

The Stoker



Stoke Golding Village Magazine

Including

Dadlington Matters

70p



Note from the Editors

Welcome to February's edition of the Stoker. We hope all of you enjoyed the festive season and are not too fed up with the wind and rain we have been experiencing ever since. Winter can be a time of year when it is difficult to get out and about because of the weather and the dark



nights and we have been sent some really good tips on beating loneliness (page 26). There are a number of community cafes in Stoke Golding and Dadlington including a brand new initiative at the Baxter Hall on Monday and Thursday mornings (see facing page).

There are all sorts of other events and activities for you to try going on at our community halls and Stoke Golding Club, or you could just take some time, make a cup of tea and have a read of your Stoker!

Thank you to everyone who has passed on information about some of the old photos we have printed recently. This will ensure we have really good records of people and events from our villages for future generations to enjoy reading about.

Please keep sending us your articles and photographs so we keep the magazine full of interest for our community.

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 **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. Copying of content without our explicit consent is not permitted.

Cover picture: Stoke Golding Cricket Club 1991 courtesy of Alan Quinney

Those Were The Days



Following the printing of an old railway photograph in the Dec/Jan edition of The Stoker, Joyce Harrison, of Sherwood Road, got in touch to say that her father is the gentleman standing on the back row, right. Charles Taylor was born in Stoke Golding in 1889 and spent all his working life on the

railway except during WWI when he spent some time in India. Charles lived in Stoke Golding and worked as a signal man at the Stoke Golding station, apart from a time at the Weddington signal box. Charles was on duty at Weddington during a severe air raid during WW2. He retired in 1954 aged 65 years and died in 1967, aged 78 years.

Our local railway opened on 1st August 1873 with a track from Hinckley, which was never used for passengers, and a track from Nuneaton. Regular passenger trains ran until 1931. Joyce can remember late night shopping in Nuneaton, then catching the late train back to Stoke Golding. Excursion trains did run occasionally after 1931 and the freight trains ran until 1969.

New Community Café for Stoke Golding



A new community café will be opening its doors every Monday and Thursday morning at the Baxter Hall, Stoke Golding from 10am - 12noon.

It will offer a warm, welcoming place for you all if you fancy a cuppa and a chat and maybe a slice of cake as well!

The first session will be on Monday 3rd February and you can find out about other activities and events by taking a look on Facebook (Community-Matters-Leicestershire) or by contacting Lisa 07789 743846 or Julie 07807 019590

The Arts Society Sparkenhoe Monday 2nd March at 7.30 pm

Raphael: A master in the making

The year 2020 marks the 500th anniversary of the death of Raphael, who was one of the three giants of High Renaissance Italy alongside Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci. From humble beginnings in Urbino, Raphael achieved extraordinary status. The talk explores early works to the masterpieces he created in Rome.

The speaker **Siân Walters** lectures at the National Gallery and The Wallace Collection. She taught at Surrey University, specialising in 15th and 16th century Italian painting.

If you are interested in attending but are not yet a member of the Society, please come along as a visitor for the fee of £5, before deciding whether to join. The fee includes a glass of wine or soft drink at the end of the talk.

Talks held in the **Dixie Grammar School Hall**, Market Bosworth, CV13 0LE. For more information please contact: Sue Naylor on 07947 038534; Margaret Birch on 01455 291052; Bridget Flavell on 01455 290300; or John Hawkes on 07590 496150.

More Information from Old Photograph Comes to Light



Further information about this photograph has been provided by Ray Tunks from information gathered at a public display of photographs held at the Baxter Hall organised by the late Denis Cash.

Standing far left Reg Flavel
Standing far right Teddy Underwood
Sitting left Kimberlin Geary (Snr)
Sitting right Frank Hall

In last month's Stoker Mr Rowley recognised the gentleman sitting in the centre as Mr Broughton, the former schoolmaster.

Thanks From Stoke Golding Charity Sleigh

Once again many thanks to all who contributed to our collections. The following have benefited:- Stoke Golding Village Hall, Dadlington Village Hall, Flower Show (Childrens' Section), The Engine Shed, Robin Hood Playgroup, Cubs & Scouts and Stoke Golding Junior Football Club.

Thanks Again
The Sleigh Committee

Stoke Golding Book Group



This is still going strong with members from Nuneaton, Market Bosworth, Higham & Hinckley joining the villagers, meeting every first Tuesday of each month. We meet in the Snug at the White Swan at 7.30pm & will welcome any new members.

There is no charge, just come along & talk about our book choice with a drink, it is a very friendly chatty evening.

If you wish to know more please contact me on 212032, leave a message & I'll get back to you. If you leave your email I will send you our list of books for this year so you can see if our group is for you.

Hilary Ford

Thank You from St Margaret's Church

Thank you to all those people who came to see the amazing snowman displays in church at our Snowman Festival at the beginning of December last year. Many thanks to "the team" for organizing the snowmen, and to all those who helped with refreshments and manned the stalls in the Baxter Hall, and those who looked after things in church on the day. We raised just over £2,000 for our church funds. The winners of "Count the Snowmen" were Alfie, Jan and Issac, who each received a small prize. For those of us who didn't count, I'm reliably informed there were 257 snowmen in church altogether!

Jenny Hiron



Our Neighbourhood Plan Committee is working on writing a plan that will give us a chance to influence and shape development and growth of our local area.

Our meetings are held at the Methodist Church hall every other Monday from 7pm and more information can be found at www.stokegolding.co.uk/np Everyone is welcome to attend .

Next meeting dates :

3rd February, 17th February.

Ten of a Kind – February 20

An extra leap day this February means that 2020 is a leap year. Here are ten questions about leaps, leaping and other jump related subjects.

1. Which fish use a fish ladder to leap up the River Tummel in the Scottish town of Pitlochry?
2. What colour beret do members of the Parachute Regiment, the Paras, wear?
3. In which athletic event were the current men's and women's world records set at the World Championships in Gothenburg in 1995?
4. What causes a Mexican jumping bean to jump?
5. Which 1969 film starring Robert Redford and Paul Newman has a scene where they jump from a cliff into a river way below to escape a posse?
6. Which creatures can jump 200 times their body length?
7. Who had a UK number one hit with Jumpin' Jack Flash?
8. In international show jumping events, how many penalty points does a rider get if his horse knocks a fence down?
9. Modern bungee jumping began in 1979 when members of the Oxford Dangerous Sports Club jumped off the Clifton Suspension Bridge in Bristol. Which river does the bridge span?
10. Book 9b in the series is called "Jump from the Sky" features Peter and Jane at an air show and introduces 109 new words. Who published it?

