

The Stoker

No. 167

December '17



Stoke Golding Village Magazine

Including

Dadlington Matters

50p



Note from the Editors

Welcome to this December/January edition of The Stoker. Now Christmas arrangements and events are sprouting all around us, hopefully more of us are beginning to feel the spirit of the festive season.



Just look at the What's On pages. December 1st sees Dadlington's Christmas light switch on. The following day sees St Margaret's annual Snowman Festival and, so it goes.... There really are a lot of local activities planned throughout December! We hope you are able to enjoy some of them.

We would like to thank the many contributors that help make this magazine so interesting each month and we are always on the lookout to share more of your news and events. Please email your articles to the Stoker team before our cut-off date of the 15th of each month using our new dedicated email, thestoker@gmx.co.uk

All of us on the Stoker team wish all of you a very Happy Christmas followed by a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year.

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 Feb issue of The Stoker **by 15th January** to:

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

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

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

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

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

Cover picture: Snowman at St Margaret's Church taken by Jennifer Michie



Birth Congratulations



Congratulations James and Ruth Whitmore on the safe arrival of Joshua Luke.

Post Office Update

We understand that the Post Office has recently contacted the Parish Council to inform them that they regard the Post Office closure in Stoke Golding as temporary and are currently working to re-establish a service in the village. We will hopefully be able to provide you with more details in our February Stoker.

Meanwhile, Paul at **Sehmbi Stores** is now selling greeting cards, wrapping paper and stamps as well as his usual groceries and off-licence.

Sehmbi Stores Opening Hours:

Mon - Fri: 7am - 1.15pm / 2.45pm - 8pm
Sat : 8am - 1.15pm / 2.45 - 8pm
Sun: 8am -12 noon / 6-8pm

The Big Breakfast

Thank you to everyone who came and supported the Big Breakfast on 12th November. We are delighted to say that £635 was made for the Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome Research which we are sure will help in some small way. My grateful thanks as always to my family and friends without whose help I could not manage. But mostly to you wonderful people who make things possible. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and the Happiest of New years.

Warmest Regards from
Margaret and the Villiers Family



White Swan Bonfire Raffle Winning Tickets

Numbers as follows - ALL PINK
TICKETS 176, 33, 62, 255,
101, 18, 93 , 226, 205, 263,
210, 179, 6

Prizes can be claimed from the White Swan during opening hours Thank you for your support.



G N WESTERN CONNECTION

The line dancers who meet at Stoke Golding Club on a Tuesday evening recently held a "pink night" and managed to raise £110 for the charity **Breast Cancer Now**.

Beginners meet at 7.00-7.45 pm if anyone would like to join us.



I have just read the following words in the November edition of the Stoker:

"Ivy Close - HBBC had been very helpful in resolving a problem experienced by residents with regard to the adjacent development"

I don't know who made this statement and in what context. However, I can inform you that I have asked for help from members of the parish, town and county councils many times during the redevelopment of the Cloneen site. On each occasion I was either ignored or told that it was nothing to do with the party/department I was addressing.

Since the very first day that the work started, I have **not once** been informed regarding any of the work that was due to take place, by any of the people involved, despite the disruptive, disturbing and, frankly, distressing nature of the work.

The land that is being developed is extremely wet and, as a consequence, a number of piles had to be driven deep in to the ground to provide suitable building foundations. Without any warning whatsoever, the pile driving began one morning and continued for 2 weeks. The whole of my home was shaken violently such that pots and pans were jumping around on the shelves each time an impact occurred, at an interval of about once per 3 seconds.

Without ever being forewarned, the road has been excavated on at least 3 occasions so far. I am aware that there will be at least one more disruption. One day last week, I got in to my car before discovering that there was no road at the end of my drive. They'd dug a 3 foot hole. And, although it's difficult to believe, **I received no warning of this.**

As a consequence of the manner in which I feel have been treated, I have decided to leave the village and will in fact be moving out next week. I cannot wait to be gone.

Name and address supplied

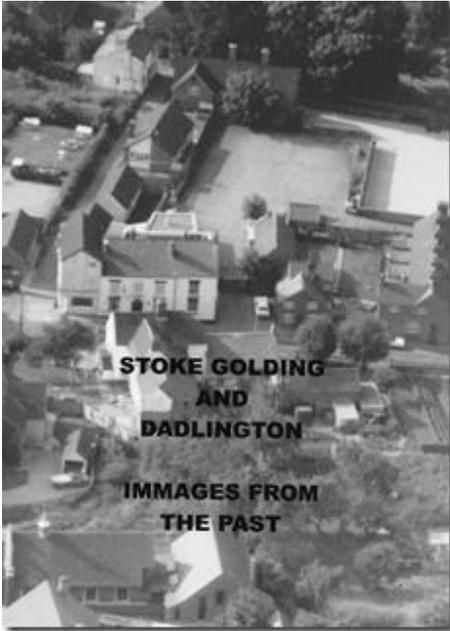
(This is an extract from the email we received - Eds)

The Stoker has also been contacted by other residents of Ivy Close echoing much of the above communication and providing us with photographs to show the amount of disruption they have all suffered. The main complaint seems to be the lack of

communication from the developers with no warning of any of the major road works. As many as eight vehicles a day have parked in this very narrow road, often blocking most of the pavement and sometimes blocking their driveways. One couple say they have had enough and despite numerous letters and phone calls they still have not received any help from any organisation they have contacted.



STOKE GOLDING AND DADLINGTON IMAGES FROM THE PAST



This new book of photographs of the villages of Dadlington and Stoke Golding has been produced and is currently on sale.

For many years the late Gordon Webster of Stoke collected pictures of the two villages and transposed them onto slides which were named "The Webster Collection." Slide shows of this collection were shown regularly in our two villages. At his death there were some 1400 pictures of buildings, places and people.

With permission from his widow Gill Webster, Denis Cash selected a total of 214 of these pictures and collated them into the book shown above, and The Charity of Thomas Barton agreed to fund the printing of this book. These old photographs depict the two villages of years ago and include The Barracks, Leicester Square, The Village Pound, The Maundrells, Croads Bakers, The Old Rectory, the snow drifts of 1947 and Dadlington Ballast Hole to name but a few.

This book is produced in a limited edition of 300 and is offered at the printer's price of £6.99 per copy. They are available from :-

SEHMBI STORES STOKE GOLDING or

Denis Cash, [100 Sherwood Road](#), Stoke, Gill Webster, 91 Sherwood Road, Bernard Arnold, [17 Hinckley Road](#), Stoke, or Eddie Smallwood, [3 Shenton Lane](#), Dadlington.

Any cheques in payment should be made payable to "The Charity of Thomas Barton".

The White Swan Bonfire Night

Thanks to everybody who turned out for the event which raised £1,200 for local causes. It was a brilliant evening and means we can go ahead next year.

I would like local causes to contact me about possible donations. We have already organised the O.A.P. lunch for 12th December and invites will be sent out soon.

Jamie Sinton 212313



Jamie and all the staff at the **White Swan** would like to wish all their

customers from the last 12 months a Happy Xmas and prosperous New Year.

We are still taking bookings for Xmas Fare Menu for lunchtimes and evenings between the 1st and 23rd of December, open Xmas Eve and New Years Eve for food between 6.30 and 8.30.

A Fabulous Night at Stoke Golding Village Hall



It was billed as 20's style Gatsby Swing, Jazz and Jive. It was billed as "Music with humour", but no-one expected such an entertaining evening as they found themselves enjoying last month when they attended "The After Hours Quintet" show at the village hall.

The event wasn't quite fully booked, so the volunteers from the hall had set up the venue leaving space for a dance floor at the front. As the rhythms surged, the audience sparkled and then it happened. Well over 20 of the Stoke Golding and Dadlington audience rose to their feet and started to dance. It was a wonderful sight. The young and (quite) old, yielding to the music, dancing on the dance floor or by their tables. The band's appreciation was obvious as the passion of their playing swelled to meet that of the audience. It was certainly a night to remember! Does anyone have any photos of the night? Unfortunately, or maybe fortunately, ours didn't turn out too well.

We are looking forward to the next village hall show on the 16th December. This time it is theatre. *Wind in the Willows* by Box Tale Soup will provide an enchanted hour of exquisite entertainment for all the family and I hear tickets are selling fast. Don't miss out!

Eds

CASAG News.

