

September 2018

No. 174

# The Stoker



**Stoke Golding Village Magazine**

*Including*

**Dadlington Matters**

**50p**



### **Note from the Editors**

A special welcome to our new subscribers following our successful postcard campaign, kindly funded by the Charity of Thomas Barton. Thanks to the continued support and contributions from our regular readers for helping to keep the Stoker a true community magazine. One letter in this publication



expresses a reader's view regarding the sounding of horns at canal bridges, coinciding with this month's article from the "Fool on the Hill". Although their opinions differ, they both agree that it is safer to approach bridges slowly and with caution.

A big thank you to Jeff Hammond who has been compiling our crossword since the Stoker began in 2001. Jeff has now retired from this demanding task. We know how hard this is because we (the editors) had a go at doing it this month. You may notice a difference! Please let us know if you fancy taking on this monthly challenge for us.

Once more, the Stoker is crammed full of articles and events for you. We hope you enjoy the read,

**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 **October** issue of The Stoker by **15th September** to:

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

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

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

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

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

*Cover picture:* .statue of Queen Philippa , see page 3

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### **'Extraordinary Women'**

The September cover of the Stoker shows a statue of Queen Philippa – by kind permission of Queen's College Oxford. Most of St. Margaret's Church was built during the reign of Queen Philippa. She is commemorated by a carved stone head – now sadly in a state of deterioration - on the parapet of the tower. We can also see her husband, Edward III, who reigned from 1327-77.

Why do we regard Queen Philippa as being 'extraordinary'. Come and find out.

As part of the National Trust Open Heritage Days – Friday 7<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September –from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. - we are celebrating the lives of three 'Extraordinary Women' connected with St. Margaret's Church and Stoke Golding. They are: St Margaret of Antioch, Queen Philippa and Mistress Hester Hodges. A display will explain their significance to the church and Stoke Golding. You can follow the Church Trail (for children of any age!) and find out about the Grade One Listed building. On Saturday from 12.00 noon to 3.00 p.m. watch as Teddy Bears are launched from the Church Tower testing their parachutes. Explore the connection between the Church and the Battle of Bosworth. We will be welcoming 'Ride and Stride' participants on Saturday. Light refreshments will be available.

from St Margaret's Church



## **The Fields To The Rear of Station Road A Housing Development Plan**

Further to my article in The Stoker earlier this year, the housing development meetings that Stoke Golding Parish Council scheduled for 9<sup>th</sup> April and 14<sup>th</sup> May were cancelled. The reason for this, as we were informed, was that the Parish Council and Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (HBBC) were "waiting for the most recent information and maps of available sites for housing development so that discussion can be based around the most up-to-date information". No dates for future housing development meetings have so far been arranged as far as I know.

It is important for local residents to keep themselves informed about such matters through the Parish website, the village notice board outside the old post office, and Parish Council information in The Stoker. I would advise residents to do so, especially residents in Station Road, Main Street and Wykin Lane whose properties back onto the fields. If permission is granted to develop these fields at some point then this will adversely affect the value of properties. It appears that things are happening that may well lead to a five-acre portion of the field being developed at some point by a health care firm that is exploring the site for homes for the elderly. Five acres is a large area of land so a considerable number of new homes would be built.

It is important for any such development to be openly and actively opposed by all residents. Some are currently meeting to discuss plans and are taking various advice to oppose any such development in order to safeguard the value of properties, the open field views we currently enjoy, and limit the volume of traffic through our village.

It has been suggested that residents should meet to discuss matters more fully. This will be arranged and residents will be notified in due course.

***G. Wilson, 10 The Courtyard***



### **Re. article printed in the Stoker Magazine - July/August, page 7.**

We were very sorry to hear about the sad death of Marilynne's cat. We are animal lovers ourselves and the loss of a much loved pet is just terrible.

We live on Hinckley Road and it is almost unbelievable the way our house vibrates when tractors/trailers and heavy lorries drive past due to the uneven road surface now. We, therefore, cannot agree to her suggestion of speed humps, otherwise known as sleeping policemen. Anyway, motor bikes go round them and vehicles with a wide wheel base straddle them, so we believe that they would not have the desired effect.

The increase to the size of the village and the fact that Stoke Golding now seems to be a regular short cut for drivers, has increased the volume of traffic through our village, so clearly something has to be done.

Our suggestion would be for an additional chicane or two similar to the one we already have near Pine Close. Another option would be to reduce the speed limit to 20 mph AND the provision of enforcement cameras. Based on our experience the latter would pay for themselves very quickly.

We await the next Stoker issue with interest to hear other readers' views.

***Gil and Andrew Clover***



**Controversial:** I know this will open up a can of worms but here goes.

Two notices have appeared on the bridge at the bottom of Station Road near the Ashby Boat company basically asking people not to slow down so to avoid the need to sound their car horns. That would work brilliantly if people DID slow down but they don't. Having had several near miss head on smashes on that bridge because of speeding drivers even when I sound my horn, I for one will continue to follow the Highway Codes advice which is:

A horn should only be used when warning someone of danger, not to indicate your annoyance at a manner of driving.

A horn should not be sounded when stationary on a road at any time, other than at times of danger due to another vehicle on or near the road.

A horn should not be used on a moving vehicle on a restricted road (basically a road that has street lights and a 30mph limit) between the times of 23.30hrs and 07.00hrs.

The danger is of course a vehicle approaching the other side of the bridge that drivers cannot see.

Sadly some people also ignore the warning horn but at least it works some of the time. Why people sound horns at night is beyond me as oncoming headlights CAN be seen in the dark if drivers are watching the road but some don't.

Whatever the rights or wrongs, it's a bridge that people drive too fast over so if the only hope of a safe passage over it is sounding a horn I for one will continue to do it. It's not an ideal world. People drive fast, have contempt for other road users, ignore signs, etc etc. Hopefully the sign will work but I very much doubt it.

**T Jones**

### **Bold Ukuleles**



The Bold Ukuleles is a very friendly and welcoming ukulele group which meets at The Old White Swan,

Main Street, Newbold Verdon every Wednesday from 7.00 to 8.30pm, and at Newbold Verdon Library, Sparkenhoe, Main Street every other Sunday from 2.00 to 3.30pm. We play a wide range of music, from folk to rock and roll, Pachelbel's Canon to The Beatles and often throw in a George Formby song or two. We don't take ourselves too seriously - it's all about making music and having fun, so buy yourself a uke and come and join us.

For more information, contact  
Martyn Fisher: 01455 212489.

### **David Paddon and Cara Smith**



Many congratulations to David Paddon and Cara Smith on their wedding in London on 27th July. They had the 'most fun-packed, love-packed day of their lives'.

## Murder Most Foul

John Wychard pulled his cloak ever tighter to keep out the biting wind. He'd been tempted to call in at one of the inns as he passed through Sutton Cheney, but as his destination lay only a mile or so away, he'd ploughed onwards through the snow. As one of the county of Leicester's four coroners, he had business to attend to in the village of Dadlyngton and whilst his fellow men were heading for their second mass of the weekend, this time to celebrate St Stephen's feast day, John had a sudden death to investigate, a body to inspect, an inquest to hold.

