

March 2017

No. 159

The Stoker



Stoke Golding Village Magazine

Including

Dadlington Matters

50p



Note from the Editors

We are looking forward to the spring and, hopefully, more than a little sunshine over the coming weeks. Perhaps it is time to have a bit of a spring clean like the Fool on the Hill (p.7) or to grow some flowers and vegetables ready to enjoy in the summer and maybe enter into Stoke Golding's



Garden Show in September (p.9).

Have you ever thought about what might be growing or living in your garden? Pauline's article shows the amazing variety of wildlife in her garden found when they invited Market Bosworth Natural history Society to have a look (p. 20). We would love to know what you find in your garden.

The Neighbourhood Plan group is asking residents from Stoke Golding to complete a questionnaire this month to make sure everyone has a chance to have their views considered. The village has changed a lot over the past decades, as Bob Quinney points out in his article (p.8) , and will no doubt be changing a lot more in the future.

Don't forget to send us your articles and photos ready for the April edition.

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 April issue of The Stoker **by 15th March** to:

**The Editors, 45 Station Road, Stoke Golding/email
janewhitesg@gmail.com**

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

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

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

Publication of any articles or letters submitted does not imply approval of, or agreement with, any views and comments contained, and are published without prejudice. This includes advertisements which are not checked or verified by us.

Cover picture: The Bishop of Leicester meets St Margaret's School Pupils (page 4)

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Keep an eye out for **The Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire** coming to your house soon. If all goes well, delivery is planned for the end of March to all households in Stoke Golding. This is a really important part of the process for putting together the overall Neighbourhood Plan for Stoke Golding. **So please do fill it in when it arrives.** The aim is that the Plan reflects the opinions and suggestions of as many residents as possible, so there will be a Young People's questionnaire as well as a general one. And it will be available to complete online as well as in paper form. Also, if you need an incentive to fill it in, there is a prize draw for completing the questionnaires – a £50 gift voucher for the main questionnaire and a £25 voucher for the Young People questionnaire.

Ella Orr

St Margaret's Church Trail

The Parish Church of St Margaret of Antioch has stood for centuries in the centre of Stoke Golding and now, for the first time, visitors to the church can follow a 13 stop trail, in order to discover more about the history and religious significance of the various objects that can be found inside the building.

A ceremony to mark the opening of the trail, only the seventh of its kind in Leicestershire, was held on 24th January. In the process of creating the trail, the organising group had decided to canvas the opinions of the pupils at St Margaret's Primary School. When these discussions turned to important people who might use some of the special objects found in the church, the children felt it would be good to invite the bishop himself to open the trail. And so it came to pass that Rt Revd Martyn Snow, Bishop of Leicester, did indeed perform the opening. He also became one of the first people to follow it, alongside some of the school children, representatives from the diocese of Leicester and the parish and borough councils, the Mayor of Hinckley, members of the Fenn Lane benefice and Stoke Golding Methodist Church.



The project has taken a year to complete under the leadership of Pauline Goodsell. The small team of volunteers – Pauline, Carolyn Patullo, Tony Collett, headteacher Emma Prokipczuk, and photographers Martin and Ruth Fisher – were assisted throughout by local members of NADFAS (The National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies), some of whom were also at the ceremony.

The church, a Grade 1 listed building, is not only a fine medieval building with much history, but is also architecturally significant, something the bishop pointed out during his opening remarks. The trail begins, like the Christian journey, at the font, taking in the pulpit, altar, piscina (a small wash basin) and parish chest. One of the more unusual objects is a memorial plaque in honour of Sir Henry Firebrace, a page to King Charles I. The trail provides a translation of the inscription that tells how Sir Henry assisted his master who was imprisoned in Carisbrooke Castle on the Isle of Wight, managing to free the king who'd got stuck in a window that he was trying to escape through.

Michael Dix

BETH'S CORNER

"HORSES SWEAT * MEN PERSPIRE * LADIES MERELY GLOW"

I did rather too much 'glowing' this month, due to a really horrid bug which interfered with all my usual plans scheduled for The Stoker. I was able to join the very large village congregation for the moving Memorial service at St Margaret's on the Monday, for the life of Mrs Pat White, and then afterwards in a crowded George & Dragon, with the many well-wishers - a heart-warming send off to a much loved lady. I was happily fulfilling my hospital chaplaincy duties in the middle of the week, chatting away to an 82 year old lady, who seemed to be without visitors, and then without warning the following morning – the bug struck. At first I thought – *"take it easy for a day, and tomorrow you'll be as right as rain."* My thinking proved wrong. I was forced to give in and call the Surgery. *"Sarah I know it's too late for a visit from Pine Close – what should I do next?"* An immediate response; *"ask for the On Duty Doctor in Castlemead up until 6.30 – and then dial 111."* By 6.30 one of our faithful, overworked GP's was with me. I had *"a zonking temperature"* apparently and he was all for packing me off to the George Eliot, until he realised my daughter is living here now, and able to get the essential antibiotics to begin immediately. All the best laid plans of mice and men were, metaphorically, thrown out of the window. A couple of days later a friend phoned from Cheshire. I explained I was ill, and how our local GP had visited me at six-thirty, when; *"You have an out of hours GP – who'll call at that time. Is there such a thing these days?"* I assured him; *"Yes we are very blessed with the NHS in our village."* Recently I attended an open meeting about future news for our local Hinckley NHS, and came away feeling thrilled at the new ideas, and yet the National news about the NHS is always negative. We know how desperately unfunded they are, and yet the service is given with the kindly 'bedside manner' and professionalism, that the media would make us believe no longer exists. (I speak as one of the elderly who are living much longer than we ought to)!

A big THANK YOU comes from one grateful patient. *Beth*

PS. Exciting Interviewees – postponed until next month.

