

Note from this month's guest Editor -Ella

It has been my great pleasure to edit this month's The Stoker and I feel honoured that Jane and Steve have put their trust in me in their absence. They've both been enjoying well-deserved breaks, while my email has been inundated with all the usual news, views and event information which appear in this issue. The latter days of August and September are traditionally busy with annual events so there's been a lot to fit in.



I particularly enjoyed my first experience of the Garden Show presentation and auction accompanied by some friendly heckling. All in good fun of course! Also it was heartening to see a young member of the Dorothy Goodman School staff, Ben Burgess, presenting the trophies and so many children visiting the show. We are blessed with hard working committee members across different organisations and clubs in our villages, but encouraging some younger folk to support these events may help to ensure they continue for many more years to come.

You won't want to miss some super colour photos on pages 16 –17 of the Garden Show, St Margaret's Flower Festival and StokeFest.

I hope you enjoy reading this month's issue and let's hope we have a few warm autumnal days before the heating needs to go on for the foreseeable future. Best wishes

Ella

The Stoker Team

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Please send articles for the **November** issue of The Stoker **by 15th October** to: The Editors, 45 Station Road, Stoke Golding/email janewhitesg@gmail.com

If you can submit articles by e-mail or on a memory stick (Microsoft Word) it makes our job much easier, (**500 words maximum** please). All correspondence, including e-mails, must include your full name, home address and home telephone number.

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

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

Cover picture: Ben, a member of staff at Dorothy Goodman School, presents Oscar with his prize.

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Stoke Fest 2017

On the 27th of August me and my family walked there. Then we set up and settled down. I found my friends Amy, Bethan, Ella and Katie we tried toxic waste! (Don't worry it's just a really sour sweet). That's me and Amy.

After that me and my friends went on the crooked house, then on the trampolines. We ate donuts and candy floss. Then I played football with Noah. Later Ben joined in with us. At about 7pm me and Katie were chatting on the swings. Later at nearly 9 o'clock we went round the park with 3 torches and it



was spooky. Then me and my family walked home and the Stoke fest had ended. It was great to see all my friends. We had a load of FUN!!!!!!!!!! Samara Orr

This year's StokeFest on Sunday 27th August was again another fantastic success, made all the more notable as this year marked its 10th anniversary. The crowds enjoyed one of the hottest days of the year and the bands were entertaining as always. It was yet another fantastic village event. Many thanks to the organisers. Hopefully lots of money has been raised for some worthwhile causes—the amounts will be announced at the StokeFest presentation on Saturday 7th October. See page 13

Due to considerations of magazine space , the following letter has been slightly shortened - Editor

Need to move forward, not fixate on the past

I strongly dispute Roy Mitchell's (Sept issue) first sentence that a significant rural green space, vista and historic feature will now be replaced by an urban cul-de-sac with landscaping.

Point 1: The Rural green space is no more than a front garden, bordered by hedges and an unkempt alley-way (gitty or whatever it is called in Leicestershire). Very little can be seen from the road and, up until the passing of Eric Quinney, it was more of an allotment than a green space. There is a larger green space (if the lawned area is what Roy means) on the corner of Hinckley Road and Wykin Lane. There is also a much more valuable area that is the Recreation ground which can be used by anyone and everyone in the village. If this was under threat I would be concerned.

Point 2: The only vista from this area is the surrounding houses and school. The use of the word 'vista' suggests wide open spaces but there are none around this area. It is already built up. The addition of a few more houses fits perfectly into the nature of the area where there are already new houses on old sites.

Point 3: Historic feature. This is not an historic feature. The Church is. The Pubs are. Possibly Park House is, but this is just an old property where everyone who lived there is either dead or very old. Sorry for being so blunt, but it is true. The heritage – by which I mean the old traditions of the village – was lost a long time ago when new houses were built along Hinckley Road (and here by new I mean those built in the early part of the 20th century), where factories were knocked down on Wykin Lane to provide building space and in other parts of the village.

I do agree that some consideration needs to be given to traffic. Maybe a roundabout should be built to slow traffic coming up High Street. It would definitely help if double yellow lines were on the road all along that piece of road, past the school to where the houses start.

The only way to ensure the survival of the village is to move forward and make the village a welcoming place full of new developments and ideas, not hold it back in the past which was actually full of poverty and depredation.

Pauline Edwards, Whitemoors Road

A word or two, if I may, concerning the planning meeting for the back garden of Laburnum Cottage.

Permission was granted and I believe rightly so. The main reasons given: there is nothing worth saving, or of any significance, on the land; no reason at all that would warrant it being given heritage status; a back garden to a cottage, no more, no less. The dangerous bend? No such thing. Parking close to and around the bend in recent years has become dangerous. In all my letters to H&BBC and others, I have suggested traffic calming:- double yellow lines, 20 mph approaching and around the bend, raised speed cushions or a combination of these measures - problem solved.

It has been my conclusion since this sorry saga began over two years ago, it has all been about one thing only. N.I.M.B.Y.

Alan Quinney

A fitting finale for Champion Clay Shooter Joy

England International Clay Shooting star, Joy Hirons from Stoke Golding, has finally retired from competition shooting following a brilliant final Home International as a member of the England Team.

During the build up Joy took a gold medal at the East Midlands Regional Championship and a bronze medal at the English Open Doubles Championship. Joy then travelled over to Dungannon in Northern Ireland as part of the 22 member England Team to represent her country at the Home International over the August Bank Holiday weekend.

Shooting over 2 days, Joy shot an amazing 145 out of 150, with the second day going through unbeaten, helping England to a clean sweep win over all categories

and a wonderful but very emotional end to an

amazing career.

She was described at the celebration banquet after the event as a legend, which is a fitting title to such an amazing competitor, who has broken records, equalled records and set new records in just 7 years of competing.

Joy, and England Team Manager husband Rob are to relocate to Cyprus to begin a new venture.



Ten of a Kind

Two years ago this month, the first Ten of a Kind was based on 'firsts' and last year is was 'seconds', so guess what, this month's questions all concern 'thirds'.

