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July/August '16

No. 153

The Stoker



Stoke Golding Village Magazine
Including
Dadlington Matters

50p



Note from the Editors

We were delighted to receive the letter on **page 9** praising the Stoker. It is lovely to hear such positive comments about the magazine and makes it seem even more worthwhile for our production team and contributors. We are always happy to have feedback - positive or negative - as we want the Stoker to continue to be a

magazine for the whole community in Stoke Golding and Dadlington for many years to come.

The Queen is in our news this month, both with her 90th birthday celebration Picnic on the Green in Dadlington and David and Beryl Riddington's outing to a garden party at Buckingham Palace. We're not sure we spotted her on any of the photos though - or was that Her Majesty taking part in the tug of war?!

There are, as usual lots of events for you to support including St Margaret's Flower Festival, a Photo Treasure Hunt and a Tea and Cakes afternoon. We have our fingers crossed the rain will have stopped and we get some sunshine.

Don't forget this is a combined issue so the next one will be September! Where is the year going to?

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 **Sept 2016** issue of The Stoker by **15th Aug** to:
The Editors, 45 Station Road, Stoke Golding
or 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.

Cover picture: A Beetroot watercolour, painted by Peter Zelenczuk

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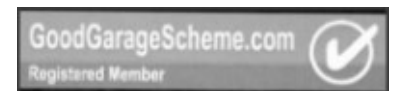
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THE ARCHDEACON'S COURT.

Never heard of it ? Well the people of the 1600's certainly wish there had been no such thing. We complain these days about minor petty offences being prosecuted, the selling of bananas by way of lbs and ozs, and not metric for one. The EU tell us bananas, and cucumbers must be straight and not curved !!

But back to 1600.

The part played by this Church run court in the days after the reformation were severe, stern and far reaching, and they could fine, admonish, impose lesser excommunication, which was to cut off participation in public worship and the sacraments, which was of course one step from hell fire, and physically punish offenders. Not a bad thing I hear many of you say, and I agree. But, remember that these punishments were for much more minor infringements of the law than we are thinking of.

Everyone over 16 years of age had to attend his own parish church on a Sunday and absence rendered him liable to a fine of x20 a month. That in 1600 was more than many men earned in a lifetime. Those who went to another church fell foul of this law. Every conceivable offence or trespass that man could commit was minutely regulated especially on the Sabbath.

Physical punishment could consist of flogging with rods or fustigation as it was called. Records show a woman taken from Leicester jail to Ibstock where for the theft of some wheat, the court ordered that she be "stripped to the middle by the constable of the town and soundly whipped on Friday next." Informers were always about and gossip was acted upon very quickly. The courts were originally established for 'the good of the soul' but in the Tudor and Stuart times they became little more than a system of state inquisition. However, all was not lost. For, if the accused took an oath of innocence and could find the required number of 'compurgators' or oath helpers, who, by oath would swear that the accused was innocent then he would become a free man and the charge would be dismissed. But of course swearing on the bible in those days held a much more severe threat of damnation than it has today.

The Archdeacon's records of the day are full of detail of those in Stoke convicted or charged before the court. Consider if you will:-

- 1529 Margery Cokkes is pregnant and blames the vicar of Whetstone!!
- 1592 Elizabeth Jobber married without publishing banns.
- 1597 Amias Abell is suspected of fornication with Ann Carte, (rumour)
- 1599 Thomas Kerby absent from church for a month.
- 1599 Amyas Mabell (perhaps the same as Amias Abell) money lending.
- 1616 Mary Berry going to Higham church to hear a sermon when there was not one at Stoke.
- 1617 Edward Whetstone for failing to prove a will as executor.
- 1618 Edward Heywood for attempting the chastity of the wife of John Bond.
- 1620 Edward Wheston and Robert Dafferne for "playinge att cardes upon a sabboathe daye about July last".

The punishments make even more interesting reading. "Hooraye saye I, brynge backe ye byrche".

Dennis Cash

David & Beryl Riddington at a Buckingham Palace Garden Party



David and Beryl Riddington, were invited to a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on 26th May by the 'Not Forgotten Association' - a tri-service charity founded in 1920. representing the Suez Canal, Egypt, Veterans Association of Leicestershire & Warwickshire.

In attendance were Prince Andrew, Princess Beatrice and Princess Eugenie. David and Beryl told us that they had a most wonderful day.

Stoker Subscriptions for 2016 -17

Subscriptions will be collected during July and August. We are keeping the cost at £5 for the year (10 copies) and this includes free delivery as usual.

Please have your £5 ready as this makes it much easier for our subs collection team.

If you would like to have the Stoker delivered free and are not on our list please contact Rosemary Collier and let her know.
Tel: 212597 or
email:rosebud.coll@btinternet.com

Good news on the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan

After a quiet couple of months, there has been some significant progress on developing a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) for Stoke Golding. Since the last public meeting which was held on 18th May, the plan's Advisory Committee has been working hard behind the scenes on a number of priorities.

Most significantly, the designated geographical area that the NP will cover was legally approved by the Borough Council in mid-June. A map of the approved area will be available to view on the village website www.stokegolding.co.uk/np/news

After presentations from three different consultants to support in the production of the plan, the Committee and residents voted for Kirkwells and this was accepted by the Parish Council. Work can begin with Kirkwells once a grant is obtained and before any expenditure is incurred.

The last public meeting also included a talk from Richard Mugglestone on behalf of the Borough Council who will be working with the Advisory Committee on a questionnaire to find out what type of housing residents think will be needed for our area.

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday 20th July, at 7pm in The Methodist Hall**, so look out for another update in the September edition of The Stoker.

Ella Orr

Joy Hirons retains her Irish Open titles

England International Skeet shooter, Joy Hirons from Church Walks has just returned from another successful raid on Irish soil, by retaining her Ulster Open title and Irish Open title for the second year running.

She travelled across the Irish Sea to Northern Ireland to tackle the tricky targets at The Route Gun Club in Ballymoney, County Antrim, where although slightly down on her usual form did enough to retain the Ulster Open title that she won last year.

The following day Joy travelled across the border to Milford in County Donegal in the Republic of Ireland to compete in the Irish Open, where her form returned and she won the Irish Open title also for the second year running.