A True Gentleman

Many of you will know our postie Chris. He has been delivering letters through your door for many years come rain or shine. Always with a smile and a cheery wave. Recently, delivery of a special delivery package for an item of sentimental value was a couple of days overdue and we were getting concerned. Royal Mail customer service were no help so I tracked down Chris in the village. Although busy, he took details and said he would make enquiries. An hour later he was on my doorstep to tell me he had tracked it down to the Nuneaton depot which was a huge relief. As if that wasn't service enough, he insisted that he was going to go back to the depot in Nuneaton to collect it. Within an hour he was back on my doorstep with the package. Our postie Chris, a true gentleman. Thank you..

Alan White

Christmas With The Royals And Others.

May I first apologise to all who keep up to date with the activities of Stoke Golding W.I by reading the excellent Stoker magazine, for the absence of our January entry. Unfortunately I had the 'bug' that seemed to be affecting so many and wasn't able to attend the meeting but I have been told that it was up to the usual high standard and all who were able to attend enjoyed crafting Scottie dogs and chatting, something we ladies are so good at.

John Whitehead, the husband of one of our members, came along to our February meeting and gave us a very interesting talk on how the Queen spends her Christmas starting with an opportunity to recognise photos of members of her very extensive family, which luckily many of our members were able to.

He then went on to tell us how the Queen hosts a large party for all those members of her extensive family at Buckingham Palace during December but her closer family is entertained over the Christmas period at Sandringham House which only accommodates 27 guests. Here the Queen herself organises the entertainment, seating plans, and order of events for her guests, including the giving of presents. These have to be ones that can bring a smile to the face and generate a great deal of laughter, so much thought has to go into providing such gifts, but all are to be wrapped exquisitely. The Queen never watches her address to the nation but all the other Royals do and, as by then the staff have been sent home, they all are then able to have an intimate traditional Christmas with games etc.

John was able to let us into many other secrets about the Royal gathering and then he gave us more information on The Royal Broadcasts, the first by King George V going out on the 'wireless' in 1932 and continuing to this day by the Queen who continues to write her own.

Finally he was able to inform us of the history of the celebrations of Christmas including the theft of the Stone of Scone from Westminster Abbey on Christmas day 1950. Altogether a far ranging and informative talk on the celebrations of Christmas. Our next meeting is on 8th March at the Methodist Chapel Hall and we will be making icing decorations for Easter. An opportunity to get a bit messy so please come along and join us as you will be very welcome.

Val Hartwell

Fool on the Hill

Read all about it.....

I was awakened from my post lunch repose by a sharp prod from the forked vermin stick that Mrs Fool keeps handy for such purposes. She reminded me of my much repeated, but thus far unfulfilled promise, to make some inroads into the disposal of the accumulated artefacts currently occupying a considerable portion of our loft. Having not achieved a full state of wakefulness, I was unable to formulate a credible reason for non-compliance, so the step ladder was dusted off and I made a start. The first object that I encountered was an inheritance from a much loved aunt in the shape of a jug depicting a ludicrously attired farmer in pursuit of a fox that had recently taken advantage of a lapse in security at the henhouse. I confess that, neither myself, or Mrs Fool held this object in the same high esteem that we had for our deceased relative, hence it's prolonged incarceration in the darkest corner of our little abode.

The jug had been protected from harm by being enshrouded in several layers of old newspaper which were now lying invitingly on the loft floor. I suspect that I am not alone amongst the male of the species when it comes to being easily distracted from the task in hand, particularly when said task in hand was rather lacking in appeal in the first place. However I have shared the matrimonial bed for long enough to know that any prolonged period of inactivity and quiet in the loft would inevitably result in the top half of the dearly beloved springing up through the loft hatch like an inquisitorial Jack in the Box. I contrived a defensive shield of storage containers between my current position and the point of access and then unpacked a few other items in the hope that this would convey, to the casual observer at least, the sense that some form of activity was taking place. Thus prepared, I repositioned the torch and commenced my perusal of the faded news print. My attention was first drawn to an intriguing article about the Mushy Pea Festival in the aptly named Far Tofton.

Further study revealed some lurid headlines warning of the impending Armageddon which would surely ensue if Greece was not bailed out by the European Union. No doubt things are far from perfect in the birthplace of Socrates but nowhere near as apocalyptic as had been prophesied by the offering from Mr Murdoch's empire spread before me now. In the half light of the loft it occurred to me that for most of my adult life I had been kept in a state of suspended terror by the hysterical headlines of the worlds press predicting cataclysmic events which mostly came to naught. The inevitable progress report was suddenly demanded and I proffered a few items that I deemed worthy of disposal only to be informed of their vital importance to the family heritage.

The shed is next I believe.

F.O.T.H.



The Village I Remember (Part 1)

Two years ago when Beth interviewed me for her “Corner” she told me she loved Stoke Golding because it had retained the characteristics of a typical English village. I have since thought many times about this and have made a few comparisons with the village of my childhood.

A villager returning after an absence of 75 years, whether they entered from Dadlington in the North, Wykin or Higham in the South, Barwell in the East or Fenny Drayton in the West would be shocked to see what remains of the roadside verges, once home to wild flowers and ground-nesting birds, many now reduced to litter-strewn shredded bogs with craters at the edges. Had they entered via Wykin Lane they might turn back in disgust, wondering how this quintessential country lane could have become such a squalid eyesore.

Entering the village they would be horrified to find the quiet, peaceful streets of their childhood lined from end to end with parked cars, some straying onto the pavement, and many of the front gardens replaced with “hard-standing”. In 1942 the number of cars in the village could just about be counted on the fingers of one hand.

