

The Stoker



Stoke Golding Village Magazine

Including

Dadlington Matters

50p



Note from the Editors

Welcome to the last Spring issue of The Stoker. Soon we will be enjoying those long warm sunny days of summer... hopefully!



This month's magazine contains reviews of some of our local seasonal activities, including the Dadlington Church Flower Festival; a wonderfully vibrant and fragrant event, well described in words but better enjoyed in the flesh, raising much needed money for St James Church.

There are quite a few informative articles again this month. We particularly enjoyed reading Michael Dix's account of the longitude line that runs through Stoke Golding and the route it's journey takes around our planet.

So, with contributions from our many local organisations and individuals, from the Scout Group to the Fool on the Hill, we hope you find this month's read as stimulating as ever!

Don't forget the next edition of the Stoker covers July and August, so please send in your letters, news, articles and photos by 15th June.

*Best Wishes
Jane & Steve*

The Stoker Team

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Please send articles for the July/August issue of The Stoker **by 15th June** 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: Stoke Golding Beavers receive their Bronze Chief Scout Awards

Contents

Page

- 3. Red Kite
- 4. W.I.
- 4. Reflections
- 5. Scout Group
- 6. Let's Walk the Length of England
- 7. St Martin's Catholic Academy
- 8. Beth's Corner
- 9. Kitchen Corner
- 10. Dadlington Matters
- 12. Four Counties Wrestling Ring
- 13. Fool on the Hill
- 14. What's On
- 15. Ten of a Kind
- 16. St. James's Church Flower Festival

Page

- 17. Dementia Awareness
- 18. Church Matters
- 19. Church Matters
- 20. Charity of Thomas Barton
- 20. Crimestoppers
- 21. Crossword
- 22. Longitude
- 23. The Mystery of Segwelle Hamme
- 24. The Mohican Quinneys
- 25. The Records of Stoke Golding
- 26. Backstage Whispers
- 27. Obituaries
- 28. Parish council Notes
- 30. Puzzle Answers

Red Kite at Close Quarters

On Wednesday 9th May at 1.30pm I was driving away very slowly out of the chicane on the exit from Higham-on-the-Hill as I noted a red kite flying low over the field to my right. Indeed it was brazen enough to swoop down onto the road about forty yards in front of the car to pick up road kill which it took high up into the sky over the village, appearing to be joined by another.

Most certainly it is not unusual for them to drop into large suburban gardens where fed in The Chiltons, a region where they can be encountered in large numbers as anyone can evidence who drives towards London on the M40. And though seen with much frequency in some parts of Leicestershire, particularly further east towards Rutland, nevertheless they do make occasional appearances in this area. Indeed my somewhat limited encounters more local bear witness to them tending to ghost quickly in and out of view.

David Abbott



Fun and Far Reaching Decisions.

The ladies of Stoke Golding W.I began their monthly evening meeting discussing the very important question of mental illness and how we, from each individual W.I. right up to National Level, can help, understand and offer support to stop the stigma that is, unfortunately, levelled at those who suffer from these illnesses. This was regarding the resolution that had been decided nationally and was to go to the A.G.M for the final vote. There was much discussion, as mental illness is encompassed by such a wide umbrella, and there were some members who thought that we were not qualified to be able to give the relevant information that was required to help many of those who were having to contend with this problem. But all were willing to offer the hand of friendship and a warm welcome, recognising that mental illness does not and should not bar anyone from participating in a full life and they have the right to receive all possible help both from government, the N.H.S and ourselves and that those suffering should never have to suffer a stigma because of their illness. The members then voted in agreement of the motion which would then go on to national level.

We then took part in a very cheerful game of Beetle where cries of 'I want a head ' or 'Only one more leg needed' were soon ringing around the room. There was often confusion as to which way the winners or the losers had to move, either up or down to a table but everyone seemed to enjoy the fun and laughter. We were also able to see the beginnings of one of our entries to the Group Show, but were requested to bring more craft items if anyone had anything that was suitable.

Our next meeting on June 14th at the Methodist Hall is 'Recycling with a Difference' where I am sure we will be amazed at what can be made out of things we throw away. Please come and join us and have an enjoyable evening.

Val Hartwell

REFLECTIONS...

Oh goodness I'm in such a rush! What is the problem? What's the fuss?
Grandkids' birthdays loom again and again - a never-ending kind of pain
Of searching mind and internet, for gifts that please and kind of get
A way into young minds that thrive - on tablets, phones and gaming drives.
In days gone by t'was such a joy - to give a child a wooden toy.
But now the worry, oh despair! I feel I've gone and lost the flair
To give and please my dear young folk - but maybe it's a kind of joke
On me, Nanna, moth balls and all – needing 'lectronic overhaul!
Vouchers or cash, then – there's the nub
I'll drown my anguish down the pub.

Rosemary

Stoke Golding Scout Group - Hard Work but Fun

Firstly some Beavers have been working hard and have received their Chief Scout's Bronze Award. There will be a special ceremony for them to be presented with their badges. Well done. If you read this article on a regular basis you will be aware how much more work the Scout Group have to do to achieve their badges these days. One of the Cubs badges takes about 3-4 months to complete.

The Beavers have also been doing their team challenge badge and taking part in team based activities by making a junk model together and making helping hands.

The Cubs have been doing their pioneer activity where they have to learn 3 knots, make a rope and lashings. The lashing rope-tying took the form of a sedan chair. No injuries were sustained as there were some questionable lashings.



John was inspired by reading about a prison break out using toilet roll. So the Cubs plaited toilet roll and made a big thick rope which lifted the body weight of over 60kg of one of the leaders after a few cubs were dangled as well!



The Scouts have been down at Lutterworth pool, snorkelling and making cakes in mugs. They spent an evening delivering leaflets around the village for which they were paid. The money raised will be used towards their big international camp next year. We have the sixers and seconders day on 19th May and a district trip to Twin Lakes in June as well as the presentation evening. Gosh what a busy and fun time we are having.

The Scout Group also took part in the annual district St. George's Day Parade through Hinckley. It was a particularly hot day and we were pleased with the turn out of 23 Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. The leaders were impressed by how well-behaved the group were, especially in the church and handled the busyness of Castle Street with people and markets as the parade walked through. Well done to all.



