

**April 2017**

**No. 160**

# ***The Stoker***



**Stoke Golding Village Magazine**

*Including*

**Dadlington Matters**

**50p**



## **Note from the Editors**



*It's said to be a very British habit to talk about the weather and we can well understand why at the Stoker, as the team starts work towards producing this copy of the magazine with the sun shining outside only to find it's raining when we stop for the day. By the time you read this copy, Spring will have sprung and the clocks will have moved forward 60 minutes, bringing longer,*

*lighter evenings and (hopefully) warmer weather - how wonderful!*

*The Stoker is once again full of interesting and sometimes funny stories documenting the various contributions from our villages, including news from St Margaret's School and from the Scout Group and their leadership team. There is also a humorous take on the cycling fraternity's Lane Quest which seemed, from reading the organiser's report, to be a very well supported event.*

*Sadly, this month, we have to report on the passing of 6 residents. Each will be missed by their family and friends, emphasising the value of appreciating those around us.*

*We continue to look forward to receiving your articles and photos for next month's edition of The Stoker and wish all of our readers a very Happy Easter.*

**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 May issue of The Stoker **by 15th April** 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: Stoke Golding's young people encourage us to complete the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire.*

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## Happy Birthday Margaret!



Margaret Tomlinson is 90 years young on 20th April.

Margaret was born on 20th April 1927 at Hall Farm, Dadlington and has lived for most of her life in Stoke Golding.

With Love From Robert, Mervyn, Denise, Rodney and families



## Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Questionnaire

You should all be receiving a questionnaire soon and will be given this important opportunity to shape the village of Stoke Golding as it develops over the coming years.

Members of The Stoker production team will be completing theirs to make sure they have their voices heard. Make sure you do too.

*Editors*



Thank you to everyone who donated to the Alzheimer's Society on behalf of my late wife Pat. I received a lovely letter from the society's branch in Hampshire, assuring me that the gift of over £400 would be put to work straight away to provide essential support for people affected by dementia and further much needed research into the cause, care and cure of all types of the disease. We chose, as a family, to support the Alzheimer's society because my daughter in law, Lynne, suffers from dementia and we know how difficult this can be both for her and her close family and friends. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

*Bob White*  
*Crown Hill Close*



The Parish Council notes have again shown reports of another violent/sexual assault in the village without any prosecution. Whilst no doubt such instances are rare, considering the size of the village and that there have been several incidents of a similar nature in recent months should villagers be given details of how to stay safe by maybe avoiding certain areas whilst alone? While I appreciate this is no doubt a police matter and needs to be dealt with in a sensitive manner that is not alarmist, there is a duty of care to keep villagers as safe as possible.

*Jacquelyn Jones*  
*Sherwood Road*

## **A few changes at St. Margaret's School**

There are some changes ahead for our village primary school. If you have been in the vicinity of St. Margaret's School recently, you may have noticed some building work taking place on the school site. The current library is being extended out at the front of school so that it is in line with the current ICT suite. This extended room will then become another classroom, freeing up existing space in the school for another group teaching space and a new library. This project is being funded by Leicester diocese. This is an exciting project for the school as it will give the children much needed extra space.

Also the school will be converting to academy status later this year and joining a Multi Academy Trust or MAT along with other primary schools in Sapcote, Sharnford and the Lutterworth area. This MAT is called Inspiring Primaries Academy Trust. Schools in the academy trust will receive their funding directly from central government, rather than through the local authority. St Margaret's will continue to be overseen by the governing body and the head teacher and there will be little change to the day-to-day running of the school. But it will benefit from the advice, support and expertise available from being part of a MAT.

## World Book Day 2017



The children at St. Margaret's in Stoke Golding enjoyed a fun day of celebrating reading on Thursday 2nd March. We were blown away by the effort that had gone into making the children's creative costumes this year - it was great to see such an array of book characters around school. The children showcased their costumes in assembly and were introduced to the big 'Where's Wally' hunt! 5 Wally pictures had been hidden around school and children enjoyed searching for them throughout the day. The children then took part in lots of fun reading activities in their classrooms to celebrate World Book Day.



We are extremely lucky at St. Margaret's that we have so many children that love to read! Reading for pleasure is well established at our school and we hope that when our new library is up and running we can continue to build on this with the children. At St. Margaret's we truly believe that reading is to the mind, what exercise is to the body. Our children leave our school with a love of reading; therefore a love of learning and a love of life!



Stoke Golding website: [www.stokegolding.co.uk](http://www.stokegolding.co.uk)

## **A Cathedral Journey – Part 6: Dotting Around the Country**

Having seen in the new millennium together with our families and friends, Andrew and I resolved to up our cathedral visit rate in 2000. We managed two – our worst year to date! The first came after a canal boat holiday on the Wey Navigation and River Thames in the summer. As we returned our barge to its marina in Guildford, the modern cathedral overlooking the city seemed an obvious place to call before setting off home. It was the first Anglican cathedral to be built on a new site in southern England since the reformation, and with the Second World War inconveniently getting in the way of construction, it wasn't officially opened until 1961. It has a rather stark, uniform exterior and the quality of our visit was somewhat marred by wives and children who wanted to get going on the long journey home and a rather expert piece of backing that saw me send my car into a ditch in the car park, so damaging something underneath that necessitated costly repairs on our return.

The second visit was to Manchester, another of those 'big churches turned into a cathedral' jobs that are rarely as satisfying as those built specifically to accommodate a bishop and his throne or cathedra. It certainly had a parish church feel to it, when we eventually managed to locate it at the northern end of the city centre. Nowadays it abuts a museum dedicated to another 'religion': the National Football Museum, but back in 2000 it seemed a little isolated and lost. Another conversion awaited us the following year in Chelmsford, where the building had been re-consecrated in 1914 when a new diocese was formed. It celebrated its history in the 1950s with the dedication of the cathedral to St Cidd, a Northumbrian bishop who did missionary work in East Anglia, and the addition of a chapel dedicated to Anglo-American friendship, following the stationing of many US airmen in the area during the war.