His arrival was expected. Already, gathered on the village green, were twelve local men from the villages of Dadlynton, Stoke, Upton and Hegham who would form the jury. One of them, William Shepherd, approached the lone horseman as he climbed the hill by the manor house and offered him a greeting. Then he led him to the two roomed house of Oliver de Hedham, one of about a dozen small dwellings that circled the green. A solitary bell chimed from the small chapel on the northern edge of the green, but for Oliver de Hedham, there would be no service this Sunday. His lifeless body had been wrapped in a white linen shroud by one of the women of the village and laid out, ready for the coroner to examine.

It soon became clear to John that this was an unnatural death. Though he was not a medical man, he had seen many bodies and recognised at once that the marks on Oliver's head were consistent with a knife wound. He also noticed the deformed nature of one of his legs, the result of a break as he fell after the stabbing according to some of the witnesses who gave evidence. As the morning wore on, the story began to emerge. It appeared that on Christmas Eve, two strangers, unknown to any of the forty or so residents of the village, knocked at Oliver's door and asked him for directions to the nearby village of Drayton-in-the Clay. Oliver, being a helpful sort, must have decided to show them the road to Shenton that they needed to take. It was as they crossed the green that the fatal blow was struck. Some of the villagers noticed Oliver fall to the ground as the two strangers fled. Oliver was carried back to his house and tended to diligently but, as the light began to fade, he passed away but a few hours into the Christmas vigil.

John asked each of the jurors for their verdict and it was unanimous: murder. Despite the hue and cry that was called after the death, the perpetrators had vanished, and strangely, there seemed to be no motive for the killing. Taking a piece of parchment from the bag he carried, John recorded the results of his investigation and the verdict. This he dated the 26<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1401, in the reign of King Henry IV. His work completed, John set off, once again, to return to Leicester where he would lodge the inquest rolls with the judge at the county assizes before seeking out warmth, food and drink in his lodgings.

*Michael Dix*

## Village Heritage Signs



Following the request in last Month's Stoker for more information about the heritage signs on the Stoke Golding Marina bridge, Tony Collett has kindly provided an insight into how they came about. Tony had been thinking for a long while that Stoke Golding should do more to publicise its

place in the history books, particularly following the recognition of Dadlington's role in the Battle of Bosworth with the re-interment of Richard III. After all, a king of England was crowned in our village! He met Nigel Smith, the owner of the Marina to discuss the possibility of placing a sign on the bridge explaining the historic significance of the area. It is an ideal place because Crown Hill field, where the crowning of Henry VII took place, can be seen in one direction and the battle site in the other.

At the same time Mr Grundy, HBBC Conservation Officer had also been thinking of a way to provide information about the event and had discussed the idea with Richard Knox from Bosworth Battlefield Centre.



Following a discussion with Stoke Golding Heritage Group it was decided to erect two signs on the bridge depicting what happened in the battle and where it took place.

The signs are impressive and remind walkers and boaters about the historic importance of the area. Tony has also suggested the bridge should be called 'King Edward VII Bridge', so look out for that when you next go for a wander along our beautiful stretch of canal.

*Jane White*

# Dadlington Matters



Dadlington Village Hall's Famous

## QUIZ EVENING

Saturday 20th October at 7:30pm

Teams of 6 to 8  
£8.50 per person  
(includes a hot meal)

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

Tickets must be paid for by 8th September

## Concerned about SPEEDING?

Sutton Cheney Parish Council invite you to attend their next  
Parish Council meeting to



Tell us about your experiences



Find out how Leicestershire Police and LCC Highways  
are addressing speeding in Dadlington, Sutton  
Cheney and Shenton



Learn how you can get involved with tackling the  
problem as a community

**Wednesday 12th September**

**7:30pm**

**Dadlington Village Hall**

  
Sutton Cheney Parish Council



## BOLD UKULELES & AMBION VOICES



come together for a

**CONCERT**

on

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October**

**7.30pm (doors open at 7pm)**

at

**Dadlington Village Hall**

**Tickets £5.00 each, available from Martyn & Ruth Fisher  
01455 212489, ruthsg21@btinternet.com**

**All proceeds to Hinckley Homeless Group.**

**Bar and light refreshments available.**

# Dadlington Matters

**St James'  
Dadlington**



**HARVEST SUPPER**



**Monday  
8th  
October**

Please ring Caroline  
on 212212 to  
reserve a place.

**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 2nd Sept  
10.15 am - 12.15pm**

**All Welcome**

**SCREEN on the GREEN**



We had another bumper audience for our final screening of this first season, the very moving *Another Mother's Son*. We have been delighted by the popularity of the evenings and all the positive comments we have received.

Details of our autumn programme are now available on the village hall website: [www.dadlingtonvillagehall.co.uk/screen-on-the-green.htm](http://www.dadlingtonvillagehall.co.uk/screen-on-the-green.htm). They will also be appearing at a noticeboard or lamppost in both villages.

We hope there is something that will appeal to everyone in our new programme and that the community will continue to support the venture.



**Macmillan Coffee Morning**

**Sunday 30th September**

**10.30 - 12.30**

at

**Tammy's Hairdressers**

## Fool on the Hill

A bridge too far....

There are many sounds that one might readily associate with our canal network. The gentle rhythmic beat of a narrow boat engine. The hiss of wind through the bull rushes and the ubiquitous sounds of the many birds that make their homes along the banks. Although the canal is not far distant from Chateau Fool, none of these sounds ever reach our ears. What we can hear, very clearly and with depressing regularity is the sound of motor car horns. A canal bridge, number 30 to be specific, is well within earshot and frequently traversed by motorists who seem convinced a prolonged blast on the horn somehow emits a force field that will sweep aside any unseen motorist approaching from the other side. Quite apart from irritating everyone who lives nearby, this practice is futile. If two vehicles are approaching from opposite sides of the bridge where their simultaneous arrivals would almost certainly result in a collision, then it is also likely that their warnings will be exactly timed to coincide and thereby negate each other. This assumes, of course, that any warning could be heard above the wall of sound blasting out from the vehicles audio system. Strangely, even in the hours of darkness when approaching headlights are a more obvious indicator of another presence, some still feel obliged to augment the luminous warning with the audible one. The sensible option is to approach slowly, keeping well to the left and progress until it is possible to clearly see over the crest. This is known amongst the driving instruction fraternity as the creep and peep principal. Or so I am told.

In many ways the real problem here is not so much the canal bridge as the coarse and raucous sound emitted by the modern motor horn. By its very nature the sound is aggressive and, even if your intention is to deliver a friendly greeting or a cheery thank you, it is very difficult to convey this if you only have a monotone that sounds like a rebuke. It is very common that your intention to spread sunshine and light will be misconstrued and then the recipient of your blast will probably wish to review your right to wear your head on your shoulders. Motor manufacturers would rise considerably in my estimation if they would see fit to equip their products with a second horn with a purely salutary function. This device would emit a far gentler sound which in times gone by might have been described as a tootle. Just the sort of noise one would expect say, from Noddy's little red car. Such a sound would be utterly unambiguous in its message. The only possible interpretation of this sound would be of the expression of unbridled bonhomie to your motoring fellows. Hail fellow, well met. No, no after you I insist. That sort of thing. It might even be acceptable to use it to greet a passing narrowboat from atop Bridge 30.