Jennifer

Let's Walk the Length of England 3: Heading South

The 17th century George Hotel stands proudly on the main street of the Somerset town of Frome. We had booked a couple of nights there in order to continue our walk from Bath to the south coast, a journey of 75 miles that we would complete in a leisurely nine walks. We set off from Bath where we had completed the Cotswold Way eighteen months earlier and after a stiff climb up onto Combe Down, we descended to the Colliers' Way, a cycle and footpath that runs along two disused railway lines. This took us first to Radstock, an old mining town, and then dog-legged to Frome. One doesn't generally associate Somerset with mining but the Somerset Coalfield was still producing coal until 1973. The walks were quite easy going on the flat surfaced trackway. At the time, we were unaware we were in nursery rhyme land. The walk passed the village of Kimersdon, traditionally the site of Jack and Jill's hill, whilst nearby Mells was the home of 'Little Jack Horner.'

A few months later, we returned to Great Elm, a village we'd passed through on the Colliers' Way, and there we connected with the Macmillan Way that would take us onwards. At Nunney, we found a fabulous, moated medieval castle which we admired briefly before plunging down a narrow footpath between high hedges and trees laden with damsons. We filled our pockets to bursting. When planning walks, I try to ensure there is somewhere on our route to eat around lunchtime, so when I discovered a newly opened delicatessen and restaurant in Castle Cary, I thought it would be an ideal place to eat. We found a table and explored the enticing menu, accompanied by the gentle strains of Sting's song Fields of Gold. When the waitress arrived, it appeared the restaurant was so newly opened that there only about four things actually available on the menu. Nevertheless, we ordered and waited, whilst that lovely song Fields of Gold filled the air. When the food eventually came, it was delicious and we munched away accompanied by, you've guessed, the only song they had managed to put on their playlist – Fields of Gold!

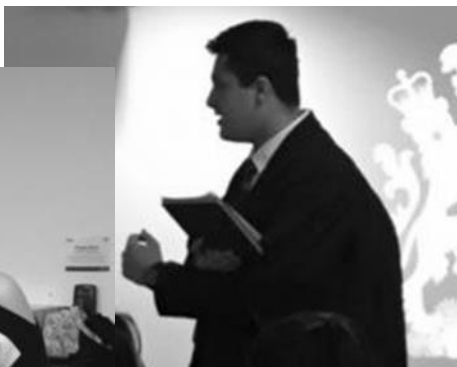
There is a rather impressive Iron Age hill fort on Cadbury Hill and after admiring it from the car, we parked up at South Cadbury to arrange a taxi to take us to the start of our walk. Rather fortuitously, the place we parked was directly behind a taxi. No hanging around today, we thought as we rang the driver. We were wrong: she was still in bed and we had to sit around for half an hour or so whilst she got up. Our journey south took us to places we'd never been before like Sherbourne, a delightful Dorset town, and locations we've never heard of such as Evershot, Chetnow and Maiden Newton. Eventually we arrived at the village of Abbotsbury and from there it was a short stroll down a sandy lane to the vast expanse of Chesil Beach. We sat on the pebbles, dipped our fingers in the sea and then headed back for a well-earned drink in Abbotsbury. Our thoughts turned from the beautiful south to the next part of our journey – the grim north.

Michael Dix

**St Martin's Catholic Academy
DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY
GIFTED AND TALENTED EASTER SCHOOLS
3rd – 6th April 2018**

140 Leicester young people came together to take part in four days of art, dance, drama, health studies and law as part of De Montfort University (DMU) Gifted and Talented programme. Six students from Saint Martin's secured places and gave up part of their Easter holiday to experience life at university and indulge their academic passions. The days were full to the brim with exciting activities and unique workshops. The grand finale was a celebration lunch followed by the students performing, presenting and exhibiting their hard work.

Saint Martin's are extremely proud that a number of students were selected and so very grateful for the support from family and friends (students were required to travel to and from the university each day). The Gifted and Talented Schools have been set up to inspire and further educate Year 10 students on specific subjects in a university environment. The students are provided with the opportunity to develop skills and knowledge by utilising DMU's fantastic facilities whilst working alongside some of the university's top academics and students.



One student remarked 'I really enjoyed the challenge of the week. I was able to use the skills learnt in drama at school and through the experience out of school. The event was beneficial and hopefully will help with my planned progression post Saint Martin's'.

Beth's Corner and Introducing Jean Thomas
THE 85th. ANNIVERSARY OF OUR METHODIST CHURCH



Since 1933 Stoke Golding's present building in Main Street has been a busy, active church for young and old alike, and looking through a slim printed history by Ann Jones, (2008) I come across an intriguing heading which arouses my curiosity: "THE ARRIVAL OF 'PRIMITIVE

METHODISM' IN STOKE GOLDING". Reading further down the page, I learn about a Methodist preacher who tried to bring revivalist meetings from America, called 'camp meetings'.

Wesleyans were not impressed and considered them improper. However in 1818 a 'camp meeting' was held in Hinckley and religious zeal spread to the villages. I can imagine the enthusiasm of all the rural folk in Victorian times who had never really felt at ease with the gentry in the Anglican churches. Groups probably started meeting in private houses, but by 1857 the first Methodist Church and Sunday school was built at 47 Station Road. This always attracted me when I first came to the village, admiring its simple Georgian style. By 1933 the congregation had completely outgrown it, and the church in Main Street was built. Academic details like this are interesting, but it's the people that bring them alive. So I was delighted when Jean Thomas agreed to come and share some of her fifty-one years' experience as a member of the congregation.

Jean and Ron came to the village with small children Paul and Jeanette from Kingswindsfords near Stourbridge, where they met and were married. She was also expecting Diane their second daughter. Jean trained as a nursery nurse and loves working with this age group. Looking through the pictures in the small booklet she reminisces about all the various events. One picture shows over thirty Sunday-school children dressed in costume after a performance of a specially written play about Mrs Elsie Bennett, at ninety the oldest member of the congregation, for the 50th anniversary. Jean tells me what a wonderful lady she was. *"In fact she was responsible for taking me to the church for the very first Sunday. We arrived on a Saturday and as I was walking into the village centre, I saw this elderly lady. She stopped to say hallo, and when she discovered I was a Methodist, insisted on taking me into church the next day, and I've been going ever since."* She adds; *"I joined the choir, am involved with the flower festivals and all the coffee mornings, as well as being responsible for Holy Communion services as The*

Communion Steward". Her love for the little ones has meant her working with the Brownies and the Playgroups, but sadly misses Solid Rock, the after school group at St Margaret's. "*We were all getting on Beth – in our 70's. mainly, and needed some younger volunteers*".

Although the congregation has become smaller, the church keeps busy with many different group meetings. These include The Craft Group; "The Sew and Sews", the Slimming Club, Tai Chi, The Women's Institute and the local Community Choir. "*Our church hall is there for the whole community*" Finally she adds; "*And Rev John Cooke's ministry to us is invaluable*".

While there are members as caring and dedicated as Jean, we look forward to the next big anniversary. Maybe even 100 years!

