

April '18

No. 170

The Stoker



Stoke Golding Village Magazine

Including

Dadlington Matters

50p



Note from the Editors

Most of us really appreciate and take pride in where we live and it was particularly heartening to read about the recent Dadlington litter pick with volunteers there making sure their village is enjoyed by all.

As well as walkers, with or without their canine companions, we seem to have particularly enthusiastic cyclists in Dadlington and Stoke Golding. Various groups of friends meet regularly to venture out in all weathers on their

bikes. Even your Stoker editors have caught the bug, as shown in this photo of us taking part in the recent 'Lanequest' at Dadlington Village Hall. Former Stoker editor, Ruth Fisher, joined in the fun too (page 6). Cycling is a great way to keep fit, enjoy our beautiful countryside and socialise at the same time. One group of cyclists, who apparently usually go out in the cover of darkness, seem very focussed on finding 'Rest Stops' (page 16).

There will be plenty to do other than walking and cycling during April including coffee mornings, a fashion show, a film night, a spring fair and a story cabaret - most of these events will involve eating homemade cakes which all sounds good to us!

We look forward to receiving your letters, news and photos for the next edition of the Stoker and wish all our readers a very Happy Easter.

Jane & Steve

The Stoker Team

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Please send articles for the May issue of The Stoker **by 15th April** to:

**The Editors, 45 Station Road, Stoke Golding/email
thestoker@gmx.co.uk**

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

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

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

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

Cover picture: Caroline Fielden with her 'merry' band of helpers at the Pancake Supper. See page 10 for more details.

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Spinney Bank Farm Photos

Photos following Beth's article in last month's Stoker



Elaine and Kevin



*Spinney Bank Camp Site
and Farm Shop*



Spectacles Found



A pair of spectacles has been found on Hinckley Road on Thursday March 8th. Please call at 19 Hinckley Road if they belong to you.

Let's Walk the Length of England 2: The Heart of England

After walking the Cotswold Way with my wife Sue and our friends Helen and Andrew, my suggestion to keep on walking until we'd traversed England south to north didn't meet the outright hostility that I'd expected. After consulting various websites, it seemed that the Heart of England Way would dovetail into our plan, as it linked with the Cotswold Way at Chipping Campden before meandering through the Midlands and finishing just north of Cannock Chase.

We completed the hundred mile route in eleven walks, strung out across 2008.

Much of the walk was through fairly flat countryside; fields, by-roads, farms, that kind of thing – all very pleasant but nothing spectacular after the stunning views of the Cotswold Way. After a couple of walks we found ourselves at the River Avon on its journey from Naseby to Tewkesbury. We crossed it using the Grade 1 listed Bidford Bridge, a fine example of an ancient packhorse bridge which has been in use for about 700 years. Alcester, on the other side of the river, is a fine town with an even finer local hostelry where we undid all our healthy walking by piling on the calories in an extended Sunday lunch. Now in Alcester there lives a man called Mervyn. He drives a taxi and he kindly took us the most circuitous route imaginable after our next walk. And, as it was a Sunday, there was a special supplement. After cleaning us out, he drove off with a big smile on his face, no doubt looking for his next victims. The Heart of England Way next took us through Henley-in-Arden to a place called Lowsonford which sounded very Lord of the Rings. We had a different taxi experience here, with us having to guide the driver both into the village by phone and then out again as he appeared to have no knowledge of the area or indeed how to use a map.



The weather was kind to us for all the walks except one, from Meriden to Hurley. Perhaps it was the constant rain that blurred our vision, but this was also the only walk where we went horribly wrong – twice! From there it was an enjoyable stroll through Kingsbury Water Park to Drayton. We crossed the Birmingham and Fazeley Canal on a most unusual footbridge, built to resemble a castle, with crenelated towers. Once we had traversed both the busy road that once was the A5 and the even busier dual carriageway that carries

the current A5, we climbed up onto moorland that stretched to the outskirts of Lichfield. Only two walks remained, taking us first into Cannock Chase and then out to the northern perimeter. The journey into the Chase was magical. Early winter snow had clad the landscape in white and Sue, after a magnificent display of Olympic falling all your length, got a close up view. A short trek to Milford with its expansive common, brought the Heart of England Way to its northern ending, although we then returned to Chipping Campden to complete the southern part of trail that begins in Bourton on the Water. Walking across the West Midlands is not a phrase that conjures up idyllic landscapes, but the walks had been interesting and enjoyable. And now we were keen to embark on our next adventure: the journey south.

Michael Dix



Dear Sirs.

Having moved into Stoke Golding 3 years ago, we have been most impressed with the content, features and regularity of your publication. We specially applaud the articles in recent additions where you have published letters from residents who raise serious concerns about issues affecting them in the village. We have also experienced several problems where help and support from the local authorities has not been as supportive or proactive as, we consider, local residents should expect.

Have you ever had, or would it be possible to have, a "Residents Forum" as a regular feature in your magazine?. It would be a "prescribed" place where residents from our community could raise or make comment on issues/ concerns/ SG PC minutes etc .. that impact them. It would be an opportunity for all residents to air their views in support of what is a great village. Hope this is worth consideration.

Thanks again for "The Stoker", Tony Hayward.

Tony, We are always interested to hear from residents and do publish letters submitted by our readers. A Residents Forum is definitely worth consideration, as long as it doesn't just become a 'moaning' page. What do others feel? Replies to thestoker@gmx.co.uk



Stoke Golding WI

WILLOW WEAVING FOR THE BEGINNER.