Now those of you who have read my previous journeys will know that the sight of mortar boards and gowns in Bristol foretold a degree ceremony in the cathedral that led to us having to abort our visit. So, as we drove into St Albans, a plethora of graduation candidates did not fill us with much hope. We did however, manage to squeeze in a visit and explore this magnificent building before degree ceremonies got underway. It too has not long been a cathedral, but it was the abbey church of 11th century Benedictine monastery, dedicated to England's first Christian martyr, St Alban. Roman soldiers beheaded him on the site where the cathedral now stands. The building has seen its fair share of troubles: shaken by an earthquake in 1250, looted after the dissolution of the monasteries, sold by Edward VI to the town for £400 and almost demolished in the 1770s. It survived and much of it was rebuilt over the last 200 years.

A Christmas shopping day to Chester, where we'd already seen the cathedral, allowed us a short detour to Liverpool, yet another recent arrival on the cathedral scene. It was designed by Giles Gilbert Scott whose grandfather Sir George Gilbert Scott was responsible for the hotel at St Pancras Station and the Albert Memorial in Hyde Park. Giles' CV included Battersea Power Station and Waterloo Bridge as well as the iconic red telephone box. His plans for Liverpool resulted in it becoming the longest cathedral in the world when it was finally completed in 1978.

Inside it is a vast cavernous building which we could only partly look around due to a conference taking place in the nave. It's austere appearance is in marked contrast to the Catholic Cathedral, lovingly called Paddy's Wigwam by the locals, where the unusual design and the effects of a circle of stained glass windows make it a far more comfortable place to spend time in. Five more cathedrals crossed off our list, but with 13 still to go, we ended 2001 resolving, yet again, to up our visit rate. 2002 would prove to be a much better year.



*Michael Dix*

**theWI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN

## **Stoke Golding WI**

### **HAVE- A- GO ICING DECORATIONS.**

Looking forward to Easter, the ladies of Stoke Golding W.I were invited to try their hands at making decorations from fondant icing to enhance the cakes that I'm sure all our wonderful bakers were eager to produce.

Luckily for those not so skilled, Trish from a local cake and decoration shop was on hand to give helpful instructions to all.

We were all handed a goody package of brown, yellow and orange fondant and along with a bag of small chocolate eggs and a silver plate we were ready to commence. By kneading and rolling the icing and then following Trish's instructions we made first pear shaped parts and then teardrop shaped parts and we were, much to our amazement able to construct a yellow duck although one lady was convinced we were going to make a chicken. Placing this duck into a previously made basket and surrounding it with little eggs it turned into a delightful decoration for a cake. Surprisingly everyone's ducks were very different, but not surprising at all was the laughter and jokes as many of the ducks did not quite resemble what perhaps the ladies were expecting them to and this was not down to the instructions given by Trish as these was both patient and helpful. But everyone enjoyed the evening and was able to take home their master pieces. Someone was lucky enough to win a beautiful cake and the basket that Trish herself had made in a raffle that ended the demonstration.

Our next talk is 'Fun with Antiques' on 12<sup>th</sup> April at the Methodist Hall and we are always pleased to see new members or prospective new members so do come along and join us.

*Val Hartwell*

## BETH'S CORNER



## FIONNA & JOHN SHILLADAY

I began the New Year celebrating one of our local celebrities, who regularly receives a number of cups, caps, and medals for winning most of the competitions she enters - hard-earned recognition she deserves. This month we congratulate John and Fionna whose faithful work with the Scouts, Brownies, Cubs and Beavers over the last twenty years has been rewarded, completely unexpectedly, in the shape of two shining trefoil medals. To their

amazement, these were suddenly presented to them during a general meeting they'd been invited to last November at Leicester County Scouts' Headquarters.

They arrive with Fionna bringing me an enormous bouquet of flowers, even before I have written my congratulatory lines about them. (*This had better be good Beth*).

I realise this is the first time I've interviewed two people together, and wonder where to start first. John seems to be the quieter of the two, so Fionna becomes 'conscript' number one. Unlike many of the folk I've got to know for the pages of *The Stoker*, neither of them are '*original villagers*'. They met at school in Selby, Yorkshire.

Fionna's family originally came from Glasgow, but, her father's job took them to Yorkshire, when she was six. John's family came from Hertfordshire, but due to his father's demanding and rather peripatetic work as an engineer, John was used to constantly moving with the family. He attended seven different primary schools, before the age of eleven. Finally, at Selby, the two young pupils virtually grew up together, and became engaged at the age of nineteen. Their large family wedding took place in Selby, with Fiona wearing the traditional white wedding dress; countless guests, both friends and family, and all the classic trimmings of cake and champagne to celebrate, which proves to be the perfect beginning of a marriage already lasting twenty-nine years. Their two grown up daughters are busily following their own careers. Cassie's choice was nursing children and is currently at Stepping Hill Hospital. Katy is following her dream in Performing Arts at University, but aims to work as a theatre or television director rather than as a performer herself.

John's first experience as a Patrol Leader came after University, while the family were still living in Hertfordshire. He was twenty-two and enjoyed working with the boys. He was a little surprised when he was asked if he would join the team in Stoke Golding, to discover that the teams were all co-ed. – but soon accepted this was the way forward. "*When did you first join the team John?*" Fiona is the first to answer. "*It was 1989 Beth.*" Since then they have taken the youngsters away camping each summer at various camp-sites, often at Fox Coverts, near Kirby Mallory. They also went to the Loughborough International meeting with between four to five thousand youngsters there. There are around eighty-eight young people between the ages of six to fourteen, but they assure me;



*"It's a big leadership team Beth, with six warranted leaders and six volunteers." I'm curious to know more about these medals. Apparently they were secretly nominated by the District Commissioners, and then presented by the County Commissioners last November, after they had received an email inviting them to attend, with no mention of the awards. The presentation box wording states; "Award for Merit, Keen, Conscientious, Imaginative and Dedicated Service." And that sums up everything about both John and Fiona Shilladay and their quiet, unflappable, cheery personalities. Many congratulations from a one-time member of the 'Elves' in Brownies. *"Helping others not ourselves."**

*Beth*

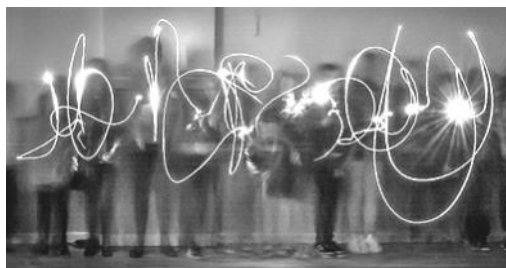
## Spring Term Fun for the Scout Group

The beavers and cubs have been completing their team challenge badges and disability awareness, where they have been playing team games.