Answers on page 29

Interested in being a school Governor?

The Hester Hodges charity nominates a governor for St. Margaret's Primary school. Usually this person is a trustee of the charity, but at the moment no trustee is available. If there is any person in the local community who would be interested in taking on this role please email hstrhodges@gmail.com giving contact details.

Anne Fullagar

Thank you for the Poem

Thanks to the Stoker for the Nativity poem by Denis Cash, I have "entertained" different groups of friends & family with a reading (in the correct dialect) over Christmas, it is a lovely memory of a special person.

Hilary Ford

THE SWINGING THIRTIES



Bob Quinney's article in the December Stoker about the Stoke Golding rick-burners provides a fascinating insight into the society of 180 years ago. The young men's punishment seems to us to be out of all proportion to the crime, but by the standards of the time it was not excessive. It was an age without an effective law enforcement agency (you were relatively unlikely to be caught but penalties were stiffer to deter potential offenders), crimes against property tended to attract harsher sentences than offences against the person, and food (and the means of producing it) was harder to come by than it is now, so wanton destruction was not taken lightly. Arson, like much other criminal behaviour at that time, was a capital offence.

In addition to this, though, the judge's summing up contains a very significant phrase: '*...the constant repetition of this heinous offence...*' For decades the wages of the rural poor had been squeezed, and once Boney had been seen off the buoyant war economy ended too. Wages were further depressed as men returning from the armed forces flooded the agricultural workforce. Finally, in 1830, matters came to a head in Kent with the first of the Swing Riots. The Swing Riots were protests against low wages, employment instability, church tithes and mechanisation.

Threatening letters signed by 'Captain Swing' were sent to landowners, magistrates and other notables. A large number of barns, haystacks and corn-ricks were torched and threshing machines destroyed. The rioting rapidly spread through the South-East and then north to London and East Anglia. Eventually every county in England was affected, but the depredations in the North and Midlands were insignificant compared to those in the South. The violence was committed only against property - not against the persons of prosperous farmers, landowners and ministers of the church, even though they were seen as oppressors.

Nearly 2000 rioters were prosecuted, but around 800 of them were acquitted. Of those convicted, many were imprisoned but about 500 were transported. Only nineteen men in the whole of England were hanged, probably because the authorities wanted to avoid a judicial bloodbath and perhaps also because they did not wish to create martyrs. Reforms were introduced which did much to calm the situation. However, unrest amongst the agricultural poor lingered long into the thirties, while political volatility and proletarian agitation on the continent fuelled the fears of those in government at home. As late as the 1850s the agricultural writer James Caird drew a line through the middle of England south of which farm labourers' wages were, he calculated, 37% lower than their counterparts' to the north. His line goes through the middle of Leicestershire, Stoke Golding being just south of it. Although Leicestershire was little affected by the unrest, the incendiary behaviour of the followers of 'Captain Swing' would have been fresh in the memory of the learned judge when he tried the Stoke Golding Three - which almost certainly helps to explain his analysis of the case and his lack of 'sympathy for arsonists'.

Andy Tomsett

The End of the Village Cricket Club?

After 84 years, it seems as though the demise of Stoke Golding Cricket Club is imminent. The village may be unable to find 11 players for the 2020 season. After many years as secretary/treasurer, now Life President, I have put together a few memories of past years.

I inherited the Minute Book that began in 1935 and kept it faithfully throughout my tenure as secretary. Sadly, the book is now lost and I write only from memory.

Our first pavilion was purchased in that first year 1935. It came second hand from Market Bosworth and conveyed to Stoke by horse and cart. Speaking to Ron Maybe, player carpenter, I know this to be true. It was erected by the players under Ron's supervision. I have a photo of that team dated accurately to the summer of 1939. My own brother Jack stands on the back row. He played only two seasons for Stoke and was lost at sea in November 1942. During the war play was suspended.

After resuming play in 1946 the team was little altered. I remember them all.

I joined the club myself in 1953, aged 16. Then virtually every young lad in the village joined the cricket or football club or both. They were great days then, after the war. We had a good team and a great fixture list. All friendly matches in those days. One regular fixture I remember was against Eagle Engineering at Warwick. A splendid day out.

Better still were the two seasons when we travelled down to Somerset in 1954 and 1955. There we played against a tiny village, Kilmersdon, situated near Frome on Lord Hylton's estate, Ammerdown. There was a real carnival atmosphere I remember during those two matches. A lunch of faggots and peas at the Jolliffe arms, possibly the highlight of the day.

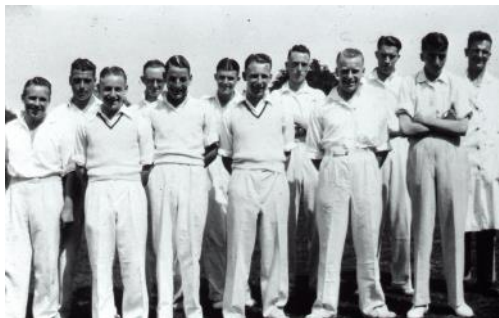
In more recent years I have travelled again to Kilmersdon. Making my way on foot up the steep hill to the cricket ground I recall the local legend that this is the hill that inspired the writing of the nursery rhyme Jack and Jill went up the Hill.

The then cricket ground, now no more than patch of weeds and wild flowers. The old rusting heavy roller in one corner is all that remains as a reminder of glorious days now gone.

Perhaps our greatest claim to fame came in September of 1966. The Club had reached the final of a competition organised by the South Leicestershire Cricket League. The match was played at Grace Road,

the county ground. We did, in fact, lose the match against Hinckley Amateurs, but that takes nothing away from a truly splendid occasion. I believe this was the year that I organised a dinner dance at the old Bosworth home of Sir Wollston and Lady Dixie. There I was invited by Lady Dixie to take the floor for the first dance. How grateful I was then for the hours I had spent with Leo and Annabelle Kane at their Hinckley dancing studio!!

Life President
Alan Quinney.