If anyone is looking for an interesting speaker plus a hands-on activity then look no further than Peter Wood, a willow weaver from 'Greenwood Days'. Or so say the ladies of Stoke Golding W.I who welcomed Peter to their March meeting. Peter began by explaining that the willows that he uses mainly come from Somerset where they are grown as a renewable source and harvested yearly in the autumn. After Peter receives the bundles of willows he is able to use them immediately for just three weeks and then they have to be soaked in water for 4 days and stored. Thereafter he can use them, after soaking again, for many weeks. He went on to say that he works with school children as young as 5 and upwards showing them the skills of weaving and then they are encouraged to have a go themselves. So, he felt sure that we members would be able to construct a fish from the willows just as the children did. In most cases he was proved right but in other cases there were some of us who obviously need to go back to school. Nevertheless, there was much laughter and hilarity as we wove the thinner willows around the thicker ones with varying degrees of success to make some very fat fish and some very thin fish and some that took on a life of their own. Peter was a very personable young man and joined in the fun and laughter and helped to make the evening a great success. Our next meeting on the 11th April at the Methodist hall is by Colin Bower who is going to tell us of his 'Farcical career as a Passenger Liaison officer on the British India ship "Nevasa" so it looks as though we will have some more laughs and smiles. Do come along and join us as everyone is welcome.

Val Hartwell

How We Won and Lost



We can officially say we won our category at the recent Lanequest starting from Dadlington Village Hall on 27th February, but that was entirely due to the fact we were the only ones in our category! We entered as a pair in the W60 category (ladies with a combined age of over 120)

You may be wondering what a Lanequest is and now we've taken part in one we can explain. We arrived at the hall, along with the other participants, on a beautiful sunny winter's morning and had a look at a map on one of the tables inside showing the area where we would be cycling. That seemed ok as we have cycled to Market Bosworth and back nearly every week for the past twenty years (this has always included a coffee stop halfway mind you). We were told when we were ready to start that we would be given the official map and list of places where we would find up to 30 check points, all worth between 10 and

30 points each.

At eleven minutes past nine precisely (we had no idea it would be this precise) we were given a score card and we set off on our trusty steeds. Ruth had the map and I had the list but we soon realised we needed some sort of plan of action so we had a sit on the bench in Shenton and, for reasons we cannot now understand, decided we would cycle all the way to Newton Regis and collect a massive 30 points there and of course we would collect some points on the way too. How hard could that be?

We were excited to find our first check point on a "fence post spinney edge 120m from the stream crossing" as described on the list. We stamped our card with the clicker we found there and had our first 20 points.

We were making good progress, gaining more points, until we took a wrong turn just before Austrey and ended up in Warton. We hadn't intended to go there but happily there was a checkpoint and some more points to add to our score. We eventually arrived in Newton Regis and collected our thirty points there (the check point was craftily placed at the other side of the village – thank you organisers). It was way past our normal coffee stop time so we found a handy fence post which served as a table and stopped for a flask of coffee and some chocolate biscuits (well elite athletes need to keep up their strength you know).

It was at this point we suddenly realised it was past 11am, we were a long way from Dadlington and needed to get back for eleven minutes past 12. We dashed off on our bikes determined to have a go at getting back on time because we had heard a rumour that points were taken away from those who were late. We hadn't gone far when we saw two familiar figures walking towards us. They had recently moved to Austrey from Dadlington so it would have been rude not to stop and have a chat. We realised we would have to cycle even faster now, but then the hill up to Orton appeared and we must admit to walking up the last bit before racing to the finish (if you believe that you will believe anything!)

Oh well 19 minutes late - not so bad we thought. How wrong could we be. 80 points were deducted from 160 we managed to collect and meant we came last out of the

fifty or so participants. Why didn't we read the 'lateness penalties per minute' written clearly at the bottom of the check point list?

It was a lovely welcome back at the hall though, with tasty refreshments including delicious homemade cakes waiting for us thanks to Gill, Jane, Doreen and Hilary. We were so pleased to have completed the quest, having cycled nearly three times as far as we usually do. We're looking forward to improving our scores next year so are there any other ladies of a certain age who fancy giving this a go who would like to challenge us for first place in our category?

A very big thank you to Geoff and Bernie who organised the whole event – it was brilliant .

Jane White and Ruth Fisher

Stoke Golding Scout Group News

Following on from last month, the Scout Group want to reassure readers that the Beavers and Cubs had a great time at the Sea Life Centre. They weren't consumed by the sharks but were over excited and the leaders are now sleep deprived, so a full report will be in next month's Stoker.



Back to the present then. The Cubs had an evening of Mother's Day activities: decorating cakes, making origami boxes- decorating them and filling them with tea bags and tea cakes, pop up cards and paper flowers. Thanks to the team for organising all these activities. They also had a run around on a particularly damp night at Fox Coverts playing games including, rather topically, finding a bomb (not a real one!).

The Beavers have been doing their outdoor challenge badge which has involved learning to tie 3 knots, first aid and how to summon help and finding out about nature. You would be amazed what natural activity goes on at the



Rec at 6.30 pm on a Tuesday night.

The Scouts have been doing their navigation badge, taking

part in the District Quiz and surprisingly 10 scouts turned up on the evening of the dreadful snow for a games night comprising Easter activities, including the legendary egg challenge with a more environmental theme. Watch this space!!!



Jenifer Michie

Fool on the Hill

Ahoy, me weekenders...

A little while ago, I was studying reports on the television showing freezing temperatures and record snowfalls to most parts of the UK. This was of particular interest as, at the time, I was ensconced in a waterfront café with a very agreeable cup of coffee and seeking some shelter from the blazing sunshine outside. There are some benefits to having family that have chosen to live on the other side of the world. The waterfront in question was a marina jam packed full of glistening boats, gently bobbing around with the rhythm of the ocean. It is a scene replicated in countries the world over. In our little neck of the woods the scene is somewhat different as the boats are longer and thinner, more brightly coloured and the only motion is that caused by someone opening or closing a distant lock gate. Very distant in the case of the Ashby canal.

