

No. 179

March 2019

Stoke Golding Village Magazine

Including

Dadlington Matters

The Stoker

50p



Note from the Editors

We are back after our month off and thanks to Ella for doing such a great job of editing the February Stoker. As she said in her introduction, we do live in such a vibrant community.



We have another full edition combining present day activities and events with more historical articles. From one of the latter we were astounded to read about the punishment given to two men for stealing three hens (page 15). What sentence do you think they would receive today we wonder?

We love our cover photograph, sent to us by David Goodsell. St Margaret's Church in the spring sunshine really looks stunning. We know it must be a constant challenge to maintain such an important historic building and you can read about plans for the church on page four.

By the time you are reading this we will hopefully be enjoying some warm spring sunshine. Time to dust off the garden fork maybe?

If you have any stories you would like to share with us or any special birthdays or anniversaries we would love to hear from you. Don't forget photographs too as they make articles much more interesting.

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 thestoker@gmx.co.uk

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

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

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

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

Cover picture: St Margaret's Church in all its glory.

Majestikal' Adult Synchro Team

As my dad said in his article about ice skating on the canal in the February issue, I first learnt to skate in the village in freezing temperatures in skates so big I wore 4-5 pairs of socks to help them fit. As I was the smallest and lightest in the family I was generally the first to step on the ice to see if it would bear- strongly held by my dad I add! Safety was drilled into us so that my brother Richard and I were never allowed near the ice without dad.

Having ridden & competed horses since the age of 4, ice skating was not something I pursued as a child, but I loved watching it on TV, I was always fascinated by how they went backwards... A mid life crises in my early 40's prompted me to start skating lessons at Planet Ice Coventry and later on a few of us started having some fun trying to do synchronised moves- this led to the start of Coventry's first ever Synchro Team of 8 adults. Training requires a lot of dedication, we have been skating together for nearly 2 years but can only train once a week, every Friday morning at 5am! This paid off with us coming 4th in our first ever competition at Lee Valley in London. We then went to the British Synchro Championships in Nottingham on 19th-20th January and finished in the top 10. For the first time ever in British synchro this competition was live-streamed on BBC sport and iPlayer. We are now working hard for The Steel City Trophy - Sheffield's first International Synchro competition.



If someone told me 10 years ago that I would have exchanged my riding boots for blades & my jodhpurs for a sparkly dress I would have thought they were mad- it just shows it's never too late to try something new!!

Luisa Quinney

St Margaret's Church

Proposals for work to the Interior of the Church

The Church has stood in Stoke Golding for over 800 years. Many members of the community – and visitors -come into the Church and enjoy its architectural features, peaceful and spiritual atmosphere. Successive generations have cared for the building and ensured that it continues in a safe and secure state.

However some parts of the Church are now in need of repair and the Parochial Church Council (PCC) has begun to plan for the necessary work. At the same time a number of improvements to the layout of the building are being considered.

The PCC wanted to make you aware of the proposals which are under consideration. No final decisions have been taken so far and we are working closely with the Diocese of Leicester, particularly as St. Margaret's is a Grade One Listed Building and a much valued part of the village.

Those of you who have been into the Church recently will have noticed that the floor in the South Aisle is very uneven and needs urgent repair. Where the flooring is very uneven it will be re-laid so it is safe to walk on. The floor beneath the 'box pews' has sunk which in turn has led to the doors and panels not all fitting as they should. The initial proposals are to remove the wooden pew platforms which are deteriorating and replace them with a solid floor at the same time installing piping for under floor heating. The pews would be conserved and repaired and then replaced.

This work would give a good opportunity to improve some areas of the building and make it more fit for purpose as modern place of worship and community use. So during this work we are proposing widening the Nave Aisle as the current width presents problems during services and for wedding and funerals.. We are also asking the Diocese for permission to remove a pew at the east end of the South Aisle by the Lady Chapel to allow for better access across that part of the Church and to remove the 6 seater box pew by the old North Door which would increase space to be used more flexibly in the Church.

We wish to listen to the community's views on these proposals and to take these into account in the decisions which will need to be taken. It will take several months before anything is finally agreed and we will do our best to keep you informed as the process of gaining permission develops. In addition it will be very expensive! So we have already started to investigate the possibilities of grants to help with the costs.

The aim of the Parochial Church Council and the Church Wardens will be to retain the atmosphere and splendour of this wonderful community asset. We will try to keep everyone up to date with progress as we move towards the start of the project. If you have questions or concerns about these changes please contact either of the Church Wardens or Rev Linda Blay.

The Church is open every day. Why not visit and let us know what you think.

Rev Linda Blay Rector 01455 213988	David Goodsell Church Warden 01455 212955 millburn5@hotmail.co.uk	Ian Hirons Church Warden 01455 699734
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Where Can We Plant Trees?

I received a 'phone call from Stewart Marshall, Tree Officer for Leicestershire CC - stewart.marshall@leics.gov.uk asking if I could assist with locating suitable places to plant street trees in the parish and possibly small plantations on private land. I agreed and he asked me to spread his details around the parish, (what better means than the Stoker), so that interested people - walkers, dog walkers or those like myself who regret the decline in the numbers of trees in the village in recent years.

The criteria is simple - a suitable location will be more than four feet from the carriageway, will not obstruct visibility along the highway or entrances to farm gates, drives etc. To misquote the plantswoman Beth Chatto - "Right tree right place", but he will of course carry out surveys for the council.

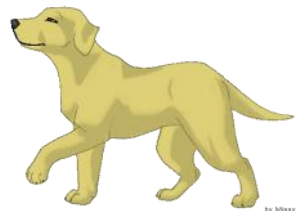
He would also be interested in hearing about trees that are causing concern or are in need of protection.

Whilst researching who was responsible for the mature oak which stands outside my property I was confused by the responsibility of the councils and assume I'm not alone. The county council are responsible for the trees on the highways including in some cases verges, ditches, and paths where there is historic drainage provision. Hinckley and Bosworth BC issue Tree Preservation Orders on privately owned trees and the Parish Council have jurisdiction for the recreation and cemetery areas.