Beth

Kitchen Corner

Hokey-Pokey Ice Cream is extremely popular in New Zealand and the following recipe is my version. You do not need an Ice Cream maker, just an electric whisk.

HOKEY-POKEY ICE CREAM

INGREDIENTS

2 Large Eggs
¼ cup of Caster Sugar
½ pint (300mls) Double Cream
2 tsps. Vanilla extract
2 Crunchie Bars

METHOD

Place the eggs and sugar into a large mixing bowl and whisk until pale and thick. Meanwhile, heat the cream in a saucepan over a moderate heat and as soon as bubbles appear around the outside of the pan, take it off the heat, then slowly pour the cream onto the egg mixture add the vanilla extract and whisk until well

combined.

Pour the mixture into a plastic container and freeze for 4 hours. Remove the Ice Cream from the freezer and scoop the mixture into a large bowl and beat for 5 minutes until smooth. Put the Crunchie Bars in a plastic bag and beat with a rolling pin until they resemble bread crumbs. Add to the Ice Cream and beat again. Pour back into the container and freeze for another 4 hours.

To serve, remove from the freezer and let it stand for 10 minutes and serve.

I do hope you enjoy this.

Avis

Dadlington Matters



Dadlington Village Hall's Screen on the Green held its first ever film night last month, when an audience of over 40 watched 'Sunshine on Leith', a musical based on the songs of The Proclaimers. The spontaneous round of applause that greeted the final credits demonstrated the appreciation of those

watching, not just for the film, but for the efforts of the village hall management committee in bringing community cinema to Dadlington. The idea had been discussed for several years, but became a reality thanks to a substantial grant from the National Lottery, which has funded not only high quality audio-visual equipment, but also blackout blinds and new seating.

A visit to Screen on the Green is unlike going to the multiplex in Hinckley or Nuneaton. Chairs are arranged cabaret style around tables and there is an interval for audience members to refresh their drinks and to purchase whatever goodies are



on sale (at this performance it was cones of popcorn and sweets.)

The next film night is scheduled for 15th June. Due to restrictions on the film license that Screen on the Green has taken out, they are unable to publicise the names of the films in local publications such as The Stoker. However, full details of this season's film nights and future presentations will be posted on noticeboards around the two villages and are available on the village hall website

at www.dadlingtonvillagehall.co.uk. Alternatively, anyone interested can subscribe to the mailing list by sending an email asking to go on the list to screenonthegreendadlington@gmail.com. It is hoped that the Autumn programme, in addition to having monthly evening screenings, will also feature some matinee performances, including a family film in the Christmas holidays.

M Dix

Bob the Postie Retires



We are sad to announce that Dadlington's postman, Bob McCreath, has made his last mail delivery to this area and has set off into a well-deserved retirement. He has been our 'postie' for the last 6½ years and during this time he created the perfect blend of efficiency and friendship that made us look forward eagerly to his daily visits. His dedication to his work ensured that the post was always delivered on time, and his local knowledge meant that even the most obscurely-addressed letter or parcel would find its intended destination. Despite his busy schedule Bob was always able to have a few quick words with us during his rounds, whether the sun shone or the rain fell. A measure of our gratitude was shown when a village collection for him raised a substantial sum of money, which was presented to him at a gathering in the Village Hall. He will be missed very much and we hope that he passes on the secret of his success to his replacement so that this excellent service continues. We wish him well in his retirement, which will include much foreign travel, and hope that he will find time to visit us whenever possible.

John Walliker

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



The next film showing will be on 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.

THE FOUR COUNTIES WRESTLING RING

During our epic Four Counties Ring cycle ride (see April's *Stoker*), I decided I would regale my fellow-adventurers with the tale of Topsy Turvey when we had our second Rest Stop. They love my tales and are never bored. Unfortunately, however, we didn't have a second Rest Stop so instead I'll tell you. You probably know the story of Topsy Turvey already, but it's a good yarn and bears re-telling.

In the late eighteenth century John Massey was a celebrated wrestler who lived just up the road at Bilstone. He owed his nick-name Topsy Turvey to his boast that he could turn any man in the four counties topsy turvey. Unfortunately he didn't limit his people-throwing activities to fellow-strongmen: John was a perpetrator of domestic abuse and threw his common-law wife and her ten-year old daughter into the mill race at Bilstone. The woman died but her daughter survived and gave evidence against him. He was hanged at Red Hill Circus at Birstall (now a huge roundabout) in 1801 and his body displayed on a gibbet in Gibbet Lane, Bilstone, as a reminder and a warning.

The body stayed there for seventeen years. John's friends used to bring him a pint on their way home from the pub and pour it down his throat. Eventually his head fell off or was stolen, and what remained of his remains were taken away in 1818. His skull was reputedly last seen at a pub in Atherstone, but what happened to it afterwards nobody knows. I envisage a new landlady with a new broom, sweeping clean...

"I'm going to run a clean house here Tobias, and I'm not having that disgusting thing in my front parlour."
"But...but..."
"Put it in the bin this minute!"

The body was disposed of 200 years ago, but the gibbet is still there. Some have reported seeing a lady and a little girl looking at it, dressed in antique clothes and wet through although the day was dry. I've been past a couple of times – had my lunch there once - and haven't seen anything. But if you're passing that way as dusk draws in on a cold November afternoon you might want to quicken your step...



Fool on the Hill

History repeating....

Once a week, subject to the state of the weather and an assortment of ailments, a unique band of elders from our village, assemble for a gentle amble through the local countryside on our eclectic fleet of bicycles. Our uniqueness is attributed to the fact that the combined age of the cyclists and their machinery equates to a figure identical to the Greek National debt. The purpose of this outing, despite a cursory nod to its potential health benefits, is largely social. Any suggestion that this cycle ride might have some implications for weight loss would be swiftly dismissed by a glance at the mid tour repast which, by common consent, is the highlight of the occasion. The equation of calories consumed minus calories expended would have a significantly positive outcome.