On pondering the scene before my eyes, for there was little else to do, a thought struck me. Of all the Marinae, which I believe is the plural, that I have had the pleasure of observing, none have ever appeared to be anything other than fully occupied. Even on a glorious Bank Holiday when the wind is light and the tide is right, the number of berths occupied far outweighs those vacant. I conclude, therefore, that most of the craft are purchased for some purpose other than maritime transport. Perchance an ostentatious expression of wealth or the laundering of some ill-gotten gain of which Her Majesty's Collector of Taxes has scant knowledge. Certainly not a shrewd investment as the depreciation curve of most boats is similar to that described by a cannonball falling down a well. In addition the mooring fees are ruinous and watercraft require as much pampering and attention as a new born babe with a not dissimilar level of expense.

One can only conclude that boats owners will swallow the bitter pill of expense for the questionable satisfaction of simply owning a boat. Courtesy of foolglobalsolutions.com, may I offer the proverbial spoonful of sugar to assist in the digestion of the pill? Instead of leaving your Egocraft Wave Buster gathering the maritime equivalent of dust, why not rent it out in the style of Air BNB? Boat owners will get to offset some of their expense whilst some souls less fortunate may then have the opportunity to experience what it is to own a boat without the full blown commitment. After all, this is little more than a floating caravan and there are no end of people who seem to relish the prospect of spending time in one of those. I would suggest that Marina owners allocate a special dock to which the rental boat could be taken. It is probable that some boat owners may not fully appreciate having Wayne and his chums from Digbeth moored alongside celebrating his release from a place of incarceration by overdosing on Lager

F.O.T.H.



BACKSTAGE WHISPERS. TUTOR TO THE ROMANOV FAMILY

(continued from March) After the intense rehearsal period, and the ordeal of facing the first night in Cambridge, we could all relax and start to enjoy the tour. Jonathan (Lynn) the overall CEO of the Cambridge Theatre Co. decided to postpone Press Night to the following night. He told me how anxious they'd all been on my behalf. *"I know now I should have trusted you Beth,"* he later admitted over a glass of 'bubbly' in the bar. The tour was scheduled for six weeks, mainly in the South and West and, as usual, the management started trying to sell the play, with the excellent press notices to West End managements. One of our most popular dates was in the University town of Oxford, where I was interviewed by the local BBC radio station. This was normal procedure in any of the larger towns where there was local radio, to help promote the show. Soon after, the company manager came to see me with a phone message from the Warden of 'St Nicholas House' in Oxford. Would I phone him as he would love me to visit the small Russian Orthodox Church, which had been founded by his father, originally tutor to the Tsarevich and the Tsar's daughters. Naturally, I was curious to hear anything about this fascinating piece of history, and rang the phone number at once. I found Nicholas House quite easily, and was treated to tea by George Gibbes, a cheery, cosy man in his sixties. In 1967 George felt called to preserve the building and continue the Orthodox services in memory of his father, who in his later years had entered the Russian Orthodox priesthood. As Father Nicholas he founded the small church for the community of Russian exiles living in and around Oxford in 1945 just after the last war. I was proudly shown all the



priceless pieces of memorabilia that the Royal Family had taken with them from the original St. Petersburg palaces into exile. There were life-sized portraits of the Tsar and Tsarina on the wall, and some exquisite icons that had belonged to the Empress herself, and given to George's father. One of the most beautiful pieces was an elaborate chandelier, composed of three red and white glass tulips, with a bunch of bronze flowers intertwined with a flourish of green and gold leaves. Half a century ago, it was hanging in Ekaterinburg in

the bedroom shared by the four Grand Duchesses, in that grim building where the final massacre took place. Now it linked an Oxford byway with the last days of the Imperial Family of Russia. A signed copy of the book called "Tutor to the Tsarevich" given to me by George, is one of my most treasured possessions. That afternoon at St Nicholas House is another special memory as George said how privileged he felt being able to offer the many exiles from the old Russian aristocracy a feeling of 'home' where they could exchange memories of their much loved Royal Family, and sometimes, even kneeling before their life-sized portraits.

Beth

Dadlington Matters

Litter Pick

After the success of the Litter Pick for the Queen two years ago, a group of hardy Dadlington residents turned out again at the end of February in freezing conditions to once again clean up the village and help make it a better place to live in.

28 bags of rubbish were collected from the roads and towpaths, returning them to their natural state. A number of people have commented to organiser Fiona Scott how much better the local environment looks following previous efforts on this perennial problem. The collectors were rewarded for their efforts with bacon butties and hot drinks and Mike and Jean were awarded the accolade of “Litter Pickers of the Year,” collecting not only the most rubbish but a bottle of wine as their reward.



Pancake Supper at Hall Farm

The St James' Church Pancake Supper has become a much-loved occasion in the village and this year's gathering was no exception. Caroline Fielden not only threw open the doors to Hall Farm to host the event but she was one of a merry band of pancake chefs who served up a veritable batter based feast. The supper was well attended and the delicious fare on offer, both savoury and sweet, was much appreciated by all. Altogether, the supper raised £550 for the church funds. The PCC would like to thank Caroline, her helpers and all those who came along for their support.

Quaker Connections?



If you drive through the nearby village of Fenny Drayton, you may well come across a monument to George Fox, the founder of the Religious Society of Friends or the Quakers as they are more commonly known. Born in 1624 in Drayton-in-the-Clay as Fenny was called then, George was fascinated by religion from an early age and, as a young man, he travelled around the country, discussing and debating his views with other men of religion and preaching. It was a time when many were rebelling against the strictures of the established church and George soon found he had followers who agreed with his ideas about what

being a Christian was about. Life wasn't easy and he and his supporters were often beaten and imprisoned. Sentencing him in Derby in 1650, a judge mocked George's exhortation to "tremble at the word of the Lord," by calling him and his followers Quakers. The name stuck.