The size of the village would astound them; around 200 houses when they left, now nearly 1000 and growing, but of the services available 75 years ago few would remain. Arriving in Main St. via Wykin Lane they would have searched in vain for the old vicarage, whose extensive grounds hosted many summer garden parties; noticed on the corner of Hinckley Road the absence of the fish and chip shop under whose eaves the House Martins nested; missed the two rows of old cottages that stood either side of the corner, and the first of three grocery shops in the village. This one also had a small drapery section and a hand-operated petrol pump outside. They would look for the woodyard where Skip Stonely once worked, amongst other things, as coffin maker, wheelwright and pumpsmith. Turning into Station Road they would pass the site on which the butcher’s shop once stood and next, opposite the row of 5 tall stately lime trees, felled on the grounds of “safety”, the old Co-op, its window still intact, which collected and delivered orders twice a week.



Because villagers, of necessity, shopped several times a week, shops served as small community centres where village gossip was regularly exchanged. If an old villager became frail and ill the word was very quickly passed around and someone would invariably volunteer to “go and sit” with him or her for a few hours, the only “social care” then available. If, some weeks later, early in the morning, the village sexton was seen hurrying along Church Walk, followed minutes later by the repetitive, sonorous pealing of the tenor bell, there would have been no need to ask “for whom the bell tolls”. In the tightly-knit community that Stoke Golding then was, “social media” was highly effective, more confined and much less prone to abuse.

Men, naturally, did their gossiping in the pubs and were rarely seen in shops except to buy their cigarettes or pipe tobacco and, more often than not, would ask for it to be "put on the book" for their wives to pay when they were given their housekeeping money at the end of the week. Those who worked "down the pit" might ask for an ounce of "Nailrod" twist, like a very thick stick of liquorice, or "Pigtail", a little less toxic variety of twist, I think. Once, (and last) I tried a very tentative chew of "Nailrod", spat it out in disgust and had the hiccups for the remainder of the day.

Stoke Golding in the 1940's was a caring and largely happy, if much less prosperous community. Poverty existed and there were those who had received, or lived in fear of receiving, the telegram informing them that a husband or son was missing or killed in action.

Bob Quinney.

(to be continued)

Summer is Coming - Grow Your Own

Nothing beats the taste of home grown new potatoes and you don't need a vegetable plot or a lot of space. Potatoes grow exceptionally well in bags and you can simply turn a compost bag inside out, make a few drainage holes in the bottom fill it with peat based compost, put a couple of well chitted potatoe tubers two thirds down (mid April time to avoid late frosts). Keep the potatoes well watered especially from June onwards and a little extra fertiliser once the haulms flower and hey presto you will have the tastiest new potatoes.

By chance! This year the Stoke Golding Garden Show (Sept 2nd) have a novice potatoe (also novice tomatoe and beetroot classes)class restricted to local residents so why not give it ago. Kestrel (coloured 2nd early) and Casablanca (white 1st early) are tasty and noted exhibition potatoes ,a size around the 200grammes is ideal.

Please do not hesitate to contact Garden Show chairman Phil Burgess for any help/ advice if you fancy 'having a go'. phil_burgess@hotmail.co.uk

We Have Been Busy!!



The pack have been busy bees with the start of the new Year. The cubs have been doing their team challenge award and have been doing lots of team games including making models with spaghetti and marshmallows. The Beavers have been doing their Worldchallenge award and have been creative with icing and biscuits, learning about healthy eating, teeth and learning new experiences of yoga and Pilates.

The scouts have been out doing night hikes round the village and a rumour has it that someone of them got lost!!

The cubs also hosted the district Hockey night and came runners up. All the cubs in the district played to win and fortunately their were no injuries.

Jennifer Michie

Dadlington Matters

Dadlington Quiz Night January 2017

On the evening of Saturday 21st January, 2017, a packed hall took part in a Quiz Night organised by the Dadlington Village Hall Committee.

Quizmaster Michael Dix again provided eight sets of fiendish questions plus a picture round to identify Disney characters. The teams, including one from *The Stoker*, were closely matched throughout, but a final burst from the 'Stuck in the Corner' team, led by Parish Council Chair Linda Mayne, gained the day and took the spoils (a cream egg each).

Dinner was served by committee members, with Sausages and Potatoes locally-sourced from Linda Gosling at Lodge Farm and spectacular onion gravy cooked up by Sally-Ann Faulks. Together with the proceeds of a Bar and Raffle, a total of just over £825 was raised to add to the funds required to complete the extension work.

Passers-by will have noticed that work to increase the floor-space of the Village Hall, through an extension on the side, is well advanced. In addition, the Parish Council has paid to have the land on that side levelled to enable a marquee to be placed more safely alongside the Hall. Together with the work already completed to provide a disabled toilet and enlarged kitchen, these improvements will increase the amenity value of this important community resource.



Keith Morton

Dadlington Village Hall Lottery

Have you noticed the work taking place at Dadlington Village Hall with the first stage of new extension, following on from the new kitchen and disabled loo? All this has only been possible with your support of our fundraising events and our lottery, so a big thank you to everyone who has contributed.

The lottery winners in recent months have been November No. 27 £65, December No. 31 £165, January No. 38 £65 and February No. 22 £65.

If you would like to participate we have 9 tickets available, cost is £13 per quarter or £52 per annum. Contact John Whitehead on 01455 213244 or e-mail jf_whitehead@hotmail.com to join and support this community hall.

DATE CHANGE: Dadlington Village Hall Murder Mystery Evening is on 6th May and not as advertised in last month's *Stoker*. More details will follow next month.

OLD FOSSIL DISCOVERED IN DADLINGTON

Reading in THE STOKER over the last few months about various fossils and artefacts being found in the area reminded me of the day in April 1983 when the fossil pictured below was found at Dadlington. My parents Chris and Lucy Halliday had bought the Dog and Hedgehog and had decided to extend the restaurant by creating a large eating area in the Malt House. It was during the excavation of the footings that the fossil was found .and was sent to Dr Keen of Coventry Polytechnic for identification. His report showed that it was part of the rootstock of vegetation



growing in the carboniferous period and was 290 million years old. They are found in surface coal seams and Dadlington stands on the Dudley and West Midlands seam. The 50p coin shows the size of the root portion. 290 million years ago Britain was covered in tropical rain forest which eventually was laid down as future coal beds. This was millions of years before the dinosaurs lived and there were no reptiles, mammals or birds. The fauna consisted of giant bugs and flies on the land areas.

