

May '18

No. 171

The Stoker



Stoke Golding Village Magazine

Including

Dadlington Matters

50p



Note from the Editors

As we write this, we're being told by the weather people that we are about to be hit by a heatwave! Who knows, but warmer weather, drier days and longer evenings are most welcome after what has been a rather dreary few weeks.



Still, there's lots to look forward to in our villages and the flower festivals are always eagerly anticipated and appreciated by many visitors. There are details of these and a lovely piece about the grand opening of Dadlington Village Hall extension to enjoy amongst other things.

We are always delighted to read about your travels, visits or any other news and it's great to hear from new contributors, like Peter sharing his Spanish experience of Holy Week.

We always aim to bring you news, events and regular features but The Stoker is also a wonderful way to share *your* stories so please don't be shy! If emailing is not your cup of tea, we are still happy to receive handwritten articles at the address below.

So, enjoy the May issue and see you in June!
Best wishes, Ella and Steve

The Stoker Team

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Please send articles for the June issue of The Stoker **by 15th May** 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: Photo by Martin Fisher - Councillor Kevin Morrell opening the refurbished and extended Dadlington Village Hall see page 11

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"The sun was warm but the wind was chill.
You know how it is with an April day.
When the sun is out and the wind is still,
You're one month on in the middle of May.
But if you so much as dare to speak,
a cloud come over the sunlit arch,
And wind comes off a frozen peak,
And you're two months back in the middle of March."
- Robert Frost



Occasionally we are informed of worrying incidents happening in our locality. Let's try to help by staying vigilant. The Eds.

Lead thefts from local churches

The Church has again recently heard from Leicestershire Police regarding the considerable danger faced by churches in having their roof stripped of lead. Recently a number of local churches have been targeted.

The thieves work very quickly and often appear to be workmen carrying out authorised work. **NO work has been authorised at St Margaret's Church.**

So please can we ask readers of the Stoker that if you see anyone who is acting suspiciously in the vicinity of the Church please phone 101 or if a crime is being committed 999.

Thank you, *David Goodsell and Ian Hiron (Church Wardens) on behalf of St Margaret's Church*

Homes for Apple Trees Needed!



You may remember that 3 years ago St Margaret's school pupils produced trees by grafting cuttings from trees in the village. The intention was that these young trees were to be the start of a community orchard for Stoke Golding.

Unfortunately the land at St Martin's Convent is no longer available for this purpose and so I am looking to plant these trees around the village. There are still some trees which have not found a home so if you would like one of the trees please contact me.

There are a number of different varieties, cookers and eaters, and they will grow into full size trees. I hope to hear from you!

David Goodsell 212955 or millburn5@hotmail.co.uk

Market Bosworth Summer Festival June 9th-24th 2018.



The poster features a central illustration of a town street with several striped market stalls. The text 'market bosworth festival' is written in large, stylized letters across the top. At the bottom, it includes the dates '9th - 24th June 2018 Programme', the website 'www.bosworthfestival.co.uk', and a sponsor logo for 'JJ Churchill Ltd PRECISION ENGINEERING'.

Market Bosworth summer festival has something to entertain all the family come rain or shine in June. Now in its sixteenth year the 2018 Festival includes art, design, photography, theatre, classical and pop music. Full details of all our events, locations and ticket sales are on bosworthfestival.co.uk and in our programme which is in the May edition of the Graphic

Stoke Golding Scout Group

The scout group are grateful to the George & Dragon pub for donating the proceeds of the quiz night held in February towards the groups funds. Thank you very much to all involved from the scout group.

We have come to the end of term. The scouts have been on a guided walk round the village and their adaptation of the Great Egg challenge was self propelled vehicles to transport an egg.



The Beavers have been doing parts of their outdoor challenge badge with nature made art pictures, making a bug hotel, bark rubbing and some of the older Beavers have been doing their personal challenges.



The Cubs have been out at Fox Coverts playing wide games on a rather damp night which did not deter them.



The Cubs version of the egg challenge was to make a suitable "container" to support a raw egg made out of paper and cardboard. We are also saving the planet with no plastic.! Then the container is dropped off a 12ft ladder. Amazingly the majority of eggs survived. The end of an exciting term. *Jennifer*



Year 7 Girls Basketball at Saint Martins Catholic Academy

What a group of talented girls! After winning the Hinckley & Bosworth Tournament and the 4th round, we then had to travel to Sir Johnathon North School in Leicester for the quarter finals. We were a little bit worried about this school as it is a girls' school that concentrate on basketball, however, that did not discourage the girls and they started this match with amazing confidence and never once lost the lead. The girls went on to win the match 28-13 with some brilliant shots by Amelia Hughes.

We then went to Countesthorpe/Leysland College to play the Semi-Finals. This was a lot tougher and was close throughout the whole match until the last quarter when we went on to win 22-10. The last quarter was dominated by Emily Williams and Erin Hickman who were totally out of breath!

Then came the final! We travelled to the home of Leicester Riders the 'Leicester Arena' on Tuesday 13th March to play Rawlins. The girls were very nervous. The match was extremely close throughout but Rawlins were a lot stronger in the final quarter and won 30-20 (the score was 20-22 until the last quarter!). Ellie Ibbitson was given MVP (Most Valued Player) of the match by the referees. Well done Ellie! This is a very promising group of girls for the future whose progress and commitment has been amazing. Massive congratulations to the whole squad – Erin Hickman, Emily Williams, Amelia Hughes, Ellie Ibbitson, Tegan McClelland, Alex Oliver & Zoe Cheung.