After the English civil war, the authorities viewed the Quakers more kindly and George met twice with the Lord Protector, Oliver Cromwell. However, once Charles II was restored to the throne, the persecutions began again. George continued to be imprisoned on a regular basis, with calls to execute him rejected by parliament who didn't want another religious martyr. Despite this, the Quaker movement grew and expanded across the country and overseas. George made trips to Europe, the Caribbean and North America before dying in 1691. He was interred at the Quakers burial ground at Bunhill Fields in London. George was a local man, but could there be closer connections to Stoke Golding and Dadlington?

Today the churches at Fenny, Stoke and Dadlington are part of the Fenn Lane Benefice and share the same clergy, often meeting together. In the 17th century it is unlikely that George, the son of a Fenny Drayton churchwarden, would have attended services more than occasionally in our villages. His mother was called Mary Lago before she married and the local historian W. T. Hall suggests that she originally came from Dadlington. The parish records for Dadlington certainly show a number of children being born to a George Lago in the early 1600s but not a Mary. Lago also appears in Stoke's records. In his writings, George mentions a meeting with Cousin Bradford, another family name W. H. Hall found in the Dadlington records. Cousin Bradford had shocked George by professing to be religious but then getting drunk!

Although the local populace often sympathetically viewed Quakers, the authorities were intent on making life difficult for them. A 1670's Dadlington man, Justice of the Peace Samuel Cotton, provided the legal force to help his brother William, the rector of Broughton Astley, to rid that village of their Quaker community. The meeting house was locked up and when the women Quakers tried to return, they were set upon by local youths. The Quakers were a determined group and simply up sticks and set up a new meeting house in the nearby village of Sutton in the Elms. Dadlington was to get its own religious dissenters' chapel but that wouldn't be for another hundred years. The building still stands, in the grounds of Hall Farm.

Michael Dix

What's On

FASHION SHOW

By Edinburgh
Woollen Mills
Shop

FRIDAY APRIL 13th
2.30pm

Admission £3.50 to
include tea & cakes



Contact 212490 for tickets



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 5th April
10am - 12.15pm

All Welcome

StokeArts @ The Village Hall

catweatherill.co.uk
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'Irresistible!'

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present

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& TRUFFLES**

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Did someone
say
chocolate!

Saturday 21 April 8pm
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Or email stokearts@gmail.com
Steve 01455 213798

From dancing shoes and dating disasters to libraries and lingerie, this lively story cabaret celebrates life as a Grown Up. Finding humour in the way we live now and savouring special moments (especially chocolate)

What's On

The KING'S MEN Cambridge

*The King's Men return to Market
Bosworth*

Tues April 10th

at St. Peters Church, CV13 0LL, 7.30pm

A close harmony choir from King's College Cambridge. Talented young men with wonderful voices present a varied program of songs traditional and modern appealing to all, with good humour and happy vibes.



Tickets £10 (£12 on the door) or £5 children under 16. from Michaelmas House, 4 Main St, Market Bosworth and MBCL (Community Library) or www.bosworthfestival.co.uk where details of all our events can be found See also: www.kingsmencambridge.co.uk

Methodist Church SPRING FAIR

Saturday April 7th



10am - 2pm

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



All Welcome

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.

SCREEN on the GREEN



Dadlington Village Hall is proud to present Screen on the Green.

Our first three film showings will be on April 20th, May 12th & June 15th.

Doors will open at 7:00pm with the films beginning at 7:30pm.

Entry to the hall is £2.50 which includes the first glass of wine, soft drink, tea or coffee. Further drinks may be purchased during the interval.

For details of our programme, please visit dadlingtonvillagehall.co.uk or look out for the posters in Stoke and Dadlington.

If you would like to join our film emailing list and get details sent to your inbox then please email screenonthegreen@gmx.co.uk .

BRUCE BILCLIFF

I nearly stopped in delight as I was about to turn the corner into Hinckley Road, until I saw there was a car on my tail. Who had transformed our beautiful, but decidedly shabby, Stoke Golding Crest of Arms standing in the Alms Cottages? It was as if someone had suddenly turned a light on at the corner. I soon found out at the next 'Stoker' Editorial meeting, and this is led to a fascinating hour over coffee chatting with the artist himself. Bruce not only arrived with a portfolio of his artwork, but with two large slices of home-made Victoria sponge cake from his wife Samantha – which was delicious!

Unlike many of my interviews, Bruce is not Stoke Golding born and bred. His roots lie many hundred miles further North, in Newcastle, and as an artist, his progress was unusual. It wasn't down the accepted path of leaving school to go straight into Art College, because from the age of nine, his heart was set on joining the Royal Navy. Maybe seeing those magnificent ships sailing into port had set his young imagination alive with pictures of crossing the oceans to far-off lands. His ambition was to be trained as an engineer. However his superiors saw a potential creativity in him, and decided to train him in the culinary arts. This was an amazing foresight on their part, as after many gruelling years starting at the bottom under some of the most talented chefs in the naval kitchens, he finally became personal chef to Sir James Eberle and Sir John Fieldhouse, two of the Navy's brilliant Admirals of the Fleet. It was Sir John who was put in charge of successfully reclaiming the Falkland Islands. Bruce began his training on HMS Raleigh stationed at Devonport. His first ship in 1973 to 1975 was HMS Bulwark, sailing to the Mediterranean and across the Atlantic to the United States, and on to the West Indies. His talents were recognised all through his training until he found himself appointed as personal chef to both of the Commanders in Chief of the Fleet, providing banquets for 250 members of the 'great and good', including the Queen and Prince Philip.

"So what was it like, and did you actually meet Her Majesty?" Bruce chuckles; "Well it was rather like "Upstairs Downstairs you know." I'm intrigued. "So this wasn't done on board ship like the Royal Yacht then?" Bruce is amused at my total lack of knowledge. "Good gracious, no Beth. I would have a team of at least fourteen stewards under me, and the whole preparation would take place in the vast kitchens of the Admiral's official residence. Afterwards, a bit like the Royal Variety Show, we would be lined up to receive Her Majesty, and she would thank each one of us, telling me how much she'd enjoyed my selection of dishes."