Joy will now return to the training ground and work hard on her technique ready for the English Open and hopefully win her third England Cap at the selections next month - Rob Hirons



St Martin's Catholic Academy visit Pembroke College Cambridge

On Wednesday, 4th May, ten students spent an inspiring, artistic day in Cambridge, courtesy of Emma at Pembroke College. At Saint Martin's, we want all pupils to leave us with the qualifications and qualities that will enable them to secure the highest-quality next step: a high quality apprenticeship, or a place at a Russell Group university – the country's best – including Oxford and Cambridge. The aim of the visit was to show students what dogged hard work, learning Knowledge Organiser information and practice at school could lead to. It was a third opportunity this year for Year 9s/10s to receive an introduction to the idea of Higher Education and the University of Cambridge. They were able to meet and mingle with current students, and to hear what it is like to be a student at Pembroke College. They enjoyed the College tour which allowed them to see the facilities and grounds, and enjoyed a delicious lunch, hosted by Pembroke, too.

Each visit, students are provided with the opportunity to visit a teaching collection. This time the group toured The Fitzwilliam: the University's art and antiquities museum. Guided by Art expert, Felicity, they analysed Mediaeval and Impressionist art- originals, embossed onto gold-leaf, like a master, and contributed expertly to the intellectual discussion about painters' techniques. With over half a million incredible artworks in its collection, the Museum is one of the most impressive regional museums in Europe! - *Julie Lowry*



Environmental Improvement Programme – grave repairs: Ray Tunks will identify the graves which have no families to attend.

Convent Site Community Land

Cllrs Pegg and Goodsell and David Goodsell have met and identified the work that still needs to be carried out on the community land by the developer. It was established that the ground level is too high and concerns were raised about the safety of the balancing pond. A report has been submitted to Mar City and the time limits of the proposed lease agreement have also been discussed.

Recreation ground car park - extension

The Village Hall Management Committee will discuss this at their next meeting. Cllr Pegg noted that grants will be available towards this project as part of the pavilion project. The edges of the existing car park were also discussed and he confirmed that this could be included in any quotes for the overflow car park.

Communications received by the Chairman of the Council *Written*

Convent Drive – Clerk to forward concerns of a resident to Head of St Martin's Academy, LCC Highways and Cty Cllr Ivan Ould, and will reply to resident.

Air Ambulance textile recycling bank – agreed on a temporary basis of twelve months due to concerns regarding potential loss of car parking space.

Verbal

Resident of Bennett Close has reported brambles/nettles in Hinckley Road Cemetery. Cllr Pegg to assess.

Any Other Business

Cllr Beale proposed the idea of brick built barbecues at the rec. A picnic at the rec has been provisionally arranged for 5th August.

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

OBITUARIES



We send our sincere condolences to the families and friends of Christopher and Ray



CHRISTOPHER KOZLOWSKI

Christopher of Stoke Golding passed away peacefully at his home on 6th June 2016 aged 81 years. He was the beloved husband of the late Mary, brother to Christine and step father to Martyn and Terry. The funeral service took place at the Heart of England Crematorium on 23rd June. There were family flowers only but donations can be made if desired to R.N.L.I. through funeral directors G. Sellar and Co Ltd of Upper Bond Street, Hinckley.

RAYMOND MALCOLM LOCKLEY (RAY)

Ray of Dadlington, passed away peacefully in the George Eliot Hospital, Nuneaton after a long illness on 9th June 2016 aged 87 years. He was the beloved husband of Joan and a much loved dad to Rosalyn and Janette, and a wonderful grandad to Rebecca, Charlotte and Emma.

Notes from Stoke Golding Parish Council Meeting – June (not ratified)

Matters arising from May's Meeting

Crime figures - one burglary near St Margaret's Road, still under investigation.

Wykin Lane pot holes – the highways inspector has arranged for works to repair over-riding and to complete small patch repairs to carriageway.

Soil mound at rec – has now been removed.

Reports of Council Representatives

Cllr Pegg reported that emergency work at the pavilion to replace the damaged ceiling, and emergency repairs to shower area and drainage had been priced at £634.00. It was agreed this work should be completed as soon as possible.

Planning Application Matters

New Applications: Trinity House, 16 Main St – two storey side and rear extension.

Permissions granted: Tithe Farm, 12 Wykin Lane – erection of barn.

88 Sherwood Rd – rebuilding of detached garage.

Co-opting of a Parish Councillor: It was unanimously agreed that Nicola Smith be co-opted on to the Parish Council and she was welcomed by Cllr Terheege.

Neighbourhood Plan

The minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee meeting held on the 18th May were circulated to all Councillors. It was resolved that Kirkwells should be appointed to advise in the development of the neighbourhood plan. Cllr Mitchell will claim the Government neighbourhood plan grant on behalf of the Parish Council, and he also reported that the boundary should be agreed by 16th June.

The Housing Needs Survey was discussed. It was agreed that the survey should be conducted as soon as possible and noted that it could incorporate questions relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan. The proposed survey and cover letter will be considered by the Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee (NPAC), who will liaise with Kirkwells and HBBC planning officers. It will then be approved by the Parish Council to ensure appropriate wording before the survey is sent out to residents.

The Growth Workshop, looking at potential growth and development in the area from 2026 onwards, was discussed. The NPAC would be advised of the chosen time slot for regional allocation once it had been agreed.

Sport in Stoke Golding

Cllr Pegg met with Graham Chilvers of LRS at HBBC to discuss plans for the pavilion and for drainage improvements to the recreation field. Graham will look at the development plans submitted by the sports clubs to ensure they meet the requirements for funding. He has also provided a proposed constitution for the Sport in Stoke Golding (SISG) committee. Once the committee is set up an application can be made to Pro-help for architect's advice and the services of a quantity surveyor.

Play equipment

The table tennis table will need a concrete base at an additional cost of £895. The Christmas Sleigh donation can be used towards this project and the remainder is to be claimed from 106 monies. It was agreed that the company should be asked to survey the area to insure installation is possible and also check necessary insurance is in place.

Dog waste collection

The new contract with HBBC was approved at a quarterly cost of £384.80.

Wykin Lane Cemetery – gravel additions to graves

Cllr Pegg reported that two graves at Wykin Lane cemetery have gravel/pebbles borders around the headstones. This presents a health and safety hazard during mowing and strimming. The clerk will contact families to ask for them to be removed.

