

No. 162

June 2017

Stoke Golding Village Magazine

Including

Dadlington Matters

The Stoker

50p



Note from the Editors

The Flower Festival at St James's Church really showed off some amazing flower arranging skills as well as great imagination . We couldn't resist showing one of them off in colour on the cover of this month's magazine. We hope you agree it really does it justice.



It is good to hear that visitors to Stoke Golding find residents 'delightful and willing to be accosted' (p16). We enjoyed reading the article on this page about a former village schoolmaster from the nineteenth century.

When we received the information about the Stoke Golding Garden Show we realised it is time to get our vegetables and flowers planted out. Hopefully the risk of frost has passed by now - as the saying goes 'Ne'er cast a clout till May be out' suggests it should be safe by the end of May. There is a little bit of debate, though, whether this relates to the month of May or when the hawthorn blossom is out.

We are looking forward to trying out the recipe this month - chocolate brownies sound really scrummy don't they? Why don't you try it to?

Don't forget that next month is a double issue to cover July and August , so we need photographs, articles and information about events for both months by 15th June please.

Jane and Steve

The Stoker Team

Editors: Jane White (01455 212416), Steve Smithers (01455 213798)

Production Team: Rosemary Collier, Beth Ellis, Richard & Ella Orr, Jan Pettyfer, Jill Webster, Jennifer Michie, Michael Dix.

Please send articles for the July/August issue of The Stoker **by 15th June** to:

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

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

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

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

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

Cover picture: Dadlington Flower Festival: 'The Big Bang' by Corinne Wilson

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Great Start to Clay Shooting Season



England International and Stoke Golding Skeet shooter, Joy Hirons has had a tremendous start to the new clay shooting season.

Carrying a serious shoulder injury since the beginning of the year Joy has been receiving treatment and currently competes with heavy strapping on the damaged area.

She took her place at the first England qualifier which was held over 2 days at Doveridge in Derbyshire last month and remarkably shot a personal best of 198 out of 200, hitting a perfect 100 on the first day and 98 on the second, placing her in an excellent position to take forward to the second qualifier at Bisley in Surrey next month, and hopefully her 4th England cap.

Joy has recently won the Leicestershire County skeet championship outright with yet another perfect 100

straight score and has become Lady champion at the Leicestershire Doubles and East Midland regional Doubles.

On form Joy will shortly be travelling to Northern Ireland to defend her Ulster Open national title followed up the next day with a trip down to Dublin to defend her Irish Open national title before returning back home to compete in the English Open.

Joy still continues to train hard and also work with her coach as well as receiving continued treatment on her shoulder.

Rob Hirons

Monumental Moments at Dadlington Flower Festival

This year's flower festival depicted monumental moments from history including votes for women, heart transplants, invention of the wheel and the 'Big Bang' theory to name but a few. As someone who struggles to arrange a few cut flowers in a vase I am in awe of other florists' creativity. This year at the festival there was a particularity high standard of arrangements. With very clever use of the church windows the arrangements blended beautifully with the flowers. I was informed that there were arrangements from the Earl Shilton Flower Club as well as local villagers. It was a fantastic display of talent. After I looked round, I savoured the wonderful cake and tea and bought the obligatory jar of jam. The donations for church funds with a view to repaint the church interior in the future came to an impressive £3272

If you missed the festival this year make sure you come to the next one.

Jennifer Michie



Parking Problems



Both my neighbour and myself have had damage done to cars due to parents reversing into them and then clearing off. Would you believe, I took

this on the very morning a letter appeared in the Hinckley Times about the problems caused by parking near schools. The car in the photo is temporarily blocking the entrance to the six terraced houses, the owner having taken the child into school. Some, on occasions, still tend to park in front of the garages.

Concerned Resident

Name and Address supplied



Emma Prokipczuc, Head Teacher at St Margaret's School, assured us that they are doing everything possible to address this situation by writing to parents and contacting them directly if they can identify the culprits. She is very happy to discuss this issue with residents who are being affected. - Eds.

Fool on the Hill

Ride 'em cowboy....

It would seem to be an increasing feature of the ageing process that one's appetite for excitement and change becomes a little muted. My idea of thrill seeking these days is to trot down to the Pine Close Surgery to see if the packaging has changed on my monthly supply of prescription drugs. The fact that this does happen on a fairly regular basis seems to satisfy my requirements when it comes to mystery and the quickening of the pulses.

Viewed in that context, you may well understand why I find people like Alan John Hackett, frankly, incomprehensible. Who he, I hear you ask? Well, whilst you may not have heard the name, you will almost certainly be aware of his legacy to the realms of certifiable lunacy. He is the New Zealander who first thought it would be a good idea to attach a length of knicker elastic to his ankles and jump off a bridge thereby giving birth to the unfathomable practise of Bungee jumping. This has become the "go to" activity for the army of modern youth who currently travel the world seeking ways to challenge their own mortality.

On a recent trip to New Zealand we got an insight into the sort of activity that passes for normal amongst the Kiwis. This helped to explain how Mr Hackett got to be the way he is. At a local sports day (think English Village Fete), the children of the small town were invited to have a go at Sheep Riding. A fairly sizeable animal was heavily restrained in a pen and then had a small child deposited on its back. I don't know if anyone had managed to convey to the sheep the rules of the game, but upon being released its sole purpose was to separate child from fleece. This it seemed to achieve with consummate ease. The child, once parted from the sheep, remained airborne for a short while before it was reunited with mother earth in a field dotted with piles of bovine excrement. What the child gained by way of a soft landing was more than offset by a marked decline in fragrance. The child, thus muddied and bruised, was then paraded past the waiting line of participants who seemed in no way deterred by the sight of their wounded and malodorous comrade.

When the adults decided to join in the fun, the sheep was substituted for a young bull. It is difficult enough to maintain contact with a bull that is not kindly disposed to the concept of intimate human contact, even with the aid of a rope to hold on to. When said animal is deliberately enraged by a second rope applying upward pressure to a part of its anatomy where upward pressure is a far from a required or desirable state, then this pastime carries the air of a complex suicide.

I shall be spending my afternoon planning a caravan holiday to Barmouth.

Be still my beating heart.

F.O.T.H.



CASAG News Health Promotion Topic - Stroke

Most people will be aware of the FAST campaign and the time to ring 999. The biggest single risk factor is untreated high blood pressure. Normal blood pressure is 120/80 mmHg. When was the last time you had your BP checked??

The stroke.org.uk website or the stroke helpline 03033033100 gives valuable information on stroke, what it is, how to prevent and manage strokes.

It explains the 6 things you can do to prevent a stroke; manage your medical condition, stop smoking, drink less alcohol, stay a healthy weight, do more exercise and eat a healthy diet.

As promised the result of the Easter egg competition held at the surgery. First prize was won by Emily Bevan and second prize was won by Skye Moran. Well done to both the girls. Thank you to Sarah at the surgery for taking the photos.