The disability awareness has involved learning Braille, learning how to distinguish a tin of dog food from macaroni and cheese or tea bags! We learnt the Makaton sign for the Promise and how to navigate around the hall and obstacle course blind folded, emphasising the positive aspects of overcoming all difficulties. Interestingly both cubs and beavers were very good in coming up with examples of obstacles in life and overcoming them.

The beavers have also been out and about for a walk followed by chips!

The scouts have been creating light shows and are also in the throes of planning a cooking competition for the cost of £1.50 per head. Watch this



space!

In the next couple of weeks the cubs are off on a district trip to RAF Cosford and the beavers are taking part in a district jamboree in Loughborough. So it's all go to the end of term.

*Jennifer Michie*



# Dadlington Matters

## A Moment in Time – The 1851 Census in Dadlington

On 31<sup>st</sup> March 1851, a census enumerator visited each household in Dadlington. For most of the residents, this was not a new experience. The government had begun collecting information at ten-yearly intervals in 1801. Whilst the first four data collections were little more than simple head counts, the 1841 census had, for the first time, asked for names, ages and occupations. The current census had added further requirements: the relationship of everyone to the head of household, their marital status, their place of birth and whether they were deaf, blind or dumb. Once collected, the enumerator would have transcribed each form into a census book, copies of which survive to this day and provide a wealth of information about the people living in the village 168 years ago. <http://dadlington-history.myfreesites.net>

We know that there were nine farmers living in and around Dadlington. None of the farms were particularly big and the farmers would have worked them along with their families and labourers from the village. For this reason, most employed domestic servants to assist in their homes. Farmers either owned their farms outright: Apple Orchard Farm was owned and farmed by Henry Freeman; or they rented them as tenant farmers, like 71 year old William Shilton who farmed land belonging to three different owners.

A month after the census was taken, the Great Exhibition opened in Hyde Park in Joseph Paxton's Crystal Palace. It was a celebration of Britain's position as the world's leading economy, one that had been moving from agriculture to industry over recent years. This change is reflected in the occupations of villagers in 1851. Whilst the majority of men still worked in the fields, almost as many villagers, often women and children, now spent their days working on stocking frames, in their own homes, to supply to hosiery trade. William Pricep and his wife both worked as knitters along with their three eldest children, the youngest being 12 years old.

Over a quarter of the 212 residents were aged 12 and under and most attended school, although education didn't become compulsory until 1870. There were also two school mistresses living in the village, Mrs. Wood and Mrs. Jackson, the latter being married to a tea salesman from the Isle of Wight. Getting through childhood could be quite precarious: over a third of burials registered at St James over the next ten years would be children aged 12 or under.

Not that the adults had a much easier life. Only 12 villagers were aged over 60 in the census. The two eldest, 84 year old Sarah Pratt and 80 year old Hannah Rowley are described as paupers, meaning they had no independent source of money and relied on the support of others, either family or public charity. Of the other occupations in the village, there were a couple of butchers, a nurse, a charlady and two cordwainers –makers of shoes. *Michael Dix*

**Dadlington website: [www.dadlington.com](http://www.dadlington.com)**

## ST JAMES' CHURCH DADLINGTON

### Flower Festival

29th, 30th April & 1st May

#### Monumental Moments

Celebrating key moments in history and in people's lives

The church will be open 12noon to 5pm

Refreshments, sales of goods, tombola etc in Dadlington Village Hall



### Murder Mystery at Dadlington

A dreadful murder is likely to take place 7:30pm  
on Sat 6th May 2017 at Dadlington Village Hall.

If you would like to be there enjoying a Ploughman's Supper,  
watching the murder mystery unfold before you and deciding who is the  
murderer,  
please book tickets asap with John or Jill Whitehead 01455 213244 or e-  
mail [jf.whitehead@hotmail.com](mailto:jf.whitehead@hotmail.com)

Suggested donation £6 which will support the village hall extension.

### Ten of a Kind *(answers on page 25)*

As the 1<sup>st</sup> of April is celebrated as April Fools Day, here are ten questions associated with the day and with foolish things. How many can you answer?

1. Which TV programme ran one of the earliest April Fools Day hoaxes with a story about how Italian family harvested spaghetti from spaghetti trees?
2. The Stoker has its very own 'Fool on the Hill'. On which Beatles album of 1967 did their song of the same name appear?
3. The French name for April Fools Day and the antics they get up to features what kind of creature?
4. Which Russian author wrote 'The Idiot'?
5. According to the often-used phrase, a fool and what are soon parted?
6. Which of Shakespeare's plays feature a wise fool called Touchstone?
7. In Matthew's gospel, Jesus tells a parable about five wise and five foolish what?
8. What do 'these foolish things', recorded by Frank Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald amongst many others, remind them of?
9. Which British politician (1874-1965) said, "The greatest lesson in life is to know that even fools are right sometimes?"
10. In which London borough was the TV sitcom Only Fools and Horses set?

## Tour de Pants



From your own correspondent who will go anywhere to get a story. Well, this report involved the serious sacrifice of a Sunday morning lie in, physical effort above and beyond the call of duty and pre-event training.

My son and I enter as a pair in the BLOOD Race, Bike Lanequest Orienteering Open (Dadlington). The alarm is at 7am on a Sunday morning, a quick breakfast and off on the bikes which had been checked and tyres pumped up the day before. Arriving on a cold and damp morning at Dadlington Village Hall we are greeted by a really cheerful group of organisers and officials.