Jean Smith

Ten of a Kind (Answers on page 15)

Here are ten questions based on the word 'March'. How many can you answer?

1. In which children's book does the March Hare share a tea party with a Mad Hatter and a Dormouse?
2. In which decade did the Joe Loss Orchestra have a hit with The March of the Mods?
3. In which county is the market town of March?
4. 'The Liberty Bell' is a march by American composer John Philip Sousa. It was the signature tune to which TV comedy program?
5. Middlemarch is a fictional midlands town in the novel of the same name by which local author?
6. Who met a grisly end on the Ides of March?
7. Marcher Lords were appointed by Norman and Plantagenet kings to guard which border?
8. The month of March was named after Mars, the Roman god. What was he god of?
9. From October 1834 to October 1935, which country's communist armies retreated from nationalist forces in 'The Long March'?
10. What links the word 'March' with the book Little Women by Louis May Alcott?

FABULOUS Musical Adventure for 0 to 5s Hits Town.

A MOO-SICAL feast for 0 to 5-year-olds is rolling into town. Moo Music is a brand new class for pre-school children full of singing, dancing, musical games and masses of fun – as well brand new and instantly loveable characters by the designer of such iconic children's shows as Bod and The Flumps.

Dadlington class leader Colette Baxer said Moo Music was a fantastic way of teaching young children a whole range of skills while they were having a great time.

"It's so rewarding to watch the kids develop and grow in confidence in such a short time. The quality of the Moo Music songs and activities makes this class a joy to be a part of – and a hit with parents too!"

Moo Music features four original characters – Maggie Moo, Ollie Oink, Henry Horse and Doris Duck – each with their own repertoire of 25 original songs by well-known children's songwriter Craig McLeish, who has worked on hit West End shows like Les Miserables and Miss Saigon as well as many television favourites.

The songs have been recorded by professional singers and musicians and a team of primary education experts has been involved every step of the way. The wonderful characters are the work of renowned artist Alan Rogers, whose other television credits include Pigeon Street and Rub-A- Dub-Dub.

"The team behind Moo Music knows that music is key to every child's development," said Colette. "Not only do the classes give children the chance to sing and have fun but to gain vital language, memory and co-ordination skills."

Each 40-minute class features a selection of Moo Music songs with different themes. Some might focus on animals, journeys or children's daily lives while others might be about counting, the senses or simply being silly! Children get the chance to dance, play games, learn actions and experiment with percussion instruments.

"It's brilliant fun," said Colette. "And I hope to welcome you to a Moo Music class soon."

Moo Music classes are being held at Dadlington Village Hall on Tuesday's at 10.30, starting on the 14 th March 2017 and the first session is free.

Classes cost £4 for an individual lesson, with discounts for half-termly and termly bookings.

For more information check out www.moo-music.co.uk or call Colette on 07581454188



Staffroom Memories 9 – Day Tripper

For those readers who have or have had children of primary school age, you may well have experienced the day trip as a helper. As a headteacher, I encouraged my teachers to take the children out on short visits as often as possible, my reasoning being that children are far more likely to learn when they experience things first hand. Children were also likely to be far more motivated and inspired by a visit away from the classroom. Of course the children have other ideas, their two main questions on a trip being, “When are we going to eat?” and “When are we going to the shop?”

Leading my first ever trip to the National History Museum in London was the formidable Mrs. Kelly. As a recently qualified teacher, I was a little in awe of her forthright manner. However, all was well as we split into groups and set off for the dinosaurs. Next came the reptiles and fish, followed by some marvelling at the huge blue whale. As we entered the human biology section at 4:30, our last stop before the shop, so did Mrs Kelly – in full voice. “What are you doing here?” she screeched, and then without waiting for a reply launched into, “We were supposed to meet at 4pm. We’ve been hanging around waiting for you for ages. The bus driver is panicking about getting a parking ticket. Come along children, onto the bus!” “What about the shop?” they all chorused, pitifully clutching their purses and wallets. “No time for that,” came the reply. It was a lonely journey back to Leicestershire with no-one speaking to me.

Whilst teachers are sometimes reluctant to leave the relative security of the classroom, risk assessments do minimize the possibility of things going wrong. However, even the best-prepared trips can have unforeseen issues. I was horrified when one of my teachers rang from a layby on the A47 to say that the children were really enjoying their journey to the Co-op farm when they noticed one of the coach's wheels rolling past. Fortunately the driver had detected a problem and was pulling over, and there was no other traffic around. However, the thought of what might have happened and the problem of informing and then reassuring parents caused me quite a headache.

One of my most memorable trips was to a schoolboy international football match at Old Trafford. We left at lunchtime on the same day the school was appointing a new headteacher. The teacher accompanying me, Mrs Sinfield, had dared the deputy to get the appointment announced at half time over the Old Trafford tannoy. As we left, the deputy gave me list of the candidates' first and last names and told me to listen out. Half time arrived, and amid the usual birthdays and anniversary announcements was one congratulating a Mrs Sinfield whose daughter had just given birth to a baby boy. “But I haven't got a daughter,” protested my colleague as she was mobbed by excited children shouting, “Is that you Miss?” In fact there was so much of a fuss that we didn't hear the new born's first name: the clue to who had been appointed head.

I was once relating this story to the Mayor of Solihull at an engineering exhibition the school was taking part in. His wife had just been extolling the strong moral compass teachers provide for children, so I'm not sure why I continued with my Old Trafford story, but I did. “And on the way back, we stopped at a motorway services. The children found a chocolate bar dispenser that not only provided them with a bar of chocolate, but also returned their money. By the time I found out, they had emptied the machine.” “How embarrassing, to have to return all those bars of chocolate,” the Lady Mayoress said sympathetically. “Oh, I didn't return them,” I reassured her, “We got on the coach and left as quickly as possible.” Her opinion of teachers plummeted.