Extract from Saint Martin's newsletter

Bernie, The Bodkin

When the snow descended in bucket-loads back in February, the young folk of Dadlington set off for the slopes that adjoin Hall Farm to enjoy a few hours of sledging. This one time quarry has seen many sights but back in mediaeval times, long before any stone was dug, the land had a very different purpose. It was where the local populace would practice their archery skills.

The longbow originated in Wales and after the English had been on the receiving end of a good archer, it was incorporated into their armoury too. An archer could fire an arrow over half a mile at a rate of up to 12 arrows a minute. In 1252, a proclamation by the king, called an Assize of Arms, required every able bodied man between the ages of 15 and 60 to become proficient in the use of the bow and this was followed in 1388 by a law requiring all servants and labourers to practice at the archery butts every Sunday and on holidays. As medieval kings became a little wary of equipping the common folk with lethal weapons that could be used against them, the

practice arrows had their metal arrowheads removed. Still, with half the village's population engaged in mass arrow firing every week, accidents did happen. An earlier Assize of Arms had exonerated anyone who accidentally killed anyone else during shooting practice and a verdict of death by misadventure would be recorded for anyone who was unlucky enough to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

In 1542, the rules for practice were laid down by Parliament. Men aged 24 and over were expected to be able to hit the target or butt at a range of 220 yards, over 200 metres. Other 'unlawful games' such as football that might distract the villager from his practice were banned. Merchants bringing goods into the country were required to provide four bows for every ton they imported and ten for every butt of wine. Bows over six-foot-long were exempt from customs duties in 1503.

Because of these requirements, the English archers became a much feared fighting force in medieval Europe. Their finest hours were during the key battles of The Hundred Years War with France. They are widely acknowledged as the reason the English were triumphant at the battles of Crecy, Poitiers and Agincourt. The design of the arrowheads changed with developments to the protective mail that soldiers wore with a thin metal spike known as a bodkin becoming widely used by the time of the Battle of Bosworth. The dominance of the bowman held back the development of hand held guns in England, but when these did emerge, the days of the archer were numbered. An Act of Parliament of 1662 proscribed swords, pistols, muskets and pikes as suitable weapons with the longbow condemned to history.

Michael Dix

CASAG News



The theme for the month of March was Ovarian Cancer.

It can't have escaped anyone's notice that the NHS including our GPs and all practice staff have been under particular pressure and stress during the last few months with the escalating work load and winter crisis. With this in mind; Trevor Allcot, Anne Fullagar and myself got together as representatives of CASAG and presented both Surgeries with gifts, including cakes in appreciation of everyone's hard work and on going dedication to their patients. The gifts were much appreciated and a lovely thought as one receptionist said. *Jennifer Michie*

BACKSTAGE WHISPERS. 5

“IF YOU CAN DREAM - AND NOT MAKE DREAMS YOUR MASTER”

While we were touring the play about Anastasia, we knew the playwright and Cambridge Theatre Management were busy getting various West End theatres interested in putting the show on in town. If they did – my name would eventually *be made!*- after all I was on stage from the beginning to the end. But I kept pushing any dreams of stardom from my thoughts. I'd seen it all before in this 'shadow-world' business I was in. I remembered hearing how Tony Britten (one of the 'fifties film stars and Dad to Fern Britten) had been promised to take over the Chichester Festival Theatre having worked there many times playing leading parts. His name had been a great draw, bringing in the audiences. However when the contract of the current Director of Productions came to an end, a highly thought of young director was brought over from Canada. The same happened with the old Cheltenham Everyman theatre. The original director had run the theatre very successfully from its inception, in spite of all its handicaps, and Cheltenham audiences loved him. He was promised that he would be back in charge after the town council had completely renovated it, within a brand new shopping mall, to “*five- star*” rating. He faithfully waited for all this to happen. When the time came however, a talented younger director was appointed. This suited me fine, as he was a friend and used me in some wonderful parts. However I'd also been a friend of the older man, and was heartbroken for him. But I knew this was ‘the business’.

As the tour was coming to an end, we kept hearing rumours. Yes – the play had definitely been taken up by a West End management, but they were looking for Box-Office names for the two leading parts. Various current television performers were being contacted. They even went to Hollywood for a film name for my role. I decided to speak to the management personally, asking what the situation was, and had a very sympathetic listener at the other end of the line. “*Beth – this decision is all about box-office. You were great, but with a new untested play we have to get a 'name'. We were going to contact your agent, asking if you would consider understudying for the first six months **only**, and then we promise – you **will** take over.*” No big name was prepared to take on such a lengthy and challenging role. So it never happened. We were all unemployed. I was going to have to wait patiently for my next big chance.

The weeks between jobs seem interminable, waiting at the end of the telephone, or trying to network with friends, keeping an ear to the ground to learn what's going on. This time it was through my faithful mentor Joan Kemp-Welch, yet again. The phone rings while I'm doing some everyday domestic chore. “*Hallo darling, how's life? Are you working?*” I stop what I'm doing and sit down. Phone conversations with Joan can sometimes be lengthy. “*Thanks for asking Joan. No I'm not, and it feels as if I'll never work again.*” I hear her laughing, she's heard this all before. “*Well, I've just had Jonathan Lynn on the phone, and he's excited about a new American play he's casting right now. He thought he had it fully cast, but sadly Anna Massey has just had to pull out, as she's been offered a new TV series. Why don't you take a chance and ring him. Remember he thought you were great as Anastasia.*” With this she gives me his personal home number. “*Shouldn't I ask my agent to call him Joan?*” There is a very emphatic. “*No Beth, speak to him personally.*” Jonathan was one of those brilliant young men from the 'Cambridge Footlights' team, and I'm rather in awe of him. But Joan is right. He already knows my work. I must take her advice. The play is called “THE SHADOW BOX” and everyone in it, apart from me, are ‘names’ – Will this be my big chance ?