Stars on our Roads

It's not every day that villagers have an opportunity to see a host of international sporting stars, World and National Champions and Olympic medallists and hopefuls with the Rio Games only weeks away. This was the case on 16th June when the Aviva Women's Cycling Tour came to nearby Atherstone with the start of Stage 2 which eventually finished in Stratford on Avon via the Cotswolds.



With the worlds top ten women's teams in the 16 team field which also included Britain's finest cyclists, there was a chance to see Britain's World Champion Lizzie Armistead, Olympic Gold medallist Marianne Vos and Commonwealth Time Trialist Emma Pooley amongst other top names. Danni King, another gold medallist at London 2012, was also riding, who villagers may remember visited St Margaret's School to promote cycling and proved a huge hit with the pupils a couple of years ago.

When we watch the Olympic Games on TV in August those of us who were in Atherstone can say we saw all these stars on our local roads.

Bernie Lamb

Tracing the Descendants

During World War II, volunteers from the Stoke Golding area manned the observation post that lies off Wykin Lane in Stoke Golding. Terry Bottrill, who has renovated the tower, is keen to trace any descendants of those who served. If you are one of them, know of any of their whereabouts, or can identify anyone on the photograph, then please contact Terry at botch24@gmail.com



These are the men Terry is keen to find out about:

E. (Ernie) H. Bradbury, S. Burchnall, F. (Fred) Hill, B. J. Ryley, J. N. Wardle, R. Dilke, Fred Clayton, Alf Faulks, Bert Hill, Harry Hill, Ernie Hunter, Reg Jones, Tom Jordan, Jack Merrick, Ralph Palmer, Bernard 'Barny' Riley, Colin Smith, Harry 'Skip' Stoneley, Stan Taylor, George Tims.

Stoke Golding website: www.stokegolding.co.uk

BETH'S CORNER

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Stoke Golding is packed with so many diverse and highly creative folk that I am lucky enough to meet each month. Peter is a perfect example. We've been trying to get together for a number of weeks, but he has been on an extremely important project for his latest client, transforming her enormous garden into a showpiece to delight the senses, (I've seen the pictures). Finally he's here, and I'm swept away for a full two hours with his enthusiasm for his craft. *"But where does it all begin Peter?"*

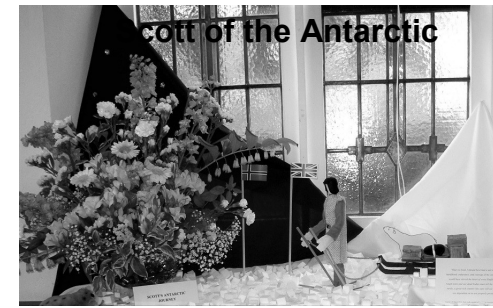
"I was born and spent my early childhood in the centre of Leicester – right next to the wonderful Leicester football ground." I soon discover this is another passion

of his, and I find myself sharing my delight and wonder at Leicester's amazing recent leap to stardom with him. His early years are spent in a small terrace house with *no* garden at all. Then, the family decides to move to somewhere larger – with a garden, and the entrepreneurial skills of young Peter are sown. His Ukrainian father came from the beautiful Carpathian Mountains with a natural love for the land and farming. Maybe it was from him Peter discovers his gift for 'growing things'. He grins and tells me how he grew vegetables in this new garden, becoming a regular supplier of flowers and vegetables at the corner shop. The entrepreneur was born and develops during school days in Desford. Peter's talents are again sparked off by the suggestion of becoming a silversmith, and he starts selling his jewellery to all the attractive sixth-form students. After his A levels, he hits that spot, of feeling fed up, and not sure what to do next. An unusually perceptive teacher suggests he takes a degree in Architectural Landscape Design. *"I didn't have a clue what he was talking about, but he told me to find out about it and then write an essay for him. I've still got it."* In the 1970's he begins a Foundation in Design at de Montfort, followed up at London's Greenwich University in 'Landscape and Architecture', and finally a post-graduate in the same subject. A strange coincidence has him applying for a job – well out of his experience at that time - at Michael Hyde & Associates in Manchester. That confident personality wins him the job. Now he finds himself working for all the great and the good, mostly in corporate projects, large housing schemes, with local authorities. After a couple of years, he decides to set up on his own, and his outgoing personality, along with his ethos of hard-work, brings him clients from Granada television, leaders of Manchester's football world, as well as local politicians. Finally, not only was he working all hours, but his popularity means that his clients want him to socialise with them as well. Undeniably, Peter admits, it's entirely his fault that home life suffered to the extent of a complete break. The time has come for a new direction. This brings him, through a life-long friend, to Stoke Golding, and making completely new business contacts in and around the area.

His two grown up children, son Oliver, now 27, is very successfully managing a catering firm "Canteen" in Canary Wharf, and Sally 23 is in the middle of her Fine Arts Degree. He also has two stepsons from his wife Jan. They met in 2000, and were married at St. Margaret's in 2010, and live in that beautiful cottage in the village,

PETER ZELENCZUK

Methodist Church FLOWER FESTIVAL "INSPIRING JOURNEYS"

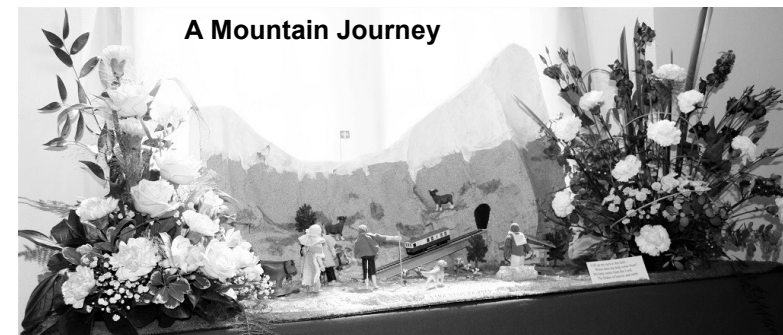


I would like to thank all the people who supported our recent Flower Festival and not least the people who came along to help. We raised £2,107 for church funds.

Margaret Lomax



Parting of the Red Sea



A Mountain Journey

Stoke Golding Scout Group

Summer has arrived for the Scout Group with loads of outdoor activities. The



Beavers have been busy finishing off their Adventure Challenge and My World challenge badges. They have been having a teddy bear picnic with homemade sandwiches. They also undertook some great cycle manoeuvres in the car park under the guidance of John Shilladay as well as a safety briefing on the benefits of helmets and high vis kit.