Photos courtesy of the Gordon Webster Collection

December / January Health Promotion

The topic for these months is Drink Aware publicity. Drink Aware provides “Independent alcohol advice, information and tools to help people make better choices about their drinking”.

<https://www.drinkaware.co.uk>

It is a very user friendly web site which offers practical tips on how to cut down on alcohol, a quiz to find out if you are curious or concerned about your drink, how to deal with acute alcohol poisoning as well as other useful advice on where to get help and support.

If you are into podcasts there is ‘The Addicted’, a podcast by two young professional ladies, Melissa and Jade, who met in rehab and gives a frank and honest account of their journey. The podcast won the Rachel Bland New Podcast Award in May 2018. The award was in memory of Rachel, who had created of the pod cast “ You, Me and The Big C” which dealt with issues around cancer.



The next CASAG meeting is on Wednesday 5th February at 6.15 pm at Castle Mead.

Jennifer Michie

In the Air

There are a number of apps on the market that will track aeroplanes as they criss cross the skies and when my five year old grandson comes round, I'm continually having to find out where the aeroplane has come from and where it's going to as it soars overhead. And it would appear the vast majority of flights over our two villages emanate, unsurprisingly, from East Midlands Airport (EMA). The airport opened in 1965 after a group of local government organisations in the East Midlands took over the site of what had been wartime RAF Castle Donnington. Currently, eight airlines fly from the airport with Spain being the most popular destination. According to 2016 figures, nearly four hundred thousand passengers travelled to and from Alicante, the top destination, with Majorca, Malaga and Tenerife occupying second to fourth places. Dublin came fifth. If you're irritated by the noise created by the 77,000 annual flights, then spare a thought for Heathrow residents who have to cope with six times as many arrivals and departures. EMA is also the second biggest handler of freight in the country.

Although the flights appear to be following the same route, the airways are not like motorways with fixed boundaries. Flight paths will change according to weather conditions and the volume of traffic. They are divided into sectors with air traffic controllers given responsibility for organising flights within their sector. World airspace is divided into a series of Flight Information Regions or FIRs. The UK has three of these and the Midlands, part of our region, is controlled from Prestwick in Scotland. Within these regions the skies are further divided into classes A, C, D, E and G, with A being the most restricted and G being uncontrolled airspace where just a few simple rules apply. Then there are military danger areas where flying is not permitted whilst the RAF is in action or there is weapon firing from the ground. Planes flying to southern climes leave East Midlands Airport and pass over us following a Standard Instrument Departure route to Daventry. By the time it reaches us, approximately four minutes after take off, an aeroplane will have reached a height of about 12,000 feet and be travelling at around 400 miles per hour.

Not that East Midlands planes are the only aircraft passing over us. The Edinburgh to London flight is a regular visitor at a much higher 25,000 feet, passengers being fifty minutes in to their one and a quarter hour journey. And then there are the flights to and from Stoke Golding Airfield on the Fenn Lanes with planes coming in to land over Shenton Lane. A look at an online route planner for pilots shows that the space above our heads can be a complicated place to navigate at times. On a random day last November, aircraft flying in this region had to avoid a charity parachute jump in Bedworth, tethered balloons over Nuneaton, an air show at Husbands Bosworth and various official firework displays.

Michael Dix

I am sure that over the course of a 37 year teaching career, I must have upset one or two people. However on two distinct occasions, I became persona non grata to those around me. The first time was at an annual event for primary schools called Area Sports. Those children who could run, throw or jump the best were selected to represent the school in an afternoon of sport at the Saffron Lane athletics stadium in Leicester. As a teacher in my first year, I was keen to get involved and I actually volunteered to do a job at the stadium. I was assigned as a relay judge and duly took up my position with my white and red flags at handover three, the last baton change before the final sprint to the finish. My task was to ensure that no child went out of their lane and that the baton was changed within the proscribed area. The first few races ran without a hitch and then a child clearly ran into the neighbouring lane, impeding the runner whose lane it was. I had no option but to raise my red flag. One of the senior officials came over to discover what had happened and the offending team were disqualified. The school whose team had been stripped of their winning glory looked less than pleased and that presented me with a problem - it was my school. In my defence, I was being scrupulously fair and following my instructions to the letter: in the children's defence, they were only ten years old and maybe Olympic standard scrutiny was a bit over the top. But I was young and inexperienced so when an identical situation occurred a few races later, I had no hesitation in raising the red flag again. I only disqualified two teams that whole afternoon; they were both from my own school! I was met with a display of shaking heads and expressions of incredulity. I wasn't asked to help again.

My second sporting faux pas came at my next school where I was helping the teacher in charge of sport, Peter, with a bit of refereeing. This time the fault lay, not in my over-zealous attitude but in an agreement Peter and I had made before the game. Both schools were sporting two teams and so we ran two matches on neighbouring pitches at the same time. Peter thought it would make sense if we began and ended the games at the same time. In retrospect it made no sense at all because one might have been delayed by a lengthy injury. However the agreement was made; I would follow Peter's lead. The first half went according to plan, but I jumped the gun a bit at the start of the second half and started my match whilst Peter, who'd looked about ready to start, fuffed about a bit. Consequently, I was getting quite anxious when, with my game all square and now well over its allotted time, Peter was showing no inclination to blow the final whistle. Eventually, he put the whistle to his lips and blew. I immediately followed suit and then watched in disbelief as a split second later one of my team put the ball in the net. I had to disallow it, following the example of World Cup referee Clive Thomas who ruled out a winner for Brazil in similar fashion in the 1978 World Cup. He was sent home, never to referee another World Cup game. The boys in the team put forward a similar request regarding my refereeing to Peter.

Redmoor Academy Update

Welcome to our latest update from Redmoor Academy. During the second half of the Autumn Term and the build up to the Christmas break, we found opportunities to encourage our students to consider others and also to celebrate success, in addition to focusing on their studies. Further details are below but if you would like more information, please take a look at our December newsletter: <https://spark.adobe.com/page/YuTYHcByldBXj/>

Christmas Charity

As part of our Redmoor DNA, we believe that we should show responsibility towards our local community. Therefore, this year we decided to support a charity called the Hygiene Bank, a charity that provides basic toiletries to individuals and families in need.