I know why they're so happy – they are staying in the warm hall, eating bacon sandwiches and drinking coffee while we have to go out and cycle to the edge of the known world, well Newton Burgoland at least. Checked

in, we move to the desk of the all-powerful timekeeper and adjudicator who passes a map with 30, yes thirty, check points spread out across North West Leicestershire. He logs our time and advises that we have 3 hours to check in at as many locations as possible and return to Dadlington.

The form states that the CRIME of lateness carries penalty point deductions that appear to rise exponentially until at 30 minutes late you are disqualified. We sit down to plan a route but you need a degree in mathematics as each check point is worth varying values of points to be gained. Maximum score 585.

The first clue states "Whitemoors Antiques and Tea Rooms" which I think will be a nice stop for an early cuppa but my partner points out that is merely a signpost to the tea rooms that we must locate. Then there is a "three way directional finger post, east side of road", "Telegraph pole No.2", "Metal gate behind large tree trunk", all clear as mud.

We're off and son races ahead to the first check point. I arrive about two minutes behind complaining, huffing and panting. And this is the story of our tour. Through Shenton, Carlton, Barton in the Beans, Oddstone, Newton Burgoland, and Sheepy where we suddenly realise that time is pressing and the clock is ticking. So on to Upton and finally back to Dadlington. Son hardly breathing, fit, clad in lycra and on a lightweight racing machine; me unfit, exhausted, panting turning to ranting, on my modest heavy hybrid tourer.

We arrive in front of the black capped judge who records that we are three minutes late, an offence just short of hanging. Points will be deducted. I asked whether there were any Russians taking part and was everyone tested for illegal substances. Not a flicker! This is a serious event.

Finally there were some ministering angels in the village hall serving wonderful tea, coffee, sandwiches, cakes and more cakes. The whole organization was truly splendid. Well done to the Midlands Mountain Bike Orienteering. We scored 332 points and amazingly came 18<sup>th</sup>. There must have been some very unfit contestants if they came in behind me!

*John Whitehead*

## Successful Cycling Promotion at Dadlington

This year's second annual Lanequest cycling orienteering event from Dadlington Village hall on February 26th proved to be even more successful than last with 63 cyclists entering to see who could amass the most points on offer from the 30 checkpoints, totalling 585 points, distributed over the 150 square kilometre course. With the area basically running from Wykin to Snarestone, on the quiet lanes between the A447 and A444 roads, riders had a chance to discover the historic landscape of the Battle of Bosworth Field which surrounds our villages.

With an early hint of Spring the only battle this time was with the increasing strength of the wind especially on the uphill return to Dadlington, but riders were amply rewarded for their efforts at the finish with the quality of the cakes baked by Gill Lamb and the refreshments organised by Hilary Ford and Jane Ninness.

The overall winner again with 476 points was Mark Rowley from North Staffordshire who narrowly beat Kevin Horsley, (470), but only after time penalty points were considered. Leading female was Sheila Pearce with 355 points ahead of Barwells Anne Nicholson. There was a pleasingly strong entry from Stoke Golding and Dadlington with local bragging rights going to John and Robert Whitehead finishing a highly competitive 18th overall with 332 points. Roger Pullin and Jill Stocks finished 28th, one place ahead of Alan White with Brian Ninness 32nd. Other local riders included David Hind, Richard Orr, John Sutton, Paul and Colin Edwards, Jim Hope and Jennie Michie and Eamonn Quinn.

Organisers Geoff Ford and Bernard Lamb were again very pleased with the turn out and the Midlands Mountainbike Orienteering club have praised the quality of the course, venue and catering and have already requested that a similar event be held again next year. In addition the event has raised an amazing sum likely to exceed £500 to be donated to a Leukaemia Charity. Anyone wishing to try future events should visit [www.midlandsmbo.co.uk](http://www.midlandsmbo.co.uk).

**Bernard Lamb**

*Bikes abandoned on the Green, while their owners enjoy the refreshments on offer in the hall.*



# Church Matters



## From St Margaret's Church

### How Does It All End?

I am impatient, I confess it. I want to know how it all ends. Whether it is a book, a film, a television play or my life – how will it all end?

Whatever your take on the life of Jesus of Nazareth two thousand years ago – it is difficult not to believe that he was a good man, preaching love for all and healing for the sick. As you hear his life story, what he did and said, he is obviously heading for fame and celebrity. Peeling away the religious language and the Church's jargon, here is surely a decent, caring, sympathetic and loving man. Who couldn't be attracted by him?

What could possibly go wrong? And, how does it all end? The answer to the first question is more easily accepted than is the second. We can see clearly what happened to an exceptional man. His over-flowing goodness attracted overpowering evil. He challenged violent men by not accepting violence as a weapon of deciding the truth. "If you don't stand up for yourself you will surely never succeed" – so goes the world's wisdom.

And the human truth is that the absolute love which Jesus portrayed was like a magnet to the absolute wickedness at large in the world. And so, he was executed. Not as a matter of true justice but as a victim of a kangaroo court. Jesus was a nuisance who took upon himself the warped power of the world. And he died.

But, I ask again, how does it all end?

Against all the odds, in contradiction of common sense, love will overcome, decency, truth and integrity will shine forth at the end of all things.

And no one can prove it – no one can certify that it is so. But in that Jerusalem garden a woman met a man who had gone through and conquered death and evil. And Christ is raised and therefore you are raised.

