection. Clementine was always faithfully at his side. It was the Scottish Premier of the play in the Season at the Pitlochry Festival that year. It was also the beginning of a long professional and affectionate friendship between us. I loved being directed by her. She taught me so much from her long experience in 'the business'. It was a joy not only working with her, but also being included in her many parties meeting her fascinating mix of dinner guests. She and her husband, another television director, lived near me in London in one of those iconic Mews cottages that were so popular in the fifties and sixties. Once they would have been the stables for the coach and horses below, and the coachman's flat above serving the big house in the adjacent street, but then became the fashionable 'bijou' home for every 'arty' person who could get one.

My next production with Joan was in Vienna, in another period piece this time by Somerset Maugham. "The Circle" was the big come-back to the stage, by the wife of the retiring Swiss Ambassador. As an actress before her marriage to him, it was considered inappropriate for her to perform during his time at the Embassy. Now Joan was giving her the chance to play the lead in this very stylish performance, with gorgeous costumes for us all. Living in Vienna was wonderful, but all the invitations to the various Embassies for banquets after the show were an added bonus. The food was magnificent, but there were some elaborate rituals to learn. Our place names were set out on the large circular tables with beautiful settings, actors mingling with members of the Embassies. Conversations were then started during the first course, but then the hostess, would swoop down on the unsuspecting actor and place them on another table where they were expected to converse with another unknown Viennese dinner guest. This happened during all three or four courses. "*So that you can get to know many more people*". Joan would insist we had to wear appropriate dress – "*no jeans and tee shirts please!*" and some of the younger actors found these invitations a bore. I found the evenings fascinating. Seeing how the other half lived.

A few years later I was going through one of those patches thinking I would never work again, when my agent phoned. "*Joan wants you get yourself down to Fulham where she's rehearsing, to have a look at the leading part.*" I sighed "*Not if it's understudying.*" There was a pause, "*No Beth it's to take-over the part. The actress is having trouble with the lines. Get down there quick.*" I put the ironing board away and did what I was told.

The tragedy of The Romanov Dynasty was waiting to be explored.

To be continued next month..... *Beth Ellis*

Recently I was diagnosed with A.A.A.D.D. Age Activated Attention Deficit Disorder

This is how it manifests:

I decide to wash my car. As I start towards the garage, I notice that there is mail on the hall table. I decide to go through the mail before I wash the car. I lay my car keys down on the table, put the junk mail in the bin under the table and notice that the bin is full. I decide to put the bills back on the table and take out the rubbish first. Then I think, since I'm going to be near the post-box when I take out the rubbish anyway, I may as well pay the bills first. I take my cheque book off the table and see that there is only 1 cheque left. My extra cheques are in my desk in the study, so I go to my desk where I find the can of Coke that I had been drinking. I'm going to look for my cheques but first I need to move the can of Coke so that I don't accidentally knock it over. I see that the Coke is getting warm so decide I should put it in the fridge to keep it cold. As I head towards the kitchen with the Coke, a vase of flowers on the counter catches my eye. They need to be watered. I set the Coke down on the counter and I find my reading glasses that I've been searching for all morning. I decide that I'd better put them back on my desk, but first I'm going to water the flowers. I set the glasses back down on the counter, fill a container with water, then suddenly I spot the TV remote. Someone left it on the kitchen table. I realise that tonight, when we settle down to watch TV, I will be looking for the remote but won't remember that it is on the kitchen table, so I decide to put it back in the room where it belongs, but first I will water the flowers. I splash some water on the flowers but most of it spills on the floor. So, I set the remote back on the table, get some towels and wipe up the spill. Then I head down the hall trying to remember what I was planning to do.

At the end of the day, the car isn't washed, the bills aren't paid, there is a warm can of Coke sitting on the counter, the flowers aren't watered and there is still only one cheque in my cheque book, I can't find the remote, I can't find my glasses and I don't remember what I did with my car keys.

I try to figure out why nothing got done today. I'm baffled because I know I was busy all day, I'm tired and realise that this is a problem. I'll try to get some help for it but first I'll check my email!

Anon (I have forgotten who sent this in! Ed)

New Village Tree



Last year Stoke Golding Parish Council took the decision to plant a permanent tree in the spot where a Christmas tree usually stands. The tree which had been supplied in 2016 was in a poor condition and cost £300 to purchase and install. The new tree, a rowan (Sheerwater seedling), hopefully will give all year interest – blossom in spring, berries in summer and lovely coloured leaves in autumn. It cost only £180 and will be

there for many years to come – and be decorated every Christmas.