The response from our Redmoor community was overwhelming and we were overrun with donations. As the charity representative couldn't fit it all in his car, we had to ask one of our minibus drivers to come to the rescue. When counted, our students had donated 250 bags, something we are incredibly proud of.

The bags will now be distributed to local food banks, homeless shelters, women's refuges and young people's charities. The Hygiene Bank representative informed us that they had never seen generosity on such a scale before. Our Redmoor community pulled together in force and has undoubtedly made Christmas cheerier for many people.



Certificate Evening

In December we welcomed back our 'Class of 2019' students for a formal presentation of their GCSE certificates and a celebration of their achievements throughout their time at Redmoor Academy. We were joined by Mr. Chris Kealey MBE, our Chair of Governors, who gave a keynote speech congratulating the students on their qualifications and exploring what the future job market may look like and the opportunities this would create.

Many of the young people attending were also surprised to receive one of our Subject Special Awards for outstanding contribution to a curriculum area. It was fantastic to meet up again with students and parents, reminisce about their time at Redmoor and hear about their college experiences and ambitions for the future.

We have also welcomed several ex-students back as mentors to work with our current pupils. If this opportunity interests you, please do contact the school.

National Memorial Arboretum Visit

In November, a selection of students who are members of local cadet forces visited The National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. The cadets took part in a small parade led by Student President and Cadet Luke, followed by a service of remembrance with a two-minute silence and the laying of a wreath in front of the Leicestershire Regiment memorial. The day gave cadets the opportunity to find out about other forces in Hinckley as well as providing students with time to reflect on the sacrifices made by people throughout both times of peace and conflict across the world. We hope we'll be able to continue this new tradition for years to come. Lest we forget.

If you would like to visit us during the school day or be involved in supporting our amazing students in any way, please contact us at office@redmooracademy.org



How many more Homes for Stoke Golding?

It was worrying enough to hear about plans to build many new homes along Wykin Lane but even if this development does go ahead things may not stop there.

In March last year a five-acre part of the field behind Station Road and Main Street was surveyed by Avery Healthcare who were seeking planning approval to build a sixty-bed care home with thirty-four assisted living bungalows on the site. A pre-application ground plan showing the scale of the project was drawn up but things, as I was informed, did not proceed further as HBBC wished to retain the land as a green field site. At that time HBBC refrained to comment until a formal application had been received.

However, in December 2019 this same and additional land along with land next to the conservation area was extensively surveyed, this time by another health care firm as sites for homes. This latest survey was much more thorough than before. It began on Monday 16 December and took four full days to complete using conventional and GNSS (Hubble Space Telescope Survey) survey equipment. On the last day the road in Higham Lane and parts of Station Road were also surveyed as were access points to Higham Lane, Station Road and Main Street. I was informed by the surveyor that he had been commissioned by Castle Surveys of Ashby to do a full survey. The surveyor returned on Tuesday 7 January.

As far as I am aware no initial forms of application have been submitted to HBBC regarding interest in these sites but the sooner residents make known their objections, and continue to do so before it is too late, the more chance we will have in influencing HBBC to retain these areas as green field sites. If these developments proceed then they will be detrimental for our village not least by significantly increasing the volume of traffic through our village, posing higher levels of risks for children and pedestrians, and will no doubt considerably extend waiting times for patients at our local surgery.

Support no more building. Enough is enough.

G. Wilson

Dadlington Matters

Thank You

Dadlington Village Hall Management Committee were delighted to receive a cheque for £200 from The Stoke Golding Charity Sleigh just after Christmas.

This lovely donation will go towards our ongoing maintenance.

The Charity Sleigh has donated to our Hall for many years now, for which we are extremely grateful. It is always a thrill for us to see the sleigh in Dadlington every year, a sign that Christmas is really starting, so thank you for visiting again.

Dadlington Neighbourhood Plan

For the information about what the plan entails and the latest news on how it is developing, please visit the website:

<http://www.dadlingtonnp.org.uk/blog/>

Wine Tasting Evening

Saturday 4th April

7 tasting for £10
plus a Ploughman's

For tickets contact John Whitehead
on 01455 213244
or jf_whitehead@hotmail.com



What's On

StokeArts at the Village Hall ***Dates for your diary, 2020***

Sat 21 March 8pm:
Sat 25 April 8pm:

The Beautiful Game (doors 7.30pm).
Downsizing (doors 7.30pm).

<https://stokearts.yapsody.com> tel: 01455 213798 email: stokearts@gmail.com

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 6th February
10.15 am - 12.15pm



All Welcome

THE METHODIST CHURCH Coffee Morning



SATURDAY February 8th
10.00 - 11.30

For Mission Funds

Little Acorns

presents an amateur production of

Three Cracking Comedies

Learning to Like You

By Rob Scott



Carrot

by David Tristram

Closure

By Rob Scott



with Fish and Chips!!

St Mary's Community Hall, St Mary's Road
Hinckley LE10 1EQ on Friday 6th March

&

Stoke Golding Village Hall, Hall Drive, Stoke
Golding CV13 6DXS on Saturday 7th March

Curtain up 7.30pm

Tickets £12.00 incl. Fish, Chips and Cake.

Alternative, sausage or vegetarian burger, bring
your own drinks!

Tickets available in advance only.:

Linda on 07770901912 or Chris on 07958 777191.

Bosworth Battlefield Events

Saturday 18th January – **Our Award-winning Exhibition re-opens** and it will be open daily from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm (last admission 3.00 pm). Pay once then you can visit as many times as you like for 12 months from the date of purchase

Thursday 13th February – **Ghost Walk** 6.45 pm to 10.30 pm (Booking required)

Saturday 15th to Sunday 23rd February – **Creepy Criminals Hunt** – daily from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

Stoke Golding Scout Group

Goodness me - what an end to a term!

For starters the Cubs and Scouts have been representing the group at district and county events: namely district shooting and swimming. The Scouts went off to the Bear Grylls Adventure Centre where the Scouts did archery, zip wire, scare-zone and an obstacle course. Great fun was had by all. Thank you to all the leaders involved who gave up part of their weekend to enable the kids to take part.