It was on one such gastronomical extravaganza that I had selected the speciality of the house, to wit, a fish finger sandwich, White Bloomer bread naturally, and adorned with the chefs own Tartare Sauce. This splendid offering was presented on a wooden platter atop a sheet of replica newspaper, no doubt as a whimsical homage to the ancient tradition of serving the nations favourite dish of fish and chips in discarded copies of the Daily Telegraph. One can only wonder what the Food Hygiene folk of today would make of that. Having consumed my lunch and, during a lull in conversation, I pushed aside a little residual salad that had not fared well after exposure to the heat coming off the fish fingers. This revealed the text of the faux newspaper indicating, that the original from which it had been copied, first saw the light of day in 1948. It was difficult to establish the full facts of the lead story as most of the text had been defaced by a lava flow of molten Tartare Sauce. However, it would appear from the headlines that Russia had committed some affront to the civilised world and their Foreign Minister was loudly denying any knowledge of the matter. Chap by the name of Molotov, an old school Bolshevik, given to misusing petrol in his early days by making improvised bombs. Some 70 years on the story is much the same except that the personnel have changed and the petrol has been upgraded to the rather innocuous sounding, but highly lethal, Novichok that has done so much to reduce the tourist footfall in Salisbury. History will teach us always to be wary of the Russians.

As I write the nuclear Armageddon in North Korea seems to have been supplanted by a curious love in with leaders of both countries skipping hand in hand backwards and forwards across a frontier that has divided them since the 1950's. In 70 years I wonder if the chip papers of the day will be reporting a nuclear winter or will the Communist Kid in the North have fallen under the spell of western food?

He looks like he is no stranger to a fish supper.

F.O.T.H.



What's On



Ambion Voices (Stoke Golding and Dadlington Community Choir) **Summer Concert**

on Wednesday 27th June at Dadlington
Village Hall from 8 - 9.30pm

Bar available, nibbles will be provided.

All Welcome
We hope to see you there



Coffee and Chat at Dadlington Village Hall

*Come for a friendly chat with
other residents from
Dadlington and Stoke Golding
while enjoying delicious home-
made cakes and a cuppa.*

Thursday 7th June
10.15 am - 12.15pm

All Welcome

Cold War Listening Post & World War II Aircraft Observation Tower Open Day

2nd & 3rd June 10am - 4:30pm



Terry Bottrill
welcomes you to
come and look
round the
underground
wartime "Post"
that he
discovered in his
field a few years



ago. This underground post has been lovingly cleared, made safe to access and is amazingly equipped. There is also a replica brick built wartime Post which Terry added at his own expense.

Entrance on footpath to the left of the new cemetery on Wykin Lane,
Stoke Golding.

What's On

Methodist Church **COFFEE MORNING**

Saturday June 16th
10.00-11.30am

For Methodist
Homes for the
Aged



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.**

Ten of a Kind (*answers on page 30*)

Later this month, England will once again be filled with optimism at the prospect of our footballers winning the World Cup for a second time. Below are ten questions relating to the World Cup, not all sport based.

1. What was the name of the dog that discovered the cup after it was stolen, four months before England hosted the 1966 finals?
2. What is the name of England's first World Cup song, recorded by the team for the 1970 finals and later used as the theme music for the TV programme 'They Think It's All Over'?
3. Which Arab country, where temperatures in June and July range from 30 to 50 degrees centigrade, has been controversially awarded the 2022 World Cup finals?
4. What is the name of the aria, sung by Pavarotti, that the BBC used as their theme music to the 1990 Italy World Cup?
5. Which country has won the World Cup the most – 5 times?
6. Why was World Cup winning captain Bobby Moore arrested at the 1970s World Cup finals?
7. Which commentator uttered the words, "Some people are on the pitch. They think it's all over," at the end of the 1966 World Cup final?
8. Which team captain on TV's Shooting Stars had a relationship with England World Cup manager Sven Goran Eriksson?
9. Who or what was World Cup Willie?
10. Which European country, with a population 150 times smaller than England, knocked England out of the 2014 World Cup?

Dadlington Church Flower Festival

After a busy day gardening, on my way back from a local retailer clutching a box of nails to do more hammering, I suddenly remembered the Flower Festival. It was a particularly hot Sunday. I arrived to a warm welcome and sampled a cup of tea and a slice of the spicy lemon cake (highly recommended). I sat outside the Village Hall under the gazebo, catching up with some locals, appreciating the welcome shade having my cuppa.

I then wandered over to the church to the Flower Festival with the theme of "Favourite Counties of the British Isles" and I was immediately struck by the vintage Union Jack and beautifully arranged flowers of Hampshire. The use of various parts of the church with windows, font, altar window, pews and the background of the stain glass enhanced the displays. There were puffins from Northumberland and a boat arrangement from Skye as well as a connection with the local hosiery trade and lace making of Nottingham. It was interesting to highlight the local historical base as well.

Jill Webster kindly showed me round and it was calm and cool in the church away from the heat of the day, hence why the floral displays had not wilted - unlike myself. It was well worth the effort to drop by and enjoy the displays. And the box of nails - well they will last a lot longer for several festivals.

Jennifer



The Flower Festival at St James Church Dadlington took place in glorious weather over the Bank Holiday weekend. The theme this year was Favourite Counties of the British Isles and the flower arrangements were spectacular, ranging from Stirlingshire to Cornwall, by way of Cumbria, Norfolk and Kent, to name but a few. The arrangers this year were from Dadlington and Stoke Golding and surrounding villages and displayed wonderful talent. The newly extended village hall enabled more visitors to sample the tombola, plant and cake stalls and to enjoy lunches and cream teas either in the Hall or, through bifold doors, on the lawn outside. The weekend was a great success and raised just over £3,000 for church.

Caroline Fielden



Dementia Awareness Month

In the UK there are 1,000,000 people living with dementia. Dementia is a general term for a decline in mental ability severe enough to interfere with daily life. Memory loss is an example. Alzheimer's is the most common type of dementia.

10 signs of dementia are:

1. Memory loss that disrupts daily life.
2. Challenges in planning or solving problems e.g. following a familiar recipe.
3. Difficulty completing familiar tasks at home, work or leisure.
4. Confusion with time or place.
5. Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships e.g. parking.
6. New problems with words in speaking or writing.
7. Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps.
8. Decreased or poor judgement.
9. Withdrawal from work or social activities.
10. Changes in mood and personality.



The Alzheimer's Society UK website has a useful comparison between the above signs and typical age-related changes.

It is worth discussing your concerns with a GP. The national Dementia help line number is 0300 222 1122

Church Matters

From St Margaret's Church



Turning Your Collar Around

At the end of this month, all over the country, hundreds of men and women will be ordained – that is, begin to wear ‘dog collars’. It is fifty three years since I turned my collar round – and I have been reflecting on what led me to such a drastic decision!

My parents were not regular church goers but, of course, had me ‘christened’ as a baby.

In 1951 I was invited by a cousin to start going to a church youth club – all the rage just after the war. It was very popular – over a hundred members. There was a natural path from youth club to church attending – Evensong that is. And as a fourteen year old I was fascinated by sermons – I still am! I also felt an emotional warmth, which I was unable to spell out, by being with others worshipping God.