To be continued next month

Beth

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Ten of a Kind (Answers Page 23)

"Mayday, mayday," is an international distress signal used by boats and aircraft. Here are ten questions based on emergency and rescue services.

1. In case of emergency in the UK you would dial 999. What would you dial in Europe?
2. What did Blue Peter raise money for in 1966 by asking viewers to send in unwanted paperback books?
3. Who are responsible for searches and rescues on Britain's mountains?
4. On average, how many calls does the East Midlands Ambulance Service receive each day: 1,000, 2,000 or 4,000?
5. In which country were 33 miners rescued after 69 days underground in 2010?
6. Who became a national heroine when she helped rescue survivors from the Forfarshire when it ran aground on rocks off the Farne Islands in 1838?
7. Local Authorities provide Fire & Rescue Services. Which specific places provide Rescue and Firefighting Services?
8. Which 2013 Tom Hanks film features the rescue by US SEALs of a hijacked container ship captain?
9. Not including Chief Constables, their deputies and assistants, how many ranks are there in the British police force?
10. Pugh, Pugh, Barney McGrew, Cuthbert, Dibble and Grub served under Captain Flack in which fictional fire station?

Kitchen Corner

Whilst living in Surabaya, East Java, this was one of the most popular dishes, even though the family gave it the nickname of 'Nasty and Boring'. I can assure you it is far from that. The recipe was given to me by an Indonesian friend.

NASI GORENG

INGREDIENTS

- 2 Cups of Cooked Rice
- 1 Onion, thinly sliced
- 2 Cloves of Garlic
- 2 chillies, chopped very small or ¼ tsp. chilli powder
- Green Pepper, seeded and sliced
- 4oz. (125gms.) Mushrooms, cleaned and sliced
- 4oz. (125gms.) Pork Fillet, sliced thinly
- 4oz. (125gms.) Chicken Breast, sliced thinly
- 4oz. (125gms.) Prawns
- 1tblsp. Light Soya Sauce
- 1tblsp. Dark Soya Sauce
- 1tblsp. Tomato Ketchup
- Vegetable Oil for frying

METHOD

Heat the oil in a wok and sauté the onion on a medium heat for 4 minutes, add the garlic and chilli and cook for a further 2 minutes.

Add the meat and stir fry for 5 minutes. Add the peppers and mushrooms and continue to cook until the meat is cooked through. Now add the sauces and prawns and stir to coat all the ingredients. Add the rice and stir continuously until heated through.

Serve hot garnished with cucumber, tomatoes and to be really authentic place a fried egg on the top of each serving with prawn crackers on the side.

It is important that the rice should be cooked the day before, otherwise it will be too soggy.

Dadlington Matters



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 .

Dadlington Flower Festival

St James' Church Dadlington

Saturday 5th May

Sunday 6th May

Bank Holiday Monday 7th May

“FAVOURITE COUNTIES”

Church open each day 12 noon – 5pm

Soup and a roll will be served each day 12 noon-2pm

Tea, Coffee, Cakes, and CREAM TEAS will be served all day

Stalls include Cakes, books, plants & Tombola

SONGS OF PRAISE Sunday 6th May 6:30pm followed by refreshments in the Village Hall

Dadlington Village Hall Extension Official Opening

In 1885, the 157 parishioners of Dadlington managed to scrape together £100 to build a parish room next to the church. When it opened, it was used for the Sunday School as well as fund-raising and social events. 133 years later, the room, now called the village hall, is still in regular use, although it is now unrecognizable from the red brick building with steeply pitched roof that stood for so many years. 1983 saw the first major transformation and the last couple of years have seen the second.



Councillor Kevin Morrell officially opened the refurbished and extended hall on Saturday 17th March in front of villagers and invited guests. It was a time to celebrate and to say thank you to the organisations who have provided grants, to the local community for supporting fund-raising events and buying lottery tickets and to the committee members who had the foresight to see the hall's potential and who have worked tirelessly to bring about the changes.

The improvements have been in three phases. Phase one saw a purpose built kitchen area with serving hatch installed and a disabled toilet; phase two, supported by a large grant from Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, saw the hall extended to increase floor space, with a new floor and bi-fold doors opening onto an area of levelled grass bordering the village green, the latter courtesy of Sutton Cheney Parish Council.



The Committee

The facilities inside the hall have also been considerably improved in phase three. These include new radiators, blinds and chairs, a baby changing area, and an audio-visual system with hearing loop that will allow the management committee to show films to the local community. The audio-visual system, blinds and chairs were paid for through a grant from the National Lottery, supporting improved opportunities for the people of Dadlington and its surrounding villages.



The village hall now has classes running most days. It has a monthly coffee morning open to villagers from Dadlington and Stoke Golding, and although the Sunday School has moved to Stoke, social and fund-raising events are still taking place regularly. One thing that has changed since that initial outlay all those years ago: the improvements have cost considerably more

than £100.

pudding Night - Saturday 24th March

Angels from all corners of the village appeared bringing 14 puddings. They were followed by 36 hungry locals and friends who were eager to tickle their taste buds.

First though a food and drink quiz had to be completed. Then a mystery pudding was passed round. It looked like a chocolate brownie and having tasted it you had to guess the ingredients, many were correct in identifying chocolate, vanilla, eggs, cocoa powder and sugar, but no-one guessed the main ingredient of black turtle beans. Next on to the main event – eating pudding. Crepes Suzette, Tiramisu, Damson pudding with custard, Apple cake, Key Lime pie, Ginger Surprise, Pineapple upside down, lashings of cream, Fresh fruit salad, Coconut and Fresh Pineapple, Pavlova and more. There were some noble attempts to consume the various tempting delights, but I doubt anyone reached double figures. A great night with lots of laughter. We also raised £350 for village hall maintenance and development.