Jennifer Michie



The summer term has just started

The cubs and beavers started the term with a team games night. The cubs had a cinema night with popcorn and the beavers have been having a teddy bear picnic. Some very well fed teddies and other soft toy friends. The beavers have been making and flying kites. The scouts have been making rockets and launching them. The teams have planned the groups' activities to the end of the summer term with suitable outdoor activities planned, such as trips to Fox Coverts and walks along the canals. Watch this space. *Jennifer*



Simon The Beekeeper

Having recently helped to deliver Neighbourhood Plan leaflets at Willow Park, I was intrigued to see an industrial unit for Bee Keeping.

I met up with Simon, who originates from Sussex and formerly trained as a chef. He has also lectured, both at Hinckley and Leicester colleges, in the field of catering and was Head of Department in both colleges.

He developed a major congenital heart problem and had to retire on health grounds and subsequently went on to have a heart transplant 11 years ago. Whilst convalescing he developed his interest in the outdoors, gardens and bees.

His interest in bees came about 7 years ago and the maximum number of hives he has had at any one time is 90!

He realised there was a demand for bee keeping equipment and, starting off with 500 pairs of gloves, his business developed from there. His premises grew and grew from a bedroom, 2 bedrooms, garage, to his current industrial unit at Stoke Golding where he has been for two and a half years and plans to stay put.

He employs 10 local staff and his daughter in law Lisa is the Operations Manager. He sells mainly by email, Ebay and web site and interestingly he sells 40% of his goods internationally. In this country it tends to be the amateur bee keepers whereas abroad, in places like Australia, it is mainly commercial. I am afraid our inclement weather precludes bee keepers in this country from mass production.

His busy times are when the bees are busy - March, June and quieter in October. He mainly sells clothing and equipment and about 20 poly hives a week. The hives are now made of a special polystyrene which is better for insulation in cold countries. He has a few such hives nearby that he tends himself. He has done the odd course, but is mainly self taught and picked up valuable

tips from another bee keeper. He recommends that anyone interested should contact their branch of the Bee Keeping Association with one based in Nuneaton.

He certainly knows a lot about bees and prides himself on the support they offer bee keepers with their advice and instruction leaflets.

There have been many threats to all the bee population with parasites and modern day farming and pesticides.

He mentioned that in certain parts of China they employ people to use paint brushes to pollinate flowers as, due to air pollution, there are no bees.

Bees are an essential part of our lives, as without them there would be no pollination and then we would all cease to exist.

A sobering thought from Stoke Golding.

I would like to thank Simon and his team for their time and wish them all the best in their future business.

Jennifer



A Cathedral Journey – Part 7: In-spiring Times

When Remigius de Fécamp, the first Bishop of Lincoln, decided to move from Dorchester-on-Thames to Lincoln in around 1072, he couldn't have chosen a better spot to build his cathedral. Perched high above the city and the surrounding flat fenland, the cathedral dominates the landscape. Between 1311 and 1549, when its central spire collapsed (never to be reconstructed), it was the tallest building in the world. Although my friend Andrew and I didn't go to the top of one of the three towers, we did decide to pay for a guided tour that ended up on the roof. Here, we got a very different perspective of the cathedral and enjoyed magnificent views. The inside of the cathedral was just as impressive and would make a magnificent backdrop ten years later, when my youngest son received his degree on the choir steps. The scale of Lincoln, the third largest cathedral in terms of floor space after St Pauls and York Minster, was in marked contrast to Derby, where we had begun our day. The cathedral there was a more modest affair, another church turned cathedral, but a much grander building than most of the others we had seen. A grade 1 listed building, it dates from the 14th century but didn't become a cathedral until 1927.

Hugh of Wells was another Bishop of Lincoln, and he was a signatory to the Magna Carta. Lincoln cathedral was home to a copy for hundreds of years before it was shipped off across the road to Lincoln Castle where it now resides. There are only four known surviving copies of Magna Carta: one is in Lincoln, two are in the British Library and the other one is in Salisbury, our next destination. A whole year had passed since our trip to Derby and Lincoln and we were on holiday again with our wives, who decided not to come round the cathedral: Woolworths and Debenhams held the greater appeal. A key feature of Salisbury

is its spire, which at 404 feet is the tallest



in Britain. Like many other spires, it has caused great problems over the years due to its weight. Without the addition of several structures to hold it in place, including some beams designed by Sir Christopher Wren of St Paul's fame, it would, like Lincoln's spire, have collapsed. The cathedral also houses what many consider to be the oldest working clock in the world. It has no dial or hands, but was designed to ring the hour, every hour, to call parishioners to services. It dates from 1386 and for many years lay abandoned after the bell tower it was in was demolished.

If we were now looking at record breakers – tallest building, tallest spire, oldest clock – then Exeter had the longest uninterrupted vaulted ceiling in England. Impressive eh? Our visit there took place when we were staying in a holiday camp in nearby Sidmouth. The cathedral is nearly 900 years old and took three hundred years to complete, being one of the finest examples of Gothic architecture in the country. It is the only English cathedral with a minstrel's gallery where musicians would have stood to accompany services. The stonework shows angels playing a range of medieval instruments. It has to be said that we nearly joined those angels the following day when we ventured onto the seafront at Sidmouth.

(to be continued next month)

Stoke Golding Youth Football Club



The 2016/17 season closed its doors on a very successful season for Stoke Golding under 12's football team, with a successful County Cup run and a 4th place finish in the league for Stoke in their first competitive season, a performance the whole team can be proud of.

Going into the last game a win would guarantee them 3rd place, though at 2-0 down the odds seemed stacked against them, however proceeding into the second half Stoke showed the drive, determination and fight that was required and fought back to 2-2. They battled to the end, creating numerous chances and dominated play but sadly couldn't score that elusive goal. It then was left to Harborough Town who needed to score 4 goals without reply, they eventually won 7-1 beating Stoke to 3rd place.

The Duncan Warner league knock out cup was another source of success, beating Caterpillar in extra time and then Borough Alliance from the league above on penalties.

The semi final was played against Oadby Owls, the team that had already won division 6 at a canter and averaging 5 goals a game, it would be a tough game for Stoke. They started well and should have been in front at half time having the best of the chances. An opportunistic goal on the stroke of half time put Stoke 1-0 down and for all the fight and effort, they eventually lost the tie 2-0.

All in all the whole team have really put in a massive amount of effort and hard work over the season and they are starting to see the rewards for that work. Moving to 11 a side next season will bring more challenges and hopefully much more success!



Poems From Redmoor

Dream

Misty, hazy, I try to recall.
Those mysterious dreams uncaged by
walls.
Unknown, forgotten, that is their charm
Not true, unreal, they can bring no harm.

An escape, a break, they wait in my
sleep,
But I can't remember what I wish to keep.
Day or night it matters not
Since they've waited for me since day dot

Unreal, surreal like a game it
materialises,
Things that are generally cause for crisis.
Issues, problems, that's what they use
To make my dreams reality too.

By Ellie Charlesworth

Horrors of slavery

Scared and disorientated,
Staring at the wall,
Lying, tormented,
Listening to them all,

Those who wish for death,
Fail in the attempt,
Will take their last breath,
Or be punished in contempt,

The chains tied tightly,
The rubbing welts on their wrists,
Punishing was not taken lightly,
You have to keep your wits.

By Caitlin O'Hara

King of England from 1509 to 1547.
Italian a language Henry could speak.
Naturally ruthless to those who disagreed.
Gained power by splitting from the Catholic Church.