Karen Jones

Can You Offer Occasional Home Board to Quiet and Well-Behaved Dog?

"We are looking for someone local who is able to home board and look after our dog, 'Lucy' when we go away on occasion. Lucy is a lovely, fun loving 3 year old Golden Labrador. She's quiet and well-behaved at home, walks nicely on the lead but can get very excitable (or scared) around other dogs. She can also get anxious around small children if they crowd her. We are happy to pay reasonable rates for her stay. If you may be interested please contact Steven or Kathy on 01455 213342 / 07552695511."



by Minky

Scout Group Get Crafty

The scout group have been very creative doing lots of arty activities.. The beavers went to China (well pretended to !) where they went through passport control, jumped aboard the plane had the inflight safety instructions and landed.

In China they made lanterns, decorated dragon masks, learnt a few Chinese phrases and learnt about Chinese New Year. It's the year of the Pig by the way. Then had some Chinese food and went home with a fortune cookie! What a night.

The beavers have also been junk modelling and came up with very inventive ideas with paper and cardboard including remote controlled robots!!!! They have also been learning about road safety and playing games about this.

The cubs have been doing their Team Challenge badge and First Aid badge where they learnt about burns, bleeding, asthma, how to summon help and the recovery position.

The cubs have also been doing their craft badge and junk modelling and making hedgehogs out of clay. For those more mature readers of the Stoker, Tracey Island courtesy of Blue Peter crew would have nothing on our cubs.

The cubs are hosting the District Hockey event after half term and have been secretly practicing- but don't tell anyone !!!

The scouts have been pioneering and have made paper towers, cane structures and a catapult to launch teddies across the hall (no teddies came to any harm, they enjoyed the experience!).

So all in all a very creative start to the year. Watch this space for more



The Magic of Trees

As a child my playground was Epping Forest, an area of old hornbeam woodland and glades, to which I paid no attention. Moving to Norfolk I observed the dust storms resulting from hedgerows and verges casually cleared but my heart was broken by the loss of the hollow oak, and many others, in the 1987 hurricane. For many hundreds of years, they had stood sentinel on the boundaries of the nearby estate, originally destined for wherry, construction and the tanning industries but allowed to grow.

I was now a parent with children grieving for their playground and we gathered acorns, ash wings, haws, chestnuts and whatever else we could find to start our own tree nursery. Some survived, more reliably when our crack willow by the beck shed a hefty branch and demolished my neighbours' saplings, which we replaced, and he took great care of.

Moving to Stoke I was startled to find the mature oak on the verge in front of my property was under threat, and two equally mature oaks had been felled nearby. My thanks go to everyone in the village who provided the proof that the oak stood on a LCC Highway verge and Ivan Ould who supported a petition to preserve it and clarify responsibilities.

Our relationship with trees is highly complex. My oak, I use the possessive as it would not be there but for my crusade, provides me with a frame for my garden, it is host to many birds, squirrels and insects and hopefully bats. It sheds thousands of leaves after a glorious autumn show which I bag up and return to the soil a few years later as free compost. If this were not enough the tree takes up 300 gallons of water an hour (RHS) in the growing season and protects my property from being waterlogged except in very wet winters.

Karen Jones



Let's Walk the Length of England 6: On to Gretna

A pleasant walk in Gloucestershire had morphed into the Cotswold Way which in turn had led us to walk the Heart of England Way, parts of the Macmillan and Staffordshire Ways and finally the Thirlmere Way, taking us to a monument at the far end of Thirlmere in the Lake District. From here, we would follow no set pathway but a jumble of public footpaths that would take us to Gretna Green, about 60 miles to the north. The first walk followed a disused railway line alongside the river Greta down into the town of Keswick. Here we made the mistake of going for a coffee at a hotel under new, very keen management. All we wanted was to collapse into some comfortable chairs after our perambulations but the owner had other ideas and engaged us in energetic conversation until we managed to escape.

We followed a route on the east bank of Bassenthwaite Lake (the only 'lake' in the Lake District), skirting Skiddaw through a coniferous forest. My friend Andrew wore his Leicester City top, and as it was only two weeks since we'd witnessed the premier league trophy being held aloft at the King Power Stadium, it was inevitable that a short coffee stop became a full on discussion with a passing Nottingham Forest supporter on the wondrous season we'd just experienced. The Ravenstone Hotel, provided us with yet more coffee and then we left civilization (and coffee shops) behind as we took to the moors that lie on the northern edge of the lakes. Here, the scenery was just as beautiful as in the Lake District but without the lakes and mountains. Eventually we arrived in a small town called Caldbeck where, you will be surprised to learn, we found a wonderful little café.

It is an oft repeated saying that after you retire, you don't know how you found the time to work. My wife, Sue, and I were certainly finding this and so eighteen months had elapsed before we had the opportunity to travel up north again for the remaining four walks. These took us into Carlisle, following another river, the Caldew, and then across some fairly flat and uninteresting territory to the border. The final walk was fairly dire as the only way to get across the river Esk, which forms the border, was on a service road right next to the M6. The noise was deafening, the view boring, the fumes disgusting – and then it started to pour with rain! We arrived wet and bedraggled and after a couple of selfies by the Welcome to Scotland sign, we hustled into the Old Blacksmith's Shop, the destination of many elopers, and after a quick cup of coffee, what else, got a taxi back to Carlisle. We had completed our journey in 73 walks, covering 494 miles, stopping overnight at nine hotels and six holiday cottages, crossing eight different motorways, completing one national trail, passing through one National Park and three Areas of Natural Beauty. With a great sense of satisfaction, we congratulated ourselves and I suggested we might like to start the Norfolk Coast Path. That it could be the first stage of another trek from one side of the country to the other, I kept to myself, for the time being.

Michael Dix

Ten of a Kind

60 years ago this month, work began on the M1 so this month's questions are all about motorways.