Jill & John Whitehead thank everyone who supported the event.

Holy Week Parades In Southern Spain



At the end of March my wife and I spent Easter in southern Spain with our friends, Gill and Tony and it was our privilege to participate in the local religious Good Friday Evening Parade and celebrations. Easter is one of the largest and most important religious cultural festivals in Spain, and in the streets of the coastal city of Torrevieja during Easter week, there are loud colourful processions, which consist of beautifully decorated religious floats or Pasos, which are accompanied by marching bands.

Nazarenos and Nazarenas, known as penitents wearing long robes and tall conical hoods walk in front of the religious floats giving out sweets to excited children who line the route.

Starting at 8pm in the evening and over a period of 3 to 4 hours the religious floats are either carried or pushed through the streets of Torrevieja, where the procession is watched, cheered on and applauded by thousands of enthusiastic locals and visitors alike.



Our friends have been involved with the parades for a number of years and are affiliated to the international residents Cofradia or Brotherhood in Torrevieja, which was first invited in 2004 to participate in the parades in a specific way, namely to carry one of the larger Pasos known as "Jesus in the Garden Of Olives" and which weighs 1,500 kilos! The men and women who proudly carry or push the Pasos are called Costaleros and this year it was a great honour for me to become a Costalero and to take my place marching alongside Tony and the other 38 Cofradia members, as they pushed their large Paso at the head of the parade.

Having thoroughly enjoyed this truly memorable experience, I look forward to having the opportunity of doing it all again during Easter 2019.
Peter Cunningham

What's On

The Methodist Church

Coffee Morning

10.00-11.30

For Christian
Aid

SATURDAY
5th MAY



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.

The Methodist Church FLOWER FESTIVAL

A WORLD OF COLOUR

Saturday	26th May	10.00am - 5.00pm
Sunday	27th May	12.00noon - 5.30pm
Monday	28th May	10.00am - 5.00pm



Ploughman's Lunches & Cream Teas Saturday & Monday
Refreshments Sunday
Various Stalls



STOKE GOLDING CLUB Presents

REGGAE ON THE ROCKS Live Reggae Band

Saturday 19th May
Tickets £5 in advance
£7.50 on the door

Saturdays Live Music!



Staffroom Memories 15: The Younger Child

Whenever one of the headteachers I worked for talked to his infant teachers about their work, they would huddle together afterwards saying, what does he know, he's never taught this age group. So, when I decided to apply for headship, I asked my boss if I could have some infant experience. My wish was granted and I spent three years with the little treasures. Now I have nothing against younger children, but teaching 30 of them is a completely different matter. They have the attention span of a gnat and work to their own agenda. If I posed a question such as, "What do we call a flat shape with three sides?" lots of hands would go up. "Yes, Lily, what's the answer?" "I'm going to play with Kirsty after school." "Lovely, but what do we call a flat shape with three sides? Robert?" "I like your shoes Mr Dix." And so it would continue.

At the second school where I was headteacher, I faltered on the very thing that I'd tried to remedy with my infant experience, because we had a nursery, with 3 to 5 year old's. I'd never taught children that young. When I was covering for a member of staff, the children would ask, "Are you looking after us today?" Very pompously, I would reply, "No, children, I am teaching you!" But as most of their learning was through play, looking after was far nearer the mark. I became the junior member of the team and bowed to the superior knowledge of my excellent colleagues. Strangely, when it came to the staff rotas, I always seemed to be covering the person who was on outdoor duty. Now, I'm not saying that they fixed it, but...

I did enjoy my three years of infant teaching but the frustrations of the job can be summed up with a lesson I planned early in the first term. I had some children who were struggling with the concept of tens and units, so I planned an activity for the rest of the class that would enable me to work with this small group. The night before, I'd spent ages cutting various shapes, circles, triangles, rectangles, out of sticky backed paper. I set the class off: choose a shape, write down what it is and then use it to make a picture. Then I got to work with the tens and units children. We all counted out 15 matchsticks. We counted ten of them and put an elastic band around the bundle. "How many have we got left?" I asked. "3," "8," "6," came the replies. Unsure how this had happened, we started again. "Let's try 17 matchsticks this time." We counted them together, we put ten in a bundle together, we added up the remaining matchsticks together and, as before, everyone had a different answer. After the fourth time, I was near despair, and at that point the first children came to me with their shape pictures. They had taken my prepared shapes and cut flowers and trees and cars out of them. There wasn't a circle or square in sight. "Now children, I want you to wait quietly for a moment because I have to go out of the room," I said calmly. I then left the room, closed the door and screamed. The cook and her assistant came running from the hall to see what the matter was. My reply was brief but succinct: Infants!

Michael Dix

AMUSING MEMORIES OF A CAREER AS A PASSENGER LIAISON OFFICER

Before ladies of the Stoke Golding W.I welcomed Colin Bower to their April meeting Jean Buckby gave a very interesting and informative report on the L & R Centenary ACM which she and other members attended in March. It seemed that the speakers were excellent and so were the crafts and produce on display and all helped to make the day extremely enjoyable.

After Jean was thanked Colin began by telling us that his profession in show business was always very precarious and so at a time of particular hardship he decided to apply to the British India ship Nevasa as a Personal Liaison Officer or better known as an Entertainments officer. Much to his delight he was successful and although only there for 7 months was able to amuse us all with his stories of the passenger's unexpected questions and demands. One remains in my mind of a lady who couldn't understand that the mini safe in her suite wasn't behaving quite as she expected it to, that being as a micro wave oven, as she was trying to warm up a sandwich. Another asked one of the crew in mid ocean if they "lived in" and remembering that the paying guests were always right and should be answered with courtesy and care the answers had to be very carefully worded.