Handsome in youth but became bloated and fat.
Eyes a blue-grey with short auburn hair.
Neatly dressed with lavish outfits and gold collars.
Religious upheaval was brought by Henry.
Yeared for a son from his first wife Catherine.

Terrified the people with his egocentric actions.
Henry married six times during his reign.
Edward VI became his heir after three marriages.

Economic problems overwhelmed Henry.
Impatient and greedy were Henry's qualities.
Gleefully proclaimed himself head of the English Church.
Hungry for power and desired more in France.
Thirty-eight years of reign brought over 70,000 executions.
Henry died at Westminster and was buried at Windsor

By Leah Misty

Students Have Their Say on Redmoor School Developments

Two years ago, Redmoor Academy changed from being an 11-14 middle school to all an through secondary school. This has meant a considerable amount of new building to accommodate the additional students as well as new staff to teach up to GCSE level. As the first students to stay on are about to take their exams, here are a few of their thoughts.

'This is Redmoor Academy's first year of GCSE but I think everything's gone very smoothly. The transition from key stage three to key stage four has been quite easy for us overall. There is familiarity with the routine, the classrooms and we know most of the teachers. In that respect it hasn't been a challenge. I think it has definitely been nicer than if we'd gone to a new school.' - Megan Pinfold

'The new build is brilliant. Everyone is excited about it. It's really given the school a vibrant atmosphere!' Kirsty Grewcock

'It's been a lot more relaxed than I expected so far. It's definitely got a bit stressful as the exams have approached but I think people are staying positive and that definitely helps. The support we receive from staff has been brilliant.' - Owen Elsworth

'Of course it's really hard in GCSE and I feel like there are high expectations - I think that's normal. Sometimes I feel like I want to cry because of all the work! But the teachers are helping me through the process, so I feel like it will be ok in the exams.' - Emily Morse

'The new build is great - it almost makes the school feel brand new. GCSEs are definitely a step up from what we were doing before but the help we've received has been marvellous. We feel very supported. There are also lots of opportunities at Redmoor now, for example REC trips for key stage three students and work experience stuff.' - Jessica Cuthbertson.

Ten of a Kind (answers on page 23)

There's an old song that goes, "June is bustin' out all over." Here are ten questions to do with things bursting out, leaking or escaping. How many can you answer?

1. According to Greek mythology, from what did a group of Greeks burst out of in the city of Troy, so ending a ten year siege?
2. How many of the Great Train robbers escaped from prison?
3. In which embassy in London is Julian Assange, founder of the Wikileaks website, virtually imprisoned?
4. What did the character played by Steve McQueen use to escape from a German Prisoner of War camp in the 1963 film The Great Escape?
5. Goldie was a golden eagle that hit the national news when it escaped from London Zoo in 1965. Was Goldie a male or a female?
6. How many of their last nine games did Leicester City win in their 'great escape' at the end of the 2014-15 season?
7. What is the name of the Indian city where a gas leak from a pesticide plant caused the deaths of over 3,000 local residents?
8. On which television channel could you watch the property programme 'Escape to the Country'?
9. Erik Weisz was a Hungarian-American who became world famous for his feats of escapology, including a 1904 Daily Mail challenge to escape from specially made handcuffs that had taken five years to make. What was his stage name?
10. And finally, from which Rodgers & Hammerstein musical does the song "June is bustin' out all over" come from?

BETH'S CORNER. CHRIS BRANDON our VILLAGE POSTMAN



Around the time of one of our village pensioner's memorial service, I heard an unusually poignant story of how our postman had '*gone that extra mile*' to make amends for an error made by Royal Mail. A small packet had been sent to the wrong address, landing up in Station Road, Higham. It was urgently needed for the day of the funeral, so Chris made it his responsibility tracking it down to Nuneaton's Head office, making sure he delivered it himself. In these days, when people are over busy and stressed out, small acts of kindness are rare enough to be spoken about, and my interest was aroused. I know we have more than one post-person in the village, but one day as I was leaving Pine Close surgery, I met a familiar figure in shorts. "*Excuse me – are you Chris?*" - and that's how we got together for our session for The Stoker.

Chris has a very busy schedule, but on his day off, he arrived, as usual wearing the shorts we all recognise him in. His cheery smile is the first thing I remember, along with a comfortable ease as if we had known each other for years. His Mum and Dad, both Londoners, were from Dagenham and

Walthamstow, and Chris was born in Wickford, then a small village, just outside Billericay in Essex. After school, at the age of seventeen he started an apprenticeship as a mechanical fitter. His first job placement was in Barrow-in-Furness, on the East coast, which was followed by a couple more years at the large power station at Heysham. His apprenticeship came to an end when he was twenty-one, and he thought he would try being self-employed as a driving instructor. By the end of a year however he came close to a nervous breakdown realising he hadn't the temperament to cope with the horrific situations his clients landed him in, and he wisely quit. At this time his Mum was a warden at an old people's home, and had a friend working for the Post Office. Chris started his first year's training in 1988, through this contact. He found the camaraderie just what he needed after his previous year, and with a bunch of the lads decided to enjoy the summer holidays with them in Ibiza in 1989. There he met a girl called Donna, whose home was in Attleborough, and this is where the story starts to point Chris northwards to Nuneaton and the post office's sorting office. He and Donna kept in touch, with Chris travelling up and visiting Donna who was living at home with her parents. When they decided to marry, Chris asked his manager for a transfer to Nuneaton. Sadly there were no vacancies to begin with, but one soon came up, and their beautiful white wedding took place at Holy Trinity church in 1991. They were lucky to find a house they could afford, but it needed a lot of repair. This has been home ever since. The first area that Chris was given, stretched from Camp Hill through Weddington to Stockingford and Whitestone - quite an area to pedal. They have two sons, Daniel 23, is a PE

teacher, and Kyle 20, travels far and wide with roof installations. They were both excellent young footballers, and are now established referees in and around Nuneaton and district. Chris loves his rural post round, although he tells me today's mail has far fewer letters, but is heavier with many more packets and parcels, which take up more time, making sure each one has been signed for. His days are busy from the time he starts each morning, but it's obvious he loves what each day brings. Thanks for giving us your time Chris.

Beth.

HINCKLEY SCRIBBLERS & THE WRITERS' FAIR



Writers' Fair 2017



Hinckley Library
24th June 11am - 3pm

An opportunity for local writers to get together. If you want to join a writers' group or you just enjoy writing, come along and meet like-minded people and local authors. Refreshments will be available.

Authors don't miss an opportunity to sell your books!
You can book a table and a slot to tell people about your work.

which I was one. Five years later, the list has grown to thirty-one, with some extraordinarily talented folk amongst the group. Our most successful member, Philip McCormac, with his wickedly witty Northern Irish sense of humour has had well over twenty 'Black Horse' Westerns published. Sylvia Jackson-Clarke, born in Coventry during the war, has self-published six local romances, which are available in the library, and of course you all know my book "The Choice" published in 2015, followed by the Launch in the Baxter Hall in January 2016, and again in Dadlington later that year. However, my friends in 'Scribblers' are the real talent. For example John Trott, a retired officer from the UK's police force was shortlisted, having entered a competition for the NAWG. "Alan Ayckbourn" trophy for a short ten minute play. The Irish theme, has just two characters; an IRA terrorist and a Priest, a dark thriller. Lindy Greaves has 'ghost-written' and published a couple of page-turning memoirs, and is working on her debut novel. We even have a young television scriptwriter with a unique imaginative flair, and a most promising future. But it's the friendship, exchanging ideas, and learning from each other, which is probably the gift I treasure most.