### Happy Easter!

*Alan Davis*

### St Margaret's Church Coffee, Chat & Book Swap

Free coffee, tea and a chat on Wednesdays

**10.30am - 12 noon in Church**

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



# Church Matters

## Church of England April 2017 Services

### St Margaret's Church

2nd	10.30am	Morning Worship
9th	10.30am	Palm Sunday Benefice Service Higham on the Hill
11th	6.30pm	Tuesday Holy Communion
16th	10.30am	Easter Sunday Holy Communion
23rd	10.30am	Morning Worship
30th	6.30pm	Benefice Service Dadlington - Songs of Praise

### St. James's Church

2nd	9.00am	BCP Morning Prayer
9th	10.30am	Palm Sunday Benefice Service Higham on the Hill
14th	2.00pm	Good Friday - Meditation on the cross
16th	9.00am	Easter Sunday BCP Holy Communion
23rd	9.00am	BCP Morning Prayer
30th	6.30pm	Benefice Service - Songs of Praise

### Zion Baptist Chapel April 2017 Services

2nd	6pm	Richard Cotton
9th	6pm	John Todd
16th	6pm	Malcolm Welch
23rd	6pm	Bill McIntyre
30th	6pm	Martyn Owens

### The Methodist Church April 2017 Services

2nd	10.30am	Mr Malcolm Lapper
9th	10.30am	Mrs Joan Ledson
14th	3.00pm	Revd Wes Hampton <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>
16th	10.30am	Revd Wes Hampton
23rd	10.30am	Mr John Cooke
30th	10.30am	TBA

**A Very Happy Easter to all our readers.**

# What's On

## Heritage Group - April Meeting

**Heritage Group Speaker for Thursday April 20th 7.30 Baxter Hall**  
Dr Susan Tebby will give a talk on the Wind and Water Mills of Leicestershire, including their history and development, and those millers (and their wives!) who worked them. Books, documents, objects and photographs will also be on display. Cost is £2.50 for non members, who are welcome.

## DOWN TO EARTH - FREE EVENT

BBC Radio Leicester's award winning gardening programme - live recording and plant sale.



Hinckley Concordia Theatre  
Thursday May 18th at 7.15pm

Tickets available from Judy Peatfield 01455 847676 or  
email: [publicity@concordiatheatre.co.uk](mailto:publicity@concordiatheatre.co.uk)

## Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre THORN KINGS

Join us for an exciting talk followed by poetry readings from Battlefield Trust Poet in residence Clare Mulley .

**Tuesday 18th April 6.30pm**

**Tickets £8 tel: 01455 290429**

## METHODIST CHURCH SPRING FAIR

Saturday April 8th 10.00am-2.00pm



Cakes & Preserves  
Books & Bric-a-Brac  
Raffle & Tombola  
Coffee & Light  
Lunches

## Stoke Golding Village Hall



For booking information, contact  
Belinda West  
[belindawest@btinternet.com](mailto:belindawest@btinternet.com)  
(01455 212183)

Now available most Sundays 9.00am –  
3pm and Fridays until 4pm



## **My Cottage Home**

I often think of my old cosy cottage home  
The firelight flickering on the fender and the golden lamplight glow  
Dad studying his weekly 'John Bull Bulletin' while mum busily stitches away  
Is it really all that long while ago

Mum made good use of our old copper warming pan  
Filled with glowing coals she expertly warmed the sheets  
How comforting it was to feel that warmth  
Percolating around by cold little feet

The old grandfather clock by the kitchen wall  
Ticking the fleeting moments of solemn notes  
I love to watch dad's ritual on a Saturday night  
As he hauled up the heavily weighted ropes

Climbing the steps to the church tower with my dad and my brother  
To inspect all and renew a broken stay  
Meanwhile enjoying a perfect bird's eye view  
Of our lovely rolling countryside  
Was always for me a perfect day

I always knew when Christmas was drawing nearer  
When the weekly groceries became heavier and dearer  
With all those nice delectable things  
That only Christmas time could bring

I loved helping mum with mincemeat and puds  
Scattering those small silvery bright threepenny pieces  
One last big swish and then I made my wish  
Hoping and praying it would come true on Christmas day

Mum often made us special little treats which cost so little  
Her potato cakes were really nice  
Hot from the pan all golden brown  
Then topped with butter, they were gone in a trice

I was pleased when my mother gave me her box of embroidery silks  
For they were so much nicer than mine  
I had been given a pretty tablecloth to embroider  
And to work it with these would be just fine

All these are just simple things  
But all part of my happy childhood scene  
Now locked together in my happy childhood memories  
Always forever green.

*Peggy Holmes*

## The Village I Remember (Part II)

The previous instalment ended at the old Co-op, the village's major grocer. Further down Station Road, within a few yards of each other, would have been Ted Beeby's builder's, carpenter's, painting and decorating yard, then, on the opposite side of the road, the cobbler's shop and the bicycle repairer. In season, early in the morning, the distinctive sound of Jackie Martin's steam engine might be heard firing up before towing the threshing machine to a neighbouring farm and linking it up to the engine for a day's hard work.

At the bottom end of the road they would see what was once the village's largest employer, Hall's hosiery factory, an uncharacteristic building for a small village and now converted to apartments. Finally, alongside the old coal wharf which once stored coal, hauled from Moira for the village fires, would be the leisure boats and over the canal bridge the forlorn collection of buildings that used to be the engine sheds, workshops and ticket office of the busy railway station; the rails, trains and signal box long gone.

Returning from "Higham End" to High Street via the "top-town" they would see, at the bottom of the hill, a school playground where an old orchard once blossomed and bore fruit. Here, once a year, Mr Careless, a Baptist minister I think, but I thought of him as a missionary, would park his caravan, pitch his tent and put on enthralling, vividly-coloured lantern-slide shows of biblical scenes and stories, interspersed with the singing of children's hymns and sacred songs. One I remember to this day, although I have never heard it since and am unable to find it in "Hymns – Ancient and Modern," was "Build on the rock, the rock that ever stands; build on the rock and not upon the sands."

Mr Careless once asked my brother Bill to run up the hill to fetch him a jug of milk from Hall's farm (Park House). Mrs Hall asked who had sent him and Bill replied, innocently, "Mr Nuisance." "That's a peculiar name isn't it?" Mrs Hall remarked as she filled the jug. If Mr Careless were to park his gypsy caravan on the school playground, pitch his tent and put on his show today I think it might be just as great a hit with the children as it was in 1945 and I can hear them asking, "Please Miss, why can't we have lantern-slides instead of Powerpoint?"