He then told us a bit of the history of the British India ships as they were, in the days when India was a colony, used to transport troops. The troops would have quarters in the forward end and the officers much better ones in the stern. So when India gained independence another use was needed for them so it was decided that the stern accommodation was ideal for cruise passengers and the forward end would accommodate children and teenagers on Educational Cruises and so it became, but on all the voyages neither children nor adult passengers were allowed to 'fraternise'. He told us another amusing story of one cruise of 1000 teenagers, 500 boys and the same number of girls who with hormones raging had a very eventful holiday. By chance we had also welcomed another visitor Bill Riley who had asked if he may attend as he too had been on a cruise on board the Nevasa as a teenager but I'm sure not the one we were hearing stories about. In fact he had been aboard in 1972 on a cruise to Norway and Iceland and was able to confirm that it had indeed been a very pleasurable experience.

I'm sure everyone had a very enjoyable evening and were happy to meet our two guests.

Our next meeting on May 9th at the Methodist hall is our annual Resolutions vote followed by a social evening when members are also asked to bring along any craft items that they may have for the Group show.

Please come along and enjoy yourselves.

A Sea Life Centre Adventure for the Beavers and Cubs

On Saturday 24th February the Beavers and Cubs went to the [Sea Life Centre](#) in Birmingham for a sleepover.

45 excited children and some very brave leaders loaded their rucksacks into the coach and waved our mums and dads goodbye. We then went to Birmingham. It took forever as there were roadwork's everywhere.

At last we got off the coach and found our bags in the boot of the coach. We walked very carefully down the edge of the canal to the Sea Life Centre, we were looking for the sharks which John told us were allowed to go swimming in the canal for some exercise.

When we got to the Sea Life Centre we put our bags into the big skips and met some other Beavers and some Girl Guides who were also sleeping there. Next, we all went to the toilet – because toilets are very exciting!

We had a safety talk before having a fascinating tour. We saw penguins. The penguins were very cold because it was the artic winter, they could swim really well, and they can shoot poo a long way and they enjoy having poo poo fights.

We saw an otter which can bite through metal, he was trying to stay awake but couldn't keep his eyes open. The piranha disguised themselves as bamboo. We liked the rays which were called Jeffray and Beconray, they came to our hands to get our electricity.

We went to the 4d cinema where we got water squirted on us and the chairs moved it was really exciting. We were lucky enough to go to sleep with the fishes in the shark tunnel. We lay down in our sleeping bags and the fish swam over and under us they kept coming to have a look at us, we thought they might like to eat us. But one of the sharks is vegetarian and eats the same food as the giant Turtle which is cabbage and broccoli. The big turtle came and slept next to us.

Some of the Beavers went to sleep, but some wanted to make the most of the experience and they watched the fish all night. In the morning we had muffins fruit and a carton of juice for breakfast. It was time to go home, some of us went to sleep on the coach.

We would like to thank the leaders for taking and our parents for paying for us so they could go for a sneaky weekend break. *Love from the Beavers*





Sometimes, with the best will in the world, my bright idea for an interview comes to nothing. The dead-line for the editorial looms ever nearer, and I have to accept the fact that I have no 'victim' to slip into this month's 'Stoker'. Having accepted this, I started to look back through the months and years reminding myself of how many friends I've made over this time, and what a privilege it's been.

The very first article back in 2012, was shared between Tammy and her Salon and Liz at the Post Office. I discovered that they had been friends for many years, and as I was still very new on The Stoker team I felt it was more economical to include them both in my supposed five hundred words. All these years later, those words have multiplied well over into the six hundreds. It all depends on how much information I'm given and trying to squeeze in about a person's life. I nearly always have to leave out much more of my notes than I want to. People have fascinating lives, and so often, I discover, very lengthy lives crammed with stories to tell about themselves and about the village. Looking back I discover that I've covered so many different aspects of life in Stoke Golding. Both of the schools, three of the pubs, three of our surrounding farms. A big 'thank-you' to all the staff at Pine Close, and a reminder of 'flu jabs. A number of articles about St. Margaret's church were given to me by both Linda Blay and Carolyn Patullo, and lovely Eileen Fisher, late of Laburnum Cottage filled me in about the Baptist chapel. When Kate and Rosemary took over 'The George & Dragon' we made sure to cover that. Now with Alex as the manageress there, I feel it's time to ask her to give us an up-date. Of the village groups I've only covered The Book Club, so if any other group would like to be included, please I'd love to meet you.

My most memorable characters have often been some of the older members I've chatted to, who virtually give me glimpses of past times, as they've been born, bred and brought up in the village. Telling me stories from early schooling days, to working either on the farms, milk rounds and paper rounds, in the hosiery, or serving in the forces in wartime. It's all been such an eye-opener for me, from a very different lifestyle down in the leafy suburbs of 1950's St .Albans. I've loved learning so much about my new village life and meeting so many interesting personalities. But now I'm repeating myself so I'd better close.....

Beth

Experiencing Easter at St. Margaret's School

On the Thursday before the Easter holidays all the children of St. Margaret's School took part in an Experiencing Easter event organised by RE Co-ordinator Mrs Yeomans with the help of other school staff. The children had the opportunity to listen to the Easter story and to engage in reflective activities about it. The children moved around eight stations which were located in the school, the school grounds, the church, the church grounds and the Baxter Hall.