The topic of this month's health promotion is "Movember"



This is the charity tackling mens' health on a global scale. Some facts from their website:

The state of mens' health is in crisis. Men experience worse longer-term health than women and die on average six years earlier. Prostate cancer rates will double in the next 15 years. Testicular cancer rates have already doubled in the last 50. Three quarters of suicides are men. Poor mental health leads to half a million men taking their own life every year.

That's one every minute.

So the main areas are: prostate cancer, testicular cancer, mental health and suicide prevention.

The charity's aim is to reduce the number of men dying prematurely by 25% by 2030.

Jennifer

StokeArts@thevillagehall

Bringing professional music and theatre to Stoke Golding



Sat 16th Dec *The Wind in the Willows* , Tickets £10 (£5 under 16)

Doors open 3.30pm for 4pm start.

Performed by Box Tale Soup, a beautiful new adaptation of Kenneth Grahame's much-loved classic, featuring unique handmade fabric puppets and a charming original score.

"Believe me, my young friend, there is nothing - absolutely nothing - half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats."

Watch a beautiful "Teaser" on You <https://youtu.be/Yy1LkoKAGII>

You can book your tickets online at <https://stokearts.yapsody.com/> OR email: stokearts@gmail.com OR call Steve on 01455 213798

*****CORRECTION** to an earlier note – our February show, *Minima*, is booked for 8pm on Friday 9th February 2018 not as previously stated***

December Events at Stoke Golding Liberal Club

*A great venue
at the heart of
the village*

Fri 29th Dec

Mega bingo... Live music from
The Freightliners...Raffle. Everyone Welcome

Sun 31st Dec

ABBA tribute act, 80s duo and singer Tamsin
Tickets £7

Accompanied children under 15 FREE



"WINTER WONDERLAND" SATURDAY DECEMBER 2nd 11am – 6pm



Children – have you ever walked into a wardrobe and come out through the back of it to find yourself in the magical land of Narnia? I have- and it is magic! Get your Mums , Dads, Grandpas and Grandmas to take your there this first weekend of December. Where? – Very close by at

"THE KING'S LODGE" , Higham Lane Roundabout - Watling Street

You'll meet Mr Tumnus and the White Witch and the mighty Aslan himself.

AND (unlike Santa's Grotto) - IT IS FREE!!

Fool on the Hill

Almost peace on Earth...

Although it may not seem it our planet is, in fact, a pretty peaceful place. For a start 71% of the surface is covered with water and the things that live in there seem to happily co-exist even though they are in the habit of eating each other. This is just how it is though, nothing malicious or personal. A further 12% of the surface is desert, which is defined as a place where net water consumption exceeds net water gain. This encompasses such diverse regions as the Sahara and Antarctica which are pretty much uninhabited and anything that does live there spends all its energies on staying alive rather than trying to pick a fight with someone. Then we have the mountains which account for around 9% and are by and large, the province of the cloven hoofed. Hooves are great for keeping you upright on a mountain but of little help when trying to reload an AK47. If you stab a few buttons on the calculator, I think you will find that almost 92% of the planet is therefore already in a peaceful state. To make the goal of world peace a bit more attainable it is useful to think that we only have another 8% to go. In fact quite a bit of that area is so barren and undesirable that no one is going to be bothered fighting over it. Anybody remember the Battle of Barnsley? Thought not. By a process of careful and very scientific deduction, I conclude that we only need to achieve peace on a tiny 5% of the Earth's surface. Unfortunately, this is the bit where we live, and live in huge numbers. Our track record on the peace thing is, to put it mildly, rubbish. For instance, have you ever been to a city, town or village anywhere that does not have a war memorial? As a nation we spend 10% of our GDP on the National Health Service to save and improve our lives and 2% on weaponry which, generally speaking, has rather the opposite effect. We have to spend this money though because everyone else does and no one is going to be the first to abandon arms whilst there are certifiable lunatics in charge of huge arsenals. No names but Putin, Trump and U know who we are talking about. Some would wish to point the finger of blame at organised religion with some justification. The problem with overzealous factions is that they seek to complicate what is a very simple and important message. That is, if we are nice and kind and considerate to each other, the world becomes a better place. So this Christmas don't accidentally elbow your objectionable little nephew as he gloatingly bankrupts you with his newly erected hotel on Park Lane. In fact just don't play Monopoly, stick to Happy Families.

May whoever and whatever you hold dear bring you a happy and peaceful time this Christmas.

F.O.T.H.





IT'S THE FAMOUS
DADLINGTON VILLAGE HALL
QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 3rd February 2018

Food, Bar, Prizes

Team of 6 to 8

For tickets contact Sally Ann Faulks at
dvhmc2015@gmail.com
07788704824



Comedy Night

Back by popular demand

Friday 16th March

Tickets £12

Available end of January

From Club Managers/Coaches
and Stoke Liberal Club



**The Methodist
Church**

Coffee Morning

Saturday January 13th

10.00 -11.30

For church funds



**The Methodist
Church**

Coffee Morning

Saturday December 16th

10.00 -11.30

For church funds

Walking the Ghost Line – a postscript

One of the joys of writing about historical events in The Stoker is that it sparks interest with some of our experienced local historians. Such was the case when I wrote about the ghost railway line in October's issue. You may remember, the line ran from Stoke Golding station into Hinckley but it never saw any trains run along it. Denis Cash sent me a copy of a newspaper article from the Derby Evening Telegraph of 10th May 1927. In it are proposals to turn the four mile stretch of abandoned railway into a speedway where the latest models of motorcycle and car from Midland factories could be tested. Fortunately, for the sanity of Stoke Golding residents, the plans came to nothing. According to Charlie Frisby, one objector was the owner of Higham Hall over whose land the railway passed. He'd already lost some of his hunting land to the original railway and was having none of it. Of course, the occasional sound of cars being tested is now a familiar one, with MIRA being established on the old RAF Linley site, the other side of Higham, in 1946, but at least it's not right on our doorstep.

Michael

Ten of a Kind *(answers on page 34)*

So when did you hear your first Christmas song this year? They are very evocative of the joys of Christmas – but in October! Here are ten questions relating to all things musical at Christmas.

1. Does Rudolph of red nose fame, appear in the poem 'Twas the Night Before Christmas?
2. Handel's Messiah is traditionally performed at Christmas. Composed in England, in which EU capital city did it have its first performance?
3. Which carol's third verse begins, "How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given"?
4. What is the more popular name of 'The Christmas Song' made popular by Nat King Cole in 1946 and featuring the fruits of the Castanea Sativa tree.
5. In which year did Band Aid's 'Do They Know It's Christmas?' first become a Christmas number 1?
6. According to the Guinness Book of Records, which Christmas song is the world's best selling single?
7. One Christmas song details 364 gifts given over the Christmas period. Who received them?
8. What is the English name of the German Christmas song 'O Tannenbaum', whose tune can be heard at the end of every Labour Party annual conference?
9. Which Christmas song was first heard sung by July Garland in the 1944 film 'Meet Me in St Louis'?
10. In which song is it suggested that you could build a snowman and call it Pastor Brown?

You can buy a copy of the Stoker from the following places:

Sehmbi Stores, Tammy's Hairdressers, The George & Dragon, The White Swan, The Dog & Hedgehog, Gosling's Farm Shop, Tomlinson's Farm Shop.

You can have your Stoker delivered (free delivery) by contacting Rosemary on 212597

Tesco Bags of Help Funding for Village Project

The PC is currently raising funds to install an inclusive roundabout at the recreation field which will offer play opportunity for all children. The project has been shortlisted for the Tesco Bags of Help Scheme and you can vote for this project by visiting your local Tesco store:

5902 Hinckley LE10 0PR
5495 HINCKLEY EXPRESS LE10 1HH

To check the location of any of the above stores, please go to the Tesco website here:

<http://www.tesco.com/store-locator/uk/>

To vote, you will need to make a purchase within store of any value. You will receive one token per transaction and it's not necessary to purchase a carrier bag in order to receive a token.