1. Although the M1 is 60, it isn't the oldest bit of motorway in Britain. That honour falls to the bypass of a Lancashire city, the road now being part of the M6. Which city was bypassed?
2. What are Chieveley, Clacket Lane and Corley?
3. Which German electronic band had a 1970s hit with their single Autobahn
4. There is a gap in the M25 as it crosses the river Thames to the east of London. The Queen Elizabeth II Bridge carries southbound traffic across the river. How does northbound traffic get to the other side?
5. What colour are the cats eyes on UK motorways where slip roads join the main carriageway?
6. In which country are motorways called 'autostrade'?
7. Which two words (strangely with a hyphen between them) precedes the words "On the Motorway" in a book launched in May 2010. Other titles launched that month were "In the Garden", "At the Airport" and "In the Street"?
8. In which Italian city did a motorway bridge collapse in August last year?
9. What is the popular name for the Gravelly Hill Interchange on the M6?
10. Only one of the numbers from 1 to 9 is not the number of a UK motorway. Which one?

CASAG

(Castlemead and Stoke Golding Action Group)



This month's health promotion topic is Heart disease.

The risk factors are : body weight, High blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes and physical inactivity. As well as age, gender, ethnicity and family history.

The British Heart Foundation is a very useful resource on all aspects of heart disease including an interesting section on managing stress.

Contact is: www.bhf.org.uk or ring 0300 330 3311 the heart help line.

Jennifer

Plastic Pollution

We live in a throwaway age and this has resulted in a global crisis – not only because of the waste we create, but also because of the resources used in manufacturing new clothes and goods. Plastic is one of the main culprits because it takes hundreds of years to biodegrade - every piece of plastic ever produced still exists somewhere in our world - a sobering thought.



The invention of plastic has undoubtedly changed our lives and it is difficult to imagine a world without it – plastic is everywhere, in our houses, cars, hospitals and schools, but what affect is this having on our planet?

TV and radio documentaries tell us we are ‘drowning in plastic’ and show shocking pictures of marine animals killed by eating some of the eight million tonnes of it making its way into the world’s oceans each year.

In recent years ‘single use’ plastic, particularly packaging, has been the focus of great debate and many people are trying to reduce the amount they use. The UK government introduced a 5p charge for plastic carrier bags back in 2015 and the following year their use reduced from 7billion to 500 million.

What can we do to reduce the amount of plastic we use? Of course, obvious things like reusing packaging, taking our own bags to the supermarket (although ironically many of these are made from much stronger plastic) and only buying what we need, so reducing waste.

WWF (World Wildlife Foundation) has more information about the damage caused to wildlife due to plastic and has some handy tips on how to reduce the amount of plastic we use.

<https://www.wwf.org.uk/updates/ten-tips-reduce-your-plastic-footprint> .

It would be interesting to hear your views and if you have any tips for reducing plastic in the world.

To start: –

- Forget bin liners, just wrap any messy rubbish in old frozen pea bags or newspaper and ‘dry’ rubbish straight in the bin.
- Buy vegetables and meat from our wonderful local farm shops .
- Write to large companies and challenge them to reduce their plastic.
- Ditch clingfilm – use cotton/beeswax covers instead.
- Reuse as much plastic waste as possible.
- Use paper drinking straws.
- Remember the mantra ‘**reduce, reuse, recycle**’

Fool on the Hill

Come and join us.....

Our good friends Sid and Doris Bonkers popped round the other evening for a social chat and a little food. They are a lovely couple and our friendship started when we discovered they take exactly the same type and strength of prescription medication that we do. It may have been a result of the Tofu Burgers washed down with Nettle and Elderflower cordial, but the conversation turned to matters ecological. After what some would describe as a brainstorming session, fuelled I may add by a cheeky glass or two of our weapons grade Rhubarb wine, we concluded that the planet was perfectly capable of self-regulation as long as humans kept out of the way. Anyone who has had an extended stay away from their house will attest to the remarkable power of nature to reassert itself. If only our, expensively purchased and lovingly tended, bedding plants would burst forth with the same vigour as the migrant weeds that arrive as soon as our back is turned. Having moved on to the Prune Gin, I have a hazy recollection that we gave birth to a new populist movement called the Campaign for the Removal of All People. I am sure that there is a catchy acronym for this but at the moment it does not spring readily to mind.

The aim of the group is quite simple. For our planet to survive we need to leave and let the ants or whatever have a go at sorting it out. Since Mr Branson does not seem to have got mass galactic transport sorted out yet (or the railways for that matter) then the responsibility lies with us. The great thing about our movement is that everyone is already on board with it. Unless you are living in a cave, eating grass and using a single wooden wheel as your mode of transport, then just about everything else you do is slowly making the planet uninhabitable for us. Ergo, you are supporting the idea that our elimination as a species is a good idea. The other great thing about our group is that as a member you pay no subscriptions and you have to do absolutely nothing. Just carry on taking Tarquin the hundred meters to school in your all-wheel drive monster truck. Why take a walk to the local pub when for just £2.50, or £4,000 if you want to take any more than a hanky as luggage, you could fly to Gdansk and find out if a Polish hangover is any less painful than its locally sourced counterpart? Just make sure that every piece of supermarket fruit or veg that you buy is still wrapped in so much plastic that by the time you have managed to gain access to it, atrophy has set in with a vengeance. Within a very short while we can rid the planet of ourselves and the next President of the USA will probably be a Yak. Something to look forward to then.

F.O.T.H.



Dadlington Matters

A Welcome to New Dadlington Residents

A number of Dadlington residents who had moved into the village in the last five years took up the invitation from the Village Hall Committee to join them for wine, cheese and nibbles on a Friday evening last month. About 30 people enjoyed an evening of getting to know other villagers and hearing about the kind of things that happen in the village. This turned out to be quite a lot with the various classes at the village hall, events such as the twice yearly quiz, the church, the pub, Screen on the Green and the U3A wine appreciation group. John and Jill Whitehead organised the event and Eddie Smallwood brought along a number of historical items related to the village which he put on show.