Cycling Lanequest Is Back in Dadlington. Sunday 25th February, 2018.



For the third successive year, Dadlington is hosting a Lanequest. Dadlington Village Hall will be the start and finish venue for the event which is again being organised by Geoff Ford and Bernard Lamb under the authority of the Midlands Mountain Bike Orienteering or MMBO, who were impressed with the organisation and our historic area previously that they were very keen to see more of the same this year.



The Lanequest involves cycling and map reading using local, quiet lanes and public highways. 30 checkpoints will be placed around a course within the confines of an A4 size Ordnance Survey map. This is given to each rider as they start. The aim of the competition is to visit and confirm on a punch card as many checkpoints as possible within the 3 hour time limit. More leisurely riders may choose to ride for a shorter period and just enjoy the experience, perhaps riding some quiet lanes for the very first time. Each checkpoint has a points score so the winner will be the rider who has the highest points total less any penalty points for finishing over 3 hours.

The event is not a race. Each competitor, or team of two, can go at whatever pace they wish and choose which checkpoints they visit and in which order. As the sport involves combining bike riding and map reading to plot an efficient way of gathering the most points, it is not just the fastest cyclists that will necessarily win an event. It's a great way of combining different skills with a way of keeping fit and seeing our historic countryside at a gentler pace. This event is on tarmac roads but any bike, either road or mountain bike can be used. There is even a separate category for e-bikes. A helmet is essential to compete whatever your choice of bike.

The event is open to all ages, (under 16s will need to be accompanied by an adult), and although there will be an overall placing for every rider, they will also appear in age categories so there will be separate competitions within age groups as well as male and female competitions. At the end of the event whilst the scores are being calculated and results totted up, there will be savoury refreshments and high quality home made cakes and time to chat with your competitors about the merits of routes chosen. No one has gone away hungry from these previous events!. A donation for the food is requested which will go to local charities or good causes.

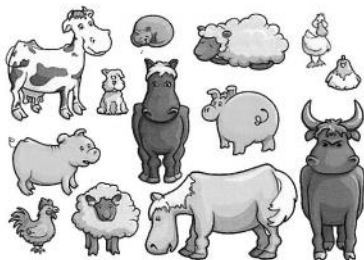
Anyone with a roadworthy bike and a basic ability to map-read is most welcome to try out the event with registration at the Village Hall being between 8:30 and 10:00, with a start at the riders choice between 9:00 and 10:30. Discounts are available to early entries. Further details as well as how to enter are available on the Midlands MBO website www.bmbo.org.uk

Bernie Lamb



BOSWORTH
BATTLEFIELD HERITAGE CENTRE
AND COUNTRY PARK

February Fun Animal Hunt
Saturday 10th to
Sunday 25th February



**Pick up a sheet from our ticket office,
explore the Heritage Centre and Country
Park to find the hiding animals and return
to collect your prize.**

£2 per child.

For more information about forthcoming events call

01455 290429 or visit

www.bosworthbattlefield.com

Church Matters



From St Margaret's Church

Look Out for The Sting In The Tail

(An article that might have been pawed by Shep our Border Collie dog if he were still with us.)

In the Church of England group in the Fenn Lanes there are three dog collared characters. Linda Blay, the rector is one, the 'Old Man' is another and I am the third. But there is a major distinction between the three collars. While mine is a straight forward canine collar the other two wear white things made out of plastic.

You must have watched 'Blue Planet 2' on the TV and been at one with David Attenborough in his outrage at the way plastic has been dumped in the seas and is putting at peril my distant cousins, the creatures of the deep. I discovered only today that cigarette filters, carelessly discarded by the human race, contain fragments of plastic – and you have the cheek to call them 'dog ends'.

It is amazing how many items used by humans have been infiltrated by the dreaded plastic. Not just carrier bags, and take-away coffee cups, but facial scrubs (I just use my paws), synthetic clothing and drinking straws. And through sheer carelessness of your race, oceans of this stuff finds itself in...the oceans of our planet.

Don't you think that it's about time the clergy of the Fenn Lanes and the world ceased to publicise this worrying substance – plastic – and took to showing some outward sign of their care for God's created order. If the Archbishop of York can cut his plastic collar in two because of Zimbabwe – shouldn't the lower clergy give theirs up for the health of the world's seas?