BACKSTAGE WHISPERS (2) PANTO TIME- “THE WIZARD OF OZ”



My contract at The National Theatre was coming to an end and I was hoping I might be in their next production. Sadly the all-powerful casting directors informed my agent, that although there wasn't a specific part in it for me, they would be very happy for Beth to stay on at The National and '*dress the stage*'. In a very large cast and particularly in period costume plays there are

usually dozens of walk-on parts, ladies fluttering fans, and gents delicately sniffing snuff, as part of the court (*dressing the stage*). My agent and I had no intention of my doing any such thing, and anyway, a great chum of mine suddenly asked me to come to York's 'Theatre Royal' to play Glenda the Good Witch of the North in *The Wizard of Oz*. This was to be his Christmas production, and he'd love me to join him at Panto time. I'd played the 'The Theatre Royal' a couple of times before and, of course York and the surrounding countryside is magical, and I instantly said 'yes'. Malcolm had gathered a lovely cast. The young actress playing Dorothy was well known from a successful television series called 'Angels' – about nurses and hospitals. My counterpart, the Wicked Witch was a member of England's aristocracy. Malcolm confided he couldn't resist having a Duke's daughter in the cast – also she was super. At the start of rehearsals, she was struggling with being wicked, and longed to be playing Glenda. I was happy to swap, but Malcolm insisted he really wanted my '*mumsie quality*'- which I hadn't known I possessed. Rehearsals were a joy. The children playing the Munchkins were seriously professional, and we had such fun in our scenes together. How they supported me when I had to sing to them 'Follow the Yellow Brick Road'. I've forgotten who most of the other characters were, apart from a very good looking young actor in his first job, playing one of the skeletons in the forest. He became internationally famous in films – his name – Pierce Brosnan!

One of the funniest things I remember was trying to shop for my fairy wig in York's various department stores. I needed to take my crown with me to make sure it would fit over the wig. Off I set along the wintry streets of York, carrying my precious crown in a plastic bag. I finally found a glamorous shoulder-length wig after trying a number of stores, and heading back to the theatre I suddenly realised I'd lost the plastic bag with my crown in it. I'd obviously put it down in one of the shops, but couldn't remember which one. Panicking, I had to retrace my steps to the various stores, before confessing to the costume lady that I'd lost the beautiful crown that she'd hand-made so painstakingly. We then decided to use the story as publicity for the show. The press sent a photographer from the local paper, entitling it something like; 'Good Fairy Loses Crown While Shopping in York'. I still have the very flattering picture of me in my fairy costume.

Christmas shows are so special. Audiences are filled with children who are spellbound with the magic of theatre. You can feel them loving it. We also took it to the children's wards in the local hospital. This was much more fun than *dressing the stage* at The National.



Beth with her
precious crown.

Beth

Rustic Walking Sticks

I was horrified when I heard, a week or two ago, a BBC TV presenter ask Keith Pickering, “The Stick Man” of Yorkshire, one of Britain’s most renowned stick-makers or “dressers”, if he could see his “**canes**.” That’s USA-speak and has no place here. In Britain a cane is a minor sub-species of stick once used by sadistic schoolmasters. I think Keith’s reply was edited out and I hope the presenter was suitably reprimanded on his return!

I’ve been whittling sticks for as long as I can remember because it’s what “proper country boys” of my generation did. Proper country boys is a title bestowed on them by a Hinckley schoolmaster of the 1940’s to distinguish them from town boys and mere country boys. While mere country boys might be found kicking a ball around the “rec” proper country boys, if they could be found at all, would be found exploring the fields and hedgerows, climbing the trees or poking around in the woods, spinneys and thickets surrounding the village - and you can’t poke around without a stick.

Proper country boys, and I fear there are not many left, invariably carried two indispensable tools, a stick and a catapult, but catapults will have to be left for another day. Sticks were used for such essential tasks as poking around in rabbit burrows, cow pats, dense undergrowth and suchlike in the hope of flushing-out something of interest; animal, bird, beetle or reptile. Proper country boys could recognise a devil’s coach-horse and a painted-lady. The useful life of a stick was around two or three weeks. Some of the 200 plus sticks I have are now are well over fifty years old, a sure sign that my poking around days are long gone.

The sticks I make are not the beautiful works of art made by “The Stick Man” and others of his kind who are expert carvers as opposed to whittlers, but nor could my sticks be compared to the awful heavily varnished broom handles with a piece of moulded resin for a head commonly sold in garden centres. Nature is a quite accomplished artist needing no help from me to make a rustic stick combining utility with a natural beauty.

My sticks fall into five broad but flexible categories.

- ⇒ Swagger sticks, usually carried under the arm by army officers and senior NCO’s as a symbol of authority.
- ⇒ “Traditional” walking sticks, designed for support or safety. Usually have a curved “head” or handle. Ideal height ground to tip of elbow.
- ⇒ Thumb sticks, ideal height ground to armpit. “V” head in which to fit thumb. My favourite stick.
- ⇒ Staffs are taller and sturdier than sticks. Around head height, probably the oldest of sticks and mentioned several times in the Bible. Head optional but never curved.
- ⇒ Crooks are large staffs but with a very distinctive head like a letter ‘e’ turned tail down. Elaborately carved and carried by shepherds and bishops.
- ⇒ Canes are slender walking sticks but shorter and useful only as ornament.

I also have two or three “Harry Lauder’s” which most respectable stick-makers would use for firewood but they prove a stick doesn’t have to be straight.

People often ask me which wood makes the best stick and it depends for what purpose you want the stick. I have sticks made from seventeen varieties of wood from ash to willow and all of them have their merits, but on balance I think blackthorn probably beats all the rest. Its bark has a gloss which no varnish or polish can match. It’s virtually indestructible but that comes with a heaviness some people might find uncomfortable. It’s ideal for self-defence!



Elder and Common Lime on the other hand are both strong and very light. The downside of elder is that its bark is unstable and although I have some with bark attached it’s one of the very few sticks I would recommend stripping. The wood beneath the bark is a beautiful off-white colour and has a natural high-gloss finish. Common Lime has an attractive mottled bark and frequently a unique “elongated corkscrew” shank.

Ash and hazel are both easy to work with and probably the two most common sticks. Both have attractive bark but hazel rarely comes with a head so you have to find one from another tree and fix it to the hazel shank. I’ll cover that and other matters in my next piece.

I must warn any prospective stick whittler that the trees, hedges and other places in which sticks are found are owned by someone and taking a stick or head without the owner’s permission is both a civil and criminal offence.

Bob Quinney.

BIG THANK YOU

The ladies of Sew n Sews would like to give a big thank you to Jamie and the Firework Team at The White Swan for the generous donation from the Firework Fund 2016.

Sew n Sews are a great group of ladies who meet every Thursday 2-4pm at the Methodist Hall.

If you knit, sew, do beading or any other craft why not come along and join them to have a chat and share your craft.

New members always welcome.



Dadlington Matters

Defibrillator Update

Firstly many thanks to all those who have sponsored or donated including those who contributed at the Quiz night raffle. It is great that our village is able to fund a defibrillator through the generosity of residents.

- John Whitehead regrets that he was unable to cross Morecambe Bay as the Queen's Guide of the Sands, Cedric Robinson, declared that the recent weather had significantly altered the quicksand and that it would be too dangerous to cross. He climbed in the Lake District in the rain instead and hopes to try again next year. However sponsors have generously paid up!
- Eddie Smallwood and John are pleased to advise that we now have just over £1900 which means that we can proceed with purchase of the defibrillator, subject to locating it in the redundant telephone box, which is both central to the village and will remain lit up at night.
- The Parish Council, who own the telephone box, have responded positively and will agenda it at the January meeting, hopefully for approval.
- Both First Responders and the Community Heartbeat Trust have assisted in obtaining quotations for a defibrillator that will include training sessions for villagers.
- There will be ongoing maintenance costs for electricity and batteries so some further fundraising will continue. The telephone box will also need some repairs, particularly to the door.
- **Further donations would therefore be welcome.** Please contact John by e-mail jf_whitehead@hotmail.com, telephone 01455 213244, or post a cheque at Lost & Found, Manor Farm, Main Street, in the courtyard by the post box in Dadlington.
- For the long term, the Dadlington Village Hall Committee has agreed to take responsibility for the defibrillator, so that it will remain an asset for the village. A separate account is to be set up for defibrillator maintenance funding.
- We will keep the village informed through The Stoker. It is important that villagers understand that this equipment will be available to all, whether or not you have donated. We are a rural location where a defibrillator may be vital prior to arrival of an ambulance or First Responders. If you have any queries please contact John Whitehead.

Dadlington Village Hall Lottery

First, many thanks to all lottery members – your generosity is being reflected in the improvements to the hall. Well done!