I did not have any great flash of believing light but in time I felt that I might also preach sermons. Hanging on to this strange ambition, when I was sixteen and had left school, I warmed to the idea of being a ‘vicar’. What worried me then, and I took advice about it, was that these feelings were just a sign of hero worship of the vicar.

The curate assured me that God exercised various ways of drawing people into ordained ministry. Don’t analyse it, he suggested, but go ahead and see what the church authorities make of your vocation.

And so after a job at Fort Dunlop, night school, university, National Service, a Selection Conference, working in a parish as an unqualified youth worker and two years at Lichfield Theological College, I was ordained in St.Martin’s in the Bull Ring, Birmingham. It was 1965.

I do not for a moment believe that anyone out there would dream of hero worshipping a retired archdeacon – and apply for ordination because of it! But, if God can draw someone like me to turn his collar around – might he not be calling you? It’s worth a thought and a prayer. While since ‘my day’ our churches have wisely encouraged more and more lay participation in church life – they still need and look for ordained ministry from people... just like you.

Alan Davis

Church Matters

The Methodist Church June 2018 Services

3rd	10.30am	Mr John Marfleet
10th	10.30am	Mr John Cooke
17th	10.30am	Revd Michael Haighton
24th	10.30am	Mr Nigel Roberts

Zion Baptist Chapel June 2018 Services

3rd	6pm	Malcolm Welch
10th	6pm	John Needham
17th	6pm	Bill McIntyre
24th	6pm	Steven Connor

Church of England June Services

St. Margaret's Church

3rd	10.30am	All Age Service
5th	6.30pm	Holy Communion
10th	10.30am	Benefice Service Fenny Drayton
17th	10.30am	Holy Communion
24th	10.30am	Morning Worship

St. James's Church

3rd	9.00am	BCP Morning Prayer
10th	10.30am	Benefice Service Fenny Drayton
17th	9.00am	BCP Holy Communion
24th	9.00am	BCP Morning Prayer

Grateful Thoughts From an Aged Village Pensioner

My back suddenly collapsed! I couldn't move! It was excruciating! At ninety I'm getting used to my bodyworks letting me down in unexpected ways. Someone suggested my kidneys – where are they? How far down the spine? Or is it just my wobbly bones? Our amazing Pine Close surgery is so overstretched, but perhaps they could give me a phone appointment, just give me some advice. A friendly receptionist listens patiently and agrees. Within an hour a phone call comes from my GP. I try and explain, (unsuccessfully) where the pain is "*I think I'd better pop round and see you*". I can't believe my ears! Where else does the NHS look after each of their patients with such care? Friends in London say they just "*get patched up and sent away*". Here, in spite of the surgery's lists having doubled over the last ten years – we get such special care from the wonderful team at Pine Close.

And what is more – I've learned where my kidneys are. THANKS

Anon

The Charity of Thomas Barton

The Charity of Thomas Barton was founded on July 10th 1400 for the benefit of the Villagers of Stoke Golding.

The Charity continues to this day and in the past year has spent over £21,000 on village projects. These projects have included:

Village Christmas Lighting and the costs of the switch on ceremony

New Village Christmas Tree

Repair to the Village Sign

Grants to St. Margaret's Church and Methodist Church

WW1 and WW2 Commemorative Benches for the Cemetery

Provision of Covers for the Cricket Pitch

Donation to Village Garden Society and Best Kept Front Garden Prizes

Printing of 'Images of the Past' and Reprinting of Village Leaflets

Village Website Expenses

Support for both St. Margaret's School and St. Martin's School

Grants to Badminton Club and Football Club.

The Charity will also consider applications for a grant from *any organisation or suggestions for projects* that meet the criteria of the Charity namely that it is:

'For the general benefit of the inhabitants of Stoke Golding for which provision is not made out of rates, taxes, or other public funds'

The Charity is there for your benefit, if you would like further information or could suggest projects contact Morris Bolton on 01455 822136.

Speak Out about Crime in Your Community

ONE VOICE can make a difference

Crimestoppers is an independent charity that gives people the power to speak up to stop crime 100% anonymously.

Report crime or give any information you may have about a crime to:

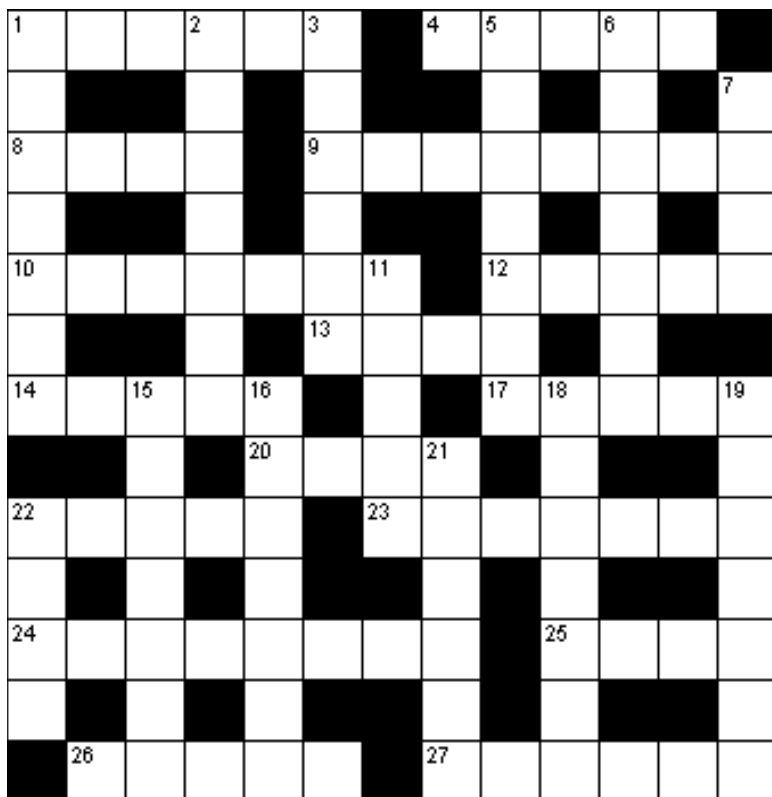
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For more information go to: www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 & 4a, 27a, 10a Book & film by 24a (6,2,3,6,7)
- 4 See 1a
- 8 To halt (4)
- 9 Spread over a wide area (8)
- 10 See 1a
- 12 Eskimo member (5)
- 13 Rhino has a nose one (4)
- 14 Used to make bread rise (5)
- 17 Smudge on a glass (5)
- 20 One of a kind (4)
- 22 Long spikey garden flower (5)
- 23 Flow of electricity or water (7)
- 24 Surname of Agatha who wrote 1a
- 25 Woodwind instrument (4)
- 26 Written work (5)
- 27 see 1a