The stations were as follows:

1. Hopes and Dreams – the story of Palm Sunday
2. Servant King – Jesus washes the disciples' feet
3. Remember Me – the Last Supper
4. The Arrest – Gethsemane
5. The Prayer – Gethsemane
6. The Courtyard – the Denial
7. Sharing our Sorrows – the Crucifixion
8. The Surprise – the garden tomb



It was a wonderful and special day enjoyed by staff and children alike, enabling them to reflect on the Easter story in a different and unique way. The School would like to thank Mrs Yeomans, the governors, St. Margaret's Church and the King's Lodge who supported the event during the day.

Stoke Golding Heritage Group

The Heritage Group's open meeting on May 17th in the Baxter Hall is a talk by local speaker Margaret Barrett on the "History of Vegetables". The talk is at our usual venue in the Baxter Hall starting at 7.30pm. All are welcome but there will be a nominal charge of £2.50 for non-members.

Church Matters

Church of England May Services

St. Margaret's Church

1 st May 6.30pm	Tuesday. Holy Communion.
6 th May 10.30am	All Age Service
13 th May 11.00am	Benefice Rogation Service, Goslings Farm, Dadlington.
20 th May 10.30am	Holy Communion.
27 th May 10.30am	Morning Worship + Baptism.

St. James's Church Dadlington

6 th May 6.30pm	Flower Festival Songs of Praise
13 th May 11.00am	Benefice Rogation Service, Goslings Farm.
20 th May 9.00am	BCP Holy Communion
27 th May 9.00am	BCP Morning Prayer

The Methodist Church May Services

6th	10.30am	Mrs Gwen Coley
13th	10.30am	Mr John Cooke
20th	10.30am	Mrs Hilary Fenby
27th	10.30am	Mrs Joan Ledson
27th	6.00 pm	Mr John Cooke (Flower Festival weekend)

Zion Baptist Chapel May 2018 Services

6th	6pm	Bill McIntyre
13th	6pm	Malcolm Welch
20th	6pm	John Needham
27th	6pm	Richard Cotton

**Stoke Golding website:
www.stokegolding.co.uk**

Fool on the Hill

Flying experience..

I may not be alone in the belief that, after decades of marital bliss, a form of unspoken communication establishes itself between husband and wife. A simple gesture, a raised eyebrow or even a pointed exhalation can convey in an instant more than a thousand well-chosen words. In this way I sensed a certain air of disapproval from Mrs Fool as I entered the third hour of immobility in my armchair. I think the final pointed gesture was a less than gentle bump against my foot with the blunt end of the Dyson. In order to maintain the pleasing harmony of our existence, I felt compelled to convey to the other half of the marital arrangement, through the medium of the spoken word, the reality of the situation. What, prima facie, appeared to be yours truly idling his life away was, in fact, a highly significant piece of travel research.

Compelled, as we are, to take regular trips to the southern hemisphere, I had been intrigued by the news that it had now become possible to depart from London and arrive in Western Australia in, as it were, one fell swoop. This did, however, involve being incarcerated in an aircraft for some 18 hours or so. Thus I had decided that by remaining seated for 3 hours and assessing my levels of boredom and discomfort and then multiplying them by a factor of 6, I would gain a meaningful insight into what the actual journey would involve. Having offered this fulsome explanation to Mrs Fool, the look I received soundlessly conveyed bewilderment, exasperation and just the merest hint of dismay.

The problem is that, despite the hype and hyperbole the airlines employ to create the impression that air travel is in some way glamorous, the reality falls some way short. The service is usually impeccable, the attitude warm and friendly, but still you are going to be sitting in an armchair for the best part of the day with a miniscule telly and the constant temptation to dull the pain with an excess of complimentary alcohol. This, and here I speak from experience, is a Gold Medal certainty in the Bad Idea Olympics. The other problem is that, at some point in the 18 hours it will be time to go to sleep and I, for one, find this impossible. The best I can manage is a disjointed cat nap from which I awake with a cricked neck and an unedifying pool of dribble. If I were not such a skinflint then Business Class obviously offers a solution but turbulence is no respecter of how much you have paid for your seat. I would be most put out to have paid a king's ransom for a seat and then having a sleeping experience akin to that which might be achieved in a touring caravan being towed across a ploughed field.

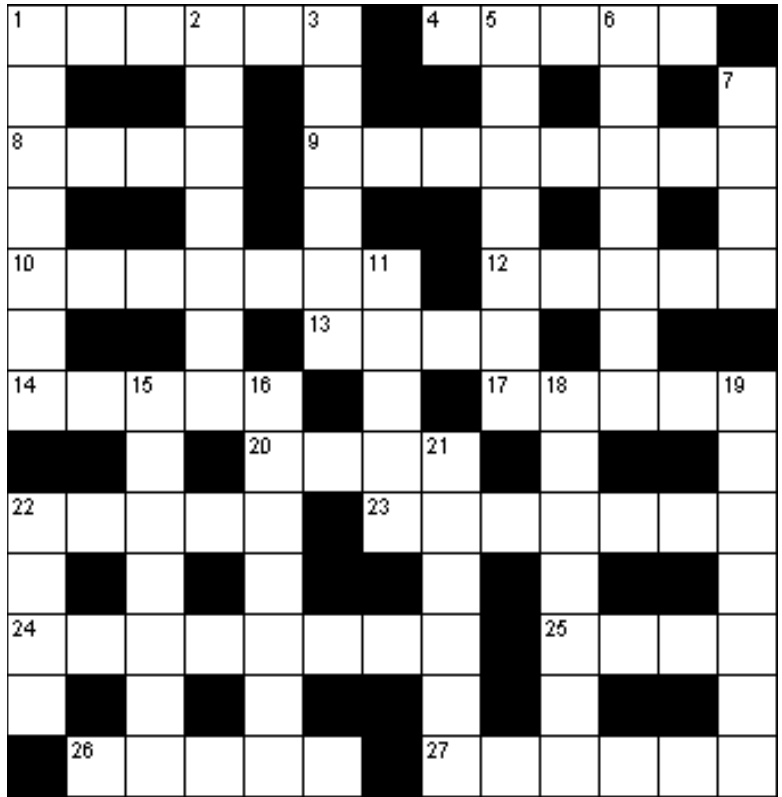
I will just wait until the day Mr Branson gets his space ships down to EasyJet prices.