- Since January this year the winning numbers have been 38, 22, 21, 14(rollover), 30, 48, 6, 27, 21, 57.
- The lottery supports the continuing maintenance of the village hall. Cost £1 per week equivalent, paying £52 annually or £13 quarterly, monthly prizes of £70 based on Lotto Bonus Ball, first Saturday of the month, with a special £170 prize in December.

Next draw 2nd December, so a great time to buy a ticket! Tickets available from John or Jill 01455 213244.

Dadlington Village Hall Improvements

Have you seen our newly extended and upgraded Village Hall?

You may have noticed a lot of activity in Dadlington Village Hall this summer. The extension has been completed with beautiful folding doors looking out over the village green. The exterior walls of the extension have also been completed to blend in with the original building.

Last month a group of volunteers decorated the inside of the extension. It was a case of many hands make much laughter, but the result is an interior that matches the rest.

This month the flooring, both old and new, will be sanded and stained professionally. Over the year with quizzes, dances, battlefield walk, other fundraising events, income from lettings, local grants and of course our Village Hall Lottery, we have built up funds to pay for these improvements. With a further grant anticipated in January 2018, the Village Hall Committee are planning to purchase new blinds, new chairs and a sound system and, when finances allow, new heaters and baby changing facilities.

For your diary - Upcoming Events at Dadlington Village Hall
Christmas Light Switch on Friday 1st December
Quiz Saturday 3rd February
Pudding Night Saturday 24th March
Ukulele music evening Saturday 21st April

If you would like to help, new committee members are always welcome. We also have a few remaining lottery tickets available (see below).

Dadlington Village Hall News

The committee at Dadlington welcomed Phil Burgess, Chair of Stoke Golding Garden Society, to their meeting on 9th November.

We were delighted to accept a magnificent donation from the Society of £400 towards our Hall development fund.

The generosity of the Garden Society means that the Village Hall will soon have baby changing facilities in the new disabled toilet area – a much needed improvement for our youngest visitors.

The photo shows Phil Burgess presenting the cheque to Village Hall Chairman Phil Kiteley.



St James' Church

Early dates for your diary

Carol Service – Nine Lessons & Carols Friday 15th December

7:30pm followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Christmas Eve Holy Communion 24th December 10pm

Pancake Supper Saturday 24th February



Christmas What's On



Christmas Lights

Friday December 1st
5.30pm



Please join us for the
**Christmas Lights
switch on.**

Dadlington Village Hall.

Mince pies & mulled wine,

A great family & village event!

Lights will be switched on at 6pm

Carols and Christmas Songs at the George & Dragon

Wednesday 20th December
7.30 - 8.30pm

Home-made mince pie competition

**Bring 4 mince pies on a
plate or just come
along and join in with
the singing.**



Please bring your mince pies by 7pm

***Proceeds from the sale of mince pies
during the evening will go to
Hinckley Homeless Shelter***

Christingle Service at St Margaret's Church

Sunday 3rd December at 3pm

Everything you need to
make a Christingle will be
provided.



We do hope you can
join us

Coffee and Chat

Dadlington Village Hall

**Thursday 7th December
10am - 12.15pm**

(times fit in with the bus service from
Stoke Golding)

Ambion Voices will sing a couple of
festive songs.

All Welcome



Christmas Fair



St Margaret's Primary School
PTA Christmas Fair

Friday 8th December

5.30pm-7.30pm

Carol singing from 5.15pm

Visit Santa in his grotto, win great prizes in
our raffle, lots of games and stalls, seasonal
refreshments and loads of festive family fun.
Everyone welcome.

We would love to see you there!

St Margaret's Snowman Festival

Sat 2nd December 10am - 5pm

Wonderful displays in church and stalls in the Baxter Hall including cakes, jams, pickles, etc., raffle and tombola.



Refreshments available including turkey and sausage rolls, mince pies, mulled wine.

FREE PARKING at the school.

Why not make a snowman and bring it to church on Friday 1st December between 10am - 5pm. There will be prizes for the three best snowmen as voted for by our visitors.

Festive Lights Switch On in the Grounds of Park House

Thursday 7th December



Mulled wine served from 6.15pm
Lights switched on at 6.45pm
Oddfellows Brass Band and Fire Station Santa until 7pm

**Come and Meet Santa
Everyone
Welcome**



(by kind permission of the residents at Park House and thanks to the Charity of Thomas Barton)

Stoke Golding Charity Sleigh

Just a reminder that the sleigh will be out and about on Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd. Can we please ask that you try and support us again, as you have done in previous years.

**Friday 22nd
December
4.30pm start**

Bottom High Street
Dadlington
Convent Drive
Hinckley Road
Sherwood Road
Hinckley Road
Main Street
Station Road
Crown Hill
Andrew Close
Top High Street

**Saturday 23rd
December
4.00pm start**

Roseway
Whitemoors
Main Street
Goldings
Wykin Lane
Little Wykin



Thank you from the Sleigh Committee

Christmas Concert Invitation

Ambion Voices (Stoke Golding and Dadlington Community Choir) invite you to their Christmas Concert at St Margaret's Church on

Monday 11th December at 7pm.

Come and hear us sing our favourites including a few Christmas songs and some carols to sing along with followed by light refreshments.

**Free concert
Everyone Welcome**



Carol Singing around the village Christmas tree

Followed by refreshments in the Methodist Church Hall

Wednesday December 20th
at 7pm

Come and Join Us!

Baptist Chapel Carol Service

17th December at 6pm

**Seasonal Refreshments
Served after the Service**

Everyone Welcome

Scout Group - Fun, Mess and Fancy Dress



The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have been celebrating Halloween with the traditional chocolate and jelly eating game, apple bobbing and doughnut-eating.

A lot of the pack made a big effort to turn up in fancy dress of all descriptions. The Beavers' night, which fell on Halloween, had a special treat of a "spooky" den to explore. Great fun was had by all.

The Cubs having been doing their skills challenge and carrying out life skills activities such as ironing, changing a light bulb, setting a table, learning how to fold a cub uniform, cleaning and making tea and toast. So, at least when they go out to live in

the big wide world, they will be able to use these skills if they can remember what they did at cubs all those years ago. A big thank you to the additional adult helpers Nick, Jim, Richard and Amanda.

The Beavers have been out on a particularly wet, dark and rainy night for a bear hunt - well

a walk around the village. It's amazing how

many puddles they managed to find to jump in. No exaggeration but one beaver counted a trillion!!

The Cubs have also been making Diwali lanterns and then eating Indian snacks by candlelight which was atmospheric and nice.

We, as leaders, were particularly proud of the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts who attended the Remembrance Day Service on a very cold day.

They were all so well behaved and observed the two minutes silence with reverence and that is a long time for a Beaver. A number of people came up to us at the end, thanked us for coming and said how well behaved everyone was. So well done to all.

Apart from a Cub trip to HMS Belfast in London and a sleep over on that ship at the end of November the next few weeks will be the build up to Christmas with snowmen, nativity plays and a party!!!



Can't wait.
Jennifer

Owls - What a Night!

What a night at Dadlington Village Hall when fifty of us had chance to see, learn about and hold owls. Becky, from Hawkwise Falconry, ably and expertly guided us through the session introducing a little owl, a long eared owl and a barn owl.

It was a fascinating night with beautiful owls to see up close and, amazingly, they weigh hardly anything!!

The barn owl and long-eared owl swooped over our heads under her guidance.

We learnt loads of interesting information such as the fact that the UK is the biggest exporter of captive birds of prey, mainly to the Arab emirates and Spain. Also that owls can't turn round in flight.

We enjoyed refreshments and all for the cost of £5.00. Thanks to Eddie Smallwood and his team for organising it.

Jennifer

Jennifer

Hawkwise Falconry - Interactive Bird of Prey events.

Email: hawkwise.falconry@yahoo.co.uk

 *@hawkwisefalconry*



STOKE GOLDING CLUB NEW YEARS EVE CELEBRATIONS.

ABBA TRIBUTE ACT
80's DUO
PLUS OUR VERY
OWN
TAMSIN!