Having pawed this far, I am aware of some of our faithful readers asking – 'And of what substance is this dog's collar made? It may not be plastic, but doesn't it come from one of his near relations?'

Which only goes to show that when you point the paw at someone else it often gets to point back to you. Which, of course, should not stop you from sustaining and protecting what God has given to your race and mine but always look out for the sting in the tail!

Shep
Assisted by 'The Old Man'
Alan Davis

Church Matters

Church of England February Services

St. Margaret's Church

- 4th 10.30am All Age Service
11th 10.30am Benefice Service
18th 10.30am Holy Communion
25th 10.30am Morning Worship + Baptism

St. James's Church

- 4th 9.00am BCP Morning Prayer
11th 10.30am Benefice Service Stoke Golding
18th 9.00am BCP Holy Communion
25th 9.00am BCP Morning Prayer

The Methodist Church February Services

- 4th 10.30am Mr Michael Holt
11th 10.30am Circuit Service at
Earl Shilton
18th 10.30am Mr John Cooke
25th 10.30am Mr Malcolm Lapper

Zion Baptist Chapel February 2018 Services

- 4th 6pm John Needham
11th 6pm Mark Menzfeld
18th 6pm Steven Connor
25th 6pm NO SERVICE

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.



Stoke Golding website: www.stokegolding.co.uk

SOPHIE'S BEAUTY ROOM

After living in central London, with its transitory population, I find the sense of 'family' and family ties much stronger here in the villages of the Midlands. So hearing the story of how a young nineteen year old's successful small business, was primarily the vision of her whole family, has added to that sense. Last October, Sophie's small village Beauty Room celebrated five years of growing success, and with her here sitting opposite me, sipping coffee, I discover the heart-warming family story of how it all evolved. Sophie's Mum and Dad move into the village from Earl Shilton, when she's only five. At the time she is at St. Peter's primary school there but moves to St. Martin's when she's eleven and can still remember Sister Louis being there. After GCSE at John Cleveland, she is accepted on the two year course she set her heart on, at North Warwick & Hinckley in Nuneaton. During her last year she works part-time at a large salon in Burbage, and passing with flying colours from college, she is offered a full-time job, giving her the opportunity to gain the necessary experience in the wider beauty work-place, working with many different treatments on members of the public.

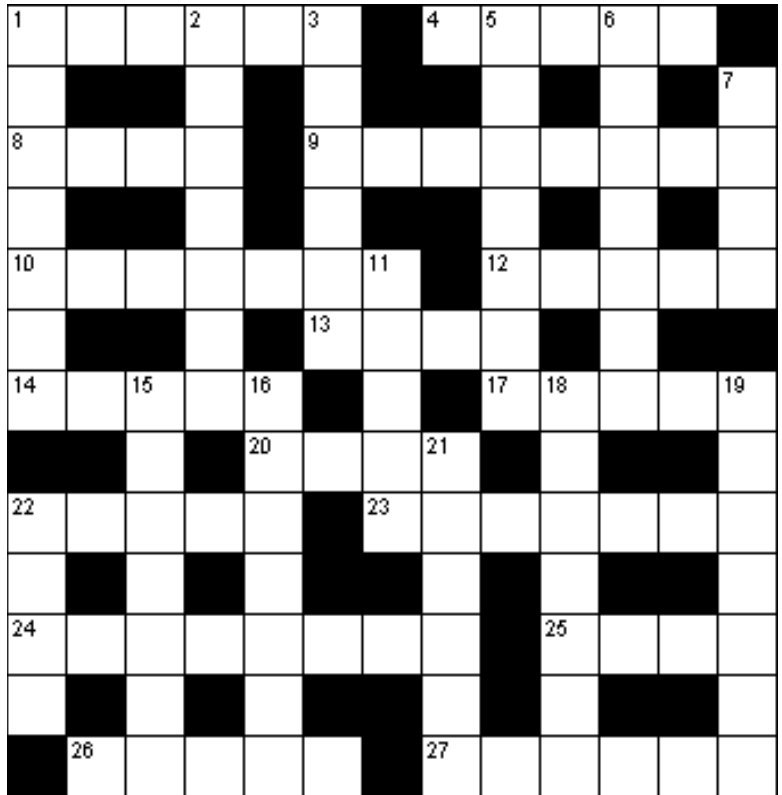
Around this time, the family start making suggestions. Sophie's Grandfather has bought the bungalow next to her parents' house, so that if anything happens to him he knows that Grandma will be safely looked after. The bungalow has a garage, which only houses a car belonging to Dad. If it is empty, it will be just big enough to become a small salon for Sophie to start her own business. *"So tell me Sophie, was this your vision alone?"* There's a slow smile as she starts to tell me the story. *"Well in a way it was a family vision. My grandfather knew he was terminally ill, and he so wanted to be able to see me set up in my career. The first hurdle was to ask Dad if he'd mind parking the car outside the house."* I ask; *"Well did he?"* Sophie chuckles. *"He was fine about it."* I'm getting a full picture of this supportive family. Having talked all this through, the moment for the big gamble begins. Grandfather insists on paying for all the necessary building work and Sophie will have to use all her savings to buy the very best equipment. The gamble has been taken. The result is now waiting. The rest is history.