DOWN

- 1 Type of film or book of 1a (7)
- 2 Leaves from somewhere (7)
- 3 Red edible root for salads (6)
- 5 Pieces of linen used at meals (7)
- 6 First name of detective in 1a (7)
- 7 Polite man who behaves well - in short (4)
- 11 Boom caused by fast aircraft (5)
- 15 One hopes to achieve (7)
- 16 North African country (7)
- 18 Inventor of radio transmitter(7)
- 19 Withdraw from an enemy (7)
- 21 Also called a dinner jacket (6)
- 22 Fasten door with key (4)

Longitude

52.57° North by 1.41° West is the place we like to call home. Were you aware that you lived in the Western Hemisphere? Only by about 50 miles, mind you. A journey to the Norfolk coast would take you into the mysterious east a few miles out of Peterborough as you cross the Greenwich Meridian Line. This imaginary line is a line of longitude and runs from the North Pole to the South via Greenwich Observatory, a route of about 12,400 miles. It was agreed at a conference in Washington DC that took place in 1884. Prior to the conference, many countries had their own meridians and this played havoc with timetables for long distance travel. Not that everyone was happy with the outcome: France continued to measure distance and time from the Paris Meridian until 1911.

Different time zones occur because of the rotation of the earth. Up until the coming of the railways, people in Britain had their own local times but this was problematic if you were trying to co-ordinate train times. In 1840 the Great Western Railway introduced a standardised Railway Time to the areas it served and within a few years all the country was using Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). The most commonly used world map, something called Mercator's projection, shows the lines of longitude as vertical lines, each measuring the same length and identified by the number of degrees east or west it is of Greenwich. 180 degrees in either direction brings us to another important line of longitude: the International Date Line. This too was agreed at the Washington conference. It is not a simple straight line however because it diverts east and west to accommodate the different countries it passes by. This produces a very strange phenomenon each day, the result of the republic of Kiribati, an island group in the Pacific, acquiring some additional islands in 1979. Kiribati lay on one side of the date line, the new islands on the other. This caused havoc and so the line was moved to the far side of the new territory resulting in them being 14 hours ahead of GMT. At 10:15 am on a Thursday in Stoke, it is still only 11:15pm on Wednesday in American Samoa (11 hours behind GMT) but it is already quarter past midnight on Friday in the new islands of Kiribati: three different days!

The Stoke Golding/Dadlington Meridian (1.41° West) going south, leaves Britain at Southampton. It passes through Normandy and close to Biarritz in southern France, before narrowly missing bull-running Pamplona in Spain. Then come the African states of Algeria, Morocco, Mali, Burkina Faso and Ghana before a long stretch of Atlantic Ocean to Antarctica. Passing through the South Pole, it becomes 178.6° East and touches New Zealand and Fiji before the long haul to Kamchatka in Russia. Descending from the North Pole, the first landfall is by the mouth of the River Tyne at Newcastle from where it progresses through England, bisecting the shopping Mecca that is Meadowhall and returning to Stoke Golding and Dadlington.

Michael Dix

The Mystery of Segwelle Hamme

The Leicester historian George F. Farnham wrote to the Leicestershire Archaeological Society in the 1930's that before the year 1260 there was resident in Stoke Golding, a family calling itself "of Stoke", concerning whom there are two undated charters in the British Museum (Charters 19920 & 21402), They recorded the following facts:-

"Know all men that I, Robert de Campania, have given and by my present Charter have confirmed to Roger, son of William de Stoke, in free marriage with Matilda my daughter all the service which William de Stoke father of the said Roger owed me for certain lands in Stoke, together with a meadow called Segwelle hamme. To hold to Roger and his issue by the said Matilda for ever. These being witnesses, William Burdet, Anchetil Folevill and Theobald de Bellus, knights, Hugh de Turville and others"

These facts are also mentioned by Nuneaton Historian Alan Cooke who investigated our Charity of Thomas Barton founder. It was concluded that Segwelle Hamme was due north of Stoke along a bridle path which starts where Ivy House Farm now stands and across the fields to meet with the Fenn Lane. There was of course no canal or railway to interrupt the pathway. A stream provides water to the site and in those days there would be plenty of game and pigeons and other fowl and perhaps wild boar to provide food. This disused bridle way was used until his death by Dadlington farmer at Fields Farm, Mr Ernie Kendall, as a short cut to Stoke, his farm being very near to the Segwelle Hamme site. Kendall organised 'banger' racing on his farm in the 1980's.

Mr Charles Frisby, of Dadlington knew Mr Kendall well and helped to clear the farmhouse after his death. He gathered together an ancient, hand written book and many old papers relating to the area but all of these artefacts were consigned to a bonfire by another 'helper', much valuable information thus being destroyed.

So, exactly where was this lost site situated? In the British Geological Survey of 1900 Fox-Strangeways concludes ; - "A meadow bordering the wetland between Stoke Golding and Dadlington and called *Segwelle hamme* in a charter of c.1250 is suggestive of the indigenous ecology of this area where fen sedge *Cladium Mariscus* - common in thatching - would have grown." The correct pronunciation would have been Sedgewelle hamme with the 'g' being pronounced softly as in 'vegetable' and not hard as in 'gun'. The word hamme' is from the old English for 'enclosure'

So there we have it, Segwelle hamme was an enclosure where Sedge was grown, no doubt for roofing on the mediaeval buildings there.

Denis Cash

The Mohican Quinneys



PORTRAIT OF AUSTIN E. QUINNEY

The Mohicans or Mahicans, meaning “the people of the waters that are never still,” were a Native American tribe originally from the upper Hudson River Valley around what is now

Albany, New York. They should not be confused with the Mohawk with whom they were frequently in conflict and by 1629 the Mohawk had driven the Mohican eastwards into western Massachusetts. Many settled in Berkshire County around Stockbridge where they became known as the “Stockbridge Indians.” They were immortalised in the novel by James F. Cooper, “The Last of the Mohicans – A Narrative of 1757” published in 1826 and subsequently by at least 8 films.

Virtually everything written or depicted in film until quite recently presented the Native Americans as violent, bloodthirsty savages, including my own favourite film, “The Searchers.” It is rarely acknowledged that they were, in the main, co-operative and friendly with the early settlers and it was only the subsequent insatiable hunger for land of the white colonists and the herding of its rightful owners, like animals, into reservations that provoked the indigenous population to defend their homes, families and heritage.