Please come and
celebrate New Years Eve
with Stoke Golding Club.
Doors open at 7pm
Ticket price is £7 per
person
Children under 15 Free



Sponsored Ride Raises Funds for St Margaret's Church

Keen village cyclists Geoff Ford and Bernie Lamb have raised £335 through participating in this years annual, Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust, "Ride and Stride" event. Held in September, the two riders started by visiting Stoke Golding's Methodist Church and then cycled over 65 miles over the next 8 hours, finally returning to Dadlington's St James Church just before the 6 o'clock cut off. In between the pair travelled as far north as Blackfordby and Ashby, visiting a total of 37 churches and chapels on the way. As with previous events the money raised is split 50:50 between the Trust, who can then make grants to any church from its funds, and the nominated church of the riders. In this case St. Margaret's in Stoke Golding will benefit by £167.50 to help with its upkeep and repair.

Commenting on the ride Bernard says that, "The event is a very enjoyable way of visiting many of the counties magnificent historic buildings and seeing the many architectural styles that play such a prominent part in our landscape. We also met many interesting and knowledgeable people within the churches and their hospitality was much appreciated."

Bernard Lamb

Kitchen Corner

SALMON MOUSSE

This a most versatile recipe as it can be used as a centre piece for a buffet, a dip with crudités or as an individual starter served with prawns, salad and Melba Toast. Ideal for a Christmas table.

INGREDIENTS

- ½ Cup of water
- 1 tblsp. powdered gelatine
- 2 tblsp. Lemon Juice
- 1 small onion, peeled and chopped
- ½ Cup of Mayonnaise
- 2 tblsp. Horseradish
- 1 tsp. Dill
- ½ tsp. Salt
- ¼ tsp/ Paprika
- 1 large can of Salmon (well drained and skin and bones removed)
- 1 Cup of Double Cream
- Oil for the mould

METHOD

Sprinkle the gelatine over the water in a small pan and leave for 1 minute until it looks spongy. Heat over a gentle heat until the gelatine has completely dissolved. Pour into the goblet of a blender, add the lemon juice and onion and blend on high for 20 seconds. Add the mayonnaise, horseradish, dill, salt and salmon, pour the cream over the mixture and blend at medium speed until well mixed and smooth. Stop the machine from time to time to scrape down the sides.

Oil the mould or ramekins and line with cling film, and pour in the mixture. Refrigerate for 2 hours. This recipe can also be frozen, Allow 24hrs to de-frost. Invert onto your serving dish and remove cling film.

Merry Xmas! Avis



What an exciting time the members of Stoke Golding W.I. have to look forward to in the run up to Christmas. We have two visits to the Concordia Theatre, one to see *White Christmas* and another when we go to see *It's a Wonderful Life*. Also, we have a festive meal at Ashfields Restaurant, followed by our Group Carol Service. Then for our December meeting we can look forward to a Christmas party complete with a Secret Santa and as yet undisclosed fun and treats. This all at the end of an enjoyable, interesting and informative year organised by our wonderful, hard working committee along with a further two members who arrange our programme and our skittles and darts matches. Well done and thank you all for the time and thought that you have put in to make our W.I such a pleasure to attend.

On top of this, at our November Meeting, we were able to welcome 'The Two Janets', who were to give us a talk on Quiz Shows on T.V. But first, at the end of our Annual Meeting our members voted in our new President, Carol Hale. Congratulations Carol and with your team behind you I am sure our W. I will have just as successful a new year as we have enjoyed this year.

Janet Wroe, one of the two Janets, began her talk by telling us of her experiences as part of the team of The Merry Midwives when she took part in the Quiz, The Egg Heads. She told of the behind scenes preparations and instructions for the show and then the taking part. Many were surprised at some of the stories that she told as the show goes out as looking quite professional but in spite of The Merry Midwives singing at the start of the recording they failed to win the £17000 prize on the final question regarding the smallest island that makes up Japan.

Not to be downcast she and her friend the other Janet applied to be considered for Pointless, another quiz show and were successful. Both thought Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman were charming; we were put at complete ease by the two hosts. When asked how Janet W had met her friend, they were told that it was over a chicken costume - the two ladies quickly fitted in to the fun of the show. They did reach the 'Head to Head' but lost to two gentlemen on a question on fashion which they have never lived down. The whole experience was extremely enjoyable, and we were all kept amused by their stories of the day.

Next they were asked if they wished to audition for a new show 'Two Tribes' and again were successful and once more were able to entertain us with all the ins and outs of this quiz but once again failed to come out the winner. Both ladies said what wonderful experiences all the shows were and should they have the opportunity to go on any more they wouldn't hesitate and encouraged anyone else to have a go.

So once again an evening that was enjoyed by all the members. Our first meeting in 2018 will be on the second Wednesday in January and will be held at the Methodist Hall. Please come along and join us as you will be very welcome. May I wish all our members a very Happy Christmas and a good New Year although I hope to see all of you at the Christmas party on 13th December.

Val Hartwell

Church Matters



From St Margaret's Church

I recently came across a thought provoking story about a mum who was out Christmas shopping with her two children.

After many hours of looking at row after row of toys, games, books and gadgets, and the cries of both her children asking for everything they saw on the shelves, they finally made it to the lifts.

She was feeling what so many people feel during the weeks before Christmas: That overwhelming pressure to go to every party looking and feeling our best, get the perfect gift for every single person on the shopping list, make sure we don't forget anyone on our card list, and making sure we respond to everyone who sent us a card.

Finally the lift doors opened and there was already a crowd inside. She pushed her way into the lift and dragged her two children in with her and all the bags of shopping.

When the doors closed she couldn't take it anymore, and in an exasperated voice, exclaimed, "Whoever started this whole Christmas thing should be found, strung up and shot!"

From the back of the lift everyone heard a quiet calm voice respond, "Don't worry we already crucified Him."

For the rest of the trip down the lift it was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop.

I do hope you can find some time to pause in all the busyness, to think about how the 'One who started this whole Christmas thing' can be with us in whatever situations we find ourselves. God is with you – may you know His gifts of peace, hope and love.

We would love you to join us at one of our services (listed elsewhere in this magazine) as we journey through Advent and celebrate at Christmas.

Wishing you all a joyful Advent, a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

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.



Stoke Golding website: www.stokegolding.co.uk

Church Matters

Church of England December 2017/January 2018 Services

St. Margaret's Church

December

- 3rd 3.00pm Christingle Service
10th 10.30am Benefice Service Dadlington
17th 10.30am Holy Communion
24th 4.00pm Crib Service
24th 11.30pm Midnight Communion
31st 10.30am Benefice Service Higham

January

- 7th 10.30am All Age Service
14th 10.30am Benefice Witherley
21st 10.30am Holy Communion
28th 10.30am Morning Worship

St. James's Church

December

- 3rd 9.00am BCP Morning Prayer
10th 10.30am Benefice Service
Fri. 15th Dec. 7.30pm Carol Service
17th 9.00am BCP Holy Communion
24th 10.00pm BCP Holy Communion
31st 10.30am Benefice Service Higham

January

- 7th 9.00am BCP Morning Prayer
14th 10.30am Benefice Witherley
21st 9.00am BCP Holy Communion
28th 9.00am BCP Morning Prayer

The Methodist Church December 2017 Services

- 3rd 10.30am Mrs Gwen Coley
10th 10.30am Revd Michael Haighton
17th 10.30am Mr Colin Haddon
24th 6.00pm Revd Wes Hampton
Candle-lit Carol Service
25th 9.30am Revd Wes Hampton
Christmas Day
(Family Service)
31st 10.30am Mr John Marfleet

January 2018 Services

- 7th 10.30am Revd Michael Haighton
14th 10.30am Revd Wes Hampton
21st 10.30am Mrs Sheila Grice
28th 10.30 Mr John Cooke

Zion Baptist Chapel December 2017 Services

- 3rd 6pm Wynne Richards
10th 6pm Mark Menzfeld
17th 6pm John Needham
Carol Service
24th No Service
31st 6pm Malcolm Welch

Zion Baptist Chapel January 2018 Services

- 7th 6pm Richard Cotton
14th 6pm Wynne Richards
21st 6pm Malcolm Welch
28th 6pm Bill McIntyre

'Connecting you with the Arts'

A long-established Market Bosworth Arts Society that welcomes new members.

We are an enthusiastic and active group (currently around 130 members) interested in **all** aspects of the arts. Our Society connects you with a wide range of subjects from fine art and sculpture to gardens, music and architecture; British humorous postcards to children's book illustration; Hogarth to Hockney to Freud; porcelain to photography to Punch and Judy and much more.

No previous knowledge is necessary.

There are 10 talks every year from The Arts Society accredited speakers - several well-known from television appearances. Occasional visits and study days are offered too.