Dadlington Village Hall's Famous

QUIZ EVENING

Saturday 13th April

Bar opens 7:00pm

Food Served 7:30pm

Teams of up to 8 people

Tickets cost £9

(includes a hot meal)

For tickets, contact Sally-ann Faulks at:
dvhmc2015@gmail.com

Following the article in last month's Stoker we are delighted that new members have joined Thai Chi in the Methodist Hall.



On behalf of my fellow acolytes and myself thanks a lot for featuring the article, we really appreciate it. Our idea was to make the village aware of our activity to gain some new members: since Christmas we have attracted seven new acolytes. Must be something in the ether methinks. Nevertheless, we will welcome any further additions at The House of Sprinkling Water. I will let you know about our progress.

Thanks for your support.

John



Kitchen Corner

NORMANDY PEAR TART

INGREDIENTS

1 Baked Pastry Case
3ozs. (75gms.) softened Butter
3ozs. (75gms.) Caster Sugar
1 whole Egg
1 Egg yolk
3ozs. (75gms.) Ground Almonds
1-2tblsp. Sifted Flour
2 Large Pears
1pt. ((575ml.) Water
4ozs. (100gms.) Granulated Sugar

APRICOT GLAZE

2tblsp. Apricot Jam

METHOD

Pre-heat the oven to 180C/350F or Gas Mark 4

Pour the water & granulated sugar into a medium saucepan, heat gently until all the sugar has dissolved. Peel the pears, but leave whole. Place the pears in the poaching liquid, cover

the pan and poach gently for 20 minutes or until the pears are tender. Carefully lift them out of the liquid and leave to cool.

Meantime make the filling. Cream the butter and caster sugar until light and fluffy, beat the egg and egg yolk together and slowly add to the creamed mixture. Add the almonds and enough flour to make a 'dropping consistency'. Put the mixture into the flan case.

Remove the ends of the pears and cut in half lengthwise, Scoop out the centre core with a teaspoon and slice the pears thinly. Decorate the top of the tart with the sliced pears and bake in the oven for 30 minutes. Melt the apricot jam with a little water and lemon juice, pour through a strainer and glaze the top of the tart.

Hilarious Hula Hooping.

John Parnell came along to Stoke Golding W.I bringing with him a multitude of sizes and colours of hoops with, so he said, the idea to educate and inspire us on the history of Hula Hoops. Then we were informed that we were to be encouraged to learn the correct way to use these hoops and afterwards to have a go ourselves and so with some trepidation we settle to listen to his very informative talk.

Hoops have been used for centuries for play and exercise, first using branches of trees, reeds etc. and eventually plastic, but it wasn't until British sailors saw the Hula dancing in the Pacific that they became known as Hula Hoops.

John trained as a teacher in all things Circus after purchasing his first set of Indian Clubs while on honeymoon and has since travelled all over the country to teach this craft. Now he also visits hundreds of schools teaching, along with the circus crafts the correct way to use the Hoops in order for pupils to learn colours, numbers and using music to bring back the fun to learning along with the obvious benefit to health. When he informed us that 70 calories could be lost in 10 minutes of Hula Hooping the ears of our members definitely pricked up.

Then explaining the reasoning behind the size of the hoops (the bigger the better apparently) he gave us a demonstration of the display that he had used when entering a television talent show. We could see why he had done very well in this show as his performance was excellent. Much laughter and enjoyment was then had, as it became the turn of the members to have a go and some very brave ladies quickly got up and tried their luck. On listening to John and his instructions they very soon got the idea although the command to 'Push, Push, Push' did make us think we were watching an episode of 'Call the Midwife.' We all thoroughly enjoyed the evening with some of the ladies being determined to carry on the practice, so we are expecting to see some very fit members of the Stoke Golding W.I.

Our next meeting is on March 13th at the Methodist Hall and will be regarding the Cameroon Mercy Ship Adventure which certainly sounds very interesting. Do come along and join us, you will be very welcome.

Val Hartwell

Foul Deeds

Messrs.' James and Joseph found themselves up before the magistrates at Leicester Assizes in January 1838. Their sentence, ten years transportation; their crime, stealing three hens – 'fowl' deeds, indeed! The aforementioned chickens belonged to farmer John Geary of Poplars Farm in Dadlington, and he and his son were called to Cheney to identify them. The chair of the magistrates explained the reasoning behind the sentence after previous convictions had been made known to the court. He remarked that, "The frequency of fowl stealing in the neighbourhood amply justified him in passing so severe a sentence, not so much to a view to their correction as to warn others from following their example.

Transportation was introduced as an alternative to the death penalty. Known as the Bloody Code, the number of crimes for which hanging was the only possible sentence had risen from 50 in 1688 to 225 in 1815. Whilst one may agree or disagree that capital punishment for murder is justifiable, being hanged for 'having a blackened face at night,' or 'cutting down trees' is somewhat less easy to argue. Juries became reluctant to convict if it was a capital offence, and courts started devaluing the price of stolen goods so that they fell below the amount that incurred the ultimate punishment. This created a situation where many criminals were escaping scot-free. The expansion of our overseas colonies suddenly presented the lawmakers with an alternative. Shipping convicts overseas achieved three things: it acted as a deterrent; it was a lot cheaper than locking them up; you got rid of them to some faraway place where they were no longer your problem.

Before 1776, all the convicts sentenced to transportation were sent to North America or the West Indies. After this time, they were shipped off to Australia and Van Diemen's Land, modern day Tasmania. Over 160,000 men, women and children from a range of backgrounds were sent to the antipodes between 1788 and 1868. The first stage of their journey would be to a goal or a prison hulk where they could spend up to two years before embarkation on the convict ships. Conditions were poor meaning that many of the prisoners were already weak and ill before the start of their sea voyage. They were washed and given new clothes for the start of the trip, divided into messes, given bedding and assigned to tasks on board ship. The voyage could take between four and five months. On the first voyages, hygiene was poor and many prisoners died. As a result, changes were made to the design and conditions improved. Also, a naval doctor was added to the ship's crew. On arrival in Australia or Tasmania, the convicts went through a number of stages that began with working in penal stations. As their behaviour improved, the restrictions on their liberty were relaxed. They were given food rations and clothing and sometimes employers would reward them with extra provisions, free time or money.