Do come to the Library on June 24th - we'd love to meet you – and it's all FREE!!
If you have any questions – telephone me on 213097. Beth.

In September 2014, due to the enterprise of Carol Mogano from Burbage, a local writing group was born. Carol knew that libraries were anxious to encourage as many diverse activities into their buildings to keep them healthily 'ticking over' due to government cut-backs. On asking the staff in Hinckley Library whether they would be interested in hosting a local group of writers the answer was an enthusiastic 'yes'. Nine members signed up for that first meeting, of

Dadlington Matters

Dadlington Village Hall Questionnaire – April 2017

Thank you to everyone who completed the survey that the Dadlington Village Hall Management Committee circulated in April. All households in the village were given the questionnaire. Outlying properties were not questioned due to the logistics of delivering and collecting the questionnaires. If you completed the questionnaire and you weren't in when we came to collect them, you can still put the completed questionnaires in a box in the porch of the church. Or you could send us your views and suggestions to dvdmc2015@gmail.com.

The survey showed that most of those responding had used the hall in the last two years and that equipping the hall to show films would be an asset to the village. There were a number of suggestions for future events that the village hall management committee will discuss when they next meet.

Survey Results

54% of households responded to the questionnaire. Of those responding:

Using the Village Hall

95% had been in the hall in the last two years.

The reasons for using the hall were:

- Village Event – 79%
- Church Event – 54%
- Village Hall Event – 50%
- Attended classes – 15%
- Hired the hall – 13%

- Attended a private event – 11%
- Other – 4% (This was polling so it is likely that many others didn't register this)

The Website

60% knew about the website
36% had visited it.

Film Shows

81% said they were very or quite likely to attend a film presentation.

Of the four events mentioned, the responses were as follows:

Showing recent releases – 38% very likely, 31% quite likely
Film club - 20% very likely, 30% quite likely
Over 50s afternoons - 16% very likely, 20% quite likely
Children's/Family - 6% very likely, 6% quite likely

Other Village Hall Activity Suggestions

- Monthly get togethers for the older residents / tea and chat / card games & bingo
- 40s night
- Christmas event
- French / Farmers' market
- Local history events
- Beer festival
- Village garage sale
- Tai Chi / aerobics / zumba
- Coffee mornings
- Fake Thackeray

Walk the New Battlefield

Join a walk to the new Bosworth Battlefield location.

Led by John Whitehead with commentary.

Saturday 1st July - Start 9:30am at Dadlington Village Hall
or 10am at Stoke Golding Post Office

Walk across the battlefield to Whitemoors for coffee (& loo stop)

Back to Dadlington Village Hall by 1:30pm for Soup Roll and something liquid.

Suggested donation £10 adults, £5 children (Funds to Dadlington Village Hall)

Advise John 01455 213244 to help with planning

Last minute joining on the day will be welcomed

Need a venue for a children's party, a special celebration,
a meeting place for your group?

Dadlington Village Hall

Book online at www.dadlingtonvillagehall.co.uk
or ring Samantha Johnson 01455 212293

Fully
Equiped
Kitchen

Disabled
access &
toilets

Car
Parking

Coffee Mornings for Stoke Golding and Dadlington Residents

Dadlington Village Hall Management Committee recently carried out a survey within the village and asked for ideas for future activities. A number of residents suggested holding a regular coffee morning at the hall. The Management Committee thinks this is an excellent idea and one that would be popular with Stoke Golding and Dadlington residents. Whilst they are happy to host the events they are looking for someone to organise and run the coffee mornings.

Is this something you would be interested in doing?

**If so then please contact Rachel Rees-Jones 212538 or email
dvhmc2015@gmail.com**

Dadlington Village Hall Events

Saturday July 23rd: The Annual Quiz has just gone Biannual. Another chance to test your general knowledge.

Tba: Murder Mystery Evening

Details of prices, times and how to book are available at
www.dadlingtonvillagehall.co.uk .

*I dropped into Stoke Golding last week following up a bit of family history and met some delightful people who seemed happy to be accosted and saw a copy of *The Stoker* in the church. I thought the following might be of interest to your readers.*

George Edwin Hurst, Schoolmaster.



My great grandfather, George Edwin Hurst, was a schoolmaster in Stoke Golding for more than 20 years around the end of the 19th century. At the end of April this year I was passing on the canal and the family dropped me off to look round Stoke Golding, promising to collect me again on their return. George was born in 1851 in Wigston Magna, now a suburb of Leicester, to a family of builders. He became a teacher and moved to Stoke Golding to be, according to the 1881 census, an elementary school teacher. We don't know exactly when he arrived there but in the census he was living in 5 Hinckley Road with his wife Elizabeth, born in Derby, and one son.

The census returns for 1891 and 1901 record him still in the village, this time as a schoolmaster, but the address isn't recorded. However by the 1901 census there were six children.

In the 1891 census Elizabeth was described as the Sewing Mistress and in 1901 his daughter Agnes, known as Peggy, was a pupil teacher at age 18.

Some time between the 1901 census and the 1911 census, when George was only in his 50s, he left Stoke Golding and moved to Dovercourt on the Essex coast where he built a house. In the 1911 census he was described as a retired schoolmaster, age 59, and was living with his wife and two daughters. The eldest, Peggy, was a head teacher in Dovercourt.

It is a family mystery why he retired in his 50s and where he got the money to build a house. He wasn't ill as he lived until age 74 and I doubt that Victorian village schoolmasters were better paid than teachers today.

I met a helpful postman who pointed me in the right direction for the Old School House and Baxter Hall and talked to delightful ladies and the owner of the Old School House who were helpful with background information. Following an excellent lunch in the Swan I departed on the boat taking pleasant memories of a delightful village. Thank you to all.

No-one alive will remember George or the family but it may be that someone interested in local history will like the background.

*David Hurst
Pulborough
West Sussex*





theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Stoke Golding WI

DECISION DAY.

It seems that voting is all the thing at the moment what with the Local Council Elections and the General Election but at the May meeting of Stoke Golding W.I the members were making decisions on the resolutions that would eventually be forwarded to The National Federation of W.Is AGM in Liverpool in June. As the past has shown these resolutions have had far reaching effects on the British way of life so we all listened very closely as Sue Mottram our County Federation Advisor explained the two that were being proposed. The first was regarding the need to keep micro plastics out of our oceans and the second was the help needed to help alleviate loneliness in all age and gender ranges. After much lively discussion both proposals were carried unanimously and would therefore, on Stoke Golding W.I's behalf, be carried forward to the A.G.M for the final vote.