As a strange coincidence his last ship was also named HMS Bulwark, and Bruce was again in charge of the meal, this time for 352 guests, including the Queen, after launching the ship at Barrow-in-Furness in 1998.

After the Navy, he continued his career in Contract Catering and won the Salon Culinaire Gold Medal in 1999. This is also when he met Samantha, also in catering. As an Accounts Manager she travels all over the UK. They've now been together for twelve years, marrying in Broadway in the heart of the Cotswolds.

About four years ago, after 45 years as Head Chef, Bruce started picking up his paint brush and working in oils – a practice he loves for its freedom.

He says it was his father who, as a draftsman, taught him to draw. Now he's discovering another creative gift, which has led him to start his own successful art workshops at Middleton Hall, near Tamworth. In the meantime, he and Samantha are thoroughly enjoying their new life here in Stoke Golding, as well as sprucing up our Village Coat of Arms. ***"It was a tough job, getting all the previous layers off first, I just hope Stoke Golding likes it"*** I am quite certain they will Bruce. Many thanks from us all.



Bruce has art work for sale from £45 and charges £7.50 for a one and a half hour art workshop session. An all-day art experience including all materials and refreshments (a great gift idea) costs £95 and you take home your completed artwork.

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 April 2018.**

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

THE FOUR COUNTIES RING

Here in Stoke we live on the edge: Warwickshire is only about two miles away to the south-west. However, a journey in more or less the opposite direction also brings us to Warwickshire, about 12 kilometres (7.5 miles) from here, near Austrey. The road north from there returns us to Leicestershire after No Mans Heath. Beyond that lies the obscure village of Chilcote.

Chilcote may be the most westerly settlement in Leicestershire. It is even more on the edge than Stoke, because it is:

1-kilometre (0.6 mile) south of the Derbyshire border;

0.75-kilometre (half a mile) north-east of the Staffordshire border;

1.75-kilometre (1.1 mile) north of the Warwickshire border.

The point where Derbyshire, Staffordshire and Leicestershire meet is 1.5 kilometre (0.9 mile) from the point where Warwickshire, Staffordshire and Leicestershire meet. The county boundary between Leicestershire and Staffordshire must be one of the shortest in England.

There is in Stoke Golding an intrepid group of cyclists. I'm not referring to the Monday morning high intensity stalwarts but the Thursday evening pub cyclists. These knights of the road shamble out under cover of darkness and ride to one or other of the local pubs. Sometimes the pubs are several miles away.

Unfortunately, as one of the pub cyclists gazed contentedly into his glass one Thursday evening, an 'idea' entered his head. "We could have a ride through four counties..."

Beer and stupidity is a powerful combination, and so it was that on March 8th the expedition convened outside the George & Dragon. Planning and preparation had to be meticulous and comprehensive...

"Meet at the George at 9.30 a.m. and we'll head through Sheepy and find a Rest Stop..." "Nah, make it 10 cos it's cold and wet...!"



The weather was awful – raining, with a biting westerly headwind. The sensible man's solution would have been to abandon the project, but one or two members of the group were still young enough to have taken time off work. Therefore, calling it off wasn't an option. Luckily conditions improved around the time the first county boundary was crossed after Orton on the Hill, and spirits had risen as No Mans Heath came into view.

Sadly, there seems to be no Rest Stop any more at NMH and Chilcote is much too small to boast one. So, by the time the Derbyshire border (the River Mease) was crossed at Netherseal, about seventeen miles from home, everybody was ready for a Rest. With military efficiency patrols were sent to reconnoitre. One returned with news of a Rest Stop some leagues away at Acresford while the other reported that the much closer Rest Stop in the village was closed. Faint hearts suggested that Acresford was too far away, but there seemed little alternative.





Luckily Acresford delivered the goods, and all enjoyed a large Rest. The sun was shining by now, although the headwind seemed even stronger as the expedition swung due west towards Lullington. From Lullington it was not far to the Staffordshire border (the Mease and the Seal Brook) on the edge of Clifton Campville. Interestingly the 1:50,000 OS map gives the Seal as the border while the 1: 25,000 shows it as the

Mease. Perhaps it has been adjusted between publication dates.

It seemed too soon for another Rest so the expedition pressed on southwards. Soon after Thorpe Constantine (no Rest Stop) the route passed into Warwickshire and, for some, more familiar territory.

The mid-afternoon sun continued to shine as the brave band sped past Warton, crossing the final border into Leicestershire just before Pinwall. Then it was on to the Rest Stop at Ratcliffe Culey – which agonisingly proved to be closed. Nothing daunted (well, not much anyway) they headed for home, only to be delayed at Sibson by one of their number hilariously falling into a muddy puddle and another having a puncture. All's well that ends well, though, and planetfall at Stoke was finally achieved well before dusk...

Altogether the group covered about 39 miles at a blistering 10 mph. There is even talk of repeating it (in Summer).

Andrew Tomsett (Photo's Rob Gaskin)

~~~~~

**St Margaret's CE Primary School at the Young Voices Concert**

On Friday 26th January we took 42 children to the Genting Arena for this year's Young Voices Concert. The children had been working hard every Tuesday after school, learning the many songs and dance moves with the expertise and support of Mrs Wood. It all paid off as we sang with more than 6000 other primary school children. We were lucky enough to have fabulous seats close to the stage and were able to watch, sing alongside and dance with the talented soul-jazz artist Natalie Williams, new artist 16 year old Alfie Sheard, vocal harmony stars The M4GNETS as well as the children's favourite Urban Strides. The children endured several hours of rehearsal in the afternoon, before singing for almost two hours in the evening. It was an amazing experience for them. The staff were proud to take such a well-behaved and respectful group of children to this busy but rewarding event. The dedication from the children was outstanding in the run up to the concert and they represented our school wonderfully. *Emma Prokipczuk, Headteacher*

~~~~~

HAPPY EASTER!