Michael Dix

Church Matters



From St Margaret's Church

The 1st day of March this year is also the 1st day of Lent, and Ash Wednesday. In two of our Benefice Churches – St Peter's Witherley at 9.45am and St Margaret's Stoke Golding at 6.30pm – we have a special service when ash from the previous year's burnt palm crosses is put on people's foreheads in the shape of a cross.

The 'ashing' is a reminder of our mortality. The words "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return" are said as the ash is marked on the forehead. In the Bible ashes are a sign of repentance, and the cross reminds us of Jesus' death and resurrection.

The season of Lent is a time of preparation for Easter. Forty days (excluding Sundays) leading up to the greatest and most important Christian celebration of Easter Day.

In this part of the world Lent is always around Spring time so the image of spring cleaning is a good one, a time to look at the bad habits which we seem to have picked up over the past year and which perhaps need addressing.

Maybe we could look at spending some time with God in prayer and Bible reading – one way of doing this is to join a Lent Group. There are three groups around the Benefice, all exploring the 'Pilgrim Course' A Course for the Christian Journey.

They start in the week beginning 6th March, on Mondays at 2.30pm in Witherley Parish Room; on Tuesdays at 8.30am in Higham Methodist Church; on Thursdays at 7.30pm at 8 The Courtyard, Stoke Golding. All are welcome to join a Lent group whether you normally attend church or not.

I hope that whatever changes you decide to make this Lent, you will be able to experience God's love and peace as we move towards the celebration of Easter Day.

Wishing you God's blessings

Linda

*Revd Linda Blay
Fenn Lanes Benefice*

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.



Church Matters

Church of England March 2017 Services

St Margaret's Church

5 th	10.30am	All Age Service
12 th	10.30pm	Benefice Service Witherley
19 th	10.30am	Holy Communion
26 th	10.30am	All Age. Mothering Sunday

St James's Church

5 th	9.00am	BCP Morning Prayer
12 th	10.30am	Benefice Service Witherley
19 th	9.00am	BCP Moring Prayer
26 th	9.00am	Mothering Sunday BCP Holy Communion

Zion Baptist Chapel March 2017 Services

5th	6pm	Bill McIntyre
12th	6pm	John Needham
19th	6pm	Mark Menzfeld
26th	6pm	Malcolm Welch

The Methodist Church March 2017 Services

5th	10.30am	Mrs Hilary Fenby
12th	6.00pm	Mr John Cooke (Anniversary Service)
19th	10.30am	Revd Brian Kennard
26th	10.30am	Mr John Cooke

Ten of a Kind Answers

1. Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll
2. 1960s (1964)
3. Cambridgeshire
4. Monty Python's Flying Circus
5. George Eliot
6. Julius Caesar – the 15th March was known as the Ides of March and on that day in 44BC he was assassinated.
7. The border between England and Wales, known as the Welsh Marches
8. War
9. China
10. It was the surname of the four sisters who were the 'little women'

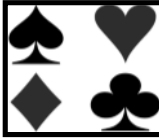
What's On

A VERY SOCIAL GAME

Anyone interested in learning to play the wonderful game of bridge, please contact:

Avis Raynor - 07425 164833

This course is for absolute beginners. Dates and times to be determined as to how many people would like to participate.



G N WESTERN CONNECTION

LINE DANCING CLASSES

for complete beginners
starting on

Tuesday 7th March 2017

at Stoke Golding Club

From 7.00 - 7.45 pm cost £4.50

Get fit, make new friends, have fun!

tel: Glenis 01455 212189

Stoke Golding Heritage Group March Meeting

At 7.00pm on Thursday March 16th at the Baxter Hall, the Heritage Group will hold its AGM. Following this at 7.30pm, there will be an open meeting, to which all are invited.

Non members will be charged a nominal £2.50, The meeting will hear a talk entitled "The King in the Car Park and his Reinternment" If you took part in, or missed this local historical event come along and relive the memories of those momentous days.

Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre

Forthcoming Events:

Weekend Guided Walks at 11.30 am and 2.00 pm – **March** 4th, 5th, 11th, 12th, 18th, 19th, 25th & 26th

Paranormal Ghost walk – **April 11th** 7.00 pm to 10.00 pm

Anniversary Battle Weekend – Saturday 19th & Sunday 20th August

For further information visit:

<http://www.bosworthbattlefield.org.uk/whats-on/>

What's On

AGE UK Events

Understanding Dementia (FREE event) Thursday 16th March 10am - 2.30pm at Age UK Centre, Kings Walk, Earl Shilton LE9 7NL.

Walking Netball starts Tuesday 21st February at Hinckley Leisure Centre 7-8pm. COST £3.50 per session.

Training for Well-Being Strolls (FREE) Volunteers needed to help on short sensory strolls for people living with dementia and family carers.

To book please call Kate Webb 01455 619519 or email: kate.webb@ageukleics.org.uk

The Methodist Church

SPRING FAIR

Saturday April 8th
10.00am –2.00pm

Cakes & Preserves
Books & Bric-a-Brac
Raffle & Tombola
Coffee & Light Lunches



The Methodist Church

Anniversary Coffee Morning

Saturday March 11th
10.00 -11.30

Music, Poetry and Laughter inspired by the Ashby Canal

A special evening inspired by the Ashby canal will feature the world premier of a new choral work by Dadlington composer Michael Dix. *Three Reflections on the Ashby Canal* was written by Michael especially for Ambion Voices, the community choir based in Stoke Golding and Dadlington. The complete Reflections suite in three movements chronicles the building and early working life of the canal, a beautiful lyrical section describing its decline and neglect and a fun final movement about the resurgence of our local waterway as a leisure facility.