Once the serious part of the evening was over it was down to the fun part and Sue produced a handbag and devised a new form of 'bingo'. Knowing how many things ladies carry around in these important receptacles we were given points for different items, some unusual and some common, that each individual had in them. It was amazing just how many that was and Beryl, who won with the most articles from Sue's list, must surely have a very aching arm at the end of each day. Then a similar team handbag 'bingo' was enjoyed with many members deciding at the end of a very funny and unusual game that they really must declutter their handbags.

The next meeting on the 7th of June at the Methodist Church Hall will be a 'Stoke Golding W.I. Bake Off' between four very brave members. Do come along as everyone will be very welcome as we cheer on the contestants.

Val Hartwell

Church Matters



From St Margaret's Church

Crackpots!

A servant of a great man, living long ago, had one job to do. He had to take two large water jars on a wooden yoke to a well several miles away and bring the water back to his lord's home.

After some weeks he realised that the left-hand water jar was only half full of water when he arrived back at the castle; it had a crack in it.. He asked for a new jar but his master told him to look carefully at the side of the track along which he carried the jars each day. Sure enough on the right-hand side of the path where the water had dripped there were flowers growing in abundance – but the left side was arid and dry. Another of the lord's servants would come out to decorate the castle with the flowers.

Cracked pots can cause blossoming!

Jack Nicholls, a retired bishop of Sheffield, told the above story at the recent confirmation of one of our grand children. He went on to tell all the confirmation candidates that they were crackpots – and then turned to the congregation to tell us the same!

He suggested that if he had to pick Christian disciples he could do better than God. He would choose better looking and better off people than us. But God knows best and he chooses crackpots.

When we come together on the 4th of June to mark the birthday of the church – Pentecost – remember that God's people are made up from crackpots!

And when we venture forth on the 8th of this month to mark our ballot paper with a X we should remember that if we are ultra-critical of our politicians – we too have a failing or two.

The good news is that God invites us all, even though we do have a failings, to be crackpots for him and who knows we may be the inadvertent cause of much blossoming.

Alan Davis

St Margaret's Church Coffee, Chat & Book Swap

Free coffee, tea and a chat on Wednesdays

10.30am - 12 noon in Church

Everyone is welcome, we do hope you will join us.



Church Matters

Church Of England June 2017 Services

St Margaret's Church

4 th	10.30am	All Age Service
6 th	6.30pm	Holy Communion
11 th	10.30am	Benefice Service Fenny Drayton
18 th	10.30am	Holy Communion
25 th	10.30am	Morning Worship

St James's Church

4 th	9.00am	BCP Morning Prayer
11 th	10.30am	Benefice Service Fenny Drayton
18 th	9.00am	BCP Morning Prayer
25 th	9.00am	BCP Holy Communion

The Methodist Church June 2017 Services

4 th	10.30am	Revd Wes Hampton
11 th	10.30am	Mrs Gwen Coley
18 th	10.30am	Mr Colin Haddon
25 th	10.30am	Mr John Cooke

Zion Baptist Chapel June 2017 Services

4 th	6pm	Malcolm Welch
11 th	6pm	John Needham
18 th	6pm	Bill McIntyre
25 th	6pm	Steven Connor

The Methodist Church - Coffee Morning
SATURDAY 17th JUNE 10.00-11.30
For Methodist Homes for the Aged

Tickets for Bosworth Medieval Festival (19th -20th August) on sale now!

We are offering an **early bird discount of 20%** on the first 500 tickets for the Medieval Festival, which includes the annual re-enactment of the Battle of Bosworth, children's activities, living history, music, jousting and cannon displays. **Tickets can be purchased by phone on 01455 290429**, for which a £2 per transaction booking fee applies, or in person at the Heritage Centre, which is open 10.00 am – 5.00 pm. Don't delay and ensure your place at this exciting family event at a reduced price.

Visit our website for details www.bosworthbattlefield.org.uk

Occasional Café



The Women's Hall, Station Road, Stoke Golding will be open for a day on 11th June, between 10am and 4pm, serving tea, coffee, squash and cakes for a small donation. Everyone is welcome but we are sorry there is no parking available. The idea is to provide space for people to meet and it is not intended to be a money

making occasion.

We hope to see plenty of local people dropping in.

Jane & Alan White

The Neighbourhood Plan Survey – the story so far

The residents of Stoke Golding made the most of the opportunity to share their views through the recent Neighbourhood Plan Survey with 30% of households completing their survey and 40 responses from the under 18 year olds in the village. The number of surveys completed was very encouraging.

The RCC (Rural Communities Council) will be independently analysing the survey results and producing a report, which will be used to shape Stoke Golding's Neighbourhood Plan. It is expected that the report will be available to read electronically and as a paper format from mid- June.

By way of a thank you, two prize draws have been arranged for those who completed the Household and Young Persons' Surveys and the RCC will be using the survey results to draw up the list of the names. The prize draws will be made at The Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 7th June.

Other news from the Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee

An application has been made for a grant to enable the preparation of the Draft Neighbourhood Plan for Stoke Golding in conjunction with the Neighbourhood Plan consultants. This will hopefully be ready within the next six months.

Hopefully you'll agree there is a lot going on to prepare the Plan.

Once again, a further thank you to everyone who returned your surveys; you will make a real contribution to our village's Neighbourhood Plan.

Ella Orr

Stoke Golding website: www.stokegolding.co.uk

Kitchen Corner

CHOCOLATE FUDGE BROWNIES

This is a wonderful 'yummy' dessert and versatile too. You can serve it with Ice Cream, fresh cream, summer fruit or a fruit coulis.

You do not need a food mixer and there is very little washing up.

INGREDIENTS

14ozs. (375gms.) dark chocolate
7ozs. (200gms.) butter
2 cups caster sugar
3 eggs
1tsp. Vanilla extract
1 cup of sifted flour
1 cup chopped nuts (optional)

melt together with the butter in a medium saucepan over a low heat and stir until smooth and well blended.

Break the eggs in a small bowl and whisk lightly, add to the chocolate mixture with the sugar and vanilla extract, stir until mixed then add the flour and nuts.

Pour into the prepared tin and bake in the oven for 30 minutes.

METHOD

Pre-heat the oven to 180C (160C fan) or gas mark 4. You will need a well greased and lined baking tin 8"x12" (20cm x 30cm).

Undercook rather than overcook, the brownie should be fudgy and sticky, not dry and cake-like.

Let the brownies cool in the tin and, when cold, cut into squares.

Break the chocolate into small pieces,

Store in an air-tight tin. Enjoy!!

Are you a Culture Vulture - read on.....

Do you want to see some classic Shakespeare at half the price, comfy seats, 10 mins from home, excellent sound quality and close up views? WELL?? See the live streams on RSC plays at Cineworld in Hinckley. 2 adults cost just under £34.00 compared with £80.00 standard seats at RSC Stratford upon Avon.

We have seen 2 shows now, The Tempest and Julius Caesar.

Shows start at 7pm with an introduction interview by the Theatre Director, Angus Jackson and then key members of the cast. In Julius Caesar there were interviews with the actors playing Julius Caesar, Portia and Brutus. Then, as the audience assembles in the theatre which you see and feel part of, the play begins.

As it is like a film, you see more with the close up shots and yet still feel the tension and atmosphere of the play. You often get the best seats in the theatre on offer via the live screen and much more detail. The best part being that with free parking and 10 min drive you are home having enjoyed the experience.