Church Matters



From St Margaret's Church

A Tense Easter

No, this isn't about family tensions when we gather with our nearest and dearest over the Easter season; not even the tense sensation in Mary Magdalene's heart as she heard Jesus speak her name.

Much more mundanely, I want to emphasise the English tense in which we express the resurrection of Christ. It is a matter of seeing the difference between a historical happening and a present faith.

Differentiating between 'Christ was raised from the dead' and 'Christ is risen!'

The Easter hymn which says, 'Jesus Christ is risen today, alleluia!' puts poetically what is so difficult to express in any other way. Jesus Christ remains risen today – we celebrate the faith that Jesus who was first seen in the garden by Mary on that first Easter Day, remains risen in our hearts at Easter 2018.

A new dimension of life lived by Jesus, offers us all a new beginning, a taste of that new dimension, a foothold on the borders of heaven. As the two friends of Jesus said about their meeting with him on the Emmaus Road, 'Didn't our hearts warm within us?'

In a world where there remains so much darkness and despair, so many hurts and tensions, Easter offers a glimpse, a vision, of what God intends for us and all people; that is warmed hearts in which we discern the risen Christ – he who carries the scars of the cross still – but who loves us into better lives if we will but take it in. And he will turn the past tense into a future tense of being risen with him.

May you have a happy and blessed Easter,
Alan Davis

Church of England April Services

St. Margaret's Church

- 1st April 10.30am Easter Sunday Holy Communion
- 8th April 10.30am Benefice Service Dadlington
- 15th April 10.30am Holy Communion + APCM
- 22nd April 10.30am Morning Worship + Baptisms
- 29th April 10.30am Benefice Service Witherley

St. James's Church

- 1st April 9.00am Easter Sunday BCP Holy Communion
- 8th April 10.30am Benefice Service Dadlington
- 15th April 9.00am BCP Holy Communion
- 22nd April 9.00am Morning Prayer
- 29th April 10.30am Benefice Service Witherley

Church Matters

The Methodist Church April 2018 Services

1st	10.30am	Revd Wes Hampton
8th	10.30am	Mr Michael Holt
15th	10.30am	T.B.A
22nd	10.30am	Mr John Cooke
29th	10.30am	Mrs Pat Starbuck

Zion Baptist Chapel April 2018 Services

1st	6pm	Malcolm Welch
8th	6pm	John Todd
15th	6pm	Bill McIntyre
22nd	6pm	Malcolm Welch
29th	6pm	Martyn Owens

Ten of a Kind *(answers on page 26)*

“Drip, drip, drop, little April shower” is a song from the Disney film, Bambi. As April is often associated with rainy weather, here are ten questions about stormy weather.

1. When a woman rang the BBC in 1987 to say a hurricane was on the way, which weather forecaster reassured viewers, “... don't worry, there isn't,” before 115 mph winds hit the south of England, destroying 15 million trees?
2. According to Genesis chapter 6 to 9, how many people were on Noah's Ark as it endured 40 days and night of rain?
3. Who had a number 3 UK hit single in 1962 with “It might as well rain until September”?
4. According to the Met Office, what is the process called where water vapour condenses and falls from the sky?
5. Which character in the film My Fair Lady struggles to conquer her cockney accent when repeating the phrase: ‘The rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain’?
6. To the nearest 10 inches, what is the average annual rainfall for the UK?
7. On 3rd July 1996, who entertained the centre court crowds at Wimbledon during a rain-delayed men's quarter final match?
8. If it rains on this saint's day in July, it will rain for the next 40 days and nights according to legend. Who is the saint?
9. “When that I was and a little tiny boy, With hey, ho, the wind and the rain, A foolish thing was but a toy, For the rain it raineth every day,” are lines from a play by which playwright?
10. Which actor was singin' in the rain in the 1952 film ‘Singin' in the Rain’?

Ski Italy 2018

In January, 49 year 8 students and 5 members of staff travelled to Passo Tonale, Italy for St. Martin's 15th ski trip. Flying with British Airways, we landed in Milan to glorious weather and travelled up to the resort, passing the beautiful Lake Iseo. As usual we stayed at the Hotel Dolomiti, as the service, food and location are excellent. During the week the weather was mixed. We had glorious blue skies and white out conditions, but the snow was fantastic! All of our students made excellent progress, especially the beginners groups, who all skied red runs by the end of the week. In the evening we still managed to find the energy to go to the karaoke, disco, Ponte di Legno, church, hot chocolate, swim, play games, write diaries and night ski! A great week was had by all, and many of us would have liked to have stayed longer. Ski Italy 2019 is already booked with a record number of 80 applications!