"Have you any idea how many fairly regular clients you have on your books now?" Sophie pauses a moment, and I suggest; *"Well how many cards do you think you sent at Christmas?"* This decides her: *"Somewhere between sixty and a hundred."* I'm curious to know whether clients are mainly from the village or from farther afield, and interested to hear that people come from far and wide and usually by word of mouth - and her Facebook page. Her youngest 'regular' is 4yr. old. *"She insists on having her nails done for her birthdays, and of course at Christmas. They are such tiny nails."* I wonder what other interests Sophie has, only to discover that she loves her work so much, there's very little time for other hobbies. *"I usually start at 9.00 in the morning, and sometimes my last appointment can be at 9.00 in the evening."* She recently had the whole room redecorated, and the equipment changed around, but it still has that stillness and calm, with gentle musical background that makes it the perfect place to relax completely.

Next week there is a birthday, spending the actual day quietly with the family, but there's a secret surprise weekend 'getaway' with that special someone in her life. *"Ben and I are looking to buy a house together - hopefully here in the village."* I ask her if the vision is fulfilled *"Even more than I ever hoped Beth."* Bless you Sophie, what a perfect story for 2018.

THESE CLUES CONTAIN A NUMBER OF ANIMALS AS ANSWERS

**d
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c**



ACROSS

- 1 Reptile (6)
- 4 Nuclear weapon (1-4)
- 8 Woodwind instrument (4)
- 9 One of Santa's has a red nose (8)
- 10 Caustic soda and bleach are these (7)
- 12 Joint between hip and foot (5)
- 13 Small amphibian (4)
- 14 Rounded and raised roof line (5)
- 17 Break free of egg (5)
- 20 Birds that live in barns (4)
- 22 Declare invalid (5)
- 23 Movement of a snake (7)
- 24 An Indian or African large mammal (8)
- 25 Italian currency (4)
- 26 Putting something into action (5)
- 27 Female sibling or nun (6)

DOWN

- 1 Big cat with spots (7)
- 2 Central value of of a set of data (7)
- 3 He wrote about evolution (6)
- 5 Under something (7)
- 6 TV small mongoose (7)
- 7 Soft French cheese (4)
- 11 These animals balance balls on their noses (5)
- 15 Primates (7)
- 16 Intelligent marine mammel (7)
- 18 They grow on stags (7)
- 19 Coastal protected space for boats (7)
- 21 Mammals that live upside down in trees (6)
- 22 Short name for our nearest animal relatives (4)

Rustic Walking Sticks Part II

Most of my 200+ sticks have come from overgrown hedgerows and neglected woods where seeds have germinated and grown upwards unchecked, forced to compete for the light. In a managed plantation most them would have been weeded out, burnt or shredded. I was lucky enough some years ago to be walking through a managed wood when the thinning-out and pruning process was taking place and was able to rescue three of four very good birch sticks from a heap of firewood.

Sticks are best cut in the winter months when the sap is at its lowest because that reduces the seasoning time by half but there is a very good case for cutting a stick when you first see it. Only last year I had my eye on a beauty but while waiting for the “right” time it was destroyed by the abominable flail. Another useful tip: if you see a stick and have left your cutting tools at home, you should mark its position very carefully. I’ve wasted many hours trying to find a stick which one day stood out like a beacon and thereafter became invisible.

The tools required are a folding pruning saw and the best pair of secateurs you can afford. After cutting and before commencing work on it the stick will require 12 months seasoning in a cool, dry, well-ventilated place, but one cut in the spring or autumn will take twice as long. An unseasoned stick is likely to crack where it has been wounded so it should always be cut longer than needed at both ends and side branches trimmed an inch clear of the stem. A coat of knotting applied to any wounds will help prevent cracking.