F.O.T.H.



## BACKSTAGE WHISPERS

### 'RESTING' (continued)

I love it when the past suddenly re-appears, sometimes reminding one of someone completely forgotten. This happened to me a few months ago, when out of the blue, I got an email from a student who had been part of my classes over thirty years ago. She had come across an article in a magazine about the memoir I published a couple of years back and wanted to know how she could buy a copy. She then went on to explain that she had been on the 'Advanced Secretarial' course, back in the sixties, when I was brought in to teach an extra-curricular subject called SPD (Speech and Personality Development). This was meant to add a tinge of gloss and confidence to these young women who were being groomed to be the future generation of cool efficient P.A.s to the Nation's Heads of Industry. Naturally the students had no idea that I was making this up as I went along, using these classes as an extra 'string to my bow' while *resting* as an actress. I was fascinated by the vivid memory this past student had of our early encounters, and which had us both in fits of laughter. She reminded me that during our first class I gave a short overview of the goals we were aiming for, as well as focusing a great deal on posture and deep breathing and getting them relaxing on the classroom floor. I then asked them to prepare a short monologue, ready for the next class, as an audition to become Miss Eden Vale, the nation's yogurt girl. Apparently half the class decided to go on strike and refused to do anything so scary. She, however, although horrified at the thought of standing up in front of the class, was determined to have a go. She told me, all these years later, she was thrilled to discover that not only did she manage to do as she had been asked, but that she had actually enjoyed it, and realised it was the beginning of discovering a new confidence in herself. I am chuffed to think that I might just have been that first link in helping to build some of those young egos, giving them a greater sense of their own esteem. As the weeks continued, I dreamed up more and more creative ideas. Organising 'make-overs' in Bond Street at Max Factor or behind the famous Red Door with Madam Elizabeth Arden, or taking them to Vidal Sassoon's latest salon in Park Lane, followed by a conducted tour of the Park Lane Hilton. My twenty-one year old granddaughter found the whole thing hilarious, when I was telling her all about the various classes I was putting my poor 'victims' through, back in the 'swingin' sixties.

Not only has this one email from the past brought back so many memories, but it has also renewed a friendship from those days, as Pam, now in her sixties, sends me her monthly podcast, with news of her life, of her church and her grown up family and grandchildren. It has also become extraordinarily relevant from a news point of view, as she is based in the glorious cathedral city of Salisbury, although sadly having to cope with all its current sinister problems. More news next month.

*Beth*

## What's On

# Queen Elizabeth 1



Lesley Smith, historian and curator of Tutbury Castle, returns to Bosworth to tell us about the life of the Virgin Queen, Elizabeth 1.

This glittering presentation will transport you back to the time of Drake, Raleigh and Shakespeare on England's voyage into the Renaissance.

**FRIDAY NOVEMBER 16th at 7.30pm**  
The Parish Hall, Park St., Market Bosworth CV13 0LL

Tickets £10 (£12 on the door) from Michaelmas House or the Community Library - suitable for over 16s.

### THE METHODIST CHURCH

**Saturday September 8th**

Coffee morning 10.00-11.30

For church funds

**Saturday September 29th**

MacMillan Coffee morning

10.00-12 noon

Cakes & Preserves

Cards & Books

## Stoke Golding Garden Show

88th Open Show

**Saturday 1st September 2018**

### Stoke Golding Club

**42 Hinckley Road, Warwickshire  
CV13 6DZ**

The main beneficiaries this year are:



**CONTACT  
THE ELDERLY**



Flowers, vegetables, homemade, novice, children's' section and more...

Open to public 6pm

Presentations 8pm

Clear Down 8.20pm

Grand Auction 8.45pm

**Grand Raffle 9pm**

**Free Admission**

**Everyone welcome**

**For more information contact**

**Tina on 07809629690**

## Teddy Bear Jump and Bar-B-Q

at St Margaret's Church, Saturday 8th September from 12 noon until 3.00pm. Bar-B-Q, cakes and drinks available



Bring your bear with its parachute and watch it fly

£2.00 each bear

(Please do not bring your favourite bear)

Teddy Bear rescue and first aiders on site

*Any teenagers preparing for their driving tests might learn a lesson from this tale, written by Mick Sammons of Stoke Golding. Sadly Mick is no longer with us but his wife Margaret is happy for his tale to be shared here.*

*J A Walliker*

## **MY FIRST DRIVING TEST**

I took my first driving test many years ago, in those comparatively care-free days before MOTs and seat belts. The vehicles then lacked the sophistication of today, and the lightweight van in which I was to take my test had only three forward gears, one of which required the driver to 'double de-clutch' to make a smooth change. The van also had rather poor suspension so my father, in his infinite wisdom, decided to put two large sacks of coal in the back to depress the springs and give the vehicle a better ride, and hopefully impress the examiner.

The day of the driving test arrived. About a third of the way through the test I felt that I was doing well, having made only one or two small errors but nothing too major. At this point the examiner told me that he wanted me to perform an emergency stop on his instruction. Naturally I was determined to carry out this procedure faultlessly to make up for my previous small mistakes.

I waited with anticipation for the examiner to give the signal for me to stop. I saw his hand go down, I saw it hit the dashboard, I hit the brakes and the car screeched to a halt. It was the perfect emergency stop - but for a brief moment only. I then heard the ominous sound of the two large sacks of coal sliding rapidly along the floor of the van towards the backs of our seats, which were of the tip-up variety and had no seat belts to restrain them. A moment later the heavy sacks crashed violently into the backs of the seats, causing them to tip up forcibly and thrust the examiner and me suddenly forwards, pinning us against the windscreen and jamming us there. I remember observing from my sideways position that the only thing separating the examiner's face from the glass was his clipboard.

I then had the exceedingly difficult task of squeezing my arm between the seats so that I could push the sacks of coal clear and thereby release us both from our prison. It was difficult work and not without considerable embarrassment. Eventually I managed to shove the sacks back far enough to unlock the seats so that we were able to resume our proper positions. The examiner displayed remarkable composure and restraint, merely looking straight ahead and saying quite calmly, "When you are ready, sir, please continue in a forward direction".

So we finished the test without further mishap, but it came as no great surprise when the examiner suggested that I needed a few more lessons. I thanked him for his time and we went our separate ways. When I eventually did pass my test, it was in a different vehicle, with a different instructor – and without any sacks of coal for extra company! **MICK SAMMONS**

July 1946 – Sept 2017

## Stoke Golding Heritage Group

Stoke Golding Heritage Group has put together a varied programme for the Autumn and Winter. The meetings are held on the dates indicated at 7.30pm in the Baxter Hall. All are welcome but non-members pay a nominal sum of £2.50 for each meeting. Annual membership is only £10 so it is still worth joining for the year.