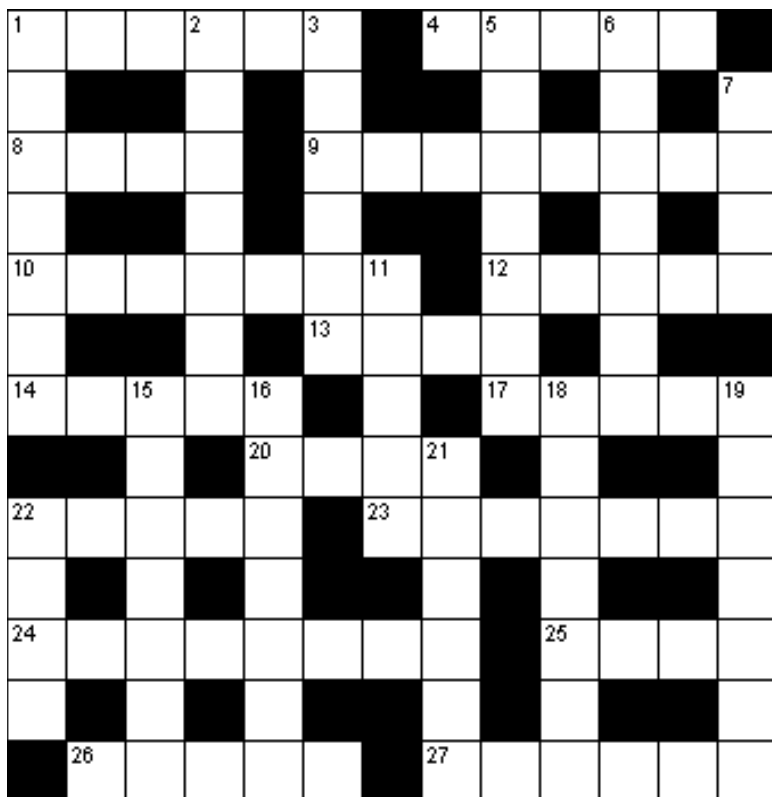


Are you considering renting your property?

We are a mature couple based locally looking to return to the village as soon as practicable. We would like a 3 or 4 bed, preferably detached property with a garage which we wish to rent long term. If this is of interest, please phone 07977545046 email : sandra.harding35@gmail.com

This month's crossword contains many clues about cakes

Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Cake with chocolate and vanilla blended mixture (6)
- 4 Stashes away (5)
- 8 Extinct flightless bird (4)
- 9 Once a year cake on your special day (8)
- 10 Period of sickness (7)
- 12 Sponge jam and cream "roll". (5)
- 13 Not open (4)
- 14 A "heavenly body" cake (5)
- 17 All four sides (5)
- 20 Christmas cake is this all over (4)
- 22 Yellow citrus cake (5)
- 23 Meringue named after a ballerina (7)
- 24 All cakes have different "tastes". (8)
- 25 A cake that is not as hard as it sounds. (4)
- 26 Open sponge bases with fruit on top. (5)
- 27 A small taster of food (6)

DOWN

- 1 Plain sponge or atlantic island (7)
- 2 Chocolate chewy square slice (7)
- 3 Stamp a design on a surface (6)
- 5 To try out a morsal of cake (2-5)
- 6 Hopefully a once in a lifetime cake (7)
- 7 Colourings (4)
- 11 Woolly farm animals (5)
- 15 In tennis what ref says when both players are equal (4-3)
- 16 Shade of green worn by Robin Hood (7)
- 18 State of depression (7)
- 19 Shine brightly (7)
- 21 Low platforms for lecterns or thrones (6)
- 22 Opposite of right. (4)

Saint Martins Catholic Academy USA SKI TRIP – YEAR 9/10s

February 2018

It was an early 3.30am February start for the Year 9/Year 10 USA Ski trip this year. Following a flight to New York, the party had a long coach trip to Lake Placid, New York State. This is a village in the Adirondack Mountains and best known as the two-time site of the Winter Olympics. Firstly in 1932 and again in 1980 where Robin Cousins won his gold medal in the figure skating.

Students enjoyed five days of skiing at Whiteface Mountains. All groups managing to complete challenging runs. Also, there was the opportunity to meet an 'Ed Sheeran' look alike!



During this stay, there were a variety of activities organised including cinema, bowling, ice skating, disco and an ice chute. This was a 30 foot high converted ski jump trestle that sends toboggans down an ice-covered chute onto the frozen Mirror Lake. Depending on weather conditions, toboggans can travel more than 1,000 feet and many Saint Martin's students and staff travelled and spun far! One student spoke about the experience 'as a skill building fun adventure, truly memorable and the greatest trip he had ever been on!'

Following the skiing, the group set off for New York. Firstly, they visited a shopping outlet mall and many purchases were made. Visits to Hard Rock Café and Times Square were enjoyed. The final day they travelled on the Staten Ferry to view the 'Statue of Liberty', the New York City skyline and New York harbour. A time of reflection was spent viewing and



respecting the Twin Memorial pools. They are each nearly an acre in size and feature the largest manmade waterfalls in North America. The pools sit within the footprints where the Twin Towers once





stood before the terrorist attack in 2001. The names of every person who died in the attacks of 26th February 1993 and 11th September 2001 are inscribed in bronze around the pools. There was time to see the view from the top of the Empire State Building and light a prayer candle and pray in Cathedral of St. Patrick (a decorated neo-Gothic style Roman Catholic cathedral church). The sight-seeing day finished with a walk around Central Park before



the flight home. A student could not believe the scope of New York and remarked the trip was a 'once in a lifetime experience'.
Julie Lowry



Kitchen Corner

CAPPUCCINO CAKE

INGREDIENTS

- 2 Eggs
- 180gms Melted Butter
- 1 Cup of Brown Sugar
- ½ cup of Milk
- 1 tblsp. Coffee (Camp Coffee)
- 1 Cup of Chopped Dates
- 1 ½ Cups of Plain Flour
- 2 tsps. Baking Powder

METHOD

Set oven to 150 C or 130 fan. Grease and line a 20x30cm. Swiss roll tin. Beat the eggs in a food processor,

add the dates and whizz again. Add all rest of the ingredients and whizz until well blended.

Pour into the tin and bake for 30 minutes.

Leave in the tin for 10 minutes and then turn out onto a cooling rack.

When cold, cut into squares. If you are not using the same day, this recipe is suitable to freeze.

This recipe is really simple, and you may wonder about the Camp Coffee. This can still be found in supermarkets and is ideal for cakes and biscuits. Or you can use instant coffee with 1 tblsp boiling water.



Obituaries



We are sad to report that this month a number of people who were once well known residents of the village have passed away. Many villagers of course will remember them and we therefore send our sincere condolences through the pages of this magazine to the families and friends of the following.