Then we move onto Christmas. The Cubs had a Christmas-themed craft and cooking evening where they made cards, biscuits and snowmen of all shapes and sizes. The Cubs also had a winter-themed Olympics with curling, sledging, ski jump and ski-ing. You can't say we are not inventive and creative. The Beavers had a modern version of The Nativity play based on a 'Baby shark them' which they all enjoyed taking



part in. The Scouts made old fashioned Christmas lanterns and went round the streets singing carols. The Cubs and leaders also went to the village hall to see a play based on "The jungle book." It kept the Cubs transfixed with all the goings on and the dynamism of the actors and involving the Cubs as well.

Finally we had the Christmas party which was affected by the various sickness bugs in the local schools so we only had 72 of the Group there with about 30 missing. Games and fun was had by all. So I think the title "what an ending " is very apt.

Planning has already taken place for the Spring term - watch this space.

Jennifer



An Ambion Voices Christmas

The Ambion Voices Community Choir had a busy schedule in the run up to Christmas. It began at the Dixie School in Market Bosworth where they added a musical touch to a talk about the canals of Britain, performing Reflections, a three movement 'reflection' on the Ashby Canal. Then it was off to St Margaret's Church to perform Battle, a composition that sees the famous battle from the



eyes of Stoke and Dadlington peasants. This preceded a talk on Henry Tudor, later Henry VII, who triumphed at the battle. The piece was very favourably received, the choir and conductor coping brilliantly with the accompanist's keyboard deciding to overheat and all but pack up.

The next venue was the Mary Forryan Centre in Hinckley where the choir gave a full concert to the small but enthusiastic audience made up of members of the Hinckley Diabetic Support Association. Finally it was back to St Margaret's for the now traditional Christmas Concert. The church was beautifully decorated, ablaze with lights and made the perfect setting for the final concert of the year. The programme featured a variety of songs but there was a festive feel to the second half with two carols written for the choir, some community carol singing, a rendition of Winter Wonderland and a mad dash through a succession of Christmas carols and songs in The 12 Songs of Christmas.

Michael Dix

Just an addition to Michael's article to say that he has modestly omitted to mention that he is, in fact, the composer of Battle, Reflections and two of the carols as well as the choir's accompanist! We are enormously privileged to have such a talented composer and accompanist working with us to help our community choir develop and grow.

Rachel Rees-Jones and Jane White (Choir leaders)

Maggie's name has been following me round for weeks. We have been trying to find a date between all the Christmas and New Year holiday dates, to steal a couple of hours for me to find out a great deal more about this lady. My briefing about her was merely that she has a magical touch with turning things and places around that have fallen into disuse. We have had a couple of introductory chats on the phone. And this is when I discover she's one of that growing band of women, who seem to work around the clock to help with the family budget. There's her job at the main office in Wigston as Clinical Information Officer. Maggie suddenly points to the labels on my Healthcare Appliances; - N.R.S. *"Oh that's the Company I work for, Beth – at Wigston.* So this is where Maggie's boss is. She's obviously a good boss – giving Maggie time off so that we can get the interview done in time for the deadline. However this is only part of this busy woman's week. The other major part is where Maggie is making such a difference - in our village, and even more concisely - at The Club. Sadly, my evenings are now restricted. At 5.00pm. I am plugged into my oxygen machine, having been free from it at 9.00.am. each morning. So I have to find someone I can work with during the day. Usually easy to find, but Maggie appears to be busy at both ends of the day. I discover she's not originally from Stoke Golding, or even from Leicestershire, but from Derbyshire, the next county North to us.



Her move to Stoke Golding was as recent as 2013, and she has already become the secretary of The Club. She's obviously not someone who *"lets the grass grow under her feet."* She tells me we can again expect the 'Fish & Chippie' in the car park on Tuesdays. We can pre-order, and then go into the comfort of the club with or without a drink, to wait for them. I discover she's also the Cake Lady, who can pretty well make you a cake, to whatever design, shape or size you can describe to her. She also loves planning events, such as magical birthdays for all ages, and romantic weddings. She thinks the capacity at the club would probably be around 100/150. The club itself has just had it's own 90th Anniversary with an Open Day Celebration last August.

She was born in Chaddesden, on the outskirts of Derby, going to the Primary School until she was thirteen, when she got her first job – on a fruit and vegetable stall in their wonderful covered market. Night school beckoned when she wanted to learn further Computer & I.T. skills, which is where she met Adrian, her soul- mate for the last 20 years. They have one daughter, Laura-Louisa, already living in the village, her two children, Ava 6yrs. and Jax 4yrs. – and both of them are being educated at St.Margaret's, and taking part in all the various local activities. *"So tell me Maggie, what or who can we thank for putting us together."* It is as I thought: *"Ella, Beth, from the Stoker team, who also has a daughter around the same age as Ava.*

Apparently they got together over the Easter Bonnets workshops, decorating and celebrating Easter. She also presents special Saturday morning 'Bake- Offs, with pretty table cloths and festive cake stands. The club now has a brand new website, as well as a new Facebook page. And Maggie is looking forward to the next Grand New Year Eve's Event. This last year was a sell-out at £12.00. Perhaps we can ask the committee to consider 'upping' it for next time.! Maggie wants folk to know the Club is open to all. She would love to think that everyone has been inside, and notice all the new activities that keep the club a place that everyone feels welcome.

"A must see, and active centre to fulfil everyone's enthusiasms, a place to take your friends"

Don't forget: FISH & CHIPS – TUESDAY 4.00 pm./8.00pm

maggiecaswell@gmail.com

What's On at Stoke Golding Club

Saturday 15th February

**Karaoke with Dave – Members
Lounge –Free entry**

Saturday 22nd February

**Northern Soul Night with Helen
Crowther- Dowey - Thornfield
Suite £5.00 a ticket**

Friday 28th February

**Bingo Bonanza with Muve on
band - Thornfield Suite**

Weekly Events

Tuesday eve **Jitterbugs** ,
Thursday eve **Salsa**, Friday eve
Bingo

Saturday from 11am –
**Breakfast cobs, coffee and
cake**

Call 01455 212221 for more
details or visit the Facebook
page – Stoke Golding Club



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Stoke Golding Lad Makes Good **(Thanks to Denis Cash and the son or daughter of Reginald Sheen and Dorothy Emily Luke)**

For last month's Stoker I wrote about Thomas Sheen and Samuel Kirkland of Stoke Golding, two 19 year old lads who were *"transported beyond the seas for the term of their natural lives for the most disgraceful, ignominious and aggravated offence known in the country -----.* (The offence was setting fire to a stubble stack and a straw stack belonging to Thomas Hall.)