Future dates: Antony & Cleopatra 24 th May, Titus Andronicus 9th August, Coriolanus 11th October

<https://www.rsc.org.uk/whats-on/in-cinemas>

Book through : onscreen.rsc.org.uk

Cineworld@Cineworldmail.com

See you there..

Jennifer Michie

Exploring the Tweed River: Part 2 – To the Sea

In last month's Stoker, I wrote about finding the source of the Tweed River, the stream that begins by Barwell Lane in Hinckley, and passes through the parish of Dadlington. As water in the river travels over 100 miles before it reaches the sea, my exploration of its downstream journey has been confined to sitting at home with a computer and following its path online. After passing beneath Stapleton Lane, the Ashby Canal and the Fenn Lanes, the Tweed turns westward. After Dadlington, it meanders past Whitemoors Antiques Centre and through the middle of Shenton before heading off to join the River Sence north of Ratcliffe Culey. The watershed of the Sence, that is the area the river drains, almost exactly matches the boundaries of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council. It is the main river of West Leicestershire and rises at Bardon Hill, which, at a fairly modest 278 metres (912 feet), is the highest point in Leicestershire. The hill is an extinct volcano and, since the 17th century, the site of an ever extending granite quarry.

The water from the Tweed River does not spend long with the River Sence as, a mile further downstream, the Sence joins the River Anker, north of Atherstone. The Anker begins life at Wolvey. A very pleasant park straddles it to the south of Nuneaton before it wanders through the town centre, almost unnoticed. After flooding the town several times, a relief channel was constructed in 1976. At Mancetter, the old Roman Watling Street (modern day A5) crosses the river. This strategic position prompted the Romans to build a fort here and construct another road, the Fenn Lanes, to connect it to Leicester. From Atherstone, the Anker has the Coventry Canal running alongside it towards Tamworth.

At Tamworth, the water from Stoke Golding and Dadlington joins yet another river, the Tame. Once one of the most

polluted rivers in the country, the River Tame collects water from many industrial areas around Birmingham and the Black Country. Nowadays the water undergoes purification at Lea Marston before entering a series of lakes at the Kingsbury Water Park. Tamworth was once the capital of the Anglo Saxon kingdom of Mercia. In Norman times, a castle was constructed there and it was, until the industrial revolution, the largest town in the west midlands. Nowadays noted for its theme park, Drayton Manor was once the home of Prime Minister Robert Peel. His 1834 Tamworth Manifesto was responsible for the creation of the modern day Conservative Party. From Tamworth, the River Tame heads north to join the Trent at Alrewas.

Here, on the banks of the Tame, you will find the National Arboretum. Fifty thousand trees create a peaceful setting for a collection of memorials to those who have given their lives in the service of their country. It opened in 2001, and lies at the western extremities of the National Forest. When the Tame joins the Trent, it is actually the bigger river, but the Trent take precedence, being longer. Rising on Biddulph Moor near Stoke on Trent, the Trent is England's third longest river. The valley of the Trent contains a number of coal-fired power stations that, when built, used local coal and the cooling waters of the Trent. The first town of note that the river passes through is Burton. In 1712, the town gained access through the Trent Navigation, to Hull which allowed their brewers to export their beer to London and parts of Europe. This in turn led to the expansion of the brewing trade during the 18th century.

The river skirts Derby and forms the southern boundary of the city of Nottingham. Here, the oldest and third oldest football league clubs in the world, Notts County and Nottingham Forest, sit either side of the river. They are the closest football grounds in England. Rather bizarrely, Notts County is in the

city whilst Nottingham Forest's City ground is in the county. The large stretches of water that appear soon after Trent Bridge belong to the National Water Sports Centre at Holme Pierrepont. Then comes Radcliffe-on-Trent, the birthplace of... well me! I know this stretch of river very well, having walked, cycled and learnt to drive alongside it. My friends and I used to play along the banks, the steep cliffs and the rather lethal weir: if only my parents had known. When my mother was headteacher of a small village school the other side of the river, Notts County Council employed a ferryman to ferry her over each morning and back again at the end of the day. The landscape now starts to flatten as the river passes Newark and then turns north towards its final destination, the River Humber and the North Sea. The Humber passes under the Humber Bridge, the longest single span



suspension bridge in the world when it opened in 1981, and meets the North Sea at Spurn Head. By now it has travelled approximately 195 miles. So next time you are walking along the Ashby Canal and you cross that little stream, just think, in the words of the song: *Where do you come from? Where do you go? Barwell Lane, Hinckley to the North Sea – you know!*

Michael Dix



Answers to Ten of a Kind

1. Horse (Trojan Horse)
2. Two – Ronnie Biggs and Charlie Wilson
3. Ecuador
4. Motorbike
5. Male
6. Seven
7. Bhopal
8. BBC
9. Harry Houdini
10. Carousel



Stoke Golding Garden Show 87th Annual Show – Saturday 2nd September 2017

Stoke Golding Garden Show committee have officially activated the 'busy' season following their first meeting and AGM for 2017. The committee is as usual, already looking for sponsors to kindly help towards the running costs of this years show, as it is funded entirely by local generosity, donating profits to worthy causes that affect the lives of villagers and their families. The cost of putting on the show continues to rise each year, but the committee is determined to ensure that this important annual village event thrives.

Last year the Show was able to donate £1000 to LOROS and £300 towards the cost of the new defibrillator, now available for emergency use in the Pine Close Surgery. This year we have chosen to raise funds for two main worthy causes, these being **LAMP**, which provides advocacy and much needed help for anyone in Leicestershire with a mental health need wishing to access mental health services. This is a small independent charity providing a much needed free service.

We are also raising funds for the **Dorothy Goodman School** in Hinckley, which is a Specialist School with an excellent local reputation. It caters for pupils aged between 3 and 19 years with a wide range of learning disabilities.

Please be assured that ALL donations, no matter how big or small are always very gratefully received.

We are especially indebted to **The Charity of Thomas Barton** who provided much of the funding for the running of the 2016 Show, enabling us to donate more of our profit to worthwhile causes, and to **Stoke Golding Club** who continue to support our efforts and let us stage the Show in their function room. This year we are also very grateful to the **George Ward Charitable Trust** who have kindly pledged financial support.

To make a much needed donation, offer help, support or ideas, or to obtain further details, please contact:

Phil Burgess, 3 Stoneley Road, Stoke Golding, CV13 6JN Telephone: 07963987982

The Show is open to anyone and everyone (we cater for all ages and abilities) and we attract competitors not only from Stoke Golding but also from all around the county and occasionally even further afield. We have included sections to test local ability in floral art, vegetable growing, flower growing, children's artistic ability, cake baking, jam and scones, cake decorating/making and much more, to create a riot of colour and diversity. This year we are offering more **novice classes** for potatoes, tomatoes, apples, radishes and beetroot. Please note a 'novice' is someone who has not previously won a first prize in the class at a Show.

Following the judging at 6pm, the public are warmly invited to attend, (free of charge) admire the class entries, congratulate the prize winners, buy raffle tickets for the ever popular raffle and then perhaps to bid on some of the produce in our fun Grand Auction later in the evening.