Continuing down High Street, residential developments would now replace the old school playground and behind the "bottom school", now the Baxter Hall, a new school would have appeared on the site of the school gardens, their northern boundary once sheltered by an ancient buttressed wall and the eastern edge by an enormous weeping ash tree, its lower branches sweeping the ground.



They would search in vain for Skip's Hut and the "bottom hut" or skittle alley; Charlie Clifford's grocery-cum-general store and the leather factory which, for a few pence, sold "bags of scrap" to eke out the coal. Lower down, past Mulberry Farm, was the village bakery which on Good Friday mornings delivered oven-fresh hot cross buns from a purpose-built bicycle with an enormous container on the front.

Bob Quinney.

To be concluded next month.

### GILL SKELTON - A TRIBUTE

*"Attitude is a little thing that makes one big difference"*

For the ten years I lived next door to this indomitable lady, I kept trying to persuade her to let me include her in "The Stoker" as one of our memorable village personalities. "Good gracious - no of course not." Sadly we have lost her now (Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March) and I'm free to go ahead and pay tribute to my amazing next door neighbour. When I found my lovely 'sock factory' apartment in September 2007 with its views all the way to Higham and even further, I was curious as to whom I was going to inherit as my neighbour.



Gill and John - many years ago

"Oh Beth," I was told; "She's a retired member of the Salvation Army in her sixties, and she will do anything -for anyone - at any time." Well I thought – what a lovely bonus, and we can sit out on our small adjacent patios, in the evening as the sun sinks to the west sipping our ice cold white wine together. "Oh Beth – have you forgotten, members of the Salvation Army are teetotal" I had! I knew they were admirable in every crisis, wherever needs were felt long before our social services, and I was to learn over the next ten years how "attitude is a little thing that can make a big difference." Gill was far too young to accept the inevitable finality of her terminal illness, which she faced like everything else without complaining, there was never "Why me?" But it was her attitude in touching so many other folks' lives that was the final testimony to her last two weeks waiting for the end, here at home. John, her faithful friend and colleague for forty years from their days in the social services, tirelessly stayed with her, along with Pauline from Hinckley. Janet from college days at Keele, booked her ticket from Bury St Edmunds for an entire week to stay. There was Marie from house-sharing days, Jan who faithfully helped on the Salvation Army stall, and a non-stop chain of visitors and gifts of flowers, that any celebrity in our media-mad world would have expected. The sorely-pressed NHS got the hospital bed here in time, where Gill wanted to be, able to see our wonderful views, to the very end. There was the kindness of the carers, the McMillan nurses, along with all her loving friends and neighbours at "The Courtyard". You are happily with Your Lord now Gill. But I will sadly miss you my loving friend/neighbour.

*Beth*

## Fool on the Hill

## 9 out of 10 cats.....

You may recall some years ago there were a series of TV adverts for a cat food, containing pulped bunny, which boldly claimed that 9 out of 10 cats preferred it to any other form of kitty nosh known to mankind. I confess that I am no expert on the subject of felines, but I am aware that what a cat prefers this week is unlikely to be the same, or in any way similar, to what it will exhibit a preference for at any future date. I always felt that if this wondrous cat food was so desirable, why would the cat feel the need to go out at the earliest possible moment and consume a vole or two? Thing is, in those days there was no such thing as the Advertising Standards Agency so advertisers were able to get away with their ludicrous and, largely, unfounded assertions.

Today we have a set of rules which demand that the claims advertisers make, must be substantiated. The law dictates that in any advert where assertions are made about the percentage of people expressing a preference, the sample size must be included in the text. For reasons that will become obvious, these figures do not appear in large print. Next time that Geordie chanteuse who was married to the footballer comes on the telly claiming the 80% of women share her preference for whatever gunk she is rubbing into her hair, get a magnifying glass and have a look at the bottom of the screen. I believe the sample size was about 184 women. The 80% assertion hovers between being economical with the truth and outright deception. However, that little line of well concealed text means it is legal. Advertisers also have to issue warnings about the possible side effects of drugs. In the medium of radio these warnings are read out at machine gun pace, with no little degree of skill, so that the law is upheld but the message is lost in a tidal wave of sound. I heard one such rant on New Zealand radio. The advert was for a certain blue tablet much admired by the more mature man, I am told, and although this was read at breakneck speed, the words, sudden collapse, stroke and death were clearly audible.

So on these long winter evenings amuse yourself by scrutinising these little lines of text at the bottom of the adverts and see if you can pick the most outrageous one of the week. Perhaps we could have an online forum to pick a winner. It is probably as well to explain to your nearest and dearest what you are doing before you get to that point in time when she enters the room unexpectedly and finds you with your nose pressed up against the television screen. Especially if the advert in question involves some ladies who have not yet found the time to get properly dressed.

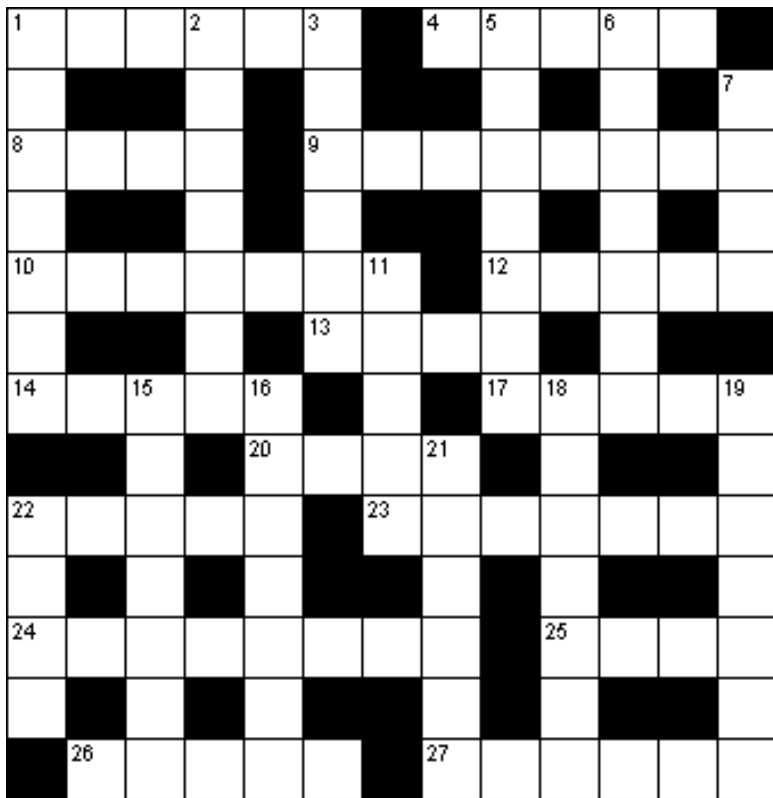
Important research will always involve sacrifices.