A few weeks ago in Sainsbury's I was approached by a Stoker whose family I have known since childhood who told me that her grandmother had been a close relative of Thomas and that after serving his sentence (which, being a life sentence, must have been remitted) he was married in Australia, became a farmer and did very well for himself.

Further scrutiny of the encyclopedic archives of Denis Cash disclosed an entry written by an anonymous member of the Sheen family whose parents were Reginald Sheen and Dorothy Emily Luke. The entry was headed ***"The Sheen's of Stoke Golding – Their Australian Connections"*** and it revealed that *"Two hundred years after Henry VII claimed the throne, Joseph Sheen married Elenor Bradford in St Margaret's Church. They went on to have eight children" and "their great, great grandson Thomas became the first of the Australian line of Sheens."*

With commendable discretion the entry confirmed that Thomas *"came to Australia as a guest of the British Government"* and there he *"met and married Phoebe Ellen Perkins."*

Thomas settled in St. Albans, first established as a township in 1837, now a suburb of the city of Brimbank and situated 11 miles north-west of Melbourne. Phoebe was born in 1836 in the nearby settlement of Macdonald River and the marriage to Thomas took place in 1851. The entry states that *"Together they raised eleven children in a harsh, new land. Their 8th child, Albert died shortly after birth and was buried nearby in St. Albans cemetery."* (Another entry in the Cash archive, which appears to be a copy of an official document, lists thirteen children, eight male and five female, together with their names and dates of birth).

Tragically, Thomas died in 1891 in the Hospital for the Insane, Parramatta, a suburb of the city of the same name in Greater Sydney but it should never be said that he didn't atone admirably for his offence.

Perhaps I should warn any young Stoker, thinking of setting fire to a stack in the hope of getting a free passage to Australia as a guest of the present government, that the last transportation to Australia took place in 1868; that the present maximum sentence for arson is life imprisonment and the furthest he or she is likely to get is Dartmoor.

Bob Quinney

Fool on the Hill

Wanna bet?

According to our always factually correct popular press, over half of all adults regularly gamble. Hmm, I think that rather depends on what you mean by gambling. I mean, buying a EuroMillions ticket every week is hardly gambling because the odds against winning are roughly similar to the chances of a whelk being elected as the next Pope. You are, in fact, just making a donation to good causes. What about buying a raffle ticket at the Village Hall Beetle Drive? Hoping to win an embroidered jam pot cover is hardly going to push you into the arms of Gamblers Anonymous. Then there are those rather curious advertisements for on line Bingo “communities” that seem to suggest you will have many new friends by sitting on your own in your front room looking at a computer screen. Is that gambling or just really quite sad?

Of course everyone holds the dream that one big win will sort out all of their problems, but if you really want to win at gambling, the evidence would suggest that the ones taking the bets are doing rather better than those placing them. To me, gambling is really all about the sport of kings, horse racing. Some might say that there is a science to this, in that you can study the form of a horse and make an inspired deduction about the likelihood of any particular nag breasting the tape ahead of the others. Except you can't, and statistics no doubt prove that you will get it wrong more often than not. There may even be dark forces influencing the result, like my Uncle Sid who could not make his horse run any faster, but had a few good ideas about how to slow the others up. The past performance of a horse is no guarantee of its future success.

If that last phrase sounds familiar, have a look at any offerings from the financial services and pension industry and you will find that whatever an investment has done in the past is absolutely no guarantee of what it might do in the future and that sounds pretty much like gambling to me. I was always very happy to hand over my hard earned cash to Mr Arbuthnot at the Stokes Poges Mutual Building Society in return for 4% interest and he would then lend this to aspiring young hopefuls to purchase their dream home at 5.5%. The other 1.5% went on ginger nuts and the general upkeep of Miss Prendergast in the office. Simple, transparent and fair.

On one mad occasion when the Fool household finances were in the black, I allowed myself to be seduced by some suited shark posing as a financial advisor. He assured me that investing in the Kuala Lumpur Environmentally Aware and Whale Friendly Emerging Companies Fund, whilst carrying a modicum of risk, would ultimately provide untold wealth.

The result was similar to that achieved by putting your shirt on a Chihuahua in the Greyhound Derby.

F.O.T.H



Church Matters

From St Margaret's Church



You Can Hold a Candle To It

Fresh off the press: my wife had a beeswax candle from one of our children for Christmas!

Candles seem to have crept slowly more and more into my life in recent years.

I tell you this ground-breaking news this month because 2nd February is celebrated by some people as Candlemas. In the Church, the period of Epiphany (Wise Men visiting the stable) will be over and Presentation of Christ in the Temple is marked. Jewish children, forty days after birth, went through an initiation ceremony which was accompanied by the lighting of candles. Joseph and Mary took Jesus to the temple for this ceremonial.

In the present day at Baptisms, our modern Christian initiation services, babies, or rather godparents on their behalf, are given candles to mark the special occasion. (A New Year's resolution I have is to stop singing 'Happy Birthday' when the godparent blows the candle out!)

So, candles help us to celebrate new birth and, of course, they mark the passing years by being on birthday cakes. (In my case I now have candles in the shape of figures because of the fire hazard of spelling out my advanced years in single candles.)

And all of this has taken place for most of my adult life. However, candles have become more present for me both as a pleasant addition to the aroma of our living room and, of course, an extra source of light, but also in being lit in churches and at home to remember a loved one.

On Boxing Day when the Davis clan gathered in Atherstone we had photographs of four family members who have died in recent years on display together with a lighted candle.

It seemed appropriate to remember them in the middle of our celebrating and to have a candle to help us do so.

And, perhaps like my wife and me, when you are visiting a church away from home which offers you candles to light, you quietly remember a loved one as the candle flames climb towards the heavens.

Strange to think that we use candles to mark the beginnings and endings of lives – Jesus's presentation, babies' baptisms and the passing of our loved ones.

Another church tradition which brings these two milestones of human life together with Jesus himself is the Paschal (Easter) candle. At Easter we first light it to recall Christ's death and resurrection, but we also use it throughout the year to light the small baptism candles used in the baptism service; birth, death and resurrection brought together.

Happy Candlemas.