Sticks left to season, and for the rest of their lives, should be examined regularly for damage, the most likely culprit being woodworm, but recently I had two unexpected offenders. My sticks are kept in a garden shed and last winter I had a family of mice which appeared to have mistaken my sticks for cheese straws. I also found a hole in one or two of them which looked as if it had been bored by a giant woodworm but on examination with a magnifying glass I saw an insect lurking in one of the holes. I hooked it out with end of a safety pin and found a wood-wasp, a beautiful little insect with long antennae which it must be able to retract when it’s boring into wood.

Sticks can be treated with various chemicals to prevent this kind of damage, but I think the essential characteristic of an authentic rustic walking stick is that it remains as near as possible to the way that nature made it. Interference of any kind should be kept to a minimum. I do keep an oil can handy, filled with woodworm killer, and squirt a dose into any hole I see, filling in the hole with matching wood-filler afterwards.

After seasoning, the stick can be cut to the required length and any side branches removed with a fine-tooth saw. If any straightening is necessary, the bent part of the stick should be carefully and slowly heated with a hot-air blower until it becomes pliable and bent into shape with gloved hands but if you have access to a woodworker’s vice that’s ideal. Before attempting this process, beginners should practise with an unwanted stick until proficient. Some sticks are easier to straighten than others. A seasoned ash or hawthorn with a simple curve might take 30 minutes but I have an elm stick I’ve been trying to straighten for 30 years. I’m keeping it because I’m unlikely ever to find another, and hoping it will give in before I do! All sticks have good memories and a straightened stick might decide at any time in its life to revert to its original shape.

Finally, the stick should be smoothed with fine sand-paper, taking care not to damage the bark, then given a wax polish, putting a little on and rubbing a lot off, as my old woodwork teacher used to say. This process should be repeated as necessary.

I had intended to cover the fitting of heads, collars, ferrules and tips but unfortunately space doesn't permit. I can, however recommend a good little book suitable for beginners – "Making Sticks for a Hobby" by David Dawson. There are also several one-day stick-making courses available around the country for less than £100 but these will almost certainly be conducted by carvers and/or dressers, not by whittlers!
Bob Quinney.

A Sad Tale of Trees

Many old Stokers and those who've lived in the village before the Eighties will have many memories of the old Victorian vicarage and its garden in Wykin Lane. Seeing the destruction of the vicarage in the early 1980's and then the building of 5 houses must have been quite poignant.

We have no memories of this. We merely bought a bungalow, 34, on the basis that it ticked all our boxes - a bungalow with a shady garden, mature trees and attracting wildlife. Over the years we've watched the trees displaying the changing seasons and enjoyed the wildlife, in particular birds that were attracted to the garden.

Quite early on it became clear the trees needed a lot of management as they were growing in such a confined area with heavy branches overhanging the main road and adjacent properties. But the biggest scourge we've had to deal with is disease.

We've attempted to keep the trees healthy but have been thwarted by conditions out of our control with long periods of drought and unprecedented short periods of heavy rainfall. Apparently this can stress trees. Mature ones like these take up and discharge 100 gallons of water a day. Alarming! Just remember when they were planted in the vicarage garden back in the late 19th century there were fields surrounding the area and a very minor track/farm lane.

For us not surprisingly the experience started with the elm tree. Almost overnight we recognized Dutch elm had attacked. During the years the many chestnut trees gradually sickened then meripulus gigantius attacked two green beech leaving them with a sick root system and finally the scourge of gardens, honey fungus, showed itself. The beautiful purple beech overhanging the side of the bungalow had developed a hollow inside. Alas these trees had to be felled.

We are left with a beautiful holly tree that year-by-year yields a plentiful supply of berries for the visiting redwings and a tall slender birch providing some summer shade but this garden has changed. We'd love to replant for future wildlife but alas the black bootlaces of disease are everywhere.

What next? *Sue Mitchell*



Notes from Stoke Golding Parish Council January Meeting – Draft

Cllr Goodsell discussed the possible use of the iron gates from the Convent which are currently in storage.

Clerk to check where gates are currently stored.

Reports of Council representatives and Clerk:

The Mistress Hester Hodges Exhibition Foundation is looking for a new trustee following the resignation of Ann Jones. Cllr Mitchell to follow up on possible candidates and liaise with the charity secretary.