Native Americans had no surnames or family names and this became a

problem in the latter part of the 19th century when the US Indian policy changed from one of isolation to assimilation. The process of acquiring “regular” or “white” names took on several different forms, one major influence being intermarriage, another by adopting the name of a British person they knew and liked, perhaps a missionary, and in some cases names were thrust upon the inhabitants of a reservation by the Indian agent acting for the government.

The first use of the term “Native American” in a political context is attributed to a prominent Mohican



JOHN W. QUINNEY

Chief or Sachem, John Waunnacon (“The Dish”) Quinney, one of three eminent and influential Mohican siblings born between 1791 and 1798

in New Stockbridge, Oneida Creek, to adopt the name Quinney. In a speech to Congress in support of “Indian” self-government in 1852 he said,

“I am a true Native American, descended from one of those characters whose memory every American reveres. My Grandfather, David Nau nau neek kannuck, was a warrior and he assisted your fathers in their struggle for liberty.” In 1846 John W. Quinney secured the repeal of an act of Congress making citizens

of his tribe, enabling them to maintain their own customs and government. In another speech in 1854 he spoke of a prophet who foretold the coming of the paleface and stated that promises were ruthlessly broken by the white man who also gave the Indians small pox, diphtheria, typhus and other diseases from which they had no immunity.

Austin E. Quinney, Chief of the Stockbridge tribe of Mohican Indians was the leader in their migration from New York to Wisconsin in 1834 and helped negotiate a series of treaties securing and protecting land for the tribe.

Electa Quinney, whose Mohican spiritual name was Whu-weh-wee-nee-meew Quant-au-kaunt, attended some of the best boarding schools in New York before accompanying her tribe to Wisconsin after pressure from

the government and white settlers to move out of the state. There she opened a small school in a log building in the woods which also served as a church and began to teach the children of white settlers and missionaries as well as the sons and daughters of her own tribe. The Electa Quinney Institute, Milwaukee, University of Wisconsin, is a lasting legacy to this amazing woman.



Bob Quinney.

ps I have contacted the Electa Quinney Institute to see if I can find out anything about the Quinney whose name the three Mohican siblings adopted and will let the Stoker have any information I receive.



The Records of Stoke Golding by W.T.Hall MBE.

In 2005 The Stoke Golding Heritage Group produced a limited edition of 25 copies of this historical book of Stoke Golding written in 1940 by William Thomas Hall of Park House , at £48 per copy. The original copyright holders from the Hall family relinquished their copyright to the Heritage Group on 1st May 2018.

The permission of the Group has since been granted for me to produce a limited edition of only ten copies of this wonderful book on a CD in PDF format which can be read by most computers. There are 670 pages of facts and figures about this ancient village on each CD. I am offering them for sale at £10 per CD with all proceeds being donated to the Loros Hospice in Leicester. Anyone wishing to purchase a copy should contact me on 01455 212480. *Denis Cash*

Backstage Whispers – No.6

“IF YOU CAN WAIT AND NOT GIVE UP ON WAITING”

Was this the opportunity I'd been waiting for – could this possibly be my big chance? Although Joan's phone call suggesting I phone Jonathan Lynn about the part in his new play “The Shadow Box” sounded great, my mind insisted: *‘There's no way he'll consider using you instead of Anna Massey; he's probably ringing his agent at this very moment, suggesting a list of 'names' for the part’*. Then I remembered Joan's rebuke when I tried to wriggle out of calling him, and somehow made myself call him there and then. His friendly suggestion to come and see him was followed by telling me the best way to get to his flat in Hampstead. He had a pile of play-scripts on his desk, and launched into an overview of the story, and the character I was longing to play. Agnes is the only remaining daughter of farming folk from the American Mid-West. Her mother is in a care home, dying of cancer. There's an older, more glamorous sister Stella who is mother's favourite, but she has *‘flown the nest’* years back. Agnes is the typical plain spinster daughter, trapped into caring for a very unlovable, ill-tempered mother who whines for her other adored daughter. *“When is Stella coming home?”* Agnes keeps writing imaginary letters to give her mother some hope, unable to tell her the truth. Stella was killed in a car accident and will never return. This was unlike any part I'd ever played before, but after reading a number of speeches in my best American accent, Jonathan hands me a script. *“Rehearsals start in a couple of weeks Beth”*.

He's trusting me with this gift of a part.

I discover he is a very demanding director, constantly stopping me and giving copious critical notes. After rehearsing solely with me, on my scenes, for the first days of the first week, his p.a. tells me I can go home for the rest of the week. They will get in touch when I'm next needed. I leave convinced he thinks he's made a mistake, and is now looking for another actress. Days pass and I hear nothing until I get a phone call from the redoubtable Joan K.W. *“Hallo Bethie darling – how's it going?”* I spill out all my fears – convinced I've been sacked. *“Oh for heaven's sake darling, pull your socks up and get on with life.”* I counter this tearfully: *“But Joan he keeps giving me so many notes – I'm obviously doing it all wrong.”* She then gives me advice which I've never forgotten. *“Sometimes, it's pointless giving notes unless you know that the actor is capable of assimilating them. Otherwise you're wasting your breath. Now just get on with learning the lines!”* The phone call came at last and my fears were totally unfounded. The play opened at the beautiful modern theatre at Warwick University, and the playwright flew over from the States to be at our final dress rehearsal. His encouragements were just what we needed.

When signing our contracts, we were told not to accept any jobs at the end of the tour as there was a very definite transfer to the West End. It was still running in the USA, and Paul Newman's wife was playing my role. All we had to do now was to get wonderful reviews. The main challenge we all knew was the play's subject, as it is set in a hospice for terminal cancer. The background stories however, of four very different family situations, are told with great integrity and warmth and even humour. In spite of this the managements who had been so eager to put it on had last moment financial nerves. For me it's back to *‘signing on’* and once again hoping for that one *big chance*.

Beth



Obituaries



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

Ethel Mary Cartwright - Mary, of Andrew Close, passed away suddenly at home on 14th April, aged 94 years. Devoted wife of the late James, much loved mum of Jane and Ruth, mother in law of Terry and David and a loving grandma to Stuart, Robert, Charlotte and Kirstie and great grandma to Jack, Theo, Ellis and Emilia.

The funeral service took place at the Stoke Golding Methodist Church on Monday 14th May at [10.45.am](#) followed by cremation at the Heart of England Crematorium, Nuneaton. Donations if so desired to Birmingham Children's Hospital through McCartneys Funeral Service, 47, Coventry Road, Hinckley.