Alan Davis

Church Matters

Church of England February Services

St Margaret's, Stoke Golding

St James', Dadlington

2nd	10.30am	Candlemas	2nd	9.00am	BCP Morning Prayer
9th	10.30pm	Benefice Service (Higham)	9th	10.30am	Benefice Service (Higham)
16th	10.30am	Holy Communion	16th	9.00am	BCP Holy Communion
23rd	10.30am	Morning Worship	23rd	9.00am	BCP Morning Prayer

Zion Baptist Chapel

February Services

2nd	6pm	Mark Menzfeld
16th	6pm	Steven Connor

The Methodist Church February Services

2nd	10.30am	Mr Malcolm Lapper
9th	10.30am	Mrs Sheila Grice
16th	10.30am	Mr John Cooke
23rd	10.30am	T.B.A.

Notes from St Margaret's Church

- ◆ Thank you to all who came to our Christingle Service at St Margaret's in December. We donated the sum of £160 to The Children's Society.
- ◆ There is a prayer group formed of members of different churches and chapels which meets on Thursdays at 4pm. Contact Carolyn Patullo (01455 212167) for more details.
- ◆ 'HOPE for All in 2020'. It is suggested that at 20:20 on 20th of the month we stop to pray for our world. We can do this as individuals or get together

Carolyn

Methodist informal Service

On the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 10.00am we hold a half hour informal service in the Methodist church hall it is followed by coffee.

Everyone is welcome to join us.

Jackie JonesWho am I?

I'm a nosey woman and the person who started the Stoke Golding Community Facebook group for that very reason. I didn't grow up here and know very few people and very few people know who I am within the village and I like it that way. I know quite a bit about the group members by their interactions and viewpoints and am proud that we now have over 1,500 members from all over the world, so I feel it's only fair you know a little about me, even if you are not able to put a face to a name. I don't have a mantra I live life by, but there are things that really irritate me, like bad manners and lack of respect. My sister says I'm overly emotional and will cry at the opening of a crisp packet.

I grew up in Coventry, but a lot of my childhood was spent in South Wales with my parents, nan and my 3 other siblings where Welsh was spoken at every opportunity. I was the naughty kid in the classroom and this theme carried on into my teenage years. I rode motorbikes, loved proper rock bands like Led Zeppelin and Deep Purple and fully intended to marry David Bowie. I did the usual, married, settled down and had two children. Various jobs followed until I joined the NHS in the 1980s where I spent the rest of my working life. Initially a part time role saw me with free time, so I joined my children's school PTA, went to university and generally became involved in issues I felt passionate about. This gave me a greater insight into community issues and it's where my love of politics came about. I still say I was coerced, but I found myself duly elected as a City Councillor which allowed me the privilege of meeting some high-profile people of the time. I had lunch with the Iron Lady, shared eggs with Edwina and did some work for Michael Heseltine. But my biggest claim to fame is almost running Martin Johnstone over in a car park had it not been for Richard Rowntree's timely intervention. Therefore, I consider myself instrumental in England winning the World Cup in 2003.

My love of the village began in 2002 when I moved here with my husband and two teenage children. I retired in 2007 due to ill health but remain passionate about what happens around me and am proud that the community page plays a small role in informing others as to what is happening within our community, whether it be good or bad. I may have been instrumental in creating the group, but it is the members who make it what it is. It's a place where we share services, information, and everything in between. I'm mindful of the fact that not everyone is social media savvy and has a dislike of it as a means of communication, but I personally feel it's a force for the good and from the feedback I get others do too. There have been several spin offs from it, like the War on Waste group which Sally Halstead started and is brilliant, but I wish more people would sign up to it. More recently we have seen Steve Martin's 'Friends of Stoke Golding Community' page, whose aim is to educate and inform us about development within the village. Again, I wish more people would join up as there is strength in numbers. I'm proud to

have been part of the inaugural Scarecrow Festival committee that resulted in a brilliant event that the village came together to take part in and will no doubt become a big part of the village's calendar.

I was recently invited to join the Friends of the Community Group whose aim it is to try and protect the village from uncontrolled random expansion. I use the term random because there appears little thought is going into our existing infrastructure, resources and facilities or the effect it will have on our wildlife. There's a field, lets churn it up and who cares about the consequences. I'm personally not anti-development but feel that we as a village have more than met our required quota of housing stock.

People often ask me why do I run the Community page because its not always plain sailing, but the answer is always the same. Because I enjoy it and feel it serves the community well, warts and all, but also because, like I said at the start of this piece, I am nosey.

Jackie Jones

Kitchen Corner

BAKED STUFFED TOMATOES

Ingredients

4 large ripe, but firm Tomatoes
1/4tsp. Salt
1/4tsp. Black Pepper
1 Clove of Garlic, peeled, chopped and crushed
1 Small Onion
1/2tsp. Basil
1/2tsp. Thyme
3-4 tblsp. Fine Dry Breadcrumbs
3tblsp. Finely Chopped Parsley
2tblsp. Olive oil
3tblsp. Parmesan Cheese

Method

Pre-heat the oven to 200C or Gas Mark 6. Grease a shallow oven proof dish, large enough to hold the tomato halves.

Cut the tomatoes in half and remove the seeds with a teaspoon. In a small bowl, combine the seasonings, garlic , chopped onion, basil, thyme, breadcrumbs, parsley, oil and cheese. Mix well. Spoon the mixture in the tomato halves.

Place into the prepared dish and bake for 15 minutes. The tomatoes should be tender, but still retain their shape.

This is a wonderful tasty side dish and goes well with all kinds of meat or fish.

Happy cooking and have a wonderful 2020.