Planning Application Matters:

New Applications:

21 Andrew Close – ash tree topping and lopping.

High View, 4 Church Close – reduce radial spread of canopy to ash tree.

St Martins Catholic Academy – erection of singular mobile classroom (retrospective).

Permission approved:

34 Wykin Lane – Yew - cut back to 1m over garage. Beech – fell.

Sport in Stoke Golding (SISG)

It was agreed that a meeting of the SISG committee should be arranged for February.

Date for the Annual Parish Meeting - 19th April at the Methodist Hall.

Location and dates of Council meetings

It was agreed that all Parish Council meetings take place on the first Wednesday of each month, except for Tuesday 3rd April 2018.

Precept and Parish element of Council Tax

It was agreed that the precept should increase by 2% each year. For 2018/19 an increase of 2% from the current council tax level of £50.70 to £51.71 would provide a precept of £38,482.00 at the parish's current tax base of 744.2. The Clerk to inform HBBC of the Parish Council's precept requirements.

Laburnum Cottage community land

A maintenance budget of £12,000 has now been agreed by both parties.

Works at Hinckley Road Cemetery

Boundary

A mixed native hedge to be planted at a cost of £1100 + £100 for stakes. The Clerk to ask Jason (Groundsman) if some evergreen holly could be included and to inform adjoining resident of proposed work.

Play equipment on the rec

The existing roundabout to be removed at a cost of £350. The Clerk to claim the appropriate S106 funds, as soon as the Tesco Bags of Help funding is confirmed by Cllr Smith, who will arrange installation of the new roundabout for March. It was agreed that the ground maintenance budget freed up by the S106 maintenance monies from the Convent development should be ring-fenced for 'maintenance of recreational facilities'.

Pitch hire

It was agreed to proceed with the decision taken in October 2017, to return to the HBBC pitch hire fee structure for the 2018/19 season. The Clerk to send out requests to all sports clubs for pitch hire requirements for the 2018/19 season, to be considered at the March PC meeting. The Clerk to revise pitch hire agreement for approval at the March PC meeting.

PC noticeboard

A noticeboard to be purchased at a cost of £344.00.

Vehicle Activated Signs

The Vehicle Activated Signs will continue to be maintained and a new battery

purchased at a cost of £67.90. It was also agreed that a ANPR system was not necessary at this time, but this should be reviewed in the event of any increased traffic in the future. Cllr Mitchell to build up a team of volunteers and prepare a detailed proposal for the hardware/software required for data to be downloaded via an Android smartphone. The resignation and comments by Alan White were noted – the Clerk to write to thank him for his service.

CCTV

The feasibility of CCTV in the centre of the village was discussed. Cllr Mitchell to prepare a detailed proposal for CCTV in the centre of the village.

Recreation field boundary trees

Comments from residents whose properties are adjacent to the boundary hedge were noted. Based on this feedback, it was agreed that the hedge height should remain unchanged.

Grit bins:

The cost of checking and topping up of PC grit bins and supply of grit was agreed at a cost of £90.00.

Communications received by the Chairman of the Council:

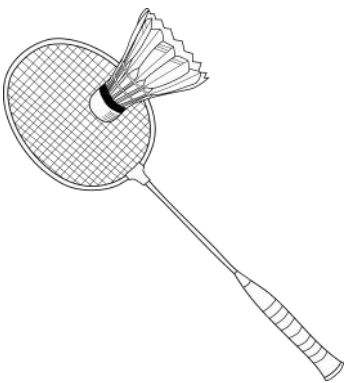
Written

GBa&e (George Burton Architecture and Ecology) – a request for a meeting with the Parish Council was made. The Clerk to reply to decline the request.

Any Other Business

Cllr Goodsell commented on the lovely carol singing around the new Christmas tree. Play area safety at Convent Drive was discussed. Clerk to ask HBBC Planning Enforcement for an update and suggest a further padlock at the bottom of the fence.

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



Badminton

**Tuesday evenings 7.30 - 9.00 at the Village Hall,
Hall Drive, Stoke Golding.**

Feeling a little sluggish after all the festivities? Do you play Badminton? If so then we'd love you to join us, we're not in a league just a friendly bunch who enjoy a game and a natter. Look forward to seeing you there.