- 1. Beethoven originally dedicated his third symphony to Napoleon, re-dedicating it to 'a great man' after the Frenchman declared himself Emperor. What is it's nickname?
- 2. Which prolific England goal-scorer bagged his third international hat-trick in a friendly against Spain in 1987?
- 3. Who played Harry Lime in the 1949 film The Third Man?
- 4. How many kings of England have been called 'the third'?
- 5. School milk used to be delivered in third of a pint bottles. Which Education Secretary was responsible for ending free milk for all pupils?
- 6. Which European country drank a third of all the prosecco produced in 2016?
- 7. Which is the third book of the New Testament?
- 8. In cricket, is the third man is positioned in the field to the right or the left of the wicket keeper?
- 9. In which decade did The Third Programme become BBC Radio 3?
- 10. Which of the UK's National Parks, the setting for James Herriot's All Creatures Great and Small, is the third largest, just 2 square km bigger than Snowdonia?





Forget the Chinese Theatre, forget Hollywood Boulevard; if you wanted a taste of the glamour and glitz of an Oscar Ceremony, then St Margaret's Church on the bank holiday weekend was the place to go. The annual flower festival took the Oscars as its theme and every available space was taken up with a homage to the big screen successes.

On entering the church, the first display was a vibrant red carpet with accompanying flowers to match, setting the scene for what

was to come. Some of the arrangements celebrated winning films, such as The Sound of Music and My Fair Lady, whilst others acknowledged the people who work behind the scenes. The display on the font entitled The Props Department, consisted of an eclectic mix of objects – clapperboard, fire hydrant, telephone and old gramophone complete with horn – all offset perfectly by a mixture of trailing plants and giant leaves. There were also scenes depicting the costumiers and make up artists, and at the back of the church, a special tribute to Leicester's own Oscar winner, Richard Attenborough. The arrangement devoted to the music from Out of Africa was particularly charming, with toy lions and a herd of black elephants emerging from the foliage.

And what of the 'lovies'? They were either titivating their floral designs or they were across the road in the school, serving refreshments or manning the stalls. And, of course, the winner was: St Margaret's Flower Festival!

Michael Dix

Thank you to the ladies and Geoff who did some wonderful displays and made our church even more beautiful.

To Jan for setting the quiz, the winner was Kate from Nuneaton. Our thanks also goes to those who welcomed our many visitors into church. To everyone who donated prizes and to those who made all the food, cakes and jams etc. and manned the stalls over a busy weekend, thank you. We are a great team and couldn't do it without you.

Our thanks also go to "The Thomas Barton Trust" and members of our church family who made donations to cover the cost of the flowers.

All the raffle prizes were claimed.

A big thank you goes to our many visitors who raised the amazing sum of £740 towards the church funds.

St, Margaret's P.C.C

Take a look at pages 16 -17 for some lovely photos.— Editor

Village Cricket's Future Looking Bright - Thanks to Charity of Thomas Barton

At the end of last year, Stoke Golding Cricket Club approached the Charity of Thomas Barton for some help in acquiring a set of anti-vandal rain covers for the cricket square so that pitches prepared for matches could be improved. The club were hoping for a donation but were overwhelmed when the Thomas Barton Trustees offered to pay the full price of the covers at the end of January 2017.

After receiving permission from the Parish Council to keep the covers down the rec and after several conversations with the manufacturers, the covers eventually arrived and have allowed for better pitches to be prepared and games to be played that perhaps could have been rained off. With the 1st team playing at the highest level they have ever been at and the 2nd team pushing for promotion this year, these covers are now more important than ever as the standard of cricket improves.



Trustees, Steve Avent, Paul Spokes and Bernard Arnold, and SGCC's Joe Rollins

The covers are anti-vandal and the club hopes that they will serve us well for the foreseeable future. SGCC kindly asks that the covers be respected.



The cricket club have had a plaque made to acknowledge and thank the Charity of Thomas Barton for their amazing generosity which will allow the club to improve for years to come by attracting more players due to improved facilities.

Stoke Golding Cricket Club

StokeArts@thevillagehall

Bringing professional music and theatre to Stoke Golding



Sat 21st Oct

After Hours Quintet. 20's style - Gatsby Swing, Jazz and Jive – music with humour

Doors open 7.30pm for 8pm start Tickets £10

To book or find out more, call Steve Smithers on 01455 213798 or email stevie smithers @btinternet.com



Saint Martin's achieves outstanding results for the second year running

Saint Martin's received their second ever set of GCSE results on Thursday and managed another year of excellent grades across the board. This year saw the introduction of a new 9-1 grading system in English and Maths where a 4 is equivalent to a C grade, a 5 is considered a good pass and a 9 is higher than an A*. Clive Wright the Principal said that 'our ambition, when we moved to become an 11-16 school, was to provide an exceptional education where our pupils achieved among the best results in Leicestershire and I am delighted that we have managed to do this again this year. 83% of pupils achieving a grade 4 or above in both English and maths. We suspect this will be one of the highest of all state schools in Leicestershire. Although the old 5+ A*-C grades is no longer an official measure, it was 81% this year. Very few schools anywhere get in the 80s'.

The school had some exceptional performances from some pupils; Lily Taamallah was the highest performing student achieving 12 As and A*s grades, Becky Wilkinson achieved 11 As an A*s including two 9 grades. Lucy Connolly, Samuel Oliver and Tian Vivian achieved 10 A and A* grades. Jack Dennis, a superb mathematician in Year 9 student also took the new GCSE, two years early, and achieved a Grade 9 in maths.

Loraine Lynch-Kelly, Vice Principal said, 'This is a powerful endorsement that expert, direct teaching, an ambitious curriculum, the highest standards of behaviour, and supporting students to know key subject information empower and enable pupils of <u>all</u> abilities to succeed. Blend that with relentless hard work and these brilliant outcomes mean our students are laying the foundations to access top university and apprenticeships places for the future. We are so proud of our students and thank staff enormously and parents, too, for their support and relentless care.'