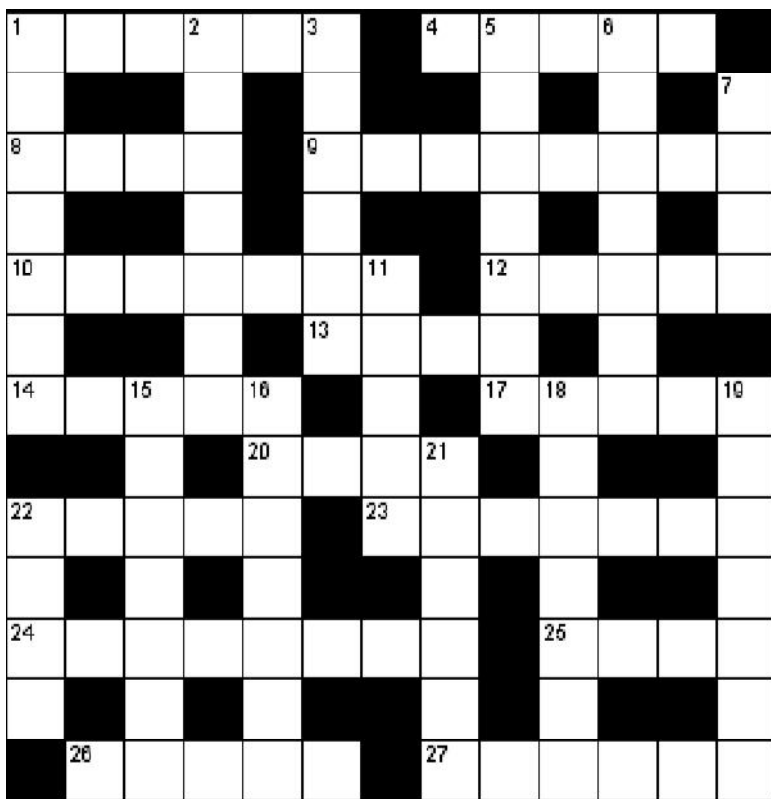
Schedules will be available early on during the month of August from Stoke Golding Club, the Post Office, and the village shop. These are **free** so why not pick up a copy and have a go at entering one of the varied classes on offer? If you need any advice or can't find a copy of the schedule, please contact Tina on 07809629690.

Schedules are also available via email at tinawaters999@gmail.com.

SGGS depends on YOUR donations to keep being a historic and worthwhile event each year. Please help us to help others and thank you for your kind generosity.

June Crossword

Crossword



Across

- 1 Modern word for sunglasses (6)
- 4 Vehicle for carrying goods (5)
- 8 Egypt's river (4)
- 9 What you need to travel abroad (8)
- 10 A stretchy band (7)
- 12 Someone who shows you to your seat (5)
- 13 Birthday greeting (4)
- 14 Another word for photos (5)
- 17 Aye & nay (3 & 2)
- 20 Bathroom powder (4)
- 22 Long period of observations (5)
- 23 Summer footwear (7)
- 24 Pack this to go on holiday (8)
- 25 Large jug (4)
- 26 Sun Lotion (5)
- 27 Short name for an Australian (6)

Down

- 1 You lay on these for a tan (7)
- 2 Put on your best attire (5 & 2)
- 3 Infected (6)
- 5 To swot up again (2 & 5)
- 6 You put these into 24A (7)
- 7 Bright light in the sky (4)
- 11 You make these on your mobile (5)
- 15 To be more upset (7)
- 16 Caribbean Island (2 & 5)
- 18 Goes on forever (7)
- 19 To watch something (7)
- 21 You need this to take 14A (6)
- 22 You'll need one for a USA trip (4)

Notes from Stoke Golding Parish Council May 2017 Meeting (Draft)

Cllr Terheege as Chair and Cllr Beale as Vice-Chair were unanimously appointed. It was unanimously agreed to appoint Theresa Case as Financial Officer.

Members of standing committees were re-appointed on block and Parish Councillors' areas of responsibility agreed:

CHAIR: Cllr Rachel Terheege – Sport in Stoke Golding (SISG) Committee.

VICE: Cllr Sarah Beale – play equipment, compliance, Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee, Village Hall Management Committee and SISG.

Councillors:

Cllr Chris Pegg – ground maintenance, cemeteries, recreation ground, Convent Site Development Committee and Chair of SISG.

Cllr Fisher – play equipment, SISG and Chair of the Village Hall Management Committee.

Cllr Mitchell – Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee.(NPAC)

Cllr Goodsell – Chair of the Convent Site Development Committee.

Cllr Smith – play equipment.

All councillors share responsibility for planning issues.

Borough Councillor Reg Ward reported on the following:

Morris Homes – variation of condition and 1 extra dwelling.

Severn Trent – drainage issue at Convent corner.

A resident queried the changes to the jitty kissing gate and was reassured that the gate remained unchanged and had just been renovated.

Cllr Mitchell had previously declared an interest in all planning items due to his position as member and acting Chair of the Stoke Golding Heritage Group and, therefore, requested a dispensation – this dispensation request was agreed, allowing Cllr Mitchell to participate in discussion and vote on all matters relating to planning applications in this meeting and future meetings for a period of four years.

Matters arising from previous meetings:

The following February crime figures were obtained from the police.uk website: 1 vehicle crime near Ivy Close and 1 theft near Station Road - , investigations complete, no suspects identified and 1 other crime near Hall Drive remained under investigation.

Village Planters_ – Cllr Fisher reports that these have now been relocated. Clerk to thank Malc Watson.

Jitty railings_ – work should be carried out in June 2017.

Benches_ – the new bench has been received and will be installed shortly. A site meeting for the turning of the bench at Fisher's Farm will also be arranged.

Xmas tree_ – Cllr Fisher will meet with HBBC Tree Officer in June.

Thomfield Road street sign – It was agreed to proceed with a repair at a cost of £120.

Reports of Council representatives and Clerk:

Emergency tree work, quotes and weed killing were discussed and the following was resolved and agreed: to proceed with the removal of soil at both cemeteries, at a cost of £190.00; to proceed with removal of a fallen tree at the recreation field, at a cost of £168.00; to obtain a quote for emergency tree work at Hinckley Road Cemetery and proceed with necessary work; for the Clerk to obtain the LCC weed killing schedule.

Xmas tree electricity was discussed and agreed to reimburse the resident the sum of £15.00. Playground inspection: Cllr Smith to obtain a price for new matting in front of the football wall area.

Planning Applications:

New Applications:

- 5 Stoneley Road, SG – two storey rear extension and erection of porch – no concerns.
- St Margaret's Church Yard, SG – works to trees – no concerns.

Permissions approved:

- Stoke Lodge, Hinckley Road, SG – variation of condition 2 of planning permission 14/00279/HOU to increase the footprint and amend the design of approved extension.

Review inventory of land and asset: An up-to-date asset list was noted and is to be published on the Stoke Golding Village Website.

The Parish Council is committed to a five year fixed discounted deal until 1st June 2020 – it was agreed to proceed with renewal of the insurance with Zurich, at a cost of £2,080.76.

Matters arising from the annual parish meeting -Cllr Mitchell to investigate investment options for the Women's Hall Charity. Dave Marriott to investigate bird boxes and grazing - and to be thanked for his work.