The event will also feature Luke Kennard, the Canal Laureate for the Poetry Society and Anthony King, a singer songwriter and poet who will give a lighthearted look at canals including a little local history.

It will be held at the cafe at Bosworth Marina at 7.30pm on 13th June. Tickets are not yet available, but more details will follow next month. For more information please contact Liz Alun-Jones: Tel. 07515145409 Email liz.alunjones@gmail.com

Poems From Redmoor Academy

A brand new building,
For us to enjoy,
It's eco friendly,
For each girl and boy.
The lights are cool,
With LEDS shining bright,
One hundred and sixty solar panels,
Collecting rays, shining bright.
Constructed in Cambridge,
Then put on a truck,
Put together by workers,
Come and have a look.
With eight classrooms to work in,
And space to enjoy,
There's high tech computers,
And lessons to deploy.
We are super excited,
For our lessons to begin,
Can't wait to start,
Can't wait to move in.

By Luke Stevenson

Sadness

We hide our frowns behind our smiles
We hide ourselves behind strong walls
We hide our sadness behind locked shutters.
We hide our true emotions from all.
Our eyes no longer tear up
They have none left to spill
Our figures turn hunched
They lack natural confidence
Their words swim round our heads
The ghastly meanings seen
Their eyes betray their hatred
The dark of humanity
We hold strong against our foes
We don't let them in
We push them from the barracks
Sadness will never win.

By Ellie Charlesworth

Bird song

Darkness descends on a starry night,
Looking over the sea on a boundless flight.
Wind through my feathers, noise in my ears,
So much distance to make up when you are not here.
Wings moving faster, taking me on,
I am a bird and this is my song.

By Megan Temple

Leicestershire Police - Avoid Becoming a Victim of Crime

During the year we regularly put out messages encouraging people to take precautions to try to reduce the chances of you becoming a victim of crime. Although most people always make sure their houses and out building are secure, we still attend burglaries that maybe could have been avoided.

Therefore we would urge you to take the following precautions, where possible, to help deter people from targeting your property:

- Keep doors and windows locked at all times – even if you pop outside to the garden or go upstairs.
- Always lock doors behind you and remove the key from the lock.
- Keep valuables, bags, cash and keys out of sight and keep them in a safe place, ideally locked away if possible.
- If you are unsure who the person is at the door, don't open it and always check their ID if they claim to be from a company, even if you are expecting them.

This is advice you will have heard time and time again but it really can make a difference.

We rely on you to keep us informed of suspicious activity in your area, if you see something that doesn't seem quite right please report it to us by calling 101. In an emergency or if there is a crime in progress please call 999.

CASAG News

This month's Health Promotion is Heart disease

Did you know that every 3 minutes someone in the UK is struck by a heart attack? Around 30% of heart attacks are fatal.

You will find in the surgery information on signs and symptoms of a heart attack, blood pressure monitoring, healthy eating, how to increase physical activity and dealing with stress.

A useful organisation is the British Heart Foundation bhf.org.uk



Jennifer

Open Your Garden to the Public?

Have you ever thought about inviting people to come and look round your garden? Well that's what we did last July! However it wasn't quite what one might expect as it was in order to take part in a 'Bioblitz'. And in this case the more weeds and messy piles of leaves and sticks and logs you have the better! Members of Market Bosworth Natural History Society – some of whom know an awful lot about nature- descended upon our garden on a Friday evening and then returned to spend most of the next day with us. The idea was for them to investigate and identify as many different species of plants and animals as possible.

We were delighted with what they discovered:

- 74 species of moths and micromoths
- 68 flowering and other plants
- 15 sorts of fungi – this included *Lepiota subincarnata* – a small toadstool which was a first record for Leicestershire
- 10 different bees

And sundry woodlice, ladybirds, pond creatures, bats and beetles – including a 'Darkling Beetle' which is very uncommon for the County. Most of the birds, butterflies and mammals made themselves scarce but we were allowed to include the 23 bird species and 15 butterflies that have been recorded by ourselves during the preceding few months. Overall 260 different species were recorded which we were very pleased about.

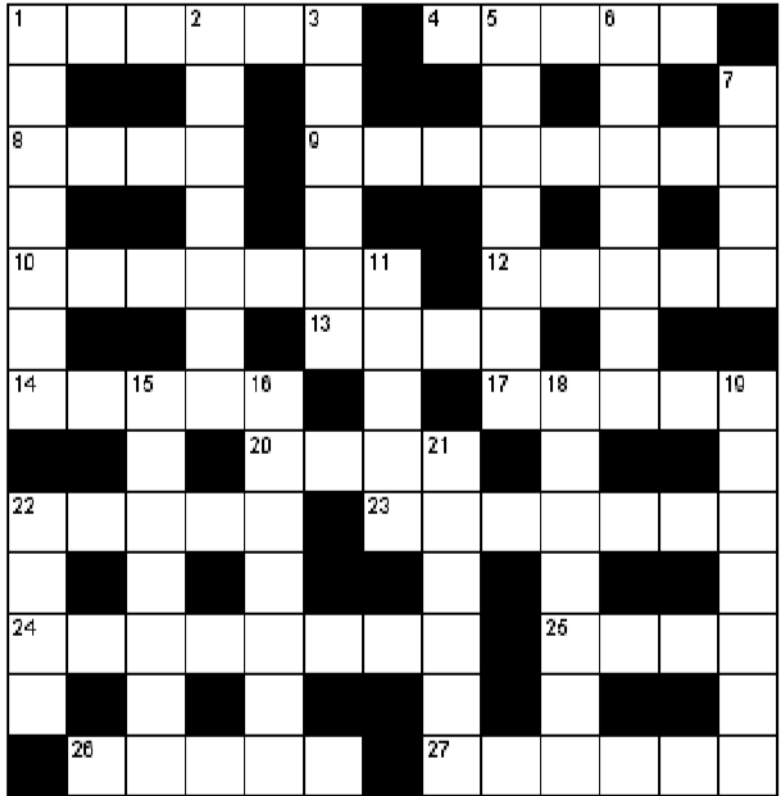
Numbers don't mean everything of course, but it does show a snapshot of the life that is going on in our garden and its complexity and variety. Many thanks to the Market Bosworth Natural History Society – it was a great experience.