**Sept 20<sup>th</sup> "150 Years of Primary Education** as seen through five generations of my family". Michael Dix, a resident of Dadlington, contributor to the Stoker, and former primary school headteacher, uses five generations of his family history to chart the changes in primary education over the last 150 years.

**Oct 18<sup>th</sup> "A History of Spirits"** (Booze not Ghosts!!). John Whitehead, another Dadlington resident talks about the History of Spirits.

**Nov 15<sup>th</sup> "Wild Scotland"** Carl Baggott a local climber from Burbage, and a keen amateur photographer shows stunning images of Scottish Wildlife and Landscapes, in particular the Cairngorms.

**Jan 17<sup>th</sup> "Power Position & Gardens"** Roy Mitchell is a National Trust volunteer speaker and will give an illustrated talk on owners and their gardens. Stowe, Biddulph Grange and Nymans are featured all of which have been influential in many of the gardens we see today and can be visited by all as they are National Trust Properties.

**Feb 21<sup>st</sup> "Drones & Heritage"** James Rawlings runs a firm based in the Atkins Building, Hinckley, that undertakes aerial drone surveys commercially and in particular surveying Heritage Building when access to some areas is difficult using conventional methods.

**March 21<sup>st</sup> AGM**

*Roy Mitchell*

### Recipe for a Successful Cream Tea

#### Ingredients

Tea, cakes, scones, strawberry jam, lashings of cream  
Plant stall, tombola, guess the teddy's name, fresh produce and jars of jam  
Willing helpers, a generous host and plenty of guests (over 150 works best)  
Pleasant English summer weather

#### Method

Take a lovely Dadlington garden and fill it with tables, chairs and the odd gazebo. Set up a range of stalls to entice guests to part with their money. Provide endless cups of tea, accompanied by a range of tasty morsels. Add lots of visitors, young and old, many of them local, some from further afield, a fair number returning for the umpteenth year. Mix together and enjoy.

St James' Dadlington PCC would like to thank Caroline Fielding for providing both the venue and the coordination of proceedings once again, her team of tea makers, cake deliverers, stall holders and tidying uppers, and everyone who came along and gave towards one of the church's main fundraising events. An amazing £1,274 was raised on the day.

*Michael Dix*

## Let's Walk the Length of England 4: On to Manchester



Four years after starting the Cotswold Way, my wife Sue and I, with our friends Helen and Andrew, had now completed the journey from Chesil Beach on the south coast to Cannock Chase in Staffordshire, and next we set our sights on Manchester. Our first walk took us to Abbots Bromley, home of the famous horn dance. The route passed the spot on the Trent & Mersey Canal where, in 1839, Christina Collins accepted a lift on a passing barge. It was a mistake: she ended up being murdered with two of the crew hanged for the

offence. The author of Morse, Colin Dexter, found a copy of the story, written by Helen's father, and turned it into his novel *The Wench is Dead*. This resulted in us being invited to watch ITV film the story at the Black Country Museum, and to attending a talk by Colin Dexter, where Andrew and I turned up in our most casual clothing only to find there was a black tie reception prior to the talk. It's funny how the joy of free wine dissipates when you are the only ones wearing jumpers and jeans in a sea of dinner jackets and bow ties.

The beautiful River Dove accompanied us for some of the route, but after days of heavy rain, it had flooded. We needed to cross a bridge over one of its tributaries but the bridge was knee deep in water. There seemed no alternative; we just had to wade through and hope we'd dry out eventually. However, there was another way. Helen took off her boots and socks, rolled up her trousers and set off. Andrew was not impressed. "You don't know what you might tread on," he grumbled, but Helen was determined and emerged unscathed into the field the other side, her clothing as dry as a bone. She put on her socks and boots, rolled down her trouser legs and, setting off with a smug grin, immediately sank up to her knees into the waterlogged field.

Until we were north of Leek, we'd been following the Staffordshire Way, but as this started to diverge from the direction we wanted to go, we joined up with the Macclesfield Canal. This, unsurprisingly, took us to Macclesfield. Before leaving the Staffordshire Way, we climbed over hills near to the picturesque Lake Rudyard. It was here that a certain Mr. Kipling met his future wife and their son was named after the lake. From Macclesfield the canal continues in a northerly direction to Marple, leaving us with three walks to reach the centre of Manchester. The first was very atmospheric, travelling alongside the River Goyt, past relics of the industrial revolution. The 'dark satanic' mills fairly sparkled in the crisp January sunshine. The second took us through a less than picturesque tower block estate whilst the third passed the home of Manchester City, the Etihad Stadium before picking up another canal, filled with the rubbish that the fans had thoughtfully deposited there on their journeys to and from their matches. Having reached our limit for day trips, we now set about planning weekends away to walk the next leg of our journey, along the Thirlmere Way to the Lake District.

**M Dix**

## Scout Group News

What an end of term!!!!

Where do you start. Well there was the traditional water fights in blistering sunshine across all the sections.

Then we had the final meeting of all including the parents and executive team in the form of the AGM where John presented a slide show on the group's activities. If you are a regular reader of this column you will know that



we have done loads of fun and interesting, as one cub put it "stuff". Thank you to all the team across the Sections for helping out.

Then the cub team took 24 cubs on a District Trip to Twin Lakes at Melton. The cubs had a great time and liked all

the rides including the log flume and getting wet. Thank you to Rosie and Mark for helping out as well as Fionna and Georgia who gave up their weekend to help.

There was the Cubs and Scouts District raft race. And the Scouts soap box Derby in Hinckley. Great fun was had by all.

THEN we had the presentation of the Beaver chief scout award on a Friday night with all the dignitaries there!!!



What an ending to the year.  
*Jennifer*



## Stoke Golding Short Mat Bowling Club



This photograph shows members of the Stoke Golding Short Mat Bowling Club at the end of last season. We play on a Wednesday night during the winter from 7.30 till 10.00pm.

We only play amongst ourselves as we decided not to travel during the winter months to make it easier for members so it is an enjoyable atmosphere yet still competitive.

We would welcome some new members to join the Group. The season starts in October, but we will be putting the mat down in the club on Wednesday the 26th of September for practice sessions.

So if you are interested come along on that evening for a go. Bowls will be made available.

*John Burton*

## ART CLASSES

Starting soon in  
September 2018 locally in  
Hinckley

For details contact Diane

Tel: 07799 184097 or

email: [diane@pastelportraitsbydiane.com](mailto:diane@pastelportraitsbydiane.com)

- Morning & afternoon classes available
- FREE On-Site parking
- FREE refreshments
- Suitable for beginners and experienced artists



## **Hinckley Area Food Bank needs your help**

Thirteen million people, one in five, now live below the poverty line in the UK and many find themselves unable to feed themselves and their families on a daily basis. Delays in benefit payments, an unexpected bill, or illness can all plunge a family into crisis.

Hinckley Area Food Bank opened its doors in 2012 to help vulnerable local people in crisis who were struggling to feed themselves and their families. Formed as a partnership of local churches, it is part of a nationwide network of food banks, supported by The Trussell Trust who work to combat poverty and hunger across the UK. The Hinckley Food Bank was the first Trussell Trust Foodbank in Leicestershire and now has 7 distribution points across the Borough with an eighth to open shortly.