KEITH THOMPSON

Keith and his wife June previously lived on Sherwood Road and retired a number of years ago to Skellow in Yorkshire. Keith passed away on 4th March 2018. He was an avid supporter of the yearly garden show at Stoke Club winning prizes for his home grown flowers.

PHILLIP (SAM) MASON

'Sam' was the son of the late Pat and 'Snowy' Mason our village baker. He went to live in Devon and passed away in Torbay Hospital on 26th February 2018 aged 64 years.

RUTH PHILLIPS

Ruth who lived on Hinckley Road with her late husband, an electrician, had left the village to live in a retirement home passed away in the George Eliot Hospital on 11th March 2018.

Notes from Stoke Golding Parish Council March Meeting - Draft

Borough Councillor Reg Ward reported on the following issues:

1. Highways England has failed to prioritise the A5 as a key road and this has led to proposals for an expressway.
2. Need for pollution from increased traffic to be addressed by developers.
3. Figures on homelessness previously discussed still to be confirmed.
4. Request for salt bins on Crown Hill Close, Stoke Golding.
5. Syrian Resettlement Scheme – provision by HBBC for 2 social houses each year.
6. Council tax rise- £5 per household, average of 4% per household with other authority increases.
7. Car park fees – more spaces allocated for short stay to increase footfall in town centre.
8. Planning applications – cost to increase by 20%.

Matters arising from February meeting:

Flag – The total cost was agreed at £60.78.

PC Noticeboard – Installation of the noticeboard was agreed at a cost of £40.00.

Oak tree at the rec – Previously agreed works are to be carried out, at a cost of £450.00.

Ground maintenance – Emergency repairs to a street name sign were agreed at a cost of £10.00.

Planning Applications:

New Applications:

37 Wykin Lane – proposed studio and playroom above approved garage. In the

context of the surrounding area the Parish Council considers this application to be overdevelopment on an inappropriate site.

27 Crown Hill Close – erection of 2-bedroom dwelling with vehicular access and parking. The Parish Council has no objection to the design of application but has some concerns regarding the constant trickle of smaller developments still being permitted. Stoke Golding has met its housing requirement as set out in the Core Strategy and Site Allocation Document.

22 Station Road – two storey side/rear extension.

Permission approved:

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

Neighbourhood Plan:

- The minutes of the NPAC meetings held on the 29th January and 26th February were noted.
- It was agreed to allocate a further £1000 for Neighbourhood Plan admin.
- The annual report by Cllr Mitchell was noted.
- Progress with transport and traffic was discussed.

The appointment of Barbara (Kate) McCreight to the NPAC was noted.

Sport in Stoke Golding (SISG)

[A meeting was held on 22nd February. Initial plans for a new pavilion were viewed. Cllr Pegg is liaising with Pro-Help to secure funding for a quantity surveyor and further architect's drawings. It was agreed to transfer a further £2000 of ring-fenced funds to SISG.](#)

Works at Hinckley Road Cemetery

Wall and Gate Damage

A report on the gate damage and a separate price for the wall were noted - the Clerk to seek a price from Ironcraft.

Pitch hire

[It was agreed to approve the actions and decisions taken at the meeting with the Cricket Club on 13th February 2018.](#)

Vehicle Activated Sign

An ANPR system was agreed in principle, subject to appropriate funding. Cllr Mitchell to investigate the possibility of a pilot scheme and funding.

Village Hall maintenance

It was agreed to increase the trade waste bin to 1100ltrs, at an annual increase in cost of £66.30 and to split the total cost of the trade waste and water supply to the rec between the village hall and the Parish Council. The Clerk will invoice the village hall annually for 50% contribution.

To appoint one trustee of The Mistress Hester Hodges Exhibition Foundation

The resignation of Anne Jones was noted and the appointment of Shiona Alston was agreed for a term of four years.

Communications received by the Chairman of the Council

Written

- Resident's concerns - ditch at HR Cemetery. Clerk to reply to resident and advise on outcome of enquiries regarding a more permanent solution to concerns.
- St Margaret's PCC – work to gate. Clerk to reply to PCC and seek prices from contractors.

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Parish Council notes cont.

Verbal

- Crown Hill – salt bin. Concerns were noted but no action considered appropriate.
- Main Street – broken bench. Clerk to ask the Charity of Thomas Barton if they would fund a replacement.
- St Martins School car park congestion - Clerk to seek update from the school.
- Centenary of WW1 - It was noted that WW1 and WW2 benches have been installed at Hinckley Road Cemetery, thanks to a donation by the Charity of Thomas Barton.
- Street light out at rec - Clerk to report to LCC.
- Post Office - Clerk to seek update, copies to Chief Executive at HBBC/LCC, County Cllr Ould and Borough Cllr Ward.

**Next meeting: Methodist Hall, Tuesday 3rd April at 7pm
 (please note change of day)**

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS 1 Marble; 4 Stows; 8 Dodo; 9 Birthday; 10 Illness; 12 Swiss; 13 Shut; 14 Angel; 17 Edges; 20 Iced; 22 Lemon; 23 Pavlova; 24 Flavours; 25 Rock; 26 Flans ; 27 Sample.

DOWN 1. Madeira; 2 Brownie; 3 Emboss; 5 To taste; 6 Wedding; 7 Dyes; 11 Sheep; 15 Game all; 16 Lincoln; 18 Doldrum ; 19 Sparkle; 21 Daises; 22 Left.

Ten of a Kind Answers

1. Michael Fish
2. 8 – Noah, his wife, their three sons and their three daughters-in-law
3. Carole King
4. Precipitation

5. Eliza Doolittle
6. 30 inches (actually it's 33.7)
7. Cliff Richard
8. St Swithun
9. Shakespeare
10. Gene Kelly

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