Avis

Ten top tips for if you're feeling lonely

(From Leicestershire County Council's Guide to Tackling Loneliness in Leicestershire)

1. Remember you are not alone. Lots of people of all ages and backgrounds feel lonely. Millions of people in the UK say they are often or always lonely.
2. Think about what is making you feel lonely. Anyone can experience loneliness at some point in their life, but the reasons will vary from person to person. Taking time to think about what's causing you to feel lonely may help with finding out what could help you feel differently.
3. Be proactive. Look at what resources are out there. If you're going to the doctors or your local library, have a look for leaflets about any local events, exercise classes, book clubs, coffee mornings, playgroups etc. that may help you connect with your community. Alternatively you can also refer yourself to Lets Talk Loneliness (<https://letstalkloneliness.co.uk/>).
4. Take up a new hobby that can be done in pairs or groups. This could be something like learning a language. If you don't like it, you can always change your mind and do something else.
5. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Try opening up to someone who you feel comfortable talking to, whether that's a member of your family, a friend, your carer or your GP.
6. Accept help when it's presented to you. It might be a friend or a neighbour just asking you to pop round for a brew. Don't think you're a nuisance, because in all likelihood they will want to see you and spend time with you. Try not to worry about how you're being perceived.
7. Access free services. There is a lot of support out there which could help you address some of the causes of your loneliness.
8. Volunteer. Volunteering can be a great way to meet new people and make new connections. You could help out at a local charity shop, or use your skills to support others.
9. Surround yourself with activity. If you're feeling alone, why not pop out to a coffee shop or somewhere where there's some activity going on? You might meet someone else in a similar situation which could spark a conversation. Try to smile at people; having someone smile back could change your day.
10. Join groups online. If you can't leave the house, try joining an online community who share similar interests to you.

#withinyourgifttogive

www.leicestershirecommunities.org.uk/tackling-loneliness



Obituaries



Mike Roberts

Mike passed away on 22nd November 2019, aged 68 years. Beloved husband of Mary and loving dad to David, Anna and Ellie. Mike was a keen bell ringer and was a member of St Margaret's and Leicester Cathedral Tower teams. Bell ringers from all over the country attended Mike's service of thanksgiving at St Margaret's Church on 19th December 2019. Donations to Mountain Rescue and The Bridge – Homelessness to Hope may be made via G. Seller, Upper Bond Street, Hinckley.

Allan Baker

Allan, of Stoke Golding, passed away on 30th November 2019, aged 59 years. Devoted husband of Jan, much loved dad of Samarah and Michael and loving papi to Isaac, Elliot and Archie. The funeral service took place at the Heart of England Crematorium on 18th December 2019. Donations in Allan's memory may be made to Loros.

Charles Martin

Charles, formerly of Stoke Golding, passed away peacefully on 7th December 2019, aged 78 years. Beloved husband to Eileen and much loved dad to Eliot and Jason. The funeral service took place at St Margaret's Church on 30th December 2019. Donations may be made to Alzheimer's Society via G. Seller, Upper Bond Street, Hinckley.

Pat Cowley

Pat, of Stoke Golding, passed away peacefully on 12th December 2019, aged 91 years. Beloved wife of the late Alec, much loved mum to Keith and the late Kevin, mum in law to Ruth and Yvonne and grandmas to Clare, Rebecca, James and the late Christopher. The funeral service took place on 7th January 2020 at the Heart of England Crematorium. Donations may be made to the Dorothy Goodman School, via G. Seller, Upper Bond Street, Hinckley.

We send our sincere condolences to family and friends of the above.

Notes from Stoke Golding Parish Council – January (Draft)

Report by County Councillor

Reports by County Cllr Ivan Ould and Cllr Jonathan Collett were circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting

Public participation

No comments

Matters arising from previous decisions

Wykin Lane cemetery – work still pending

Circular bench-to be disposed of after damage has made it impossible to reinstall

Churchyard wall – work completed and EIP funding requested

1485 sculpture trail insurance issues-comments from Zurich noted

Ground maintenance report

New trees st Hinckley Road Cemetery have been planted

Planning Applications:

New Applications:

15 Arnold Rd -extension – no concerns

12 Station Rd – works to trees – no concerns

Land at Wykin Lane

RESOLVED COMMENT:

The PC is aware this is phase one of a larger development

The PC considers this to be overdevelopment on an inappropriate , greenfield site.

Stoke Golding has already exceeded the housing allocation set out in the current core strategy

The public consultation and Village questionnaire for the emerging Neighbourhood Plan highlighted that any future development should be on a brownfield site

The development will be located on a single-track rural lane which is inappropriate for the increase in traffic to and from this site

The proposed development will put unacceptable pressure on existing village services such as schools and the doctors surgery

The PC requests that further comments can be made following any response to the LCC highway report

Should this application be called to Planning Committee, the PC would wish to attend and state its objection.

Permissions approved:

Laburnum Cottage , conversion of existing barn to living accommodation , two storey and single storey extensions at rear

Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee (NPAC)

Minutes of the NPAC meetings held on 9th and 23rd December were noted.

A report by Cllr Beale was noted

The draft plan was agreed

An informal open event agreed ,subject to HBBC approval

Postcards to be printed

Update on Sport in Stoke Golding (SISG)

It was noted that Cllr Clover will consult further with the architect

Update on memorial safety-gravestone repairs

Hinckley road cemetery memorial safety work in progress

The PCC will meet 22nd January to consider proposed faculty application for railings removal at the churchyard

Hinckley Road Cemetery boundary matter

The PC still trying to contact local solicitor for further advice

Annual Parish Meeting

Annual Parish meeting should take place prior to the May PC meeting 6th May

Precept and Parish element of Council Tax

Tax base figure for 2020/21 has increased from 775.1 to 801.4

Band D figure should increase from £58.47 to £65.63 to give a precept of £52,595 to cover cost of pro-active budget and medium-term planning requirements

Annual Tree inspection

Clerk to book tree inspection for March 2020

Annual review of performance for the ground maintenance contract

Cllr Pegg to carry out annual review

Cemetery matters

Discretionary discount due to proven association to the Village agreed.

Drainage issues at Wykin Lane were discussed and information from HBBC still pending

Cllr Pegg to investigate land drains

Replacement tap at Hinckley Road Cemetery was discussed

Communications received by the clerk

Rural conference Cllrs Terheege and Beale to attend

HBBC heritage forum Cllr Terheege to attend

S106 contributions report noted

Concerns with verges in Roseway were noted and clerk to contact LCC Highways

Concerns regarding horses on pavements, refer resident to LCC highways

Next meeting: Methodist Hall, Wednesday 5th February 2020 at 7pm.

Answers to 10 of a Kind

1. Salmon, 2. Red / Maroon, 3. Triple Jump, 4. An insect inside (it's a tiny moth larva)
5. Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, 6. Fleas, 7. The Rolling Stones, 8. Four
9. The River Avon, 10. Ladybird (The Ladybird Reading Scheme)

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