Michael Dix

This poem, written by Ena Heel, who was from a well known Stoke Golding family, was first printed in the Stoker in March 2004 when Michael Roberts made a few changes to make it clearer for our readers and some explanations when necessary. Following a request to reprint it we have decided to illustrate where we can with photographs from the Webster collection.

Stoke Golding

Now Stoke is a place where five roads meet
And join at the Bull Ring nice and neat
But if you think of settling there
Choose your district with great care
For High Street, natives may recall
Is quite the lowest street of all
Commencing at the 'Horseshoes Three'
Proprietor Alfred Mee.



Then the cottages called 'New Row'
Built a hundred years ago.
Past the jetty on the right
No church spire, what a sight
Past the school cum Workmen's
Hall
Across the road the churchyard wall
Graves and tombs come into view
All very neat and tidy too.

'New Row' was demolished and new houses now stand in it's place. Some people referred to New Row as the Framework Knitter's cottages. I must make it clear that at one time the High Street did not begin until after you turned the bend after the jitty. Up to there it was still Main Street.

Harry's Hut and Charlie's Shop
And a factory making heels non-stop
New council houses now appear
Condemned abodes once stood here
Past the Swan and Mulberry Farm
The Bakehouse with its yeast and balm
On to the Barracks around the bend
With the Zion Chapel at the end.



Harry's Hut was next to St Margaret's School car park. The villagers had purchased it as a social meeting place for servicemen who had returned from the First World War. Harry 'Skip' Stoneley ran the facility and looked after it. Charlie's shop was owned by Charles Clifford, it stood where the vicarage stands today. Almost at the furthest end of High Street were a number of old cottages called the Barracks.

Carpet Lane on Hinckley Way
 It's a very depressing road today.
 The policeman lives in number three
 To remind us of the power that be.
 At the end of the jetty near the top
 Is Chaplin's undertaker's shop.
 And a wee bit further up the road
 Is the cemetery, our last abode.



Many of the villagers of today will envy Stoke Golding of old having a village policeman. He patrolled the village on a bicycle. Chaplin's Yard was on the same side as the cemetery.



Further on the roads more gay
 With the rec. at the end of Thornfield Way
 Here football, cricket and hockey games
 Keep the youngsters from the lanes
 The Liberal Club you cannot dodge
 As you wend your way towards the Lodge
 Captain Robertson's noble dive
 At the end of a tree-lined, twisted drive.

The Liberal Club is now called Stoke Golding Club. 'Captain Robertson's noble dive' was originally Stoke Lodge built for Robert Baxter, who provided the Workmen's Hall (the Baxter Hall).

Main Street you must wander down
 It's the shopping centre of the town
 Family allowances, pensions, stamps
 Fish and chips and cycle lamps
 Telephone, taxi, wheelwright's shop
 Doctor's surgery, milk or pop
 Noticeboard 'come to the Hall'
 Mazawattee on the wall.



'Mazawattee on the wall'. There used to be a large poster of this brand of tea painted on the side of the building that was Mr Faux's and later Mr Robert's house/shop. The wall faced the side of the Methodist Chapel.

To be continued next month.

Stoke Golding website: www.stokegolding.co.uk

What's On

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 7th March
10.15 am - 12.15pm
All Welcome



StokeArts at the Village Hall

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

Rag Mamma Rag



Tickets £10 (£8 child)
<https://stokearts.yapsody.com/>
or tel: 01455 213798
email: stokearts@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bring your own drinks and nibbles.

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

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

email: stokearts@g.mail.com





Our Neighbourhood Plan Committee is still working very hard to write a policy that will give us, as a community, direct power to develop a shared vision of our neighbourhood 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 come along.

Next few meeting dates : 4th March, 18th March, 1st April, 15th April, 29th April, 13th May.

Sarah Beale

HINCKLEY OPERA FESTIVAL 2019

30th March – 13th April



MASTERCLASSES · RECITALS · OPERA TRAIL
CELEBRITY AND PARTICIPATION EVENTS
PLUS A BRAND NEW PRODUCTION OF
THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO
MOZART'S GREATEST COMEDY

Hinckley Hosts its very own OPERA FESTIVAL

You won't have to travel to London this year to hear professional opera singers because, thanks to Arts Council funding, they are performing in Hinckley!

Stanley Opera, based at the Concordia Theatre, is delighted to be organising a packed fortnight of music including lunchtime concerts at St Mary's Church, a 'Come and Sing' session and four performances of *The Marriage of Figaro* at the theatre.

To find out more about this exciting fortnight make sure you get hold of a Festival Programme.

Website: hof2019.co.uk or
ring Jane White 01455 212416



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



hof2019.co.uk

Redmoor Academy

This month sees an update from Redmoor Academy about the exciting events and opportunities happening for our students and parents.

GCSE results

Staff and students at Redmoor Academy proudly celebrated excellent GCSE results in August 2018. After much hard work and dedication, students achieved fantastic outcomes, enabling them to access their chosen Post 16 destinations. Students achieved especially well in the top grades with an impressive haul of 56 Grade 9 and 6A* grades. We were immensely proud in January 2019, when our position as the most improved school in Leicestershire was confirmed but we know there is much more to come from our current students. A rigorous mock exam programme in December produced a very promising set of results and really tested our Year 11 students, who were rewarded after their final exam with hot chocolate and cookies served by myself and my leadership team!

Year 7 Parents Go Back to School!

January saw our first Parent Taster Evening, where year 7 parents experienced Maths, Science and English lessons and gained firsthand experience of what it was like to be back in the classroom. During the evening, we explained how teaching at Redmoor is based on the most up to date research of what excellent learning looks like for our students. We outlined our challenging curriculum and showed parents how to support their children at home with our new knowledge organisers. Feedback from our parents was very positive and as always we greatly appreciate their support:

“Great evening. Well done to all the teaching staff and those involved in the organising. It was a lot of fun” -Yr 7 parent

“It was lovely to be invited in to the school.