Our main programme provides a series of monthly talks (excluding January and August) with a glass of refreshment afterwards. Lectures take place in the Dixie Grammar School Hall. The cost is £48 a year, and visitors are welcome twice in any one year at a fee of £5 each visit. Lectures are on the first Monday of each month, starting at 7.30 p.m. and finishing around 8.45 p.m.

The Arts Society (formerly NADFAS) is an international organisation with over 90,000 members. Website www.theartssociety.org for more information. See also www.sparkenhoearts.co.uk

For more details please contact :-

Margaret Birch (Programme Secretary) Tel: 01455 291052

margaretebirch1@gmail.com

Sheila Newbury (Sparkenhoe Treasurer) Tel: 01455 845244

sheila@newburyfamily.co.uk

We look forward to seeing you.

The Arts Society - Sparkenhoe

4 December 2017

Jane Austen's Christmas. Before the Victorians reinvented it, the traditional Christmas was very different. Devoid of Father Christmas, trees and commercialisation, the emphasis was on gentility and sociability, as set in many scenes by Jane Austen. Novels, letters, paintings and engravings will bring the Georgian Christmas to life

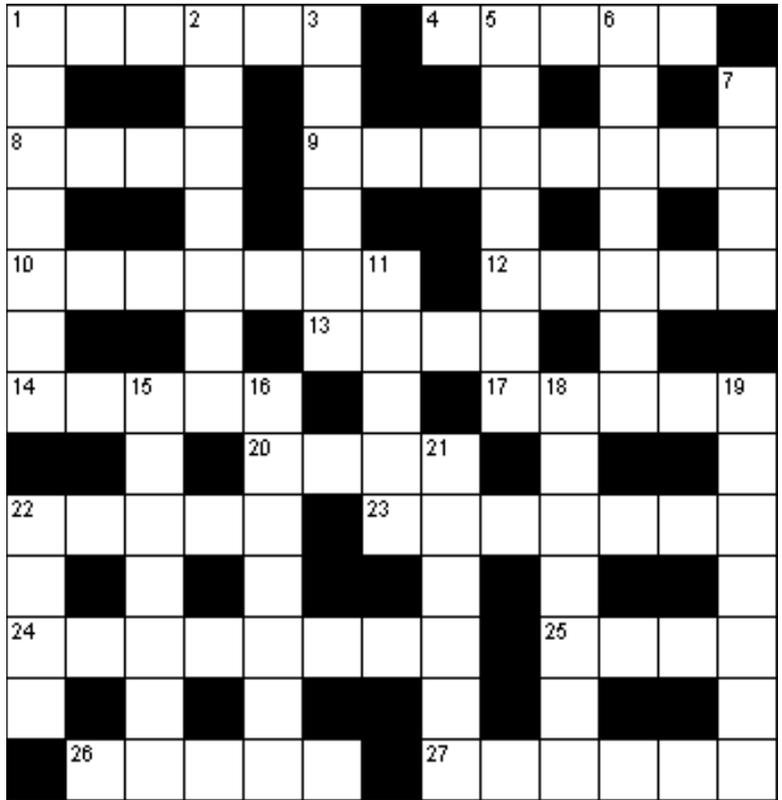
Claire Walsh is an experienced lecturer, including for the Courtauld Institute, the V&A, the Costume Society and the Museum of London, and in continental Europe, the USA and Canada.

Talks are held in the **Dixie Grammar School Hall**, Market Bosworth, CV13 0LE and start at 7.30 p.m.

For more information please contact: Margaret Birch on 01455 291052; or John Hawkes on 0116 239 2034/07590 496150.

A SPECIAL CROSSWORD WITH CHRISTMAS CLUES

Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 A large cake with layers of cream (6)
- 4 Musical instrument or part of the body (5)
- 8 and 9A ,24A, 27A A panto or film with 1 + 7 people (4-5-3-3-5-6)
- 9 See 8A
- 10 South African antelopes (7)
- 12 You go on these at fairs (5)
- 13 Emotional request (4)
- 14 A Christmas song - Six ***** a laying (5)
- 17 6D is one of these - in short (5)
- 20 Part of curves (4)
- 22 In 12 Days of Christmas what were they playing? (5)
- 23 Moral principles (7)
- 24 See 8A
- 25 Mouth open in amazement (4)
- 26 An on stage remark (5)
- 27 See 8A

DOWN

- 1 The young of 14 A (7)
- 2 Covers over a present (7)
- 3 To undo a present (6)
- 5 Device to catch large rodent (3-4)
- 6 Eastern 17A with a genie and a lamp (7)
- 7 Not evens (4)
- 11 A piece of 1A (5)
- 15 Oriental exotic train (7)
- 16 Part of London (4-3)
- 18 Eastern 17A with thieves (3-4)
- 19 Being helpful (7)
- 21 Common word for being drunk (6)
- 22 Shish kebab (4)



Developments continue on Stoke Golding's Neighbourhood Plan

Things may appear to have gone a little quiet on the Neighbourhood Plan front, but the Advisory Committee is currently working hard developing the draft policies for the Neighbourhood Plan. These are based on the results of Neighbourhood Plan Surveys conducted earlier this year, along with other relevant information.

In order that residents, business owners and local groups can observe the process, all meetings will be held in public. *Be sure to keep a watch on the village noticeboard for the details of up and coming meetings.*

It has always been made clear that the Plan will take time to be formed. As with the nature of policy development, it will take a number of months to hone these policies before they can be published as a draft consultation document within the Neighbourhood Plan Area.

Rest assured when possible, the Advisory Committee will be trying to meet more frequently than monthly with the aim of speeding up the process.

Feedback on The Neighbourhood Plan to date can be sent to –
sgnpjimhope@btinternet.com

Ella Orr

Battlefield Heritage Centre

There's plenty going on at Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre in the run up to Christmas and during the Christmas break.

- Award-winning Exhibition open 7 days a week from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm (last admission 3.00 pm).
- Guided Walks – weekends at 11.30 am and 2.00 pm
- 24th November – Christmas Fayre
- 26th November – “The Beauforts” a talk by Nathen Amin
- 28th November – Paranormal Ghost Walk
- 3rd December – Willow Workshop
- 23rd December – Breakfast with Santa in the Tithe Café

For all the latest news, events and opening times visit our website
<http://www.bosworthbattlefield.org.uk/>

House Wanted



Mature couple wishing to relocate back to Stoke Golding. We are looking to rent a 3/4 bedroom house or bungalow, preferably detached with garage. Although we would prefer Stoke Golding/Dadlington we are open to other villages around the area. Please contact : sandra.harding35@gmail.com or mobile. 07977545046



**U10 Pre-match
Remembrance Silence**

The teams have been making the most of the relatively dry Autumn on Saturday mornings at St Martin's School playing field, with their dedicated training of fitness and drills. They are working hard thus making their managers proud (who selflessly clear the pitches of dog faeces on match days) and are a credit to themselves and the village!

The under 10's having won the level 3 cup last season, have had a solid start, losing only one game and winning 6 and will now compete in the final of the level 1 mini cup!

The under 15's have been eager to play their home

games back at the Recreational Ground after a year away. The flat and wide pitch really suits the squad with many away teams finding it hard to keep up with their pace for a full game.

After a shorter than normal pre-season the lads were fired up for the start of 2017/18 season. The team had sadly suffered a number of injuries to key players during pre-season, of which will sadly keep them out until the new year, but hopefully this will give the players in the wings a chance make a name for themselves.

With a depleted squad, the lads who are fit, have really stepped up and performed with determination and resilience. Five hard fought games against the best teams in the league have resulted in two wins and three losses. The losses have been extremely close, where the lads have battled right up until the end!

U15 Team



U6 Development Team

New players welcome!

U6's squad are training 10-11 training on a Saturday Mornings

More details please contact Scott: 07930 504431

Website: www.pitchero.com/clubs/stokegoldingfc

Staffroom Memories 12: The Children Part 1

There were many occasions when the children I was teaching made me laugh. Once, in a maths exam paper, the instructions said, "Show your working out." One boy drew a particularly detailed picture of himself, sitting at a desk, working the answer out. Another occasion that made me quietly chuckle was on Mam Tor in Derbyshire, when one particularly difficult child announced he'd had enough of walking, sat down and refused to move any further. I spent some considerable time trying to explain that we were half way up a mountain and that, at some point, he'd have to get up and continue. As he finally saw sense and we continued our trek, one of the girls remarked to me, "You're ever so patient," then added, "My mother always says, 'Patience is a virgin.'" I didn't know quite what to say! The way children react to getting into trouble can also bring a smile. The first school I was headteacher of, I inherited the custom of giving each child a Christmas Card at the end of the autumn term. After having to tell off one lad earlier in the day, he came to my office after school, plonked his unopened card on my desk and said, "I don't want this, thank you!" That told me.