Enquiries :- Colin & Kathy Edwards 212691

WE WERE THERE!!!! A fun packed weekend in London for the Cubs and Scouts. Yes, 26 Cubs and Scouts and 6 leaders/ adult helpers went to London on the weekend of 25/11-26/11/17.

Saturday

We left Rugby on a frosty morning on the 7.20 am train, walked with back packs to Warren Street to have breakfast at MacDonald's. Then we made our way to HMS Belfast to drop our bags off down the ladder into our sleeping quarters for that night.

From there, we went to the Imperial War Museum where my group liked the planes, tanks and guns. Others liked the duplicate nuclear bomb!

We had our packed lunch there and then went to the Science Museum to see things about the web, astronauts and their toilet habits and lots of buttons to push, pull etc to do "stuff". We had stopped off at the Monument (which was like an Nelson's column without Nelson!) - a viewing platform where most of us



climbed the spiral stair case and 300 odd steps to see spectacular views of London. After the Science Museum and gift shop, we wandered into a Nando's to have lots of soft drinks and food.

Suitably refuelled, we went to Tate Modern where the Cubs had the full experience of the swings indoors and then chilled on a carpeted slope with a steel ball swinging above their heads. The "best museum ever" was one Cub's feedback. We walked back to the ship arriving before 9pm to sort out our beds on steel bunks which were folded down with mattresses. The Cubs/ Scouts watched a DVD and then the girls and female leaders had a reasonable night's sleep, whereas the others didn't - a certain loud Scout was the early dawn chorus.

Sunday morning

Following breakfast in the Walrus cafe hosted by our educational leader Chris, who



incidentally was from Desford and went to school in Market Bosworth, we went upstairs to find out more facts about the battle ship. HMS Belfast was built in the same ship yard as Titanic and protected the convoy ships to Russia, so there were lots of old photos with the ship encased in feet of ice and sailors crow barring the ice off. The ship was blown up by a magnetic mine but was repaired to continue to serve. We then had a tour of the ship from the engine room, shell room to the gun turret experience.



After leaving the ship we had a bit of a rush to our next venue which was 10 Downing Street, which Fionna had kindly spent time sorting out all the paper work for. There was a particularly helpful special officer policeman, complete with gun, who told us useful information about the building including the facts that there are 3 Downing Street doors, one on the building, a spare one in case of damage and one that goes touring. It is the most photographed door in the world!!!!



Sunday afternoon

After leaving there we went via Horse Guards Parade for a play in the park and lunch before making our way to Euston station. We eventually got back to Rugby on a very busy train with others standing in the aisles. Virgin staff fortunately let us on first to get seats. It was a bit of a challenge to get us all off at Rugby through one door onto the platform

but we did it.

It was cold but dry, we did a lot of walking especially on Saturday where we walked 12 miles, climbed 75 flights of stairs and did 26,000 steps. Feedback was fantastic from the Cubs who had a great experience. Thank you to all who gave up their weekend to make this all happen. Taking responsibility for the Cubs/ Scouts all weekend is no mean feat. Thank you to John, Fionna, Georgia, Cassie and Mark.



As I said, we were there!!!!!! *Jennifer Michie*

Obituaries



We are sad to report that the following villagers have passed away since our last magazine and we send our sincere condolences to their families and friends.

JUDITH VERO

Judy of Park House, Stoke Golding and formerly of Brookhill Farm, Barwell, passed away suddenly on 22nd November 2017 aged 79 years. She was the much loved wife of Clive and sister of the late Malcolm. The funeral service was held at Sutton Cheney Church and donations in lieu of flowers if so desired can be made to Funeral Directors G. Seller & Co., for Leicester Animal Aid.

GEORGE ROBERT MAYNE (BOB)

Bob, of Station Road, Stoke Golding passed away after a very short illness, in the George Eliot hospital Nuneaton, on Sunday 26th November 2017 aged 97 years. He was the dearly loved husband of the late Elsie May and the much loved father of Roger and John and a loving grandfather and great grandfather. He was born in a cottage near to the White Swan and lived all his life in the village, working for many years with the Electricity Board. In 1941 he joined the RAF wanting desperately to become a fighter pilot but poor eyesight prevented this ambition. However he served in the RAF until May 1946. Describing his RAF service he told a friend "I landed on OMAHA beach in Normandy with the Americans where we set up a self contained mobile signals station. We then moved on through France, Belgium and Holland and eventually ended up in Berlin Germany with the Russians. We occupied an airfield on the outskirts of Berlin." Bob it seemed had a very interesting life in the RAF. In later life he showed a special interest in 'Old Stoke' and was an authority on the buildings and people of the village. He will be missed greatly by his extended family and friends.