It felt relaxed, was informative and fun. It was good to meet some of the teachers and it was interesting to see how the children are taught and the level of expectation.” Yr 7 Parent

The Brilliant Club

Year 8 students have the exciting opportunity to apply to become part of Redmoor's first Brilliant Club. If successful, students will take part in the Brilliant Club Scholars' Programme, which is an opportunity for outstanding pupils to gain the knowledge, skills and ambition to help them secure places at top universities. Students taking part will work with a PhD tutor from a Russell group University, during six university-style tutorials studying a 'super-curricular' topic related to the PhD tutor's area of expertise. The Scholars' Programme is designed to give students a university experience and includes two trips to highly selective universities. Our first visit is to Cambridge University in March.

Industry Links

We are continuing to build close working relationships with a variety of local businesses as part of our commitment to providing our students with an outstanding holistic education that goes beyond their academic success. As well as ongoing work with, amongst others, Horiba Mira, Churchill Engineering and Hinckley & Bosworth Council, we are pleased to announce an exciting new partnership with Cadent Gas to develop careers and work experience programmes in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) areas.

If you are involved in a business in our community, no matter how big or small and would like to discuss working with Redmoor to benefit our students, please get in touch for more details.

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

Matt Nicolle
Principal



Church Matters



From St Margaret's Church

Pancake Day (Tuesday 5th March) is still a well-known event in the year, probably due to the supermarkets' publicity for all things connected with pancakes. The more traditional name given to it in the UK is Shrove Tuesday, but in some parts of the world it is known as 'Mardi Gras' or 'Fat Tuesday'. In the times of the early Church the season of Lent began after Shrove Tuesday, when the larder was emptied of fats and sugars and a feast was held before the starkness of a simple diet during Lent. Shrove comes from the word 'shrive', meaning 'confess' so people were encouraged to say sorry to God before the beginning of Lent itself, which begins the day after Shrove Tuesday, on Ash Wednesday. The 'Ash' in Ash Wednesday comes from the ash of the previous year's burnt palm crosses, put on people's forehead in the shape of a cross. Ash Wednesday reminds us that 'we are dust and to dust we will return' – a reminder of our mortality. In the Bible ashes are a sign of repentance and mourning and the sign of the cross reminds us of Jesus' death and resurrection.

We have services on Ash Wednesday, where you may receive the sign of the cross on your forehead, at St Peter's Witherley at 9.45am and St Margaret's Stoke Golding at 6.30pm. You will be most welcome.

Lent was always known as a time for fasting, because it is based on the period of 40 days spent by Jesus in the wilderness before the beginning of his public ministry in Galilee. Jesus fasted for 40 days, and so his followers were encouraged to do the same thing. The period between Ash Wednesday and Easter Day is actually 46 days, but every Sunday was regarded as a celebration of the resurrection of Christ, so fasting was forbidden on a Sunday!

Whether we give something up or take something on, Lent can be a benefit and blessing to us all; we can see it as a chance to grow spiritually, to find out something new and precious about God. Why not join a Lent group? There are three groups meeting once a week: On Mondays at 2.30pm in Witherley Parish Room; on Tuesdays at 8.30am in Higham-on-the-Hill Methodist Church; on Thursdays at 7.30pm in 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 all a joyful Lent.

Linda

Church Matters

Church of England March Services

St. Margaret's Church

3rd	10.30am	All-Age Service
10th	10.30am	Benefice Higham
17th	10.30am	Holy Communion
24th	10.30am	Morning Worship
31st	10.30am	Mothering Sunday Service

St. James's Church

3rd	9.00am	BCP Morning Prayer
10th	10.30am	Benefice Higham
17th	9.00am	BCP Holy Communion
24th	9.00am	BCP Morning Prayer
31st	9.00am	BCP Morning Prayer All-Age

The Methodist Church March

3rd	10.30am	Rev Dr Tim Woolley
10th	10.30am	Rev Wes Hampton
17th	6pm	Mr Malcolm Lapper (Anniversary service)
24th	10.30am	Mr John Cooke
31st	10.30am	Mr Charles Davies

Zion Baptist Chapel March Services

3rd	6.30pm	Bill McIntyre
10th	6.30pm	John Needham
17th	6.30pm	Mark Menzfeld
24th	6.30pm	Richard Cotton
31st	6.30pm	Bill McIntyre

COFFEE MORNING at the Methodist Church

SATURDAY 16th March
10.00-11.30



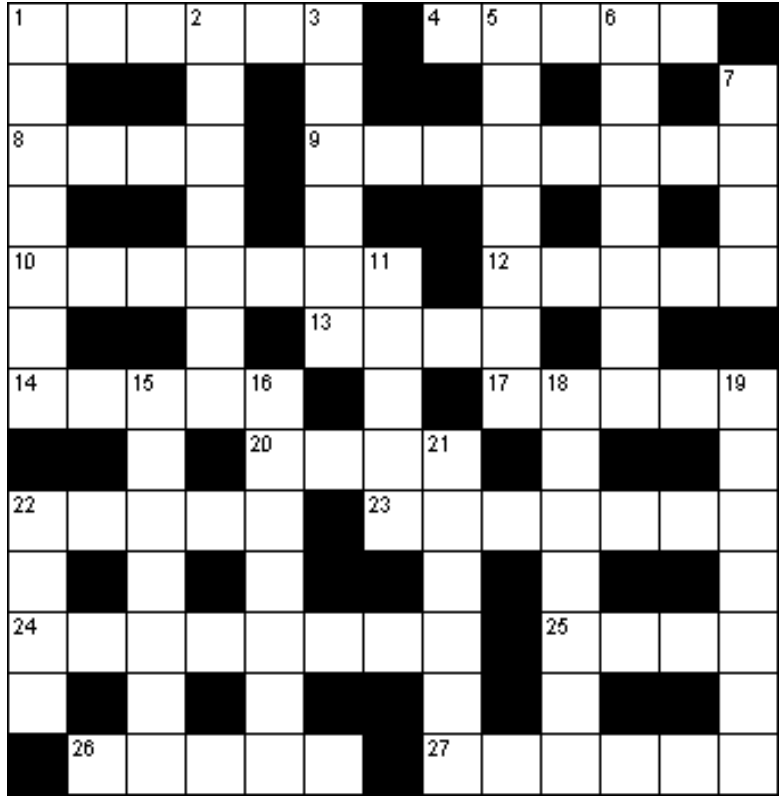
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER (sent from Slovenia)

Friday, 1st March 2019

St. Margaret's Church,
Stoke Golding

This month's crossword contains clues about an event you may be fed up of hearing about.