The Cubs have completed their fire safety badge including learning about fire safety, lighting candles safely and playing a

blind fold game obstacle course to reproduce how difficult it might be to get out of a burning house in the dark. They have also been working on their outdoor challenge badge which took place at Foxes Covert with setting fire to things, cooking with **Trangia , assault course and other activities.

The Cubs have also completed their athletics badge outside despite the inclement weather.



The weekend of the 18/19th June, 24 cubs and leaders are camping at Kirby Mallory and joining other Cubs from the county for the 100 years of Cubs Birthday Camp.

The Scouts have also been out and about with hikes, bike rides and chips round Shenton, news paper fashion and also Trangia cooking.

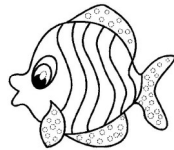
So the theme as we come to the end of the summer is term is outdoor fun and food!!!!

Jennifer Michie

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opposite The George & Dragon. Sadly, he lost his much loved Dad back in February, *“my best mate, a brilliant bloke. Mum still has her hair done with Tammy and joins us for Sunday lunches in The George.”* While Peter rattles along hardly stopping for breath, talking about his latest creative ‘buzz’ - working alongside Tom Hare, our award winning Willow Weaver, I have been scribbling down the many times he praises friends and colleagues alike; *“technically he’s fantastic”* and *“a brilliant bloke.”* He is a breath of fresh air in these negative days and may commissions come rolling in, here in Stoke Golding, and for many miles around. Our two hours have been a delight. *Beth*

Ten of a Kind

The Stoker for July and August is a double edition, so the questions are all about doubles. How many can you answer?

1. Which two players played in the doubles match in Great Britain’s Davis Cup win over Belgium in 2015?
2. What shape are the strands of molecules in DNA ?
3. Who defected to the Soviet Union in 1963 after being exposed as an MI6 double agent, working for the KGB?
4. What name is given to a word or phrase which has two meanings, one of which is usually of a risqué nature?
5. Old Routemasters still run on routes 9 and 15. What are they?
6. Who hosted the ITV game show Double Your Money?
7. You cannot park on double yellow lines, but are you permitted to wait on them?
8. Which comedy double act met when training as teachers and had ten London Weekend TV series plus a spin off based on their two Ron characters?
9. Six of the seven teams that have won the league/Premier League and FA Cup double spent last season in the Premier League. Which team didn’t?
10. How many strings does a double bass have?

Answers on page 16

Useful Village Websites

Welcome to Stoke Golding
www.stokegolding.co.uk/

Stoke Golding & Dadlington Cooperative
virtualbriefcase.org.uk/coop/default.asp

Stoke Golding Village Hall
<https://stokegoldingvillagehall.wordpress.com/>

Dadlington Village History
<http://dadlington-history.myfreesites.net/>

Stoker copy deadline for September 2016 is 15th August

Send to Jane White
janewhitesg@gmail.com



Strictly for the birds

Theseus and the Minatour, St George and the Dragon, Captain Nemo and the Giant Squid, the Fool and the Dunnock. Let me explain.

I confess to more than a passing interest in matters ornithological and the presence of birds in our little world is a source of great joy. However, we have recently been visited by a Dunnock exhibiting behaviour that is eccentric to say the least. It would appear that it has got itself romantically involved with our Toyota. It will spend many hours a day perched precariously on the side windows or wing mirror where it can obviously see its own reflection. It may be that it assumes the reflection is a potential mate or it could be an extreme case of avian narcissism. Whatever the reason, and I will put this as delicately as I can, it causes the little fellow to lose control of his bowels. This was having a detrimental effect on the paintwork of our car so action was required to point out the error of his ways.

The problem was offered up to the pub forum who concluded that a twelve bore shotgun would have the desired effect. Whilst this was undoubtedly true, I had no intention of becoming number one on the RSPB most wanted list. Furthermore the collateral damage to the car would far exceed anything that could be achieved with any quantity of Dunnock guano.

We do not own a cat but many of our near neighbours do and I did consider putting out a contract on the little bird for a year's supply of Kittylot. Arranging the legal side of this with a cat could have been a stumbling block. One kind neighbour offered the loan of a cat that would be quite happy to sit in the car and frighten the bejesus out of the little miscreant when it appeared. It would have been worth it to see the look on its face, but the shock may well have killed it or induced a bowel movement of such magnitude as to strip the paint from the entire side of the car. Should the Dunnock have chosen this day to go elsewhere, one could only imagine what a bored cat might have done to the upholstery of the car.

The solution was provided by the Concordia pantomime. During the finale of this admirable show, ribbons of gold tape were fired into the audience. Mrs Fool garnered this rich harvest for purposes unknown but when trapped in the side windows of the car, they are a 100% effective Dunnock deflector, even though they give to the car the appearance of having featured in an Asian wedding. Self-satisfaction and triumphalism abounded.

Until Mrs Fool pointed out that, the time that I had spent in trying to outwit something with the intelligence of a toaster, might have been better employed on tackling the burgeoning list of domestic chores that she had carefully prepared.

Point taken

F O T H



Well done to the Club's teams that entered into Market Bosworth FC's Battle of Bosworth annual tournament weekend, on Saturday 11th June the U11's entered two teams, making a total of eleven teams in their age group, one achieved fifth place and the other achieving runners-up in the final!



The U9's also really enjoyed the well organised event, despite some of the boys' batteries running a little low, having stayed out late the night before at the Liberal Club celebrating their year's hard work and achievements.



The U10's had high expectations on the Sunday after last year's near triumph and hoped history would not repeat itself with another agonizing wonder goal sailing past Stokes near invincible keeper in the dying minutes of the final.

Again they won their group stage, with some superb goals, decisive defending and the ultimate desire to win. The Stoke coaches were then under tremendous pressure advancing into the semi finals; before the game had even commenced. The opposition had made their confidence

blatantly clear, that they were going to progress into the final by brushing Stoke aside. However this was not to be, as the cagey affair was settled by one Stoke ingenious counter attack guiding the ball past the oppositions' gobsmacked keeper. Stokes manager assertively went over and shook the oppositions' managers begrudging hand. History had repeated itself but could they go all the way. No was the answer to that. Two well worked goals by Stokes opposition in the final game saw the title slip away from there clutches cruelly at the end. Stoke played as a team the whole day and were well deserved runners-up, but of course there is always next year, third time lucky boys. :-)



Players & Goalkeeper wanted!
Friendly Under 9's team, starting school year 5 in September.