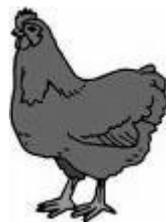
There was one child, let's call him Adam, who provided me with much amusement, although he came from a very troubled background which resulted in him getting into a lot of trouble out of school. On one occasion, he'd been caught by the police setting fire to a derelict building. I used to get the children in my class to bring in a newspaper story on a Monday morning, and whilst I was doing the register, they would write a short report on this story in their own words. It was quite surreal to see one boy writing about a Hinckley arsonist, oblivious to the fact that the subject of his story was sitting right next to him.

Adam was absolutely delightful and very well behaved in school. However, he had a reputation as a bit of a thief. When a vital piece of our newly acquired computer went missing, I tackled him about it and he professed to know nothing about it. "I think it went in here," I mused, pointing to a part of the computer. "No," he corrected me, "It came from here." Condemning himself. He returned it the next day. Whilst he was in my class, we did a project on countries of the world. I set up information sheets on various countries around the classroom and I got the children to bring in anything connected to these countries to display. This included foreign currency. One morning I went into the classroom and found that every single peseta, dollar and lira had disappeared. There was one obvious culprit, so later that day, I took Adam to one side and quizzed him about the missing notes and coins. He vigorously denied any involvement. "OK," I said, "If you return the missing items then I'll say no more about it." He continued to protest his innocence, but the next morning, I discovered him carefully reattaching the stolen goods to the display.

Michael

Free to good home

Chicken house, wooden with nest boxes on the side and easy to clean pull out tray, complete with metal water feeder, food bowls and food tray AND with two chickens one Sussex and one Speckle free. House would take up to eight hens. Genuine reason for wanting to re home (dog). Available for collection. Phone Margaret on 212755.



A Nautical Collection – part 2

My second day visiting the Cinque Ports starts out on a limb. Over the centuries before the Tudors created a national navy, 42 other towns and villages joined the Cinque Port alliance, each as a 'limb' of one of the principal towns. Lydd was a limb of New Romney and prior to the Great Storm of 1287 it was on an island. I have an ulterior motive for visiting this pleasant town: my grandfather had served as a Royal Artillery instructor here during World War I. The military camp is still in operation today, and I feel a bit nervous taking photos of it in case anyone thinks I'm a spy!

My route to Lydd takes me through Hythe again and as I pause on the coast road, there in the distance is a Martello Tower. 96 of these circular towers were built along the south and south-east coast to protect Britain from invasion during the French Revolutionary Wars, of which about half survive. I set off to walk to it, but the workshops of boat builders block my way. I'm not that disappointed - it was a long way off. Anyway, as I continue onwards, I come across more; one is abandoned, another has been converted into a house.

My next destination is Rye, not one of the original ports but an 'ancient town' as it was called when it joined the federation. The town is high on a promontory and filled with art galleries, bespoke clothes shops and artisan food outlets. Henry James, the author, lived there, as did a number of artists including John Ryan who illustrated the Captain Pugwash cartoons: aha me hearties. The Great Storm turned Rye from a town on the coast to one on a river, so the good citizens built a new harbour on the river and then watched as it silted up and became navigable only to small boats.



Neighbouring Winchelsea fared even worse. The 13th century brought damaging storms and French raiders in equal measure and at regular intervals. When huge chunks of the town had been washed away, they decided to relocate. New Winchelsea was constructed using a grid system of roads, on higher ground. The old town disappeared beneath the waves hundreds of years ago so all I can do is stand on the shoreline, look towards Camber Sands, and imagine the bustling medieval harbour.

And so to port numero cinq: Hastings. As I approach the coast, a sign proclaims that I am in the old town. However, my guide book tells me that the old harbour was further west, in the lee of the White Rock. The area is still called White Rock, although where once were moored fighting ships, ready to defend the land, there is now crazy golf and a boating lake. Henry VIII brought about the end of the Cinque Port's strategic importance as he assembled a fleet of ships that formed the basis of today's Royal Navy. It's been an interesting journey. I've found some fascinating places although my quest to locate the original harbours has ended in failure. But there's a reason for that: it was the Great Storm that did it!

Michael

HAMISH and SHARON "THE VINTAGE CHEESE CART CO".

I've never experienced the exhilaration of sitting through a hurricane or tornado, before, but last Saturday afternoon this is exactly how it felt after an hour and a half of talking with the partners of "THE VINTAGE CHEESE CART CO."

At 3pm precisely I open the door to a tall denim-clad guy with the proverbial baseball cap, followed by a smaller, pretty woman in a patterned, fur-trimmed jacket. *"Would you like to slip your coats off? They are already seated. "No thanks" says Hamish; "We're going straight out again after to the fireworks at The Swan."* They do accept the tray of tea and biscuits offered by Amanda, while I sit with notebook at the ready, prepared to hear all about serving fresh Pizzas with their Mobile Pizza Oven, here in Stoke Golding. This is all my brief is meant to be (I thought). How wrong I am. *"So" I begin; "I hear you've started serving home-made pizzas. Tell me about it".* They glance at each other, and Sharon explains. *"When we heard the Mobile Chippie had moved on, we immediately wondered if we could find a similar venue for our Pizzas.* Hamish prepares 10 kilos of dough each Monday, along with all the various sauces and dips, and they will be serving fresh home-made pizzas at a new venue in the village from: 5.30 – 8.30 pm every Tuesday afternoon. The venue will be announced on their website: 'the pizza shack', or: 'the vintage cheese cart co'.



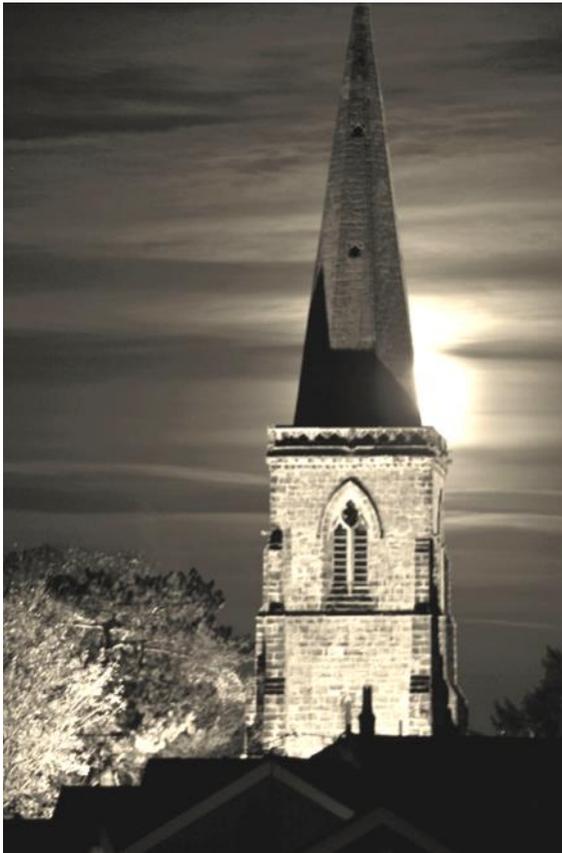
Hamish has always had a love of cooking. He reckons this started from an early age while living in Dadlington with his younger brother. Their Mum was working all hours as a Health Visitor, so when she wasn't around Hamish got into the kitchen, and began cooking for them both. His first job at the age of twelve was at the Liberal Club, on a Sunday from 7.30/9.30 am clearing away all the bottles and rubbish into bins. Like all the other village youngsters his schooling followed the normal procedure – St Margaret's Primary school, Redmoor, and JCC. He then trained as a Diesel Mechanic at Sugden's Transport. Eventually, however, he began driving vans and lorries, as well as a Multi-drop driver for Honda, Saab and Mercedes. He speaks with pride of his two sons. The elder at 23yr is a Barrister, while the younger one is travelling the world, presently working his way round Vietnam. His 16 yr. old daughter is still at school in Coventry, and he thinks she will probably make a successful career for herself in fashion and design.