The Trussell Trust provides support to over 450 local Food Banks across the country and in the last financial year, Trussell Trust Food Banks handed out 1,332,952 three-day emergency food supplies to people in need.

Since its foundation, the Hinckley Food Bank has seen a steady increase in demand for support in the area, reflecting the national trend. In the last financial year it has provided 4,571 emergency 3 day food parcels to local people, an increase of 41% on the previous year.

The Church Communities in Stoke Golding have been strong supporters of the Food Bank since its formation and all have collection points for donations which are regularly sent through to the Food Bank's central warehouse facility on Sketchley Meadows

Whereas the success of the Food Bank can be seen as tribute to the dedicated volunteers who run the charity, it has presented significant new challenges. Food donations have increased over time but have not kept pace with the demand and the Food Bank is struggling to maintain the required stock levels.

The trustees are therefore now looking to widen their supporter base in an attempt to boost donations.

Colin Figures (chair of trustees for the Food Bank) stated, "A very high proportion of the donations we receive have historically come through the local Church community and we are anxious to widen our net a little. We have now added collection points in Asda, Morrisons and the Tesco supermarkets in Hinckley, plus the Co-ops in Burbage and Earl Shilton but we anxious to add new collection points. Just this week, Hinckley Rugby Club have announced that they will be hosting a collection point and we are hopeful that this will provide another welcome source of donations. In the run-up to Christmas, traditionally one of our busiest periods, we are hoping to boost donations further to help vulnerable people in the area.'

Anyone wishing to help the Food Banks efforts can do so by taking donations of food to any one of the collection points in the local supermarkets or the local churches. All donations will be gratefully received but the following items are particularly welcome.

Tinned Meat & Fish  
UHT Milk  
UHT Fruit juice  
Powdered Milk  
Tinned Rice Pudding  
Instant / tinned Custard

Tinned Fruit  
Instant Drinking Chocolate  
Instant Coffee  
Bottled Squash (up to 1 Litre)  
Jam  
Cereals (13+ portions).

Shower Gel, Shampoos and Toilet Rolls are also in short supply.

For further details about Hinckley Area Food Bank see the project website at [www.hinckleyarea.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.hinckleyarea.foodbank.org.uk) or contact the Project Manager on 01455 657390 or email [info@hinckleyarea.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@hinckleyarea.foodbank.org.uk). Financial donations are also very welcome.

*N Robinson*

## **Stoke Golding W.I July Meeting**

### **AGONIES AND ECSTASIES OF CANAL BOATING.**

Stoke Golding W.I welcomed to their July meeting Barry Watson who told members stories about his 6 years in charge of the canal hotel boats Caernfon and Conwy. These were divided into two parts, 'The agonies and The ecstasies' of a floating hotel but he began the talk by giving us a little history of the canals, such as the first canal built in Great Britain by the Romans long before the Industrial revolution, right up until the reason for their demise after the war.

He then warned us that he expected lots of participation both by questions and in singing and this he certainly achieved along with a great deal of laughter and humour.

He explained the daily routine of the passengers with full English breakfasts, 2 course lunch, 4 course evening meals as well as 3 breaks for tea/coffee with biscuits and cake all freshly cooked on board in a very small galley. Also of course would be the sailing along the beautiful canals to interesting places with the added duties for the crew of cleaning, shopping and maintaining the boat. All this for £600 a week.

He had us all enjoying his tales of the agonies of maintenance particularly of toilets where he brought in the '3 sheets rule' and of trying to untangle different articles from around the rudders and engine such as tyres and duvets. Of the 30bags of shopping that had to be fetched from shops, that could be quite a distance from the mooring every week and the laundry that was done in launderettes as there was no room on the boat for washing machines of course.

But although being 'jolly' for 31 weeks continuously could be a bit of a strain at times, the way the whole crew and passengers were like family easily made up for any down times. Again many of his stories were uproarious particularly when during his task of cleaning and polishing the side of the boat when all the passengers had gone on a trip (or so he thought) he witnessed an elderly couple on honeymoon consummating their marriage through their cabin window. Trying to avoid seeing the sight he backed hastily away only to end up deep in the mud and water of the canal edge. This led to us all singing, along with Barry accompanying us on guitar to a song written regarding the occasion. The stories carried on many being equally amusing and also we were able to understand the ways of the canal people as well as those of the guests. The evening was rounded off by a rousing chorus of 'The Great Falkirk Wheel' and we all agreed that we had thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

Although we do not have an August meeting a number of our members are visiting an Alpaca farm during that month and the next meeting will be September 12<sup>th</sup> at the Methodist Hall where we will be having a Fun Oil Painting Demo. Who knows we may find a budding Van Gough amongst ourselves or any visitors that may like to join us.

***Val Hartwell***

# Church Matters



## From St Margaret's Church

### A Jumble of Memories - Together

We are drawing very near to the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the First World War Armistice. Can you imagine what it was like in September 1918 – praying and yearning for the end of the war? But we know there were only two more months to go before the eleventh hour of the eleventh day in the eleventh month came to be deeply etched in our nation's psyche.

90 Brookmead Way, Orpington, Kent will not be on the nation's mind this month but it will be on mine. On 16<sup>th</sup> September 1940 Mr. and Mrs. Davis with their two year old son, Alan, were in an air-raid shelter at the bottom of the garden when the house suffered a direct hit from a German bomb. All three lives were changed for ever, of course, but they were saved.

On 30<sup>th</sup> September this year at 10.30am in Higham-on-the-Hill Church a service entitled 'In Loving Memory' is planned. This act of worship offers the opportunity to do something to mark the memories, and thanksgivings which are deeply embedded in our hearts and minds; we hear names read out and we light candles. Small and seemingly insignificant actions but for some they have the power to articulate things which cannot be fully expressed.

Firstly, it is good and right to remember. Some people of course cannot help but remember, the loss is so raw. But all those who are in God's hands are also in our loving memories. Secondly, it is of great help to carry out these actions in a place where God's worship takes place and being together with other people.

God, who is one, make us one in our remembering dark events, national and personal, of long ago and of more recent times. May your presence with us and the presence of each other, help us dry our tears, enhance our thanks and warm our hearts.

Alan Davis

### Thank you

Many thanks to all who contributed in any way to the *Christian Aid* collection this year by coming to the Coffee Morning, donating through the *Christian Aid Week* envelopes, or giving through church and chapel collections. We raised the magnificent sum of £162.90 which has been sent for the relief of those still suffering from the effects of last year's hurricane season in Haiti.