Contact Pete Hill – 07824 836747
peterhill1710@gmail.com

AN EVENING WITH AGATHA CHRISTIE—Stoke Golding W.I.

John Martin joined the ladies of the Stoke Golding W.I to give them an insight into Agatha Christie's life, the popular authoress. Over her life time she had one billion books published, plus radio programs and plays, the most notable of which was 'The Mouse Trap' which up until 2015 had been staged 25000 times. It was a fascinating account of a little girl of 3 who loved reading to a writer of crime fiction that gave many people books that they could enjoy reading.

She travelled to many countries which gave her the basis for a number of her books and it was while she was recovering from Spanish Flu during WW1 that she began to write and eventually published her first book, 'The Mysterious Affair At Styles' in which she introduced Hercule Poirot who was based on Belgium refugees whom she saw in Devon. Many more followed, such as 'The Murder of Roger Ackroyd', 'Murder on The Nile', 'Murder On The Orient Express' etc. introducing ways of writing crime novels that had never been used before such as the unbelievable narrator, multiple murders, locked room murders and even child murders and also one of her most famous creations Miss Jane Marples, a lady detective, never known in crime fiction as men detectives had always been the norm.

Her books became well-loved and well-read and many films and TV programs were made of them with great actors and actresses taking on roles. She even wrote two books to be published after her death which also would show the conclusion of Hercule Poirot and Miss Marples careers and lives, these being Curtain: Poirots Last Case and Sleeping Murder.

All in all a very interesting talk and in conclusion Mr Martin told us his favourite book, the actors he considered portrayed the roll of Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple the best and his own choice of the modern day author that he felt had taken over the mantle of Agatha Christie.

Come and join us on 13th July at the Methodist Hall when a speaker from Greenacres will be talking about the summer garden and planting pots for display. You will be very welcome.

Val Hartwell

CASAG news

The health promotion for last month was osteoporosis and this month is diabetes.



Osteoporosis poster

Both conditions affect a large percentage of the population and are increasing as we get older and live longer.

Advice and contacts are available on the posters in the surgery, so have a look the next time your in. CASAG are also fund raising for a defibrillator for the surgery.



Diabetes poster

Local charities have been contacted and so far Stoke Fest Committee have pledged monies. St Margaret 's primary school are also supporting us financially toward this valuable and life saving piece of equipment. If any individual has ideas for fund raising or wishes to donate monies please contact Alison Ellis, Practice Manager at Castle Mead surgery.—*Jennifer Michie*

Adult Learners' Week – Stoke Golding

The Festival of Learning (previously known as Adult Learners' Week) is a national celebration of lifelong learning, with 'Have a Go' learning events taking place during May and June.

For the last 4 years, many of us in Stoke Golding and Dadlington have enjoyed a very wide range of activities organised by a small team of local volunteers. This year the team decided to take a break so that they can come back stronger in 2017 – watch this space.

We would like to thank all of the leaders, learners and sponsors who have supported this initiative thus far and hope to see you all next year.

Jane, Jennifer, Ella, Doreen & Steve

Letter received by The Stoker

We send congratulations to all involved in producing the "Stoker". June 2016 will be, for me, the best ever edition. The amount of information - the funny and interesting articles. All in all an informative and entertaining read. Thank you all and congratulations!!!!

Name & address supplied

Tomlinson's Farm Shop - Summer is Here!!

Try our ever popular BBQ Packs:

Feed 4 for £10.50

8 beef burgers
6 pork sausages
4 pieces of free range chicken (plain or marinated)

All using our own home reared Dexter Beef, rare breed pork and dry plucked free range Chickens.



*** WE ALSO STOCK AN EXCELLENT RANGE OF PLANTS, INCLUDING BEDDING, POTS, HANGING BASKETS AND VEGETABLE PLANTS

Full range of home produced meat, fresh salads and vegetables, milk, cheese and Connors Bakery bread. Our own free range eggs £2.50/ dozen

Opening hours Tues-Fri 9am-6pm, Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 10am-3pm Phone orders welcomed and local delivery available 01455 212199

Tomlinson's Farm Shop, Station Road, Stoke Golding

Dadlington Matters



Dadlington Picnic on the Green for The Queen's 90th Birthday – on Sunday 22nd May villagers and guests gathered to celebrate with picnics, games, tea, cakes and ice creams. The Queen Elizabeth Bar quenched many thirsts, the girls beat the boys at tug o' war, but the boys got their revenge by pulling all the dads over!



The sun shone all afternoon on bunting, flags and patriotic red, white and blue outfits. We are now looking for another excuse for a Family Picnic on the Green – and thanks to all the families that made this one such a success!
Simon Rees-Jones

minster's furniture. Of all the cathedrals we would visit, this was the most familiar to me, as I had sung in it as a choirboy. I even had the opportunity to audition for the choir school, but decided I preferred the comfort of my own home to boarding at school.

The final cathedral of the year was Hereford. We'd spent most of the day touring secondhand bookshops in Hay on Wye and, having filled the car with lots of bargains, most of which we'd probably never read, we set off on our return journey, taking a detour to pull in the cathedral. This meant we arrived quite late and the cathedral's key treasure, the Mappa Mundi, was locked away in the now closed museum. The map is one of the earliest in existence, dating from the 13th century. They've also got a 1271 Magna Carta but that was also out of bounds in the museum. All that was left was to have a quick whizz around the cathedral followed by a long journey home having now visited 13 of our cathedrals.

Michael Dix

The Reality Youth Bus
IS HEADING YOUR WAY

ALWAYS FREE ENTRY

PS4 // XBOX ONE // DJ DECKS
NAIL ART // KARAOKE // LAPTOPS // GAMES

AGES 11-19

THURSDAYS 4.30-6pm

STOKE GOLDING Village Hall Car Park (end of Hall Drive) APRIL 28th MAY 12th & 26th JUNE 16th & 30th JULY 14th	HIGHAM ON-THE-HILL The Oddfellows Arms (rear Car Park, Main St) APRIL 21st MAY 5th & 19th JUNE 9th & 23rd JULY 7th
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Sessions funded & organised by Hinckley Methodist Circuit | Run in partnership with Reality | For more info call or text Chris (local Youth Worker) 07785 37 40 40 | facebook.com/RealityBus

CROSSWORD ANSWERS (from page 13)

ACROSS 1 Serena; 4 Court; 8 Need; 9 Davis Cup; 10 Located; 12 Treen; 13 Were; 14 Sides; 17 DMSSB;
20 Each 22 Bluer; 23 Eats all; 24 Williams; 25 Serb; 26 Usher; 27 Murray

DOWN 1 Singles; 2 End game; 3 Andrew; 5 Omitted; 6 Rackets; 7 Spin; 11 Deuce; 15 Doubles; 16 Service; 18 Misuser; 19 Ball boy; 21 Hansom; 22 Bows.