Pauline Goodsell



OUR CROSSWORD THIS MONTH CONTAINS A NUMBER OF TV DETECTIVES.
CAN YOU FIND THEM ALL?

crossword



Across

1. WW11 detective drama ***** War. (6)
4. A first or second class one (5)
8. For all time (4)
9. The Jersey detective (8)
10. An ardent follower or supporter (7)
12. Opposite to odds (5)
13. Mix sugar in your tea (4)
14. Endeavour was his first name (5)
17. Police can use this to stun you (5)
20. Long piece of potato fried (4)
22. Image taken on a camera (5)
23. 1970's scruffy American detective (7)
- 24 & 6D County where there have been hundreds of murders (8 & 7)
25. North East lady DC1 (4)
26. 60's gangster brothers (5)
27. What you would aim a gun at (6)

Down

1. What you have when released from HMP (7)
- 2 Small cuts of bacon or fat (7)
- 3 Type of swords (6)
- 5 Scottish detective drama (7)
- 6 see 24A
- 7 There are 4 in a card pack (4)
- 11 Moral principle or value (5)
- 15 Ask for the 'same again' (2 & 5)
- 16 Thrift (7)
- 18 Case for arrows (1 & 6)
- 19 This law prevents public violence (4&3)
- 21 Belgian detective (6)
- 22 Cougar (4)

OBITUARIES



MARJORIE JANE EDWARDS

(nee Wright)

Madge, as she was always called passed away peacefully at home with her family on 13th January 2017 aged 88 years. The funeral took place at Stoke Golding Methodist Church with interment in Hinckley Road Cemetery Stoke Golding. Donations if so desired can be made to G. Seller and Co Ltd in Madge's memory payable to 'Client Charitable Donations Fund' which will be donated to The British Heart Foundation.

TONY UNDERHILL

Formerly of Wykin Lane, Tony had been living in a Kirby Muxloe care home for some years. He passed away at Leicester Royal Infirmary after a short illness on 15th January 2017 aged 89 years. He was the beloved husband of the late Laura, and a much loved step father, brother, uncle and grandfather and will be much missed by all his extended family. His funeral service was at Stoke Golding Methodist Church with interment in Stoke Golding Cemetery. Donations if so desired may be made to Help the Heroes care of Devall and Son Funeral Directors, The Green, Attleborough, Nuneaton, CV11 4FJ.

BOB McCREIGHT.



Bob McCreight of Tithe Close, Stoke Golding passed away peacefully at home on 8 January 2017 after a short illness aged 78 years. Bob and his wife Kate moved from Nuneaton to Stoke Golding nearly 25 years ago and loved the warmth and friendship of village life.

His family and many of his friends attended his funeral, a celebration of his life, at St Margaret's Church on 25 January 2017. He was a loving and devoted husband, father and a special granddad, he will be greatly missed. The family would like to thank friends, neighbours, Doctors and staff of Pine Close Surgery for their care and support at this very sad time.

OBITUARIES



JEAN PARKER (nee MAYNE)



Jean passed away peacefully aged 94 years on 10th February 2017. Jean was the beloved wife of the late Owen, a much loved sister to Bob and aunt to a number of nieces and nephews and a great aunt to their children.

She was born in a long demolished cottage next to the White Swan and was the youngest of seven children, and a member of one of the many Mayne families living in the village.

She went to St Margaret's school and on leaving school she worked in a local hosiery factory, before becoming a Land Army Girl delivering milk from Waddell's Farm in Higham on the Hill with her friend Paggie Lee, also a local girl, from a horse and dray as far away as Hinckley. She loved sport and represented the village many times in both tennis and hockey.

In 1945 she married Owen Parker and for a time lived with his family at the White Swan, until they had a new house built on Station Road and she lived there until her death. Jean was a member of the church choir and both she and Owen were keen bellringers. She returned to her job in the hosiery factory where she remained until her retirement.

Jean's funeral will be held at St Margaret's Church at 10.15am on 2nd March 2017 prior to cremation. There will be family flowers only with donations if so desired to Tiggywinkles Wildlife Centre and Cat's Protection c/o M.G. Evans, Funeral Directors of Atherstone.

We send our sincere condolences to the friends and families of Marjorie, Tony, Bob and Jean.

Stoke Golding website: www.stokegolding.co.uk

Notes from Stoke Golding Parish Council February Meeting (Draft)

County Councillor Ivan Ould reported that Covent Corner still doesn't have a postal code and residents have problems accessing services.

Matters arising from January's meeting:

Crime Report for November 2016 –

1 criminal damage/arson near High Street – investigation complete, no suspect.

1 violent/sexual offence near Greenwood Road – unable to prosecute suspect.

Reports of elected officers of the Council and the clerk:

Reports of Council representatives and Clerk:

Cllr Pegg reported on a meeting with the Cricket Club. It was agreed to proceed with shorter grass cutting on the outfield from the start of the 2017/18 season, as requested by the Club.

Planning Applications:

New Applications:

12 Roseway – two storey side extension.

The Birches, 55 High Street – removal of one acer tree.

24 Hinckley Road – two storey side extension and single story rear and front extension.

Permission approved:

107 Sherwood Road – first floor bedroom accommodation and installation of new roof windows and single gable end window.

Tithe Farm, 12 Wykin Lane – two storey extension and alterations to house.

Neighbourhood Plan:

The minutes of the meetings held on 23rd October and 18th January were noted and the following were agreed:

The brief for the Traffic Impact Survey.

Christina Emmett would analyse data and help to produce the plan.

Incentive vouchers for the questionnaires, at a cost of £50 for the adult questionnaire and £25 for the youth.