**Carolyn Patullo**

# Church Matters

## Church of England September Services

### St. Margaret's Church

### St. James's Church

2nd	10.30am	All Age Service	2nd	9.00am	BCP Morning Prayer
9th	10.30pm	Benefice Service-Dadlington	9th	10.30am	Benefice Service Dadlington
16th	10.30am	Holy Communion	16th	9.00am	BCP Holy Communion
23rd	10.30am	Morning Worship	23rd	9.00am	BCP Morning Prayer
30th		Benefice Services Higham	30th		Benefice Services Higham
	9.00am	Holy Communion		9.00am	Holy Communion
	10.30am	'In Loving Memory'		10.30am	'In Loving Memory'

## The Methodist Church September 2018 Services

2nd	10.30am	Mr John Cooke
9th	10.30am	Revd Wes Hampton
16th	10.30am	Revd Wes Hampton (Harvest Festival )
23rd	10.30am	Mrs Sheila Grice
30th	10.30am	Mrs Judith Cooke
30th	6.30pm	Circuit Service

## Zion Baptist Chapel September Services

2nd	6pm	Richard Cotton
9th	6pm	Mark Menzfeld
16th	6pm	Malcolm Welch
23rd	6pm	John Needham
30th	6pm	Steven Connor

## 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

'Back to School' say all the shop signs in June even though it is September when the little darlings head back to the classroom. Here are ten questions on schools and teachers.

1. In which Dickens' novel does a school called Dotheboys Hall feature?
2. Robert Donat plays a teacher in a 1939 film that charts his career and includes his name in the title. What is the teacher's name?
3. Which fictional girls' school was the setting for a set of six books by Enid Blyton?
4. Which future 'vicar' was a drama teacher at Parliament Hill School in the daytime and a comedienne at the Comic Strip in Soho at night in the 80s?
5. Which 1972 number 1 hit starts with the lines: Well we got no choice, all the girls and boys, making all that noise, 'cause they found new toys?
6. Name the two actors who played Dumbledore, the headteacher of Hogwarts in the Harry Potter films.
7. Which school has produced the most British Prime Minister?
8. Two future world number ones were in Dunblane school when Thomas Hamilton went on a killing spree there in 1996. Who were they?
9. Rupert Everett took on the role made famous by Alistair Sim as the headmistress of which anarchic girls' school that features in six films?
10. The 1944 Education Act raised the school leaving age by a year to what age?

*Answers on page 30*

## CASAG

(Castlemead and Stoke Golding Action Group)



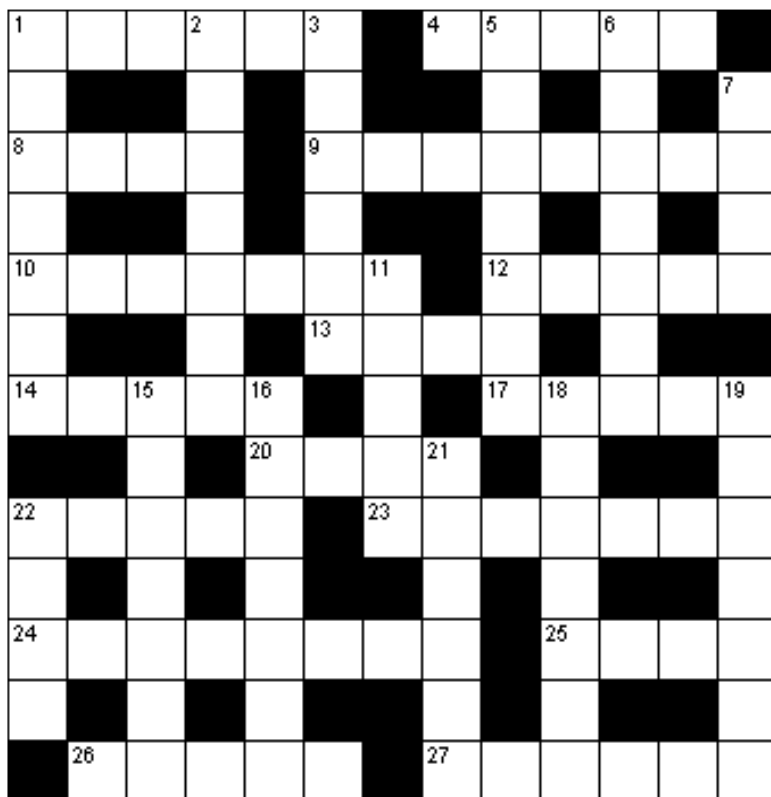
In the midst of a heat wave how timely it is that the health promotion theme for July/August is Skin Cancer. Not only the identification of cancer lesions with for example irregular margins increasing in size but also the prevention of the conditions.

Prevention is by applying sun tan cream, hat, cover up and sit in the shade during peak times of intense sun between 11-3pm.

There is a new receptionist at the Stoke Golding surgery called Sarah who starts at the end of July. On behalf of CASAG I extend her a warm welcome to the Stoke Golding surgery and look forward to meeting her.

**Jennifer**

# Crossword



**This Crossword was created with our Garden Show in mind (Mostly)**

## ACROSS

- 1 Orange vegetable good for sight (6)
- 4 Become less severe (5)
- 8 A thing (4)
- 9 Wild bushes and trees around a field (8)
- 10 Science fiction film starring Sean Connery (7)
- 12 Special members of society (5)
- 13 Flower with a girl's name (4)
- 14 Birthdays celebrate these (5)
- 17 These have branches and leaves (5)
- 20 used to make pots (4)
- 22 The largest branch of 17a (5)
- 23 Suggest (7)
- 24 National flower of Wales (8)
- 25 Someone we look up to (4)
- 26 Dress (5)
- 27 Weeping tree (6)

## DOWN

- 1 Plant sometimes used in coffee (7)
- 2 A walker (7)
- 3 Paste made from sesame seeds (6)
- 5 Largest (7)
- 6 Small insect which feeds on wood (7)
- 7 Excessively quaint (4)
- 11 We do this in our sleep(5)
- 15 A body of rock that holds water (7)
- 16 Children learn in these (7)
- 18 Go back to court for this(7)
- 19 Radiance from a hot star (3,4)
- 21 Colour of 24a(6)
- 22 The main part(4)

*Answers on page 27*

When Rosemary and Stuart of Church End Brewery took over "The George & Dragon", we were doubly blessed having lovely daughter Katy with her bubbly outgoing personality as manager. When the time came for Katy to move on it was going to be a challenge to find her successor. It had to be someone with that same zest for running this pub with its glowing reputation in the village. In September Alex will have been with us for three whole years, and the popularity of The George is proof enough that Alex was - *and is* - the perfect choice.

In spite of her over-busy schedule, Alex agrees to put her office work to one side and pop down in this glorious sunny weather to have a cuppa' and a chat. The front door buzzes 'right- on- the- dot', and a breath of sunshine with long blonde hair sweeps into my sitting room in a stylish pair of linen shorts, exposing a pair of never-ending tanned legs in sandals. *"Hi Alex you're looking great"*. I hadn't anticipated being spoiled as well, as Alex takes the kettle from me and pours the tea for us both.

Alex and her family are from Filongley, where she and Katy grew up together, both going to Shustoke Primary School. Mum and Dad are both teachers, and also have a smallholding with a diverse selection of animals, so Alex and her two sisters grew up surrounded with ponies and goats, lambs and chickens. Alex is the elder of the three girls, and has always worked in the area of hospitality, Charlotte is a doctor in Nottingham, and Sophie is a 'high-flyer' in the world of business. Apart from her sisters, Alex also speaks with great warmth of her grandmother – Stella. Both grandparents moved here from Coventry, and Alex was heartbroken at the loss of her grandma.