A Cathedral Journey – Part 3: A Mixed Bag of Six

Having visited seven cathedrals with my friend Andrew in the two years since we'd embarked on our quest, we polished off another six during the course of 1996. Our first destination was London, the home to two cathedrals and a Royal Peculiar. Westminster Abbey was the Royal Peculiar, a church outside the jurisdiction of the local bishop and archdeacon. Being royal, it is the Queen who holds the power both here and in several other churches and chapels in our nation's capital cities. I had visited the abbey on many previous occasions, always standing by the west doors, imaging the scenes as Henry VIII, Elizabeth or any of the other king and queens who'd been crowned there, would pass through in all their pomp and glory. Recently I discovered they actually used to enter by the north door.

We decided to save St Paul's for another day and set off instead for Southwark cathedral. This was an ordinary London church for many years and the lack of respect it received in Victorian times, is evidenced by the trio of elevated railway lines that encircle it. Inside there is none of the grandeur of the Abbey; no Order of the Garter chapel; no memorials to poets or statesmen and women, although there is Shakespeare's tomb – well not that Shakespeare: it's his brother.

In May, we found ourselves in Chester. Old medieval walls surround streets filled with half-timbered buildings. The cathedral is dedicated to the wonderfully named St Werburgh, the daughter of a king of Mercia. Originally the abbey church of a Benedictine monastery, the cathedral appears quite squat and compact from the outside, but is incredibly light and airy once you enter. We also explored the surrounding countryside and decided to return with our families for a fun day out.



Lichfield Cathedral

However, we only got as far as Lichfield before my car developed a puncture. Dispatching wives and children to a nearby playground, Andrew and I made use of our enforced stop by heading off to the cathedral. Built, like Chester, from red sandstone, it is the only cathedral in England that has three spires. It has had its troubles over the years, losing all its stained glass during the Civil War and suffering from an overweight roof that has caused its walls to bulge outwards.

It was on another day out with the families that we visited our next cathedral. We'd spent the morning in Nottingham, seeing the castle and going down the caves. Then it was off to nearby Southwell with its minster. In Anglo-Saxon times, there were many minsters in England. They were often founded by monarchs or powerful barons, with 31 of them surviving to this day, although only Lincoln, Ripon, York and Southwell have cathedral status. For some reason, it was decided that the ladies would

go shopping, whilst Andrew and I would take the four children with us. This wasn't quite as inhibiting as we'd anticipated because, as we entered the minster, a member of the clergy leapt out in front of us proffering booklets with a quiz for the children. As we grown-ups admired the architecture, the children searched the building for various carved wooden creatures, personal symbols of the carpenters who worked on the

Dadlington Photo Treasure Hunt

Saturday 23rd July

Start anytime between 5pm and 6:30pm

All entries in by 7:30pm

Can you identify where 40 photographs have been taken in Dadlington? (All photos taken from pavements or the green)

Bring a picnic for afterwards

Bar and refreshments



Prizes for teams that identify the most.



Suitable for all ages.

To register your team (up to 6 people) send an email to:

Dvhmc2015@gmail.com

Pay on the day – adults £3 children £1

Cream Tea at Hall Farm Dadlington

Saturday 13th August

3-5pm



Dadlington Village Hall Lottery

Lotto bonus ball for our 4th June Rollover was No.30.
Congratulations to our winner who lives in Dadlington.
Prize £120.

We have now sold 50 of the 59 tickets so next month's prize for the draw on Saturday 2nd July is expected to be £65. New applicants for the remaining tickets will be welcomed (cost £1 per week equivalent, paid quarterly or annually)

Contact John by e-mail jf_whitehead@hotmail.com or Tel: 213244.

Good luck

John & Jill Whitehead.

Stoke Golding Garden Show Society
86th Annual Open Show – Saturday 3rd September 2016

It's that time of year again! The committee and friends of Stoke Golding Garden Show are currently raising sponsorship money and trying very hard to persuade individuals, organisations and businesses in Hinckley & Bosworth and the surrounding areas to help us to be able to keep this wonderful annual event running. Without your generosity, we would struggle to achieve the high standards that are now expected every year. Please contact Phil on 07963987982 or Tina on 07809629690 if you would like to contribute towards the Show financially, or in any other way – every little kindness helps us to reach our targets.

Will this information persuade you? We have chosen to donate profits to the charity LOROS and also to contribute to the new defibrillator that is planned for installation at the surgery in Stoke Golding.

As always, the Show is open to everyone (we cater for all ages and abilities) and we attract competitors from all around the county and even further afield. We have included sections to test local ability in vegetable growing, flower growing, floral art, children's creative art work/decorating, jam making, cake baking and decorating, to mention but a few.

We also have a class whereby a novice (someone who has not won a prize in the class before) can enter in a separate category and be judged purely against other novices. This year we are inviting novices to enter a 'Three Beetroot' class. There is also a new 'Pickled Vegetable' class on offer.



Saturday 3rd September 2016

Enter on the day between 11am and 2pm
Stoke Golding Club, Hinckley Road, Stoke
Golding CV13 6DZ -

25p per entry.

Prizes
Cash, Certificates, Rosettes & Trophies

Following the judging, at 6pm, we are open to the public and you are free to admire the class entries, view the trophies, congratulate the prize winners, enter the Grand Raffle and, ultimately, you are invited to bid on some of the produce in our superb Grand Auction later in the evening.

Schedules are available during August from the Stoke Golding village pubs, Post Office, Club and local shops. These are **free of charge** so why not pick up a copy and have a go at entering one of the varied classes on offer? Schedules can also be posted to you by contacting Tina on 07809629690. Previous years copies are available now via Tina if you would like an idea of what we have on offer.