Clive Wright, the Principal, put the schools success down to 'focussing not on just passing exams but 'on teaching pupils the best that has been thought and said, 'in other words the role of the teacher is to inspire pupils by passing on a deep knowledge of their subject. This is underpinned by a no excuses approach to discipline with an expectation that all pupils display exemplary behaviour, manners and kindness at all times'.

St Martin's Academy

What a start to the Autumn Term for the 1st Stoke Golding (St. Margaret's) Cubs and Scouts!

There's a bit of a theme???

The Scouts have been off learning to paddle board at the Leicester Outdoor Pursuit Centre. The Beavers have been planning a walk and map reading from Sutton Cheney wharf. The Cubs have been at district camp with approx 130 other cubs doing a wide range of activities including crafts, climbing, shooting, treasure hunt, cooking over a fire, fire lighting etc

The camp was on the weekend of 8th to 10th September. The camping was in soggy conditions at times and ,of course, there were traditional camp fire songs.

A special thank you to John and Fionna who have been working tirelessly behind the scenes organising the cubs for camp.





On Monday 11th September the Cubs went to the outdoor centre to learn how to

canoe. They had a great time splashing about in the water sometimes from the River Soar itself!

The Autumn term theme turned out to be fun, outdoor activities and Water. Lots of it!

Jennifer



padlington Matters

Cakes and Chatter in Dadlington

Nearly thirty people turned up for the first community coffee morning at Dadlington Village Hall to enjoy delicious homemade cakes and drinks. There was a lovely atmosphere with residents from Dadlington and Stoke Golding having the chance to chat together. As well as refreshments there was a free produce stall and a book swap for anyone who fancied a new book to read.

The coffee mornings will be held on the first Thursday of every month from 10am-12noon, so the next one will be 5th October. Everyone is very welcome to come along and we hope to see you there.

Jane White

MEET THE OWLS EVENING

Friday 20th October 7.30pm until 9.00pm

Dadlington Village Hall is hosting an Owl Night, where the renowned Hawkwise Falconry will be attending and bringing three Owls for people to see and handle. Becky Friar, of Hawkwise Falconry will entertain you with the natural history, fokelore and mythology of Owls. The birds will be doing some flying indoors and there will be opportunities to handle the birds.

Price £5 per ticket to include tea, coffee or soft drink. Ticket numbers are restricted to 50, so please book early. This is an indoor event so no worries over weather. For further information, to book places and buy tickets, please ring Eddie Smallwood on 07807 103577.

A Defibrillator for Dadlington

There are many who believe that every village should have a defibrillator, securely fitted, in a central location, for emergency use in case of heart attack in the crucial first few minutes before First Responders or Ambulance arrive.

Statistics show that early use of a defibrillator can increase the survival chances of someone who has suffered a cardiac arrest. Getting quick emergency services to rural areas is not easily achieved.

Many nearby villages now have defibrillators including Stoke Golding, Peckleton, Kirby Mallory, Stapleton and Carlton. Subject to agreement, a defibrillator could be sited in the redundant Telephone Kiosk now owned by our Parish Council or at another central point in our village.Continued next page

Each defibrillator can be housed in a Hi-Viz yellow waterproof cabinet. They are locked but can be accessed by members of the public with an access code given out by the ambulance service via the 999 emergency call system. Although the equipment is designed to be used by people with no medical background, we plan to have opportunities for public awareness sessions with assistance from the Community Heartbeat Trust when it has been installed. Initial cost is estimated to be £1700 plus ongoing maintenance and battery replacement.

Dadlington residents Eddie Smallwood and John Whitehead have started a fund from monies raised from historical and other talks. This stands at £300. They aim to continue fundraising, with the funds audited independently, and the sums reported to both the Parish Council and Dadlington Village Hall Committee. John Whitehead is planning to walk across Morecambe Bay this autumn in aid of the Dadlington Defibrillator Fund. If you believe that our village should have a defibrillator, please show your support by sponsoring John via www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/john-whitehead-2

Alternatively please complete the sponsorship form on a clipboard in the Telephone Box. Every donation will be acknowledged and properly documented. Many thanks. If you have any queries please e-mail John: jf_whitehead @ hotmail.com

Kitchen Corner

STICKY DATE PUDDING/CAKE

This pudding/cake is deceptively simple. One saucepan and one cake tin is all the equipment you need, no electric gadgets required.

INGREDIENTS

1 cup of pitted dates 1 ¼ cups of water

1tsp. baking soda (bi-carbonate) 2 oz.(60gms.) butter

1 cup dark brown sugar

2 eggs

1 ½cups of S.R. flour

1 tsp. vanilla extract 1tsp. ground ginger

2 pears, cored and cut into thin slices

METHOD

Pre-heat the oven to 180C or 160C fan. Grease the sides of a 25cm round cake tin and line the base with non-stick paper.

a large saucepan, bring to the boil and simmer for 5 minutes. Remove from the heat and mash with a potato masher to break up the dates.

Stir in the chopped butter and mix until melted. Mix in the sugar and beaten eggs the fold in the flour and ginger.

Arrange the sliced pears in a concentric circle in the base of the tin with a few pieces in the centre. Pour the batter over the pears and smooth evenly.

Bake in the oven for 35-40 minutes until a skewer inserted in the middle comes out clean. Stand for at least 10 minutes before turning upside down on a serving plate, then carefully remove the baking paper.

Place the dates, water and baking soda in

87th Annual Open Garden Show 2017 benefits Dorothy Goodman School, LAMP (Mental Health Carers) and Stoke Golding Cricket Club

Look out Leicestershire and Warwickshire, Stoke Golding Open Garden Show is definitely back on the map!

The 87th show held early in September this year, was a resounding success with many new competitors flooding through the doors, eager to show off their prowess and try their luck against some strong opposition. The novice classes were a super success and we hope to welcome even more determined inexperienced competitors who would like to learn the art of 'showing' next year. As always, expert help and advice is available before, during and after the show.