At the age of eleven she went to boarding school in Romsey, Hampshire and loved it. This was followed by a course in Fine Arts at North Warwicks. College in Nuneaton. *"Why fine arts Alex?"* I ask. *"Well I've never been academic, but I love anything creative - like interior design for instance, working with different textures and colours. I'm also pretty good at maths. I need to be -working in a pub."* By the age of fifteen, she was already working in her first pub. She grins. *"Starting at the bottom, doing the endless washing up in the kitchen."* She was also managing to fit in working for an interior designer in Lutterworth. Obviously she isn't afraid of hard work.

Alex has known Rosemary and Stuart at Church End Brewery since she was a little girl and has worked on various 'Events and Promotional' gigs for them, she was their obvious choice as Katy's successor, and were delighted when Alex eventually stepped into Katy's shoes. *"Which qualities are essential for a good pub manager Alex?"* She pauses for a moment, and then; *"First and foremost of course are people skills – I find people endlessly fascinating, and this also extends to staff. I have twelve staff members*



working for me and I want them to enjoy working here, so we work together as a close team. Everyone comes from the village locally, so there are no problems with transport. Tony, our chef, is full-time, and everyone else works part-time on a rota - ages range from 15yrs. to 50yrs". There's a pause; "Oh and last but not least, you must be prepared to turn your hand to anything in an emergency, from cleaning the toilets, to giving a hand in the kitchen." She took her NVQ in cookery. "I love this village with its friendly tight-knit community. So many folk are happy to volunteer to help in all our Charity Events. I have my home above the pub, which I share with Mark. We've been together for twelve years and he's a great support whenever I need him. "Finally, Alex – how organised are you for the big Summer Charity Fair this weekend"? I get another of those happy smiles, which tells me all is well. "All my wonderful loyal volunteers have taken so much of the responsibility Beth - I'm just praying for the weather" I gather it was an enormous success!!

## Kitchen Corner

### **KEDGEREE**

*Kedgerree or kitcherie is an old Anglo-Indian dish. The word derives from the Hindi Khichri which in turn, stems from the Sanskrit K'ysara.*

*This dish is very versatile and can be served at breakfast, brunch or for a light supper.*

### **INGREDIENTS**

*2 Cups of Cooked Rice*

*1 Onion, sliced*

*2 Peppers, Green or Red, sliced*

*125gms. (4ozs) Mushrooms*

*1tsp. Garam Masala*

*1tsp. Curry Powder*

*250gms. (8ozs) Smoked Fish*

*Chopped Parsley or Coriander*

*1 Hard Boiled Egg, per person*

*1 Sliced Tomato, per person*

*1tblsp. Butter*

*1tblsp. Oil*

### **METHOD**

*Firstly, poach the fish in a little milk for 5 minutes. Take off the heat and flake the fish.*

*Melt the butter and oil in a large frying pan or wok. Add the sliced onion and peppers, and fry for about five minutes, until soft. Add the mushrooms and cook for a further 3 minutes.*

*Add the fish to the vegetables and the sprinkle in the spices, toss until well coated. Now add the rice and cook until heated through.*

*Serve on individual plates, with the egg (quartered) and sliced tomatoes. Sprinkle the chopped herbs over the kedgerree. Enjoy!*

**Avis**

## **Notes from Stoke Golding Parish Council, August Meeting (Draft)**

### *Matters arising from July's minutes:*

- Ground maintenance – emergency work to cracks in the recreation field was agreed at a cost of £628.40.
- The sign at Wykin Lane Cemetery has been installed, at a cost of £18.78. The sign on the main gate at the recreation field has been moved, at a cost of £20.00.

### *Playground inspection:*

Monthly report: The following was noted: cracking of ground, weeds in play surfaces, overhanging branch and climbing frame – movement in posts. The Clerk reported on progress regarding the roundabout issues.

### *Planning Application Matters:*

#### *New Applications:*

- 28 Crown Hill Close – works to trees.
  - Laburnum Cottage, High Street – variation of conditions to amend site levels, hammerhead design, boundary treatments and minor amendments to house types. The Parish Council would like confirmation that the new hedge will be a mix of native species.
  - Basin Bridge Farm, Basin Bridge Lane – variation of condition 5 to allow solar panel farm to operate for 40 years. The Parish Council would like confirmation that the conditions for removal of the facility at the end of the term will remain the same and that land will revert back to greenfield.
- 34 Roseway – two storey side extension and single storey rear extension.

### *Permissions approved:*

- 12 Station Road – removal of existing conservatory and erection of a single storey rear extension.
- 1 Crown Hill Close – works to tree.

4 Greenwood Road, SG – variation of condition 2 of planning permission to enlarge single storey rear extension approved on previous permission.

### *Appeals:*

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

### *Neighbourhood Plan:*

It was noted that the NPAC is still awaiting the new land availability map from HBBC.

### *Sport in Stoke Golding (SISG)*

- Information from LRALC on ownership and VAT implications for three options were noted.
- Business plan advice from LRALC was discussed.
- It was noted that the S106 monies available from Morris Homes will not have a clawback date.

Cllr Pegg to carry out further investigations into funding and building implications of various options and report back to the Parish Council.

### *Works at Hinckley Road Cemetery*

*Wall and Gate Damage:* It was noted that confirmation of the claim against

the contractor's insurer is still pending.

*Oak Tree* - Confirmation of the arboriculture contractor's report is still pending.

*Ditch*: Work to the ditch is almost complete.

*Boundary*: It was noted that there was nothing further to report on this issue.

*Litter Basket*: It was noted that a request for funding from the Charity of Thomas Barton is still pending.

#### Arrangements for Remembrance Day:

The Clerk will contact the bugler and order two wreaths.

#### *StokeFest*

- StokeFest will take place on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August. Cllrs Beale and Terheege will carry out a site inspection and risk assessment before and after the event.

It was noted that the StokeFest Committee will supply copies of the event insurance and risk assessment to the Parish Council before the event and ensure that toilet issues highlighted last year have been addressed.

#### *Communications received by the Chairman of the Council*

##### *Written*

- HBBC Mapping of transport provision questionnaire was noted. A reply from LCC on public footpath V21 maintenance was noted. The Clerk to seek a quote from groundsman for on-going maintenance and draft a letter to residents and forward to Cllrs for approval.

##### *Verbal*

Contact from the letting agent for the post office building was discussed and noted.

##### *Any Other Business*

Cllr Mitchell reported on the Stoke Golding Boys Charity.

The Union flag was discussed.