The use of Survey Monkey, at a cost of £25 per month.

To proceed with one set of postcards, at a cost of £65.

There was a discussion regarding the content of the questionnaire documents.

Comments by Graham Vallis, Alan White and Jim Hope were considered.

Cllr Mitchell will revise the document to incorporate the advice given, to tighten up wording and eliminate all leading questions.

The document will be emailed to all Councillors for approval before submission to HBBC.

Christmas tree

A reply from HBBC regarding the planting of a permanent tree was discussed. Cllr Fisher to proceed with consulting residents who overlook the area where the tree may be located, and consider suitable species as requested by the Tree Officer.

Play equipment:

It was **AGREED** to proceed with the following figures for roundabout funding:

£9,897.50 HACS - cost of roundabout

£5,938.50 60% PCIF Grant (TBC)

£2,240.40 - 106 monies

£1,718.60 PC still to find

Cllrs Smith and Beale to seek other sources of funding to make up the shortfall.

Other possible additional 106 funding was noted as follows:

£ 518.70 - maintenance

£ 938.10 - provision/maintenance (still TBC)

£ 261.80 PC to find

Benches:

The Charity of Thomas Barton has agreed to fund a bench near the table tennis table at the rec and has also requested moving the bench near Fisher's Farm.

It was agreed to forward two preferred bench options and installation costs to the Charity of Thomas Barton for consideration.

It was agreed to proceed with turning the bench at Fisher's Farm to overlook the canal and the view towards Dadlington, at the cost of £50.

Hinckley Road Cemetery trees and boundary:

Cllr Pegg reported on a meeting with the owner of a property which shares a boundary at Hinckley Road Cemetery. The boundary issues and tree work were discussed. The Parish Council awaits a price from Harbours for the necessary tree work.

Planters

It was agreed to proceed with the licence for relocating a roadside planter. Cllr Fisher will make the necessary arrangements.

Communications received by the Chairman of the Council

Written

Email from Cricket Club regarding pitch covers. Clerk to check liability implications with Zurich.

St Margaret's Church - Parish and Communities Initiative Fund application. Noted and signed by PC and Borough Councillor.

Resident's request for relocation of bench near Fisher's Farm. It was agreed to proceed with the relocation and give permission for a memorial plaque.

Any Other Business:

Refurbishment of the village sign was discussed. Clerk to contact Edwina Bradbury. Ivy on a bus shelter was discussed - Cllr Pegg to ask Jason to remove.

Next meeting: Methodist Hall, Wednesday 1st March at 7pm

The Stoke Golding Boys' Charity

Object of the Trust

"Subject to payment of expenses, The Trustees shall apply income of the Charity in promoting the education (including social and physical training) of boys under the age of twenty-five years by the date of return of application as shown below, who are resident in Stoke Golding".

The Trustees are considering the annual application of grants in accordance with the Terms of the Trust, as quoted above and applications are invited stating **the purpose of the application, date of birth, address and telephone number** to the:

Clerk of the Trustees, 2 Church Walks, Stoke Golding, Nuneaton, Warks. CV13 6HB by **Friday 27th March 2017.**

By Order of the Trustees, *Tony Smith (Clerk)*

Experience 40 singers in full song

Stanley Opera have been staging productions at Hinckley's Concordia Theatre every year since 1973. Opera-lovers, including many from Stoke Golding who regularly attend the company's shows, already know how thrilling and moving 40 singers in full song can sound, but newcomers to opera are now also discovering its exciting power. Stanley Opera productions feature not only highly talented soloists but also currently boast the strongest chorus in the company's history, one that is finally receiving richly deserved acclaim from many quarters.

The company is celebrating its 45th anniversary this year with a brand new production of Verdi's exciting opera *A Masked Ball*, *the gripping story of a popular king told by a clairvoyant that he will be murdered by the next person who shakes his hand.*

Stanley Opera has forged a reputation for its productions of Verdi's work, with successful Hinckley Concordia productions of *Rigoletto*, *Macbeth* and *La Traviata*, all in the past five years.



Performances of *A Masked Ball* are scheduled for Friday 31st March, Tuesday 4th, Thursday 6th and Saturday 8th April (all 7.30). Tickets can be booked online at concordiatheatre.co.uk/a-masked-ball or by calling the theatre box office on 01455 615005 during morning opening times.

A MASKED BALL

Tickets £11 & £12

Opera buffs, opera novices, operaphobes, operaholics – and OperaStokers especially – can all keep up-to-date with Stanley Opera on Twitter @stanleyoperaco.

Concordia Box Office Opening Times

Mon - Fri 10.30am - 12.30pm
Mon Eve 7-8pm Wed Eve 7-8pm
Saturday 10 - 12 noon
www.concordiatheatre.co.uk



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212199

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS 1 Foyles; 4 Stamp; 8. Ever; 9 Bergerac; 10 Devotee; 12 Evens; 13 Stir; 14 Morse; 17 Taser; 20 Chip; 22 Photo; 23 Columbo; 24 & 6D Midsomer murders; 25 Vera; 26 Krays; 27 Target

DOWN 1 Freedom; 2 Lardons; 3 Sabres; 5 Taggart; 6 see 24A; 7 Aces; 11 Ethic; 15 Re-order; 16 Economy; 18 A quiver; 19 Riot Act; 21 Poirot; 22 Cougar.

DOMESTIC PLUMBER



New Stoke Golding Based Service

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Mon 7.30pm Baxter Hall, Stoke Golding
Tues 12 Midday Sappcote Pavilion
Tues 7.40pm Swan House, Market Bosworth
Wed 6.30pm Yoga Loft, Burbage
Thursday 10am Sappcote Pavilion
Thurs 12.15pm Swan house, Market Bosworth
Fri 10am Sappcote Pavilion

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Email: yogawithadele@live.co.uk
www.yogawithadele.co.uk



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