F.O.T.H.



# Crossword

## April Crossword



### Across

1. 13A & 23A & 24A are all types of these (6)
4. O.B.E. medal but what does 'O' stand for (5)
- 8 What a daffodil comes from (4)
- 9 This is when there is a 29<sup>th</sup> February (4-4)
- 10 This driver has to use 'L' plates (7)
- 12 bedroom clock (5)
- 13 Red gem stone (4)
- 14 Where the Derby is run (5)
- 17 A square has four of these (5)
- 20 What ends a prayer (4)
- 22 A monk (5)
- 23 A girl's best friend – gemstone (7)
- 24 And 1 D. Queen's 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her reign (8-7)
- 25 Part of finger or toe (4)
- 26 To buy and sell goods (5)
- 27 Gives way, submits or surrenders (6)

### Down

- 1 see 24 A
- 2 This prevents goods going into a country (7)
- 3 Precious metal (6)
- 5 Re-runs (7)
- 6 Green gemstone (7)
- 7 Bus that runs on rails (4)
- 11 The Queen has done this for 65 years (5)
- 15 Captain of a trawler (7)
- 16 Soldiers walked in step (7)
- 18 Vast or huge (7)
- 19 Leather seats on horses (7)
- 21 Queens age now (6)
- 22 Show excessive concern (4)

Answers on page 26



### GILL SKELTON

Gill passed away at home at The Courtyard in Stoke Golding on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2017. Her friends Janet and John were with her. Gill's wish was to end her life in the home she enjoyed so much for the last twenty years. The support of the local health services made this wish possible. Gill was a lifelong Salvationist, and in living out her Christian faith, touched the lives of the many people whose constant enquiries and visits would testify.

Gill's home town was Hinckley and she was educated at Hinckley Grammar School, before gaining her degree at Keele University. She then trained to be a Salvation Army Officer, and served in Braintree and Stoke Newington. Returning to Hinckley, she became a well-respected social worker.

Gill was very involved in the life of the village, being part of the after school club "Solid Rock", as well as supporting events at the Methodist church, and the flower festival at St Margaret's, along with organising the annual summer Garden Party in aid of Kenya's Children. She was also responsible for starting the Village Prayer Group which was a regular weekly evening meeting at her flat. She had a capacity for encouraging friends to help with her 'House to House' collections and serve on her Friday morning stall, for the Salvation Army's work in the local community. Christian Aid and Hinckley Street Pastors were two more of her local commitments which she shared with John, her close friend and colleague of many years. They enjoyed working together serving the Salvation Army in numerous ways, as well as travelling abroad to Gill's favourite holiday choices.

The committal at The Heart of England crematorium on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March was followed by a Thanksgiving Service for her life at the Hinckley Salvation Army Hall.

### EILEEN GORDON



Eileen sadly passed away under the care of Loros in Leicester on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2017 aged 77 years. She was the beloved wife of the late Frank, a much loved mother to Liz and Jo and loving grandmother to her grandchildren Julia, Sean, Garth, Emily, Joshua, and Lucy, and great grandmother to her great grandchildren Leah, Kyle and Ellis. She last worked in the village shop, then known as the Middle Stores in the early eighties and so, was well known to so many people in the village. Eileen has fought a courageous battle against cancer and her sunny disposition came through to her many friends and family as she never complained in her adversity. There were family flowers only at her funeral service with donations if so desired to Loros care of the funeral c/o Co-op Funeral Directors at Earl Shilton.



## OBITUARIES



### GEOFF COOKSEY



Geoff passed away at home on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2017 aged 70 years. He was the dearly beloved husband of Jean and a much loved father to Jason and Pete, father in law to Julia and Anna and a wonderful Grandie to Joe, Isabel and Sol.

During his working life he was self employed as a suspended ceiling fixer and had a number of hobbies including golf, TV quizzes, cooking and narrow boating but much of his spare time involved helping other people and in his children's younger days he could be seen hard at work helping

with school fetes, and other school functions. He was always to be found helping with Bonfire night barbeques and quizzes at the White Swan in aid of the village old folk and other charities. He was a member of Bosworth Round Table and helped out with their Christmas Sleigh in the guise of Santa.

Geoff has always supported the British Heart Foundation and Cancer Research Charities and because he suffered numerous bouts of serious heart problems in his later years he was keen to support them, and by running Charity Golf Days he managed to raise over the years a total of over £25,000 for those good causes. Knowing first hand how people can be affected after serious illness he was, for seven years, a mentor working for the NHS dealing with people who lacked the inspiration to carry on with their lives after being diagnosed with life changing health problems and it was Geoff's positive mental attitude that proved to be such a great help to so many people with whom he came into contact as a result of this work.

He maintained his fighting spirit throughout his life and despite a long battle with cancer, bravely fought over a number of years, he would always be found with a smile on his face.

Geoff was a marvellous father, and grandfather, a truly outgoing character and a wonderful friend to so many. He will be sorely missed by family and friends.

There were family flowers only at Geoff's funeral but donations if so desired may be sent by cheque for The British Heart Foundation and Cancer Research made payable to "Client Charity Donations Fund", c/o Sellars Funeral Directors, Upper Bond Street, Hinckley.

### ARTHUR EDWARD SHIRLEY

Arthur Edward Shirley passed away in the George Eliot Hospital on 2nd March 2017 aged 90 years.