#### **Next meeting: Methodist Hall, Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm.**

A full copy of the Parish Council minutes can be found on the village website: [www.stokegolding.co.uk](http://www.stokegolding.co.uk)

#### **Spectacles found in Dadlington**

A pair of glasses in a case have been found near the Green in Dadlington. If they are yours please contact the editor(s) - see contact information on inside cover



#### **CROSSWORD ANSWERS**

**Across** 1 Carrot; 4 Abate; 8 Item; 9 Hedgerow; 10 Outland; 12 Elite; 13 Iris; 14 Years; 17 Trees; 20 Clay; 22 Bough; 23 Mention; 24 Daffodil; 25 Idol; 26 Dress; 27 Willow

**Down** 1 Chicory; 2 Rambler; 3 Tahini; 5 Biggest; 6 Termite; 7 Twee; 11 Dream; 15 Aquifer; 16 Schools; 18 Retrial; 19 Sun glow; 21 Yellow; 22 Body

## Redmoor head urges his students to 'dream big'

In June I was delighted to be able to interview the Principal of Redmoor Academy in Hinckley, Matt Nicolle. In just a year at the school he has implemented some major changes and has a very strong vision for its future. Mr Nicolle is the father of two daughters aged 9 and 10 and many of his all new leadership team also have school age children so, when faced with making the numerous decisions for running a school, he says an important touchstone is "Is that good enough for my child?" or "What would I do if that was my child?"

Having worked in Leicestershire for 22 years, this is Mr Nicolle's first headship. He admits that Redmoor has been through a lot of change, doubling in size in the last three

years to now accommodate 925 students. The school is at capacity.

He wants Redmoor's students to 'dream big' and he feels an affinity with them, drawing on similarities between his own upbringing in Swansea and that of Hinckley children growing up in a small town with a once big industrial heart.

Mr Nicolle points out, 'Our students have the capability to be anything they want to be but sometimes don't know just how far they can go or what opportunities are out there.'

He adds, 'We've gone back to basics. What are we doing in the classroom? How are we preparing students for exams?' He's been delighted with the outcomes so far and has high hopes for this year's GCSE results due in August. He emphasises what getting the basics right means. 'Are students getting good lessons? Every day. Every lesson. Day in, day out.'

Mr Nicolle speaks very highly of his teaching staff recognising how much change they've had to deal with, not only in the school but also nationally with the implementation of the new National Curriculum and more demanding GCSEs. 'They've gone above and beyond for our students.' But he also values every member of Redmoor's team not just the teaching staff - from the cleaning of the school to the quality of the dinners - everybody's role matters.

The school has benefitted from improved facilities, better equipment, more



classrooms and the appointment of more staff with relevant GCSE experience. The phase of growth doesn't end there. A new 4 classroom block, 2 new ICT suites and 2 refurbished Science labs will be ready for September 2018.

Mr Nicolle is conscious of maintaining Redmoor's strengths including its reputation for excellent pastoral care which was highlighted by Ofsted, but he admits it is aiming high as an academic institution.

He summarises the three priorities for the students. 'Fantastic outcomes at 16 for each individual student, brilliant experiences which build confidence, resilience and independence and being good people.'

Building links with local business and industry is also high on Mr Nicolle's aspirations for the school. He sees the value of this not so much being about employers helping the school, but more about gaining an insight into how the school can prepare its students to be desirable employees. He's also keen to explore apprenticeship opportunities for the students as well as the option of university. 'I want our students to be able to go out and do things, whatever they want...it's about changing their attitudes.' The map of Swansea on the wall is a touching reminder of his roots and the opportunities he had as a young man.

Mr Nicolle is frank about where the school could do with improving and sees communication with the parents and local community as an area for development. He has welcomed parents into school and makes sure he is available to speak to them when requested, but he wants to involve parents more in the life of the school and give more opportunities to come in when the school day is fully operating rather than just for open evenings.

It certainly was a detailed, very informative interview and before I leave, Mr Nicolle adds his thoughts about the new school year. He and his team will be planning proactively to ensure Redmoor continues improving. 'No room for complacency' he says with a smile.

*Ella Orr*

### **MISTRESS HESTER HODGES EXHIBITION FOUNDATION**

**At their November meeting the of the Mistress Hester Hodges Exhibition Foundation will consider applications for small grants of money.**

**To be eligible the following conditions must be met:**

- a) Two years attendance at St. Margaret's C.E (Aided) Primary School, Stoke Golding**
- b) Residence in Stoke Golding**
- c) Attained the age of 16 years or more and be undertaking further education in the academic year commencing September/October 2018**

**Application forms may be obtained from Paul's shop or 26 Wykin Lane or email [hstrhodges@gmail.com](mailto:hstrhodges@gmail.com) Completed application forms should be returned by email or to 26 Wykin Lane by 28th Oct 2018**



## Obituaries



*Missing from the obituary for Olive Rogers in the July/August edition of the Stoker is mention of her brother Trevor. He too has lived in the village all his life except for his two years National Service in the R.A.F. He was also the owner of the village Fish & Chip.*

**We offer our sincere condolences to the families and friends of the following residents who have recently passed away.**

### **David Jones**

David passed away peacefully on 5<sup>th</sup> July. Beloved husband of Ann, much loved father of Becky and father-in-law of Simon, devoted grandad of Leo and Archie. The funeral took place at the Heart of England Crematorium, Nuneaton on 2<sup>nd</sup> August. Donations in memory of David can be made to the British Lung Foundation or the Salvation Army via G. Seller Funeral Directors, 75 Upper Bond Street, Hinckley LE10 1RH

### **Mary Embra**

Mary passed away peacefully at home in Llanteg, Pembrokeshire on 9<sup>th</sup> July, aged 94 years. Mary had formerly been a resident of Stoke Golding. Devoted and beloved wife of Louis and dearly loved mother and grandmother. The funeral service took place on 18<sup>th</sup> July at Parc Gwyn Crematorium, Narberth, followed by a memorial service at St Peter's church, Higham on the Hill on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> August. Donations, if so desired to the Royal British Legion, The Paul Sartori Foundation or the Armed Forces Charity.

### **Margaret Bevan**

Margaret passed away peacefully at Hinckley and Bosworth Community Hospital on 30<sup>th</sup> July aged 75 years. Beloved wife of John, mother of Jamie, mother-in law to Paula and grandmother to Thomas and Emily. Margaret's funeral took place at the Heart of England Crematorium, Nuneaton on 21<sup>st</sup> August. Donations may be made to the Brain Tumour Charity via McCartney's Funeral Service, 47 Coventry Road, Hinckley LE10 0JR

Sports & Remedial  
massage therapy 

### **Luisa Quinney MFHT, MHFST**

*Remedial Therapy & Massage*

*'Dorn' Body Realignment*

*Now offering facials*

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[www.midlandsmassagetherapy.co.uk](http://www.midlandsmassagetherapy.co.uk)

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[www.thebodyworks-osteopathy.com](http://www.thebodyworks-osteopathy.com)

## **Answers to Ten of a Kind**

1. Nicholas Nickleby, 2. Mr Chips – the film is Goodbye Mt Chips, 3. Malory Towers
4. Dawn French, 5. School's Out by Alice Cooper, 6. Richard Harris & Michael Gambon, 7. Eton – 19 out of 54, 8. Andy and Jamie Murray, 9. St Trinians, 10. 15

# Tomlinson's Farm Shop

## Your friendly local Farm Shop, Station Road, Stoke Golding

**Free range chicken & eggs, Dexter beef, sausages, locally sourced cheese, milk, vegetables & more.**

Connor's Bakery  
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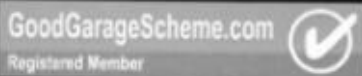
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