Neighbourhood Plan: The NPAC Terms of Reference remain unchanged, however, the requirement for meetings every two months has been suspended. The minutes of the NPAC meeting held on 15th March and a progress report by Cllr Mitchell were noted. It was agreed to proceed with the questionnaire data analysis by the RCC, at no cost to the Parish Council - and to proceed with the 2nd grant application for £10,800.

Sport in Stoke Golding (SISG) Cllr Pegg reported that the appointment of an architect and quantity surveyor by Pro-help will take place within a week and an expression of interest in FA funding had been submitted.

Trees Cllr Pegg has discussed the funding of requested tree work at Hinckley Road Cemetery with the resident and will pass the final quote to the resident for consideration. Boundary issues were also discussed.

Cricket: – it was agreed to proceed with the requested payment plan for six monthly payments of £74 and to approve the revised pitch hire agreement.

Wykin Lane Cemetery sign: It was agreed to proceed with repair of the sign, at the cost of £150 with new posts and re-installation of the sign, at the cost of £70 with funding kindly provided by the Charity of Thomas Barton.

*Communications as received by the Chairman of the Council
Written*

Resident's query - Churchyard trees and community orchard. - Clerk to reply to resident and Cllr Pegg to speak to Harbours.

Resident's query – housing development monitoring- Clerk to reply to resident.
Leicestershire and Rutland Playing Fields Association – annual subscription renewed - £30.

Next meeting:- Methodist Hall, Wednesday 7th June 2017 at 7pm

The End of the Dream (for now)

Back in February when I last wrote about Leicester City, I was busy booking my flights to Seville. The canny airlines had, by now, cottoned onto the fact that a few thousand fanatical souls would be seeking flights to the south of Spain and so the prices rose immediately. I decided on a roundabout route, flying Luton to Malaga and then catching a train to Seville. The day of the game was spent exploring this beautiful city: the cavernous cathedral, the largest in the world; the alcazar built by the Moors, where Columbus planned his voyages; the cafes and bars where I consumed tapas, drank red wine and enjoyed the glorious sunshine - then to the game, with some trepidation.



Like many other supporters, my hopes were that the team wouldn't concede a hatful of goals, so making the return leg a waste of time. The early season optimism had all but faded, as City had plummeted down to the relegation zone. Now it was damage limitation time. The game followed an all too familiar pattern with Seville having chance after chance including a saved penalty. With Leicester losing 2-0, the team suddenly remembered how to play, and an away goal by that man Vardy meant that we were celebrating as if we'd won the game at the

end. Even getting stranded in Birmingham as Storm Doris caused a complete rail shutdown couldn't dampen my spirits or the anticipation for the return leg, two weeks later. I wasn't disappointed. It was one of the best football nights I've ever experienced, with City winning 2-0, another saved penalty, and the most incredible atmosphere.

So now the quarter-finals of Europe's top competition beckoned. Again the airlines made merry, quadrupling prices to Madrid within minutes of the draw. The entreaties to my wife about this being a once in a lifetime opportunity were beginning to wear a bit thin as I contemplated yet another trip abroad, this time with a friend, but by flying via Zurich, and staying in a hotel miles from the centre, we kept costs manageable. We avoided the troubles in the city's main square and made our way to the magnificent open air arena that is the Vicente Calderón Stadium, the home of Atlético Madrid. By now Senor Ranieri had gone and new manager Craig Shakespeare had brought about a turn in fortune. A dodgy penalty and 1-0 defeat wasn't too bad, and the occasion was a cracker, with the home fans keeping up a constant barrage of mass singing throughout. Six days later and we were at Leicester's King Power Stadium to hear, for what would be the last time (for now), the strains of the Champions League music. It was yet another spectacle, and ended in a creditable draw as Leicester fired in 22 shots, whilst Atlético made 65 clearances. But, it wasn't to be.

As I removed the penciled in dates for semi-final and final from my diary, I mused on the events of the last four years: 2014 - a convincing promotion after years of frustration; 2015 - the great escape with 7 wins in 9 after a season stuck at the bottom of the table; 2016 - 5000-1 Premier League Champions; 2017 - Quarter-finals of the Champions League. 2018? - who knows - this is Leicester City after all, and although this particular dream has ended, I am sure there will be plenty more to come.

Michael Dix

GEORGE STANLEY COLEY (STAN)**1931 -2017**

We are sad to report that Stan passed away suddenly in the George Eliot Hospital on Friday 5th May 2017 at the age of 86 years. He was the beloved husband of Dorothy and a dearly loved father to Sarah, Rachel and Helen, a much loved Grandpa to Emily and father in law to Paul and Richard.

Stan was born at Tamworth and on leaving school became a telegraph boy and then a postman before doing his National Service of two years, leaving with the rank of Sergeant. He became a post office counter clerk at Tamworth where he met and married his wife Dorothy on 1st of June 1957. After taking

examinations for the civil service he was appointed to the National Assistance Board serving in Erdington and Nuneaton.

They moved to live in Stoke Golding where Stan spent much time helping to run the village Garden Society. He became a trustee of the Thomas Barton Charity and designed the Memorial Wall in the Hinckley Road Cemetery and was much involved in their projects including the Church floodlighting, the village sign, renovating the clock on the old Hall's factory and the production of the Blue Plaque Walk and other village leaflets.

Stan's funeral service will take place on Tuesday May 30th at Dadlington Church where there will be family flowers only with donations in lieu if so desired may be made at the service or by cheque made payable to 'Client Charitable Donations Fund' care of Mc Cartney's Funeral Directors, Coventry Road, Hinckley, which will be divided between Dadlington Church funds and Rainbows.

Stan will be greatly missed by family and friends alike and we send our sincere condolences to Dorothy and his family.

Corrections

The following are corrections from the Football Club Article last month:

The Hair Stop (not Shop) and Melloney Woodroffe (not Meloney Woodruff)

We apologise for the inaccuracies.

Tomlinson's Farm Shop

Your friendly local Farm Shop, Station Road, Stoke Golding

Free range chicken & eggs, Dexter beef, locally sourced cheese, milk, & more

Bedding Plants



Connor's Bakery
bread and cakes.



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Johanna

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CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS 1 Shades; 4 Truck; 8 Nile; 9 Passport; 10 Elastic; 12 Usher; 13 Card; 14 Snaps; 17 Yes-No; 20 Talc; 23 Sandals; 24 Suitcase; 25 Ewer; 26 Cream; 27 Aussie
DOWN 1 Sunbeds; 2 Dress Up; 3 Septic; 5 Re-Study; 6 Clothes; 7 Star; 11 Calls; 15 Angrier; 16 St Lucia; 18 Endless; 19 Observe; 21 Camera; 22 Visa

Yoga With Adele

Weekly 'Drop in /Pay as you go' Mixed Level Yoga classes

Baxter Hall, STOKE GOLDING - Monday 6.15pm & Monday 7.30pm

Mike Bines Movement & Dance Studio, Swan House, MARKET BOSWORTH -
Tuesday 7.30pm & Thursday 12.15pm

Baxter Hall, Stoke Golding - Wednesday 6.30pm

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