F.O.T.H.



This month's crossword contains many clues about a funny late Comic

Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 1D lived here ***** Ash (6)
- 4 see 24A
- 8 Tidy (4)
- 9 Job of 1D (8)
- 10 Time when a building can be visited by anyone (4-3)
- 12 Two babies born together (5)
- 13 Rise quickly to a high (4)
- 14 Record label of 1D first hit (5)
- 17 Strongly wanting something (5)
- 20 Goods vehicles (4)
- 22 Type of boiler for the home (5)
- 23 Insides of dead birds (7)
- 24 and 4A 1D's special prop (8-5)
- 25 Slightly open door (4)
- 26 Fair hair of man (5)
- 27 Something said that is saucy or near the knuckle (6)

DOWN

- 1 Funny comic who recently died (3-4)
- 2 Famous ship that sank (7)
- 3 Spiky plants, shrubs or trees (6)
- 5 Where 1D would work (7)
- 6 Roof of a room (7)
- 7 Wildebeests (4)
- 11 Not old (5)
- 15 To be funny (7)
- 16 1D's first record "Love is like *_***** (1-6)
- 18 To be listening avidly (3-4)
- 19 An extra football player (7)
- 21 1D was not only a comic but was also a this (6)
- 22 Babies beds (4)

Notes from Stoke Golding Parish Council April Meeting - Draft

Borough Councillor Reg Ward reported on the following issues:

1. Homelessness.
2. Concerns regarding verges in Roseway.
3. New battlefield signs for the canal bridge near the Marina.
4. HBBC – Universal Credit problems.
5. Affordable Homes.
6. Central Government Prevention Strategy.

106 contributions – education budget.

Matters arising from March meeting:

CPRE – membership renewal was agreed at a cost of £36.

Ground maintenance – additional work was agreed at a cost of £567.00. Jason (Groundsman) has reported that due to the bad weather the pitch has not been vertidrained and some pitch marking was still outstanding from last year's contract, but these will be carried out during the next month.

Reports of Council representatives and Clerk:

Cllr Terhegge reported on the recent Parish Forum meeting as follows:

- Police matters
- Recycling and refuse collection
- Parish and Communities Initiative Fund and Developing Communities Fund
- Fire Safety

Good Neighbour Schemes

Cllrs Goodsell and Fisher reported on a recent meeting for the 1485 Legacy project and reported that an exhibition will take place on the 2nd May in Dadlington.

Planning Applications:

New Applications:

27 Andrew Close – conifer – fell, cherry tree – prune to 50% of current height and width.

Westmorland Farm, Rogues Lane, Hinckley – New detached garage

The Blacksmiths, 37 Andrew Close - tree -crown reduction to 3m in height, tree – reduce to 2m in height.

Permissions approved:

Chestnut Cottage, Park House Court, Main Street – horse chestnut – reduction of any long limbs which have evidence of decay and removal of dead branches. Chestnut – shorten two limbs by 50%. Clean out, crown lift to 5 metres and inspect cavity.

83 Hinckley Road – single storey rear extension, front porch.

36 Wykin Lane – two storey side extension and single storey rear extension.

Refusals:

37 Wykin Lane – proposed studio and playroom above approved garages

Land adjacent White Cottage, 5 Church Walks – change of use of land to the storage of building materials with the erection of a 2m high close boarded fence to eastern boundary including gate (retrospective). Clerk to chase HBBC Planning Enforcement Team regarding removal of stored building materials.

Neighbourhood Plan:

- The minutes of the NPAC meeting held on the 12th March were noted.
- The NPAC is currently discussing how best to present the complicated issues regarding the National and Local Plan documents and the Neighbourhood Planning process to the public.

It was agreed that a NPAC meeting to discuss housing should be held once the new Local Plan map of areas available for development has been confirmed.

Fees for cemeteries

It was agreed to approve the fees for cemeteries in line with HBBC charges.

Works at Hinckley Road Cemetery

Wall and Gate Damage: Further quotes were still pending.

Oak Tree: Assessment of the tree was still pending.

Tree Warden

The Clerk to make enquiries with LCC Stepping Stones regarding training and guidance for Tree Wardens. Cllr Goodsell and Karen Jones to liaise with Cllr Pegg.

Data Protection

- The Data Audit was unanimously agreed.

The following documents were unanimously agreed and adopted by Stoke Golding Parish Council:

General Privacy Notice.

Privacy Notice for staff, councillors and post holders.

Subject Access Requests (SAR) Policy.

Consent Form.

- Cllr Mitchell to ensure a copy of the relevant Privacy Notice is forwarded to members of the NPAC and any volunteers who carry out work for the NPAC.

- The Clerk to forward a copy of the relevant Privacy Notice to the Cemetery Administrator and ground maintenance contractors.

Cllr Mitchell to ensure that consent for the NP newsletter mailing list is reviewed annually on an opt-in basis.

Communications received by the Chairman of the Council

Written

- Resident's concerns regarding the ditch at Hinckley Road Cemetery. Clerk to seek further advice and reply to resident.

- Resident's concerns – parking. Clerk to reply to resident.

Proposed letter to support s.73 variation of condition for Laburnum Cottage community land was agreed.