Crossword



ACROSS

- 1.Capital city of Croatia (6)
- 4.Frequently (5)
- 8.Information about recent events(4)
- 9.UK may leave this Union on 29th March (8)
- 10.Show (7)
- 12. Wield(5)
- 13.Journey(4)
- 14.Ponder (5)
- 17. Located (5)
- 20. Every (4))
- 22. Come together (5)
- 23. Break up for the Easter one (7)
- 24. Meant (8)
- 25. Ancient Incan sun god (4)
- 26. Relating to Scotland (5)
- 27. Leaving Europe may be this (6)

DOWN

- 1.Maddest (7)
- 2.Eastern European (7)
- 3.Impending withdrawal of the UK from the EU (6)
- 5.These brighten up our spring gardens (7)
- 6. A substance that cannot be broken down into any other substance (7)
- 7. Tie together (4)
- 11. Set on fire (5)
- 15. Mad (7)
- 16. A device for holding fish (7)
- 18. Heavy brittle metallic element (7)
- 19. After sunrise and before sunset (7)
- 21. Sausage in a bun (6)
- 22. Kitchen cupboard (4)



Obituaries



Geoffrey Allmond of Stoke Golding passed peacefully away on Sunday 13th January, 2019 aged 89 years. Beloved husband of the late Margaret, loving father of Stuart and Richard. The funeral service took place on 11th February at the Heart of England Crematorium, Nuneaton. Donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Research Trust via A.J. Murray, Cooperative Funeral Care, Lower Bond Street, Hinckley.

Patricia Rollins of Stoke Golding passed away peacefully at home on 22nd January 2019 aged 77 years. Beloved wife to Victor and a loving mum to Adam, Guy, Louise and Luke and mother in law to Denise, Sarah, Eric and Judith and a loving nan to Kate, Matthew, Josh, Joe, Sam, Becca and Joel. The funeral service took place at the Stoke Golding Methodist Church on 11th February followed by committal at the Heart of England Crematorium, Nuneaton. Donations may be made via G. Seller, Funeral Directors, Upper Bond Street, Hinckley, in aid of Fathers Heart Ranch, Save the Children and the Salvation Army.

We offer our condolences to the families and friends of Geoffrey and Patricia.

Stoke Golding Litter Pick

Stephen, organiser of the Stoke Golding litter pick, was delighted with the number of people who gave up an hour to help keep our village tidy on Saturday February 2nd. There were 24 volunteers.

'It shows how much pride people have in this lovely village that they turn up in such numbers,' Stephen said, 'thank you to all who attended and for Alex (at the George and Dragon) for giving us a lovely spread afterwards'

All are welcome to join the next litter pick, which will take place on Saturday 2nd March 2019 12-1pm, meeting at the George.

Answers to Ten of a Kind

1. Preston
2. Motorway service stations (on the M4, M25 and M6 respectively)
3. Kraftwerk
4. Through the Dartford Tunnel
5. Green
6. Italy
7. I-Spy
8. Genoa
9. Spaghetti Junction
10. 7 – there is no M7

And here's a nice bit of trivia: the shortest motorway is the 400-yard M96 in Gloucestershire. It is at the Fire Brigade Training College and used to recreate emergencies on motorways.

David Abbott has submitted this article because some years ago he used to teach Religious studies with Clive Wright, now head teacher at St. Martins, and tells us he has complete confidence that Clive will be ensuring that the subject is taught with progressive teaching methods allowing for much creativity and imagination: a far distant cry, David believes, from what some of us would have encountered when we were taught.

Some reflections on the phenomenon of religious experience

Saints belong both to the realm of the learned and virtually illiterate since the religious state owes much to a life of grace fostered through prayer, the sacraments and a life of charity. The religious life must of necessity be based on an assimilation of the lived experience, interpreted either in a simplistic or profound form according to one's disposition: the former perhaps best exemplified in the life of Saint Bernadette and the latter, Saint Thomas Aquinas and other great religious thinkers.

Fundamentally a person comes into the world and matures, not only physically, but also in terms of developing all the senses, as well as aspects of mind and soul. An educationalist would point to the process of self-realization which would seem to put an emphasis on both academic and emotional development intricately tied up with the aesthetic and spiritual: it continues throughout life. Indeed much can be learnt from Plato's republic in this respect.

It is in the family that a person primarily, though not exclusively, experiences what it is to be on the receiving end of unconditional love. And where this is received in rightful manner, it's essentially a Eucharistic experience for love received which

extends to an appreciation and sensitivity to the wonders of creation as articulated in the mass.

Sadly for many today there is the negative experience of a dysfunctional family where the true meaning of love is absent. Also lives lived by so many which take the basic gifts of creation, like for instance one's food, clothing and shelter, for granted. And at an even deeper level, reveal a total lack of sensitivity to the wonders of creation, thus depriving one of a religious development, borne of a sense of wonder and awe.

A person may of course lead a religious life as though almost a matter of routine since it has been grounded in a loving family coupled with an education which has followed the path of self-realization. This is not to say however that one deprived of such cannot ultimately arrive at some sort of conversion experience. For a person going through life experiencing the negatives and all the hardships this brings in terms of a lack of fulfilment can come to the realization that there must be an alternative which can materialize into a grace aided endeavour culminating in faith. Indeed such vacuous feelings can lead to a search for an ultimate purpose in life; ideas seldom contemplated by secular man going through an easy matter of fact unquestioning existence.