Stoke Golding website: www.stokegolding.co.uk

For two years it lay unoccupied. Rumours as to its future circulated and a local campaign raised awareness as to its plight. Then, in October 2010, Madeleine Middleton, now a Dadlington resident, spotted the for-sale signs while boating on the canal. She passed the word to some friends in Covent Garden who were looking for a country pub. This led to Sandra MacDonald, a Canadian, buying the pub, with American Bill Reinking and Slovakian Robert Marko successfully taking over the running on 13 May 2011. The fifth anniversary of the Dog's reopening was celebrated at a dinner for about 30 villagers last month with its reputation restored and its future assured.

Many thanks to Caroline Fielden and John Walliker for your memories.

MISTRESS HESTER HODGES EXHIBITION FOUNDATION

The Trustees of the Mistress Hester Hodges Foundation wish to acknowledge with much regret that MR PETER SUMMERS has expressed a desire albeit with reluctance to retire from the position of Chairman of the Trustees of the Charity and as a Trustee. We would like to place on record our sincere thanks for his work and leadership.

Mr. Summers has been a Trustee for fifty years, taking over as Chairman from the late Mr. Frank Hall. He has been an outstanding Chairman and Trustee and has worked hard and conscientiously, and with feeling for the ideals of the Foundation. Peter Summers was also Treasurer and typically has offered his help to the new officers should they desire.

The Charity goes back to the foundation of the Free Grammar School in 1678 by Mistress Hester Hodges, incidentally an aunt of Sir Henry Firebrace of local fame, "to provide education in the principles of the Church of England". The present St. Margaret's School is a direct successor with changes due to Education Acts over the years. The Hester Hodges Foundation annually divides its income equally between the School and ex-pupils of the School taking up further education.

Mrs. Jean Buckby has now been elected as Chairman

The Trustees of the Hester Hodges Exhibition Foundation.

MISTRESS HESTER HODGES EXHIBITION FOUNDATION

At their October meeting the Trustees of the Mistress Hester Hodges Exhibition Foundation will consider applications for small grants of money. In order to be eligible the following conditions must be met:

- Two years attendance at St. Margaret's C.E (Aided) Primary School, Stoke Golding
- Residence in Stoke Golding
- Attained the age of 16 years or more and be undertaking further education in the academic year commencing September/October 2016

Application forms may be obtained from the Post Office or from A. Fullagar, 26 Wykin Lane or by emailing annefullagar30@btinternet.com

Completed applications should be returned to A. Fullagar by 20th Sept 2016

The Public Houses of Stoke Golding & Dadlington

1. The Dog & Hedgehog

In the 1990s, if you told someone from outside of the immediate vicinity that you lived in Dadlington, they would either say, "Where's that?" or, "Ah, The Dog and Hedgehog!" At that time, the pub was renowned for its no nonsense, good quality food, and very generous portions. Landlord, Chris Halliday had taken over the pub in 1968, and with his wife, Lucy, daughter Jean and son Tim, had begun serving proper meals rather than snacks that were the usual pub fare back then. Chris and Jean cooked the food whilst Tim served behind the bar. According to locals who remember those times, Lucy, after a few whisky and lemonades, used to regale the customers with song late in the evening, until Chris called time on the punters by ringing his bell.



The earliest documents, held by the current owner, date back to 1711. The Dictionary of Pub Names (David Rothwell: 2006) says that the pub, the only Dog and Hedgehog in the country, was so called by a former licensee who is said to have enjoyed an engraving of a dog and hedgehog entitled Rough Customer. It was this engraving that served as the model for the original inn sign. However, the earliest mention of the pub; an article on 25th July 1840 in the Leicester Chronicle about one George Freeman injuring himself whilst shooting rooks, refers to it as The Bitch Hedgehog and Ferret.

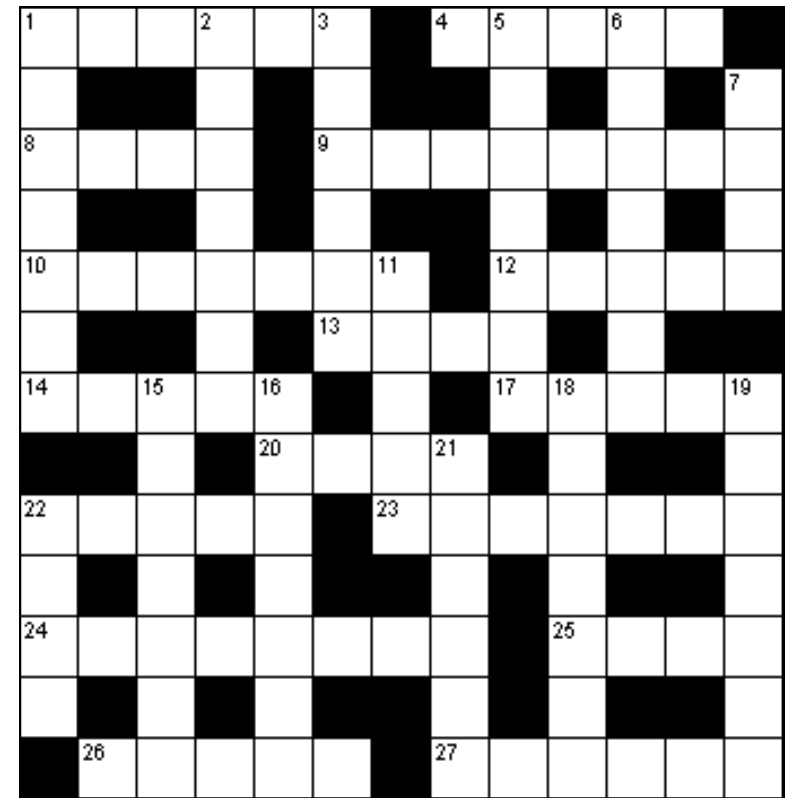
Trade directories list the names of the various landlords and landladies who ran the pub over the years. Henry Freeman was in charge at the time of the tithe map of 1843 and was still going strong 12 years later. He is described not only as a maltster and victualler, but also a carpenter and

a farmer. William Hollyoak, who held the reigns from 1870 to 1881, doubled up as a tailor when not serving pints.

The pub appears in a number of newspaper stories during the 19th century. In April 1854, Henry Moon was accused of assaulting John Cross after a parish meeting and "making very free with the juice of Sir John Barleycorn." Just over a year later and the papers reported Ann Towers being called "bad names" by her husband in the pub. Twice it was the venue for inquests. In September 1883, a young rascal who'd stolen a purse, rather unwisely decided to blow his new-found wealth on ale. The locals suspected he had committed a felony and held him captive in the Dog until the police arrived.

The fortunes of the pub have fluctuated in more recent times. In the early 1990s, it was bought by Steve and Roberta Bowyer for a knock-down price. Steve renovated the premises and introduced a massive menu of some 35-40 items, all written on a chalkboard above the steps to the lower dining room. He brought in Paul Bannister as manager and business really boomed. Unfortunately, it was not to last. The pub was bought by Enterprise Inns who installed a succession of managers. Finally, one of the firm's directors bought it, but his costly renovations coincided with the financial crash of 2008 and the building was repossessed by the Allied Irish Bank.

CROSSWORD



CROSSWORD WITH WIMBLEDON IN MIND

ACROSS

- 1 One of the 24 across sisters (6)
- 4 The area that tennis is played on (5)
- 8 Require something (4)
- 9 Team Trophy in tennis (5-3)
- 10 Found the place of something (7)
- 12 Small wooden hand made objects (5)
- 13 Plural of past tense 'was' (4)
- 14 Opposing teams or groups (5)
- 17 Direct Mail Services Standard Board (initials) (5)
- 20 Pronoun to separate items (4)
- 22 Colour of the sky but more so (5)
- 23 Clears ones plate (4-3)
- 24 USA tennis sisters surname (8)
- 25 Novak Djokovic nationality in short (4)
- 26 Male who shows one to a seat (5)
- 27 UK's No1 tennis player surname (6)

DOWN

- 1 One to one tennis matches (7)
- 2 Last match in a series (3-4)
- 3 Tennis presenter ***** Castle. (6)
- 5 Not put in (7)
- 6 Bats in tennis (7)
- 7 Turn round and round(4)
- 11 Even score in tennis (5)
- 15 Tennis matches of two a side (7)
- 16 The line where a tennis player starts a game (7)
- 18 A person who abuses something (7)
- 19 A male who collects balls up (4-3)
- 21 Hinckley invented Victorian cab (6)
- 22 These shoot arrows (4)

Answers on page 23

What's On

Fifth Annual Tea & Cake Afternoon in aid of Friends of Kenya's Children

At 8 the Courtyard, Higham Lane, Stoke Golding (Hopefully outside!!)



Wednesday August 17th 2 - 4.30pm
For £3 you can eat & drink all you want
Phone Jan 212397 or Gill 213700 for tickets
PS. Can you help again by making cakes?

Also small gifts and
cake stalls

Methodist Church Coffee mornings

SAT July 9th 10.00 -11.30
SAT Aug 6th 10.00 -11.30

For Church Funds

St. Margaret's Church



Advance Notice of Teddy Bear Jump & Bar-B-Q

Saturday 10th September from
12noon – 3pm

Get your teddy ready to fly

Stoke Golding Heritage Group

All talks are held in the Baxter Hall commencing at 7.30pm. The £10 membership fee covers all meetings up to March next year. Non-members are welcome at all meetings at a nominal charge of £2.50

Sept 15th The Fascination of the English Language: - David Siddons
Oct 20th British Trees - Sally Cunningham
Nov 17th Sacrifice and Remembrance. 1st WW and the beginning of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. – Ken Lowles

Roy Mitchell

Chair SGHG

Church Matters

The Methodist Church July 2016 Services

3rd	10.30am	Mr Charles Davies
10th	10.30am	Revd Wes Hampton
17th	10.30am	Mr John Cooke
24th	10.30am	Mrs Eveline Overton
31st	10.30am	TBA

August 2016 Services

7th	10.30am	Mrs Gwen Coley
14th	10.30am	Mr John Cooke
21st	10.30am	Revd Wes Hampton
28th	10.30am	TBA

Zion Baptist Chapel July 2016 Services

3rd	6pm	Bill McIntyre
10th	6pm	Malcolm Welch
17th	6pm	TBA
24th	6pm	TBA
31st	6pm	Richard Cotton

August 2016 Services

7th	6pm	Wynne Richards
14th	6pm	Malcolm Welch
21st	6pm	Bill McIntyre
28th	6pm	John Todd

Church Matters

Church of England July 2016 Services

St. Margaret's Church

3rd July	10.30am	All Age Service
10th July	10.30am	Benefice Service, Witherley
17th July	10.30am	Holy Communion
24th July	10.30am	Morning Worship
31st July	10.30am	Benefice Service, Fenny Drayton

St. James's Church

3rd July	9.00am	BCP Morning Prayer
10th July	10.30am	Benefice Service, Witherley
17th July	9.00am	BCP Holy Communion
24th July	9.00am	BCP Holy Communion
31st July	10.30am	Benefice Service, Fenny Drayton

Church of England August 2016 Services

St. Margaret's Church

7th Aug	10.30am	All Age Service
14th Aug	10.30am	Benefice Service, Higham
21st Aug	10.30am	Holy Communion
28th Aug	10.30am	Morning Worship

St. James's Church

7th Aug	9.00am	BCP Morning Prayer
14th Aug	10.30am	Benefice Service, Higham
21st Aug	9.00am	BCP Holy Communion
28th Aug	9.00am	BCP Holy Communion



St Margaret's Church Flower Festival Countries of the World & The Queen's 90th Birthday

AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND

Saturday 27th and Monday 29th 10am - 5pm,
Sunday 28th 11.30am - 5pm

Stalls including cakes, scones, jams, plants,
raffle, tombola

Ploughman's lunches, cream teas and other
refreshments available in the school hall.

Parking at the school.

Stoke Golding Community Defibrillator

Awareness Session

Did you know that Stoke Golding has two defibrillators? One is situated on the wall of the Methodist Church and one is at the Club. Both are available for anyone to use, in the event of a suspected cardiac arrest.

Community First Responders will be running an Awareness Session so that residents can learn how to use it.

WHEN: 7.30 – 9.30pm on Thursday 7th July

WHERE: Stoke Golding Club

Responders will bring Resusci Anne and training defibrillators to practise with.



Please contact Ruth Fisher if you wish to attend, so that we have an idea of numbers.

Tel: 01455 212489

email: ruthsg21@btinternet.com



This is a free session, however a