Any Other Business

Cllr Mitchell reported on concerns from a resident regarding land to the rear of Station Road.

Next meeting: Methodist Hall, Wednesday 2nd May 2018 at 7pm

A copy of the full Parish Council minutes can be found on Stoke Golding website: www.stokegolding.co.uk

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS 1 Knotty; 4 see 24A; 8 Neat; 9 Comedian; 10 Open day; 12 Twins; 13 Soar; 14 Decca; 17 Eager; 20 Vans; 22 Combi; 23 Giblets; 24 & 4A Tickling stick; 25 Ajar; 26 Blond; 27 Risqué.

DOWN 1 Ken Dodd; 2 Titanic; 3 Yuccas; 5 Theatre; 6 Ceiling; 7 Gnus; 11 Young; 15 Comical; 16 A Violin; 18 All ears; 19 Reserve; 21 Singer; 22 Cots

We offer our sincere condolences to the families and friends of the following Stoke Golding residents, who have sadly passed away during March.

CAROL MARY FROST (CAROL)

Carol was born on the 29th of November 1943 at Hinckley Road Stoke Golding sister to three brothers Colin Keith and Richard. She lived there until she was seven.



She went to school at St Martin's convent and would bike every day from Nuneaton. She loved her school time and often spoke of it fondly. She told us that she used to keep a comb in the top pocket of her blazer and use it to comb her eyebrows which her schoolmates found really amusing. After school Carol had several jobs including nannying and taxi driving. She would often pick up Larry Grayson from Nuneaton train station. She said that he never tipped her!

It was while Carol was taxi driving that she met Peter, later to become her husband. After the birth of Andrew, the family settled in Atherstone. Shortly after they had Alison.

As Andrew and Alison grew up and left home the families moved to Hinckley. the families grew bigger when on

Carol's 59th birthday she became grandma or mama to her first grandchild Elise. They were to share a special bond with Elise packing her suitcase and spending Friday night's having picnics in the living room with Sam the collie. Grandson Charlie was born 6 years later and kept Carol busy baking cakes and telling jokes.

Carol learned of her illness shortly after Christmas. Rather than extend her suffering in hospital she decided to come home to Stoke Golding and spend her final few weeks in the place that was most special to her. Carol passed away peacefully just a few minutes' walk from where she born. A true circle of life if ever there was one.

The family would like to thank the district nurses who came each day as well as acknowledge the dedication of hospice at home team who looked after Carol so well in her final weeks at home. They would also like to thank Nicky who cared for Carol during the nights.

Carol's funeral service was held at St Margaret's Church prior to committal at the Heart of England Crematorium. In lieu of flowers her family requested donations if so desired be sent for Mary Ann Evans Hospice at Home c/o M.G. Evans and Sons, Funeral Directors, Holmville House, Long Street, Atherstone, Warks. CV9 1AX

Note: Carol's daughter, Alison contacted the magazine to say a big thank you for the generosity of those family and friends who either remembered Carol with love or attended the funeral service at St Margaret's Church. Carol's appeal for donations to the Mary Ann Evans Hospice at Home Charity in lieu of flowers raised a total of £797.00 including £83.00 from the Church collection.

Obituaries

CHRISTINE GLEDHILL

Christine passed away peacefully at home on Saturday 3rd March 2018 aged 77 years. She was the beloved wife of the late Alan, a much loved mum to Sarah and Vicki and mother in law to Mike and Robin. Her funeral service took place at the Heart of England Crematorium, Nuneaton. There were family flowers only but donations in lieu may be made if so desired for The British Heart Foundation c/o G Seller and Co Ltd, Funeral Directors, 75 Upper Bond Street, Hinckley, LE10 1RH

MARY JONES

Marie Jones passed away in Orgiva, Spain on 11th March on Mothers day this year. Although Marie passed away in Spain, she lived in Stoke Golding for over 40 years. Marie, aged 79 years, leaves behind her husband Les in Spain and her two sons who still live in Stoke Golding, Paul and Steve and daughter in laws Nicky and Bridget .Marie was also a grandma to Matthew, Sarah and Craig and great grandma to Jenson

JEAN HARE

Jeanne Hare. formerly of Stoke Golding. Jeanne and her family resided in Stoke Golding for many years before moving away from the village. She passed peacefully away on 17th March aged 92 years. Beloved wife of Tony, mum of Will and Tim, grandmother and great grandmother. The funeral service took place on 11th April at the Heart of England Crematorium, Nuneaton. Donations to Blind Veteran's UK c/o G. Seller & Co. Ltd., Upper Bond Street, Hinckley.

COLIN WHITMORE



We are also sad to report that Colin Whitmore of Whitemoors Road, Stoke Golding passed away peacefully at The George Eliot Hospital on 2nd April 2018 aged 70 years. Beloved husband of Chris, much loved Dad of Kirsty and James, Father-in-law to Andy and Ruth and loving Grandad to Heath, Evan and Joshua. Funeral Service at St Margaret's Church Stoke Golding, on Monday 30th April at 10.15am followed by cremation at the Heart of England Crematorium, Nuneaton and a wake at Stoke Golding Club, all welcome. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for the Air Ambulance or Parkinson's UK may be sent to W Smith & Sons Funeral Directors, Avenue Road, Nuneaton, Warwickshire, CV11 4JT. Telephone 02476 382124.

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2. Four inshore lifeboats
3. The police are responsible although they use volunteer mountain rescue personnel
4. 2,000
5. Chile
6. Grace Darling
7. Airports
8. Captain Phillips
9. Six: Constable, Sergeant, Inspector, Chief Inspector, Superintendent, Chief Superintendent
10. Trumpton

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