(to be continued next month)



News from Leicester Animal Aid

For many years, Leicester Animal Aid, a dog and cat rescue and rehoming charity, has been generously supported by the community of Stoke Golding. From being one of the charities to benefit from the money raised at Stokefest to donations in return for eggs from the George and Dragon chickens!

Every year we care for more than 400 cats and dogs at our Centre who are lost, abandoned, unwanted or because their owners can no longer look after them. We give them the love, care and kindness they deserve until a new forever home is found. You are very welcome to visit us and look around and don't forget to pop into our charity shop where you can pick up amazing bargains.

We strongly believe in the power of human and animal friendships and as well as rescuing and rehoming dogs and cats, we run an innovative scheme which is helping to keep best friends together.

The Community Pet Support Scheme (CPSS) helps those who are vulnerable to care for their pets in their own home. The Scheme is free to use and helps those who are elderly, physically disabled or vulnerable.

The Scheme will be celebrating its third birthday this year and is currently supporting more than 32 clients. Our animal care assistants go out into the community to help clients with pet exercise, vet visits and grooming. On average 315 hours of support is provided each month. We make sure the animals are healthy and getting the exercise and care they need.

Twice a year we invite those supported by the Scheme to visit the Centre to get together with others receiving support, to meet our team of animal care assistants, have a tour of the Centre and enjoy refreshments.

The Scheme has prevented the separation of best friends, improved both human and animal wellbeing and has meant that loved companion animals have not needed to go into rescue centres.

If you, or someone you know in the village or in the Hinckley and Bosworth District, may benefit from the Scheme please contact our CPSS Coordinator at cpss@leicesteranimalaid.org.uk



Thank you to everyone who supports us, it does make a real difference to the cats and dogs in our care. We look forward to seeing you all in August at Stokefest where we'll be running the fun dog show.

Leicester Animal Aid, Forest Road, Huncote, Leics, LE9 3LE,
01455 888257

www.leicesteranimalaid.org.uk

Charity number:242560

Sox came to the White family household from Leicester Animal Aid 12 years ago - you may have seen him in the Station Road area.

Stoke Golding Parish Council

Note: The Stoker has picked out items of interest from the draft minutes of the meeting of Stoke Golding Parish Council held in the Methodist Church Hall on Wednesday 6th February 2019, full minutes may be viewed on the noticeboard at Sehmbi Stores and at <http://www.stokegolding.co.uk/local-government/>

Attendance: Cllr R Terheege (in the chair), S Beale, C Pegg, R Fisher, Cllr Goodsell, R Mitchell, N Smith, Parish Clerk Theresa Case, County Cllr Ivan Ould, Borough Cllr Reg Ward, Chair of NPAC, residents.

A report by County Cllr Ivan Ould included police and crime figures, improvement of the footpath between Stoke Golding and Hinckley and crime and anti-social behaviour on Convent Drive.

A report by Borough Cllr Reg Ward included HBBC's 5-year housing supply which is on target and parking/traffic congestion on Convent Drive.

Public participation – No member of the public attended the meeting to discuss any items on the agenda.

Planning Application Matters:

New Applications: – no concerns raised:

63 Hinckley Road, SG – two storey side extension and single storey front extension.

8,9,14,51 and 53 Convent Drive, SG – deed of variation to amend section 106 agreement to application 10/00358/OUT to provide the provision of right to buy for 8,9,14,51 and 53 Convent Drive.

Amended:

63 Hinckley Road, SG – two storey side extension and single storey front extension.

Permissions approved:

Laburnum Cottage, High Street, SG – variation of conditions 2,7,8,10,11 and 12 of planning permission 17/00484/FUL to enable the development to be carried out in accordance with amendments to site layout, access/hammerhead design, landscaping, boundary treatments, ground and finished floor levels and house types.

Willow Barn, Wykin Lane, SG – single storey front extension to serve integral garage.

Withdrawn:

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

Updates:

Post Office – no suitable solution for restoring a post office service has been identified and the branch will remain closed.

The Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee (NPAC) The following members resigned: Kate McCreight and Will Alston from the NPAC, Alan White from the sub-committee and Jim Hope as Chair of the NPAC. It was agreed to terminate the existing consultant contract and to appoint Planit-X, at a cost of £15,312, to be funded by the Locality Grant. The Clerk to write to both consultants and to sign the new contract.

Update on Sport in Stoke Golding (SISG)

SISG will meet shortly to discuss the initial plans and funding.

Re-location of noticeboard

The public noticeboard will be renovated and relocated by Tammy's Hairdressers in Church Walks.

1485 Trail - a discussion was held regarding the 1485 trail and proposed art installations although the final details have not yet been agreed.

Pump track (a circular dirt track for mountain biking)

A temporary installation of a pump track is being investigated once a suitable location has been agreed as well as the cost including insurance.

Environmental Improvement Programme

Future projects for consideration include the churchyard wall renovation, heritage street name signs for the new roads, grave repairs and pathways at Wykin Lane Cemetery.

Next meeting: - Methodist Hall, Wednesday 6th March 2019 at 7pm

We would be interested in your feedback about the PC minutes. Do you prefer the full notes or for us to pick out a few items of interest? eds



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Tues 12 midday SANCOTE Pavilion
Tues 6.30 pm The Stute, EARL SHILTON
Wed 6.15 pm DADLINGTON Village Hall
Thurs 10.00 am SHARNFORD Community Centre
Thurs 12.15 pm The Parish Rooms, MARKET BOSWORTH
Fri 10.00 am SANCOTE Pavilion

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CROSSWORD ANSWERS (from page 24)

ACROSS 1 Zagreb; 4 Often; 8 News; 9 European; 10 Exhibit; 12 Exert; 13 Tour;
14 Think; 17 Sited; 20 Each; 22 Unite; 23 Holiday; 24 Intended; 25 inti; 26 Scots;
27 Gamble.

DOWN 1 Zaniest; 2 Russian; 3 Brexit; 5 Flowers; 6 Element; 7 Knot; 11 Torch;
15 Idiomatic; 16 Keenpet; 18 Iridium; 19 Daytime; 21 Hotdog; 22 Unit.

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