MARGARET ELIZABETH TOMLINSON (nee Scrivener)



Margaret passed away in the George Eliot Hospital Nuneaton on 26th December 2017 aged 90 years. She was the beloved wife of the late George and a loving mother to Garth, Rodney, Denise, Mervyn, Robert and the late Howard. She was a much loved grandmother and great grandmother. She was born at Hall Farm Dadlington on 20th April 1927 and Margaret's early school days were spent in Higham on the Hill living with her aunt. Later she went to Shenton primary school and finally to Dixie High School. They moved to their farmstead home on Station Road Stoke in 1953 after having started breeding turkeys in 1943. She was a past trustee of the Charity of

Thomas Barton and a founder member of Stoke Women's Institute. A real true 'Stoker' she will be missed greatly by all her family and friends and was laid to rest with her late husband George in Hinckley Road Cemetery.

EILEEN FRENCH (nee Quinney)



Eileen passed away peacefully in the George Eliot Hospital on 29th December 2017 aged 90 years. She was the loving wife of the late John and a much loved Aunt, Great Aunt and Great Great Aunt and a dear friend to many. Her funeral service took place at Stoke Golding Zion Chapel prior to interment in Hinckley Road Cemetery, Stoke Golding. Eileen was born on 25th June 1927 and was the youngest of eleven children and in the 1930's Eileen was one of four members of the family to contract tuberculosis. Only Eileen survived. She married her husband John in 1953 and lived in Laburnum Cottage, her parents former home. In her younger days she enjoyed singing and dancing and was an avid member of the

Stoke Tennis Club and the village hockey team. In later years she was a member of the Stoke Golding 'Sew and Sews' Group, and for a number of years she helped in the village shop 'Middle Stores, where she made many good friends. Three years ago Eileen decided to go into a Nuneaton residential care home due to infirmity, where again she made many friends. Eileen had been a lifetime member of the Baptist Chapel in Stoke and was held in such esteem that her funeral service at the small Zion Chapel was full to overflowing with relatives and friends to whom we send our sincere condolences.

Kitchen Corner

QUICK & EASY BEEF STROGONOFF

INGREDIENTS

1lb (450gms) Rump Steak

Salt & Pepper

1 Large Onion, peeled and chopped

125gms. (4ozs.) Mushrooms, cleaned and sliced

50gms. (2ozs.) Butter

1 tsp. plain flour

1 tbsp. Tomato Puree

150ml. (¼ pt) Beef Stock

Small tub of Soured Cream or Yoghurt

Chopped Parsley

METHOD

Lay the steak between 2 pieces of cling film and beat with a rolling pin or heavy object such as a saucepan until it is about ¼ inch thick. With a sharp knife trim off the excess fat and cut the meat across the grain into thin strips 2 inches (5cm) long. Place the meat on a plate and sprinkle with salt and pepper, cover and leave in the fridge for ½ hour.

Melt the butter over a low heat in a sauté pan. Add the onions and mushrooms and fry for 4-5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Turn up the heat and add the meat and fry for 5 minutes turning as the meat cooks. Stir in the flour and cook gently for 2 minutes, add the tomato puree and the stock. Stir to mix, bring to the boil, turn the heat down and simmer for 15 minutes. At the end of the cooking time stir in the soured cream or yoghurt and cook for one more minute. Sprinkle with chopped parsley and serve on a bed of rice.

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CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS 1 Lizard; 4 H Bomb; 8 Oboe; 9 Reindeer; 10 Alkalis; 12 Ankle; 13 Newt; 14 Domed; 17 Hatch; 20 owls;

22 Annul; 23 Slither; 24 Elephant; 25 Euro; 26 Using; 27 Sister

DOWN 1 Leopard; 2 Average; 3 Darwin; 5 Beneath; 6 Meerkat; 7 Brie; 11 Seals; 15 Monkeys; 16 Dolphin; 18 Antlers; 19 Harbour; 21 Sloths; 22 Apes

Ten of a Kind Answers

1. Tiger Feet, 2. Passchendaele or the 3rd Battle of Ypres, 3. Mississippi, 4. Muddy Waters, 5. It's a fish that can live both in and out of the water, 6. Brian Clough, 7. The hippopotamus, 8. A beach hut, 9. June, 10. Mudlarks

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