### BRENDA BATES

Brenda who previously lived on Hinckley Road passed away peacefully on 19th February 2017 aged 92 years. She was the wife of the late Bryan Arthur Bates and a loving mother to Timothy, Andrew and Simon and a Nana to Jessica, Melissa, Rachel and Peter. Her funeral service was held at Stoke Golding Methodist Church.



### **KATHLEEN (KATHY) BARBER**

We are sad to report that Kathy Barber from Hinckley Road, Stoke Golding, died on Thursday 9th March. Her funeral service will be held at Nuneaton crematorium on 28th March at 2.15pm - family flowers only please. There will be a more detailed obituary in next month's Stoker.

### **Notes from Stoke Golding Parish Council March meeting (Draft)**

Borough Councillor Reg Ward reported on Morris Homes' application for one additional dwelling – the reconfiguration of the west side with a single access road created more space for another dwelling giving a total of 81 homes. HBBC has no information regarding the status of the field adjacent to the Morris Homes Development. There was no possibility of using the current road to access the next field as, if developed, this site could be accessed from the road.

#### *Matters arising from February's meeting:*

Crime Report for December 2016 – 1 vehicle crime near Pine Close – investigation complete, no suspect identified.

Grave memorial repairs – Phase 1 is now complete.

Jitty gates have been renovated.

#### *Reports of Councillors:*

Cllr Pegg reported on tree work at Wykin Lane Cemetery and suggested nesting boxes should be considered. Clerk to ask the Charity of Thomas Barton if they would fund them.

#### *Planning Application Matters:*

##### *New Applications:*

Land off Hinckley Road – erection of one new dwelling and detached double garage. (See Borough Cllr Ward's report above). Stoke Golding Parish Council objects to this application. The village has already met its housing requirement of 60 homes. The Parish Council acknowledges the need for some developers to alter original plans to accommodate market conditions, however the Parish Council remains concerned regarding the gradual increase in the number of homes being agreed on this development. The original application was for 75 homes and if this application is agreed it will increase to 81 homes. The Parish Council also has concerns about how these continued increases in homes can be sustained by the village and its current facilities and services.

##### *Amended:*

Land off Hinckley Road – variation of planning to amend siting of plots 49 -71 with associated substitution of house types.

##### *Permission approved:*

Land off Hinckley Road – erection of one new dwelling and detached double garage.  
Stoke Lodge, Hinckley Road – variation of planning permission to increase the footprint and amend the design of approved extension.

##### *Request for use of football pitches and cricket field, and approval of fees*

All clubs have confirmed their intention to use facilities in the 2017/18 season.



It was unanimously agreed that from the commencement of the 2017/18 season the PC will cease to use the HBBC fee structure and will charge all clubs for the actual cost to the PC for the services they use.

It was agreed to allow cricket covers, on condition that signed terms and conditions and confirmation of insurance is received and all liability rests with the Cricket Club.

*Appointment of one trustee of the Mistress Hester Hodges Exhibition Foundation to commence 1<sup>st</sup> April*

The P C thanked Jean Buckby for her services and re-appointed her for a further term of four years.

#### *Neighbourhood Plan*

A revised and final draft questionnaire was circulated to all Councillors and changes were discussed thoroughly. SurveyMonkey, traffic and disability issues were also discussed. Cllr Terheege thanked Jim Hope and members of the advisory committee for their work on the questionnaire.

It was agreed to proceed with printing of the questionnaires with Cprint, at a cost of up to £1,000.

#### *Replacement Christmas tree and ground maintenance issues around bungalows*

All residents in the bungalows on Wykin Lane have been consulted and are happy to have a tree planted. The favoured species is a Sorbus commixta Embley (rowan), which will cost approximately £180 plus cost of planting. Residents' ground maintenance concerns were discussed. It was agreed to proceed with an application to HBBC for permission to plant a tree and to proceed with an application to the Charity of Thomas Barton for funding. It was also agreed to forward ground maintenance concerns to HBBC.

#### *Benches – at the rec and by the canal:*

The Charity of Thomas Barton will consider funding at their next meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

#### *Village sign:*

Information and prices from a local artist were considered. The clerk will forward the information and prices to the Charity of Thomas Barton for consideration.

#### *Proposed BT installation:*

Information from Harlequin was discussed. The PC has received concerns from a resident whose property is adjacent to the proposed mast. The PC has some concerns regarding the height of the proposed mast and access to the site during and post installation and the potential for damage to the roads. The application will be considered by the PC and comments made through the usual planning process.

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

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

1. Panorama
2. Magical Mystery Tour
3. Fish (The French call the day Poisson d'Avril – April Fish)
4. Dostoyevsky
5. His Money
6. As You Like It
7. Virgins
8. You
9. Winston Churchill
10. Peckham

## Trying to Make Friends

I am not a user of Facebook but am trying to make friends by applying the same principles.

Everyday I walk down the street and tell passers by what I have eaten, how I feel, what I did the night before, what I will do later and with whom.

I give them pictures of my family, my dog, and of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch and doing what anybody and everybody does every day.

I also listen to their conversations, give them the “thumbs up” and tell them I like them.

And it works like Facebook.

I already have four people following me: two police officers, a private investigator, and a psychiatrist!



This is sadly not my own work but something I came across (unattributed) in a *benefice* magazine for the benefice of Shepshed and Oaks in Charnwood

*Annette Smith, Dadlington*

### CROSSWORD ANSWERS *(from page 21)*

ACROSS 1 Jewels; 4 Order; 8 Bulb; 9 Leap year; 10 Learner; 12 Alarm; 13 Ruby; 14 Epsom; 17 Sides; 20 Amen; 22 Friar; 23 Diamond; 24 & 1D Sapphire Jubilee; 25 nail; 26 Trade; 27 Yields

DOWN 1 see 24A; 2 Embargo; 3 Silver; 5 Replays; 6 Emeralds; 7 Tram; 11 Ruled; 15 Skipper; 16 Marched; 18 immense; 19 Saddles; 21 Ninety; 22 Fuss

\*\*\*\*\*

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\*\*\*\*\*

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