Sharon is a Burbage girl, who started school at St Mary's Primary, then Hastings, and inevitably JCC. Leaving school at fifteen for her first Saturday job at Gateways, she continued mainly working in retail, climbing the long ladder up to Management. She is now CEO at Thomas Kitchens and Bathrooms in Nuneaton. Her much loved son is going to be nineteen in December, and is currently training as a plumber. She takes care of all the presentation, and is also a delightful 'people person'. So while Hamish gets on with the cooking, its Sharon you'll be chatting to - as she takes your money!

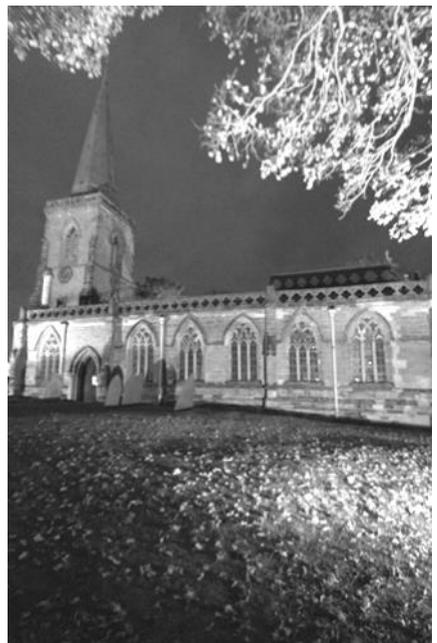
My notes now begin to become a long list in which I admit I am likely to be rather 'bemused.com'. The two of them began working together at weddings and other outdoor events a few years back. Hamish explains: "*Sharon tells me what equipment she wants, and I make it my project to find them.*" The list is extensive: 2 Candy Carriages, 2 Vintage cheese carts (originally from Holland)- 2 cold meat pickle carts, a 'Love Heart' cup-cake stand, a Mini-Donut Ferris Wheel, 2. Triple twelve litre slush machines (very popular for cocktail parties) a chocolate fountain, and Popcorn machines. The 'grand finale' however is their Vintage caravan, which Hamish has completely stripped and 'decked out' as a Digital Photo Booth, along with a collection of period costumes. This can also be used as a 'DISCO' - painted in large letters on the opposite side. During this last year, their mobile unit has served over 40 venues, ranging as far North as Pontefract, and as far South as leafy, wealthy Surrey. Locally, they have hosted events at 'The Island' and 'Sketchley Grange'. Everything is promoted on Facebook and on their own website.

Coming to the end of our chat, I remember to say: "*One of the things we always think the village lacks is a place to go for afternoon teas.*" but they're already working on this. Vintage teas with dainty cups and saucers. As they leave to enjoy the fireworks at The Swan, I realise their amazing energy has swept me away – and it's time for a quick drink!

Beth



Thanks to Peter Cunningham for sending us his atmospheric photographs of St Margaret's Church.



Notes from Stoke Golding Parish Council November Meeting (Draft)

County Cllr Ivan Ould reported on the following issues:

1. On-going issues regarding ditch/drainage at Convent Corner.
2. Issues with the Ivy Close development.
3. Issues with parking on Roseway.

Stoke Golding Post Office – County Cllr Ould and Borough Cllr Ward to ask local authorities to put pressure on the Post Office for increased security. The Parish Council to write to LCC, HBBC and the Post Office.

The Clerk reported that Cllr Beale has raised concerns regarding the easy access to Covent Drive play area/open space and that there are still no signs to keep out. Clerk to inform HBBC Planning Enforcement Team.

Matters arising from October's Meeting:

BT phone kiosk - BT reports that the external maintenance of phone kiosks takes place from March to September, so the village telephone kiosk will be put on the schedule for next year.

Ground Maintenance:

Extra cuts – It was noted that extra cuts have been carried out, at a cost of £285.00.

Church Walks cutback – It was noted that Church Walks has been cut back, at a cost of £94.00.

Reports of Council representatives and Clerk:

Cllr Pegg reported on moss on pathways at Wykin Lane Cemetery, pathway edges and the oak tree at the recreation field.

Cllr Terheege reported on Chairman training.

It was agreed to proceed with the purchase of a fire proof deed box, to scan the PC deeds and store originals at HBBC Storage Unit.

Planning Application Matters:

New Applications:

37 Wykin Lane – erection of triple garage with habitable space at first floor level. In the context of the surrounding area the Parish Council considers this application to be overdevelopment on an inappropriate site. The Parish Council considers the application is for a dwelling rather than a garage and this back-land development would set a precedent for further applications of this type in the village.

Neighbourhood Plan

The following were resolved:

- The minutes of the meeting held on 11th October were noted.
- The Clerk to seek clarification from LRALC regarding the status of the non-public meetings.

Concerns regarding the questionnaire delivery were noted and it was agreed this would not affect the validity of the data. Questionnaires were widely publicised and were available from other sources, and public consultations were held.

Sport in Stoke Golding (SISG)

Cllr Pegg reported on an initial visit by an architect re new pavilion and further architects will visit the site shortly. Initial advice and prices for proposals to be taken to the SISG committee for consideration.

To consider to extend ground maintenance contract and review specifications

The following was resolved:

- The revised ground maintenance specifications were agreed, to include further increases to grass cuts as follows: 20 cuts to rec, both cemeteries and Bennett Close and 16 cuts to the Churchyard.

- It was agreed to update the ground maintenance contract conditions for tender. It was agreed to extend the ground maintenance contract with Jason G, for a further term of three years.

Pavilion showers

It was agreed to proceed with the repair of the showers, at a cost of £1200.

Pitch hire

- It was noted that the Adult Football Club is playing elsewhere this season, but may wish to return to play at Stoke Golding in the 2018/9 season, should the PC return to HBBC charging structure.

- The Clerk to chase outstanding pitch hire fees for 2016/17.

No application for pitch hire will be considered while fees are outstanding.

Data Protection and Freedom of Information

- Stoke Golding Parish Council Privacy Notice – Data Protection Policy, Freedom of Information Policy and Sharing Record Sheets were agreed.

- The Publication Scheme has been updated to show access to these policies.

- Cllr Fisher to put the new policies and updated Publication Scheme on the Stoke Golding Village Website.

It was agreed to proceed with the purchase of a lap top and software, at a cost of £533.80.

Laburnum Cottage community land

The revised proposal for the community land was agreed in principle, subject to satisfactory negotiation regarding the maintenance budget.

Communications received by the Chairman of the Council:

Written

- St Margaret's Church PCC* – the reply regarding the pathway renovation was noted and an update has been sent as agreed at the last meeting.

- The S106 Report* was noted and arrangements for funding of the roundabout were discussed.

- The Clerk to put Tesco Bags of Help information in the Stoker and on the Co-operative Website and Cllr Smith to contact the Hinckley Times.

- Resident's concern regarding recreation field leaves was noted and will be monitored.

- Resident's concern regarding Church Walks trees was noted and the Clerk will reply.

Young apple trees for planting – it was agreed that the PC should fund sundries and assist in arranging of tree planting. Cllr Pegg to discuss with David Marriott the possible location for the trees at Wykin Lane Cemetery. White Swan to be contacted regarding possible planting on land at the rear.

Verbal

WL Cemetery moles - it was agreed to contact the mole catcher.

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

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CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS 1 Gateau; 4 Organ; 8 Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs; 9 See 8A; 10 Impalas; 12 Rides; 13 Plea; 14 Geese; 17 Panto ; 20 Arcs; 22 Pipes; 23 Ethical; 24 see 8A; 25 Agog; 26 Aside, 27 see 8A

DOWN 1 Gosling; 2 Enwraps, 3 Unwraps; 5 Rat trap; 6 Aladdin; 7 Odds; 11 Slice; 15 Express; 16 East End; 18 Ali Baba; 19 Obliges; 21 Stoned; 22 Pate.

Ten of a Kind Answers

1. No. There's Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen... but no Rudolph.
2. Dublin
3. O Little Town of Bethlehem
4. Chestnuts Roasting by an Open Fire
5. 1984
6. White Christmas
7. I did – my true love sent them (The 12 Days of Christmas)
8. O Christmas Tree – sung to the tune that is used for 'We'll Keep the Red Flag Flying High'.
9. Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas
10. Walking in a Winter Wonderland.

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