The Show committee would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to the local community, competitors, sponsors and judges for their very generous contributions. The committee would especially like to thank 'The Charity of Thomas Barton' and the 'George Ward Charitable Trust' for their generous financial donations towards the running of the Show. We are also extremely grateful to Stoke Golding Club for allowing access to the function room before, during and after the Show and a special mention for the lovely Maria, who creates such a 'mean bap' that the more stalwart competitors assure me this is one of the main reasons they attend.



The Show is currently lucky enough to be one of the nominated charities in the Tesco 'Bags of Help Scheme'. If you are shopping at one of the Tesco stores in Hinckley during the months of September and October please take a moment to put your token in the designated SGGS slot. Any money raised in this way will help enormously in our bid be able to donate to deserving organisations once again next year.





This year we have been able to donate £1500 to Dorothy Goodman School, £1000 towards LAMP and towards £600 Stoke Golding Cricket Club and £400 to Dadlington Village Hall.

Date for your diaries - the 88th Open Show will be held on Saturday 1st September 2018. Schedules will be available from August 2018, but in the meantime if you have any questions, queries or suggestions please contact Tina on 07809629690.

Tina Waters



What's On

Hinckley Concordia Theatre

We are so lucky to have a thriving theatre in Hinckley, providing a variety of high quality amateur and professional shows to suit all tastes including musicals, dance, drama and opera.

It is easy to park in the Britannia Centre car park opposite (60p for an evening) and the theatre has a comfortable bar and a coffee lounge for pre and post show drinks.

You can become a member of the theatre for £15 per year - this includes priority booking and a monthly newsletter.

Details of upcoming shows can be found at www.concordiatheatre.co.uk or ring the Box Office (615005) open Mon - Fri 10.30am - 12.30pm, Mon & Wed 7pm-8pm and Sat 10am-12noon.



12th, 13th & 14th October

HINCKLEY CONCORDIA THEATRE concordiatheatre.co.uk/opera-project

theatre box office **01455 615005**

further details

01455 212416

THE WHITE SWAN BONFIRE & FIREWORKS - 4th NOVEMBER 2017

The annual village bonfire and fireworks will be held on Saturday 4th November 2017 at The White Swan. The profits from the bonfire are used to provide a Retired Person's Christmas Lunch at the White Swan and to local groups such as St Margaret's School, St Martin's School, Robin Hood Play Group, and Stoke Golding Junior Football for them to provide better facilities for the children of the village. So, put the date in your diary and come along to support the event.



The village bonfire and fireworks would not take place without a dedicated team of volunteers, over the past few years the number of volunteers has reduced, we are therefore now looking for additional volunteers to help in the preparation on Saturday afternoon (2-4pm) and during the event in the evening (6 – 9pm), Do you have some spare time? If so please contact Jamie at The White Swan.

AUTUMN FILM SEASON 2017



Films start at 7.30pm in the Dixie Grammar School. Admission £5 Pay on the door. Wine & juice available.

뜛 Monday Sept

Hunt for the Wilderpeople



Monday Oct 9th

Daniel Blake



20th Monday Nov

A United Kingdom



18th

Monday Dec

Miracle on 34th Street



Forthcoming Events 2017-18



See website for full details

bosworthfestival.co.uk



A presentation by Lesely Smith or Tutbury Castle. The Tudors as vou've never seen them before! Date TBC. see website for details

The Professor of Adventure Dixie Grammar School March 3rd, 7.30pm New Drama from Peter Macqueen of Old Herbaceous fame.



TALON: JUNE 16th Market Bosworth Sports Club Don't miss it!



There have been some wonderful events this summer which we felt justified some colour photos. Hope you enjoy looking at them.

Stoke Golding Flower Festival







'The most successful festival we have done' said the arrangers Hilary Ford, Corinne Wilson, Caroline Fielden, Jennifer Hopewell, Alyson Banks-Davies.

Congratulations ladies!





10th Stoke Fest



Not just one stage and a great day of entertainment for the Stoke Fest crowd





Prize winning produce and displays and Ben Burgess presenting the Sylvia Hood plate to Sarah Wigley for her Best Victoria Sandwich





Church Matters



From St Margaret's Church

October is the month when we celebrate Harvest Thanksgiving in our churches. Harvest is a simple way of saying a thank-you to God for the richness of our world; for the fact that another year has passed without our going hungry, and acknowledging that, despite modern technology, we are still dependent on the gifts of the earth.

As the Psalmist reminds us: 'The earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it, the world and those who live in it; for he has founded it upon the seas and established it on the waters.' (Psalm 24)

Agriculture features prominently in the lives of our parishes and there is always the worry of disease among sheep and cattle, as well as the concern over whether crops will be a success or failure.

We realise that the creation is not something we can take for granted. We need to approach it with humility and awe. For all our scientific and mechanical skills, we still and always will have, a fine balance to live with nature.

Our harvest thanksgiving is a time to come humbly before God and acknowledge both the wonder and mystery of creation; and reflect on our place in the order of the world and work out how we can best fulfil our part as stewards of creation.

So, this autumn in our Harvest Thanksgiving Services, let us remember in our prayers all those who farm for a living; and give thanks to God for the productivity of land and sea, farm and factory, all of which contributes to the quality of life we enjoy. Do join us for our All Age Harvest Service at St Margaret's on Sunday 1st October at 10.30am, or our Harvest Songs of Praise at St James' Dadlington on Sunday 8th October at 6.30pm, and repeat with us the words of thanksgiving, "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give thanks and praise."

Later this month, on Sunday 29th October, we are holding a special service to remember our loved ones who have died - '*In Loving Memory*' at St Michael's Church, Fenny Drayton at 10.30am. This is a service of hymns, readings and prayers and there will be the opportunity to light a candle in memory of anyone who is special to you.

The names of those who have died will be read out and if you would like a friend or relative to be remembered, then please let a minister or Church Warden know before the day of the service. As well as coming yourself, you might also like to consider inviting to this service any who you know who have been bereaved. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

Wishing you God's blessing, Linda

St Margaret's Church Coffee, Chat & Book Swap

Free coffee, tea and a chat on Wednesdays

10.30am - 12 noon in Church

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



Church Matters

Church of England October 2017 Services

St. Margaret's Church

1st 10.30 am Harvest All Age Service

8th 10.30 am Benefice Service

15th 10.30 am Holy Communion

22nd 10.30 am Holy Communion

29th 10.30 am Fenny Drayton Benefice 'In loving memory' Service

St James's Church

1st 9.00am BCP Morning Prayer

8th 10.30am Benefice Service Stoke Golding

8th 6.30 pm Harvest Service

15th 9.00am BCP Holy Communion

22nd 9.00am BCP Morning Prayer

29th 10.30am Fenny Drayton Benefice 'In loving memory' Service

Zion Baptist Chapel October 2017 Services

1st	6pm	Steven Connor

8th 6pm Martyn Owens HARVEST SERVICE

15th 6pm Richard Cotton

22nd 6pm Bill McIntyre

29th 6pm Malcolm Welch

The Methodist Church October Services 2017

1st 10.30 am Mrs Hilary Fenby

8th 10.30 am Mr John Cooke

15th 10.30 am Revd Tim Woolley

22nd 10.30 am TBA

29th 10.30 am Revd Wes Hampton

BETH'S CORNER

HILARY SMITH / (MRS.FORD)

This month's "Corner" has a dual or even a triple focus to it. Mainly it's about Hilary and her role as the current leader of the village Book Group. It's also a **tribute** to the group's founder, **Chris Taylor**, who 'birthed' the group in **The George & Dragon** in **October 2011** - six years ago this month. Chris decided to meet in the re-furbished pub, with their new owners. Kate and her mother Rosemary. Chris



wanted to support everything in this village she'd so newly adopted, and they were a great contribution to those first groups. These consisted of around fifteen enthusiastic members. Two to three tables were filled each month with lively discussions, aided with drinks from the bar, and surprise plates of food from the kitchen. Tragically, we lost Chris far too soon after the successful launch of the group. She never told us for many months that she'd been diagnosed with cancer, leading the group with a sense of fun, bringing reviews she had found on the various books we were reading. However after battling with two major surgeries, the time inevitably came to say 'goodbye.' Her life which was inspiration to so many was celebrated in St. Margaret's in January 2015. Her husband Steve faithfully continued leading the group, until the end of the year, handing over to Hilary to keep it going. Those few years under Chris's guidance proved a firm foundation. The monthly meetings are always attended with laughter and occasionally some scathing reviews on some of the books we have been given to read. But as Hilary once remarked; 'one of the motives in joining a book group is sometimes reading books outside your 'comfort zone'. She and I agree to meet for a 'cuppa' and get our facts together about the group, but as usual, I'm curious to find out more about Hilary who sends us the emails on the first Tuesday of each month. She arrives wearing scarlet trousers to my delight, as I also recently bought some, and wonder if I'm being a bit bold. Hilary puts my mind at rest. A pretty woman, she has a natural sense of style from the crown of her head, the contemporary frames of her glasses, down to her small sandaled feet. I wonder how she manages to juggle all the interests in her life, along with holidays with her newly married husband, and her obvious delight in her two small grandchildren. Hilary's life begins not so far away, in Tamworth. Her parents were from Leicestershire, and one grandparent from Sheringham, Norfolk. She marries in 1970, and her first home is in Fenny Drayton, when the village had a small Post Office in Church Lane, as well as a little general 'sweetie' shop, and of course, its very beautiful Parish Church, with very few members, but which included Hilary. However by 1986, she made the decision to separate and moved to Shenton Close in Stoke Golding, with her young son Duncan. She remembers so well all the support she got from the friendships made in the village, from Ruth and Jane and Rachel, just to mention a few, while Duncan was happily involved with the Scouts. At the same time Hilary was working in Nuneaton with Group Travel. At Duncan's wedding, ten years ago she first discovered a talent for floristry, creating the flowered arch into the church. This talent was soon recognised by others, and since then she has contributed eye-catching arrangements to the many local flower festivals.

Her own second wedding to Geoffrey (Ford) also took place at St. Margaret's, and she reminisces about it being the "most perfect village wedding", with Corinne Wilson's flowers, Rev. Linda's Blessing, the Ambion Village Choir, and Dadlington's bell-ringers all taking part. This has now become a separate tribute to Hilary. Having followed Chris's footsteps, the group is flourishing with new members still joining, and the first Tuesdays of each month are a constant joy. Solid friendships have grown over the years. Ideas are exchanged with much fun and laughter, currently completely taking over the 'snug' at The White Swan. Long may it continue? Thanks Hilary.

St. Margaret's Church Teddy Bear Jump 2017

We would like to thank everyone who came to the Teddy Bear Jump despite there being a storm. Special thanks to Roger our launcher and to Margaret and Ian who did the barbecue. You were all great carrying on after getting soaked. Thank you to all who helped.

The winners were:

- Casper, Noah's bear who stayed in the air 21 seconds.
- Meary bear, Heath's bear who flew into the school playground and had to be rescued.
- ◆ The best parachute was made by Seb for his toy Whalie.
- Sadie won the guess how many bears in the church competition with a count of 46. There were 47.
- Guess the name of the bear was won by Ben. The bear's name was Dave.
- Ben also guessed 120 cookies in the bear cookie jar which was exactly right. There are still two bears that need to be rescued.

It was lovely to see so many families come into church and having such a great time. Thank you.

St. Margaret's P.C.C



Everyone Welcome

Stoke Golding Methodist Church

SATURDAY OCTOBER 21st

Coffee Morning 10.00am-11.30am

For Pump Aid



Stoke Golding WI

The Secrets of Belly Dancing

What a busy August the members of Stoke Golding W.I. have had. Visits to the Cotswolds and the village of Lyddington, a Pork Roast, Skittles Evening and the Darts Team won their match. Many thanks to all of those who helped to organise these events and well done to the darts team.

At September's meeting we met Roxanne who came along to introduce us to the secrets of Belly Dancing. First she amazed us all with two dances, one using 'Zills' more commonly known as finger cymbals and the second performed to music aptly named Belly Dance. She went on to explain that in fact 'belly dancing' was in fact more like a 'shimmy' as all the action came from the knees which then gave the impression that the stomach and chest were doing all the gyrating. Plus all the movements of arms and hands completed the sensual look. Whatever the reason it certainly looked good to all of us.

The dance originally came from India when merchants and performers visited the Middle East, Egypt and Turkey and from there progressed to other continents and it was in U.S.A that the more skimpy costume first came into being, the result of a films such as The Arabian Nights etc. Before this and still in many countries the tradition was for the dancer to be totally covered up. Roxanne herself dances to many audiences fully covered, clothed in beautiful costumes but with no midriff showing. The term 'Belly Dancing' is also from the original name of 'dance of my country' and on being misheard became the name that we are now familiar with. Men of other counties also perform the dances and now days the routines can be mixed in with other forms of dance in order to entertain.

Roxanne then went on to show us the many beautiful costumes that she uses in her routines and completed her performance by showing us how to use the veil to highlight her dance and finished with two spectacular veils that truly astonished us all. Her parting advice was that should we practice any of the moves at home, to do so with the curtains closed and be prepared for partners reactions. It was certainly a very enjoyable and entertaining evening.

Our next meeting on October 11th will be given by two keen quizzers and will be about Quiz Shows on TV and will be held in the Methodist Church Hall. Should be very interesting so do come along and join us.



STOKE GOLDING WI OCTOBER FAYRE Methodist Church Hall

SATURDAY 14TH OCTOBER 10.00—12.00

Join Stoke Golding WI for tea/coffee Cakes, produce, books on sale Display of crafts, WI campaign info WI Scrapbooks on display

The Fool on the Hill

They seek him here....

In my early days of employment, house purchasing, family raising and so forth, there were times, I will admit, when the concept of identity theft had a certain appeal. A degree of anonymity would have been quite welcome on the weekly trip to the bank where I would attempt to placate the many to whom I owed, with resources bordering on the dangerous side of inadequate. With a concealed identity I would have had a better chance of avoiding the beady gaze of Mr Wilberforce, the resident manager who had been with the bank since birth, unlike the transient 10 year olds who fill such positions today. His frostily polite enquiries as to when I may find some time to address the overdraft facility always had me searching for some dark corner into which I could slither. Then interest rates fell and my employment position became somewhat sunnier and Mr Wilberforce and I would oft be seen skipping hand in hand down Castle Street at the end of the working day. Well, not quite. The point is though my identity was my face and, good or bad, that is how the bank knew me. If further proof were needed then there was always the signature on the bottom of the cheque.

Then came the age of the computer and with it a sea change in the way in which our identity is established. This applies not only to banks, but just about every other institution that we are obliged to interact with via the interweb. To the digital world, I exist only as a user name and a password. I am repeatedly told that I should create new user names and passwords for each of my digital suppliers. These days I struggle to remember what I had for breakfast which is particularly concerning as I have the same thing every day. So when it comes to a plethora of user names and passwords, the only solution is to write them down in a little book. As a security measure this is about as good as an unglazed greenhouse full of cash.

Recently the expiry date on Mrs Fool's passport came around and we were informed that a renewal could be affected on the internet if we had at least two functioning brain cells. As we worked through this process over a cup of cocoa, it soon became apparent that I could pass myself off as my good lady with comparative ease and a few personal details. Now, if a complete technology Luddite like me can achieve this, lord alone knows what is possible for a nerdy youth who has been permanently attached to an I-pad since he was weaned.

One thing for sure, in days of yore, had I gone into the Lloydminster Bank in high heels and a pinafore frock claiming to be my wife, I am pretty sure that I would have been rumbled by Mr Wilberforce and, very probably, detained by the constabulary.

F.O.T.H.



Community News and Advice

<u>Victim First</u> is a free, independent, and confidential service provided by the Police and Crime Commissioner and delivered by Catch22.

Any resident affected by crime or anti-social behaviour can take advantage of:

- Emotional support to cope and recover from crime
- Information and advice
- · Access to (and co-ordination of) wider specialist support
- Advice on crime prevention
- Practical support such as a personal alarm or window/door alarm
- On-site Mental Health nurse
- Restorative justice

The Freephone No is 0800 953 9595

Ambulance Delays

County Councillor Ivan Ould requests that any ambulance delays should be reported to the East Midlands Ambulance Service and to himself, so he can continue to monitor the effectiveness of the service across the division.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee (NPAC) has been working hard and now has a strong evidence base which has been validated. They are now ready to put this information together into the Neighbourhood Plan. If you would like to join the NPAC and contribute to this valuable work please contact the Chair of the NPAC Roy Mitchell on 01455 212110 or email: roy@mitchellhome.net.

Stoke Golding unexpectedly wins bell ringing competition!

On Saturday 16th September a band of generally incompetent bell ringers from St. Margaret's church were gobsmacked when they clinched surprise victory in the annual Hinckley District bell ringing competition held at Orton on the Hill. Fortunately Stoke Golding's pathetic effort was ably kept in some sort of order by Luke Groom and the win was despite a meandering ringer on number 6 bell and some questionable ringing elsewhere. Only two other churches managed to muster a team and Stoke's success was further aided by Terry Astill from Earl Shilton who stood in for a missing ringer and who is one of the best ringers in the country!

Stoke Golding's winning team was John Patullo, Luke and Gillian Groom, Pam Roberts, Richard Orr and Terry Astill

The judge was Graham Hayward, a very experienced and knowledgeable ringer from the Nottingham area. He listened to the ringing from the comfort of his car, the pub unfortunately being out of earshot!

The prestigious wooden plaque will be mounted on a vacant nail in the ringing chamber at St. Margaret's where anyone interested is most welcome to come and see it.

At the same time John Patullo (01455 212167) would be only too happy to explain the joys and mysteries of bell ringing. They practice Tuesday evenings at 7.30 and would welcome new ringers of any age. No previous experience required. *John Patullo*

"A CROSSWORD WITH CLUES ABOUT A VICTORIAN AUTHORESS IN MIND"

crossword

1			2		3		4	5		6	
											7
8					9						
10						11		12			
					13						
14		15		16				17	18		19
				20			21				
22						23					
24									25		
	26						27				

Across

- 1 Largest US state (6)
- 4 A vicar would do this to a baby at its Christening (5)
- 8 Book by 22D & 21D...Mansfield **** (4)
- 9 22D & 21D is on which new note (3 & 5)
- 10 Blue cheese (6)
- 12 Book by 22D & 21D Northanger ***** (5)
- 13 Certain colour of a horse (4)
- 14 Singer Miss Boyle's first name (5)
- 17 Romantic hero of 26A (5)
- 20 Book by 22D & 21D (4)
- 22 Eldest brother of 22D & 21D (5)
- 23 Someone who checks accounts (7)
- 24 Occupation of 22D & 21D (8)
- 25 A thought (4)
- 26 Book by 22D & 21D ***** and prejudice 22D

27 Slight annoyance or discomfort (6)

Down

- 1 Votes against something (7)
- 2 The remotest of the Scottish Islands (2 & 5)
- 3 The person who writes a book (6)
- 5 "Rudolph's" home (7)
- 6 Sleep lightly (7)
- 7 End of WWII (1 & 3)
- 11 John Major's wife's name (5)
- 15 Russian tea urn (7)
- 16 Snuggled up to someone (7)
- 18 Obeying the rules (7)
- 19 Cloth measurement (7)
- 21 see
 - n | Answers

Answers on page 30

Minutes of Stoke Golding Parish Council meeting held on 6 September 2017

<u>County Cllr Ivan Ould</u> brought the following issues to the notice of the meeting - <u>Victim First Service and Ambulance delays</u> and the Clerk was asked to publicise information on the issues in the Stoker and on the Co-operative website.

<u>Laburnum Cottage Community Orchard</u> – representatives of the developer will be asked to attend the next Parish Council meeting to discuss whether the Parish Council would consider taking responsibility for the proposed community orchard.- it was agreed to seek more information on proposals prior to the meeting.

Reports of Council representatives and Clerk:

- It was AGREED to proceed with hedge flailing at the recreation field, at a cost of £40
- It was AGREED to proceed with two extra cuts to Bennett Close, at a cost of £60.
- Resident's concerns regarding badgers near Wykin Lane Cemetery were NOTED and JG will monitor.
- It was **AGREED** to proceed with a replacement cover for a litter bin at the recreation field, at a cost of £110.81.
- To **ACTION** the clerk to write to Stokefest to thank for the event and inform them of the damage.
- To **ACTION** the clerk to contact a plumber to repair a shower in the pavilion.
- To **ACTION** the clerk to seek quotes for repair of Hinckley Road Cemetery wall/ gate, to forward to <u>Harbours and to arrange work</u>.
 Planning applications:

7 Andrew Close, SG – removal of ash tree – no comments made St Martins Catholic Voluntary Academy, SG – erection of single storey building to provide four classrooms.

Councillors raised concerns regarding the increased pressure on roads and traffic congestion at school times and asked the Clerk to write to the school to ask if car park improvements can be prioritised.

17 Wykin Lane, SG – two storey rear extension and raising of roof above garage to side of property- no comments made.

Cllr Goodsell stated that she was disappointed with the approach taken by HBBC with regard to the Laburnum Cottage application and the lack of consideration given to residents' views. She requested that the Parish Council forward these concerns to HBBC. Councillors requested further time to consider this matter and no action was resolved.

<u>Neighbourhood Plan:</u> The minutes of the NPAC meeting on 16th August were noted as were answers to the questions posed to the RCC regarding the validity of data. It was agreed that the validity of the data was fully satisfactory. It was agreed that the public will be invited to attend the NPAC meetings at a later stage. This would enable the Committee to prepare the draft neighbourhood plan document ready for the next stage of public consultation. Meanwhile the Clerk was asked to advertise for further members for the NPAC in the Stoker and on the Co-operative website to assist in this stage of the process.

Sport in Stoke Golding (SISG) Pro-help should match SISG with a professional .

shortly and the HBBC officer responsible is preparing draft additions to developments plans for sports clubs to consider.

<u>Trees</u>: Harbours are in the process of carrying out agreed works to trees. The oak tree at the recreation field was discussed. Cllr Pegg is to ask for another written report from Harbours. The Clerk will reply to the resident and contact the HBBC Tree Officer for an assessment of all the trees at the recreation field.

Boundary issues at Hinckley Road Cemetery were discussed and Cllr Pegg is to arrange a site meeting with the owners.

<u>Play equipment:</u> Cllr Smith reported that the funding from Tesco and the Co-op should be confirmed by December, allowing for works to take place in January prior to funding deadline.

<u>St Margaret's Churchyard:</u> It was noted that risk assessment work for the Teddy Bear Jump Event was now complete. Quotes for the pathway were noted and the Clerk will forward specifications and prices to HBBC to seek an Environmental Improvement Grant and approval by the Conservation Officer. The Clerk will update St Margaret's Parochial Church Council on the decisions taken.

<u>Village centre and post office area:</u> It was agreed to defer the matter until the next meeting.

<u>Pitch hire</u> Correspondence from the Youth FB Club regarding pitch fees was discussed and also the marking of pitches.

The following was agreed: That the Clerk would reply to the Youth FB Club explaining that, in-line with the pitch hire agreement, marking of pitches should not commence until all fees have been paid in full. The Clerk was asked to notify both Football Clubs.

<u>The monthly schedule of payments</u> was unanimously agreed and the Parish Council will proceed with payments as follows: August 2017 – gravedigger – interment £200.00. September 2017 - electricity to pavilion £38.00, admin – clerk's salary and office expenditure £515.94, SG Methodist Hall – hall hire £107.50, RBL Poppy Appeal £20.00, G Seller – 2 x memorial repairs £720.00 and £1,065.00, Elite Printing – NP £99.00 and ground maintenance - contract £1,253.67, additional work – Bennett Close cuts, flailing £100.00._LRALC <u>Internal Audit Service</u> – It agreed to continue with the existing service.

<u>Convent Site open space/play area</u> – information from HBBC. The Clerk is to request a site meeting with HBBC to discuss further.

<u>The Charity of Thomas Barton</u> – WW1 and WW2 benches for the Hinckley Road Cemetery It was unanimously agreed to proceed with the purchase of benches to be funded by the Charity of Thomas Barton, and to thank the Charity for their generosity. Cllr Goodsell reported on the progress of the 1485 Legacy project

Cllr Beale reported that there had been another break in at the village hall.

Next meeting: Methodist Hall, Wednesday 4th October 2017 at 7pm

OBITUARIES



LINDSAY CURTIS (nee Spring)

Lindsay of Stoke Golding passed away peacefully at home on 17th August 2017 aged 56 years. She was a dearly loved mum, daughter and sister. Her funeral service took place at the Heart of England Crematorium on 7th September.

EDNA MAY ZENNER 'MAY'

Edna of Hinckley Road, Stoke Golding, passed peacefully away at home surrounded by her family on the 20th August 2017 aged 93 years. She was the much loved wife of the late Lance, a loving mum of Keith, Paul and Anita, and mother in law to Jayne, and devoted grandma of Neil, Michelle, Harrison and Ellie. May's funeral service took place at St Margaret's Church followed by cremation. Donations for the 'Stroke Association ' in memory of May can be made if so desired through Mc Cartney's Funeral Service at Hinckley.

MICHAEL SAMMONS

Michael, aged 71 years, the beloved husband of Margaret and much loved Dad to Julie and Ian and grandad to Sam, Bradley and Reece, passed away in Glenfield Hospital after a short but brave battle against leukemia on Friday 1st September 2017. He will be greatly missed. Michael's funeral service was held at the Heart of England Crematorium Nuneaton. Anyone wishing to donate to his chosen charity, Parkinson's UK, may do so to A.J. Murray, Funeral Directors, 48 Lower Bond Street, Hinckley.

We send our sincere condolences to the families and friends of Lindsay, May and Michael.

Walking the Ghost Line

As you head out of Stoke Golding on the road to Higham, you'll come to a sharp bend in the road and then pass over two quite narrow bridges. The first of these passes over the canal, but what function does the second bridge have? If you peer over the sides, you'll be none the wiser, as all that can be seen is dense undergrowth. A look at a map will make things clearer, as this is the site of a disused railway, although whether something can be disused when it was never used in the first place is a moot point.

Having read about this 'ghost' railway, I decided to see if I could follow its path. It wasn't easy; most of the route is now private land. However, it shadows the Ashby Canal for much of its length, the Midland Railway having bought the canal in 1846 and with the idea of building a railway to run alongside it and eventually replace it. So after trying in vain to see where the line splits from the Stoke Golding to Nuneaton line, near Stoke station, I set off along the canal. Whenever a road crossed the canal, I diverted off to find the bridge over the railway, but the bridges are about the only reminder that a railway once ran through here. The Midland Railway later joined forces with the London & North Western Railway (LNWR) to create the Ashby and Nuneaton Joint Railway but, when trains began running in 1893, they went via Higham to Nuneaton and the LNWR network. The spur to Hinckley was still on the plans however, a requirement of the 1866 Act of Parliament, and so it was constructed and two sets of rails were lain.

Great excitement as I neared the Tesco distribution centre: a footpath leads off from the canal and after a hundred metres joins the old railway. In 1875, the residents of Stoke petitioned to have the railway opened. It was to be in vain. Two years later one set of rails was removed and in 1888 the whole thing was abandoned, the remaining track taken up and the sleepers sold for firewood. There was certainly nothing left on this bit of footpath that ended abruptly at the Northern Perimeter Road. I had to negotiate around the Harrowbrook Industrial Estate where not even an outline of the route remains. The railway was carried over the Harrow Brook and then the Coventry Road by bridges that were destroyed as part of a military exercise in 1943. Forking right off Coventry Road, another footpath took me to the raised embankment that the railway used as it neared its junction with the current Hinckley to Nuneaton line. I was able to walk almost the whole way along this raised area that lies between the new Saxon Paddock housing estate and the A5. I didn't encounter any ghostly engines, but then there is no record of any train ever having travelled along this 'ghost' line. *Michael Dix*



Stoke Golding Heritage Group

Our next talk will be held in the Baxter Hall on Thursday 19th October at 7.30pm. The topic will be "Ernest Shackleton -Polar Explorer of the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration"

The speaker will be John Whitehead. Non-members welcome Price £2.50.

Yoga With Adele

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Ten of a Kind Answers (from page 5)

- 1. Eroica
- Gary Lineker
- Orson Wells
- 4. 5 Henry III, Edward III, Richard III, William III, George III
- Margaret Thatcher
- Britain
- 7. Luke
- 8. Right
- 9. The 1970s in fact it changed in 1970
- 10. The Yorkshire Dales

CROSSWORD ANSWERS (from page 25)

ACROSS 1 Alaska; 4 Bless; 8 Park; 9 Ten pound; 10 Stilton; 12 Abbey; 13 Roan; 14 Susan; 17 Darcy; 20 Emma;

22 James; 23 Auditor; 24 Novelist; 25 Idea; 26 Pride; 27 Niggle.

DOWN 1 Apposes; 2 St Kilda; 3 Author; 5 Lapland; 6 Slumber; 7 D.Day; 11 Norma;

15 Samovar; 26 Nestled;

18 Abiding; 19 Yardage; 21 see 22; 22 Jane Austen.

STOKER NOTICE

The next Stoker Magazine will be the November issue. Please send any articles, photos or letters to janewhitesg@gmail.com by **15th October.**

Don't forget you can have the Stoker delivered to anywhere in Dadlington and Stoke Golding free of charge - just ring Rosemary on 212 597 and let her have your contact details.

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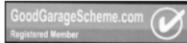
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