Gordon Bradbury - Gordon, of High Street, passed away on 15th April, aged 88 years at Baron's Park Care Home, beloved husband of Edwina. Gordon was born in Stoke Golding and lived most of his life here except for the time he spent in the R.A.F. doing his National Service. He worked for Massey Fergusson and was a keen player of football, cricket and golf, and also loved music. His funeral took place at the Stoke Golding Methodist Church on Friday 4th May at [11.30.am](#) followed by interment at the Wykin Lane Cemetery. Donations if so desired to "Alzheimer,s Society" c/o G.Seller & Co.Ltd., 75 , Upper Bond Street, Hinckley,LE10 1RH.

Revd Christopher Gash - Chris passed away on 29th April aged 79 years. He was a resident at Orchard House Care Home, Market Bosworth. His funeral will take place at St Margaret's Church, Stoke Golding, on Wednesday, 30th May at [11am](#). More details of Chris's life here as vicar of Stoke Golding and Dadlington in next month's magazine.

We are also sad to report on the passing of **Olive Rogers** of Pine Close, who passed away at home on 9th May aged 98 years. Also the sad passing of **Ivy Causer** of Sherwood Road. Again, more details in next month's magazine.

Sincere Apologies

Our sincere apologies to the families and friends of **Marie Jones** and **Jeanne Hare**, whose names were incorrectly printed at the beginning of their obituaries in the May Stoker. We are sorry if this has caused distress at such a difficult time.

Notes from Stoke Golding Parish Council May Meeting - Draft

Election of Chairman of the Council

It was agreed to appoint Cllr Terheege as Chair, who then signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

Election of Vice-Chairman of the Council

It was agreed to appoint Cllr Beale as Vice-Chair.

Committees for the ensuing year: to appoint their members and review terms of reference

It was agreed that the Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee will include Cllrs Mitchell (Chair) and Beale and non-councillor members will be re-appointed. The NPAC Terms of Reference remain unchanged, however, the requirement for meetings every two months has temporarily been suspended.

To appointment of the Registered Financial Officer (RFO)

It was agreed to appoint Theresa Case as RFO.

A report by County Cllr Ivan Ould was circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting and the following issue was discussed:

Footpath on Stoke Road – narrow and in need of work to re-instate to required standard. Clerk to send letter to Director of Environment and Transport at LCC to request work.

Borough Councillor Reg Ward reported on the following issues:

- Dangerous potholes on Higham Lane and poor road surface on Station Road – Borough Cllr Ward to submit a report to the Director of Environment and Transport.
- Fly tipping in Leicestershire.
- Cllr Beale reported on reports that children been approached near village schools.
- County Cllr Ould confirmed that this should be reported by the schools to the Director for Children and Families at LCC.

Planning Application Matters:

New Applications:

38 Convent Drive – T1 sycamore – fell, T2 cherry – crown reduction.

Permission approved:

27 Crown Hill Close – erection of 2-bedroom dwelling with vehicular access and parking.

27 Andrew Close, – T1 conifer – fell, T2 cherry tree – prune to 50% of current height and width.

Review Parish Councillors' areas of responsibility

The following were agreed:

- Chair: Cllr Rachel Terheege – Sport in Stoke Golding (SISG) Committee.
- Vice: Cllr Sarah Beale – Data Protection, compliance, play equipment, Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee, Village Hall Management Committee and SISG.

Councillors:

Cllr Chris Pegg – ground maintenance, cemeteries, recreation ground and Chair of SISG.

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

Cllr Mitchell – Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee.

Cllr Smith – play equipment, SISG.

Cllr Goodsell – no current responsibilities.

All Councillors share responsibility for planning issues.

Matters arising from the Annual Parish Meeting

It was agreed to put arrangements for the wicker apple on the agenda for June.

Neighbourhood Plan (NP)

It was noted that existing consent for the NP mailing list has been refreshed and Privacy Notices have been issued to NPAC and volunteers.

The NPAC still awaits the revised Site Allocation map from HBBC, before proceeding with the Housing Policy.

Sport in Stoke Golding (SISG)

[A meeting of SISG will take place shortly to determine the location of new pavilion. Concerns by Cllr Goodsell, regarding the current site of the pavilion, were noted.](#)

Works at Hinckley Road Cemetery:

Wall and Gate Damage: It was agreed to proceed with rebuilding of the wall, at a cost of £880.00.

Oak Tree: Cllr Pegg to consult with Harbours regarding the required work.

Boundary: It was noted that the work to mark the boundary will take place shortly, allowing resident to install a fence on his land and the Parish Council to carry out the previously agreed hedge work.

Tree Warden: It was agreed to appoint Karen Jones as Tree Warden.

Churchyard Gates: It was agreed to proceed with renovation of the gate, at a cost of £320. The Clerk to request if the Charity of Thomas Barton would consider funding.

Bench replacement:

[It was agreed to proceed with the replacement of a bench on Main Street, at a cost of £488.91 + £60 installation. This project will be funded by the Charity of Thomas Barton.](#)

Communications received by the Chairman of the council

Written

The following were noted:

- HBBC litter/dog waste collection – servicing agreement and an annual price rise of £74.88 was agreed.
 - Youth FB Club pitch hire fee request was noted but declined.
- Remembrance Sunday.

It was agreed to investigate options for this year's Remembrance Service and discuss further on the June agenda.

Any Other Business

- Cllr Beale reported on the Battle of Bosworth Sculpture Trail Exhibition.
- Cllr Goodsell discussed the ongoing issues of the playground at Covent Drive.
- Cllr Fisher reported on a break in at the village hall. Security options were discussed.
- Cllr Smith discussed the storage of building supplies at Church Walks. It was noted that a Planning Enforcement Notice had been issued and was still pending. Cllr Pegg reported on maintenance of the bus stop on Hinckley Road. Cllr Smith to arrange for a carpenter to inspect and advise on required work.

Next meeting: Methodist Hall, Wednesday 6th June at 7pm

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CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Across 1 & 4a, 27a, 10a Murder on the Orient Express, 8 Stop, 9 Disperse, 12 Inuit, 13 Horn, 14 Yeast, 17 Smear, 20 Unit, 22 Lupin, 23 Current, 24 Christie, 25 Oboe, 26 Essay.

Down 1 Mystery, 2 Departs, 3 Radish, 5 Napkins, 6 Hercule, 7 Gent, 11 Sonic, 15 Aspires, 16 Tunisia, 18 Marconi, 19 Retreat, 21 Tuxedo, 22 Lock

Ten of a Kind Answers

1. Pickles
2. Back Home
3. Qatar
4. Nessun Dorma
5. Brazil
6. For allegedly stealing a bracelet. He was finally cleared 33 years later.
7. Kenneth Wolstenholme
8. Ulrika Jonsson
9. A lion: the 1966 World Cup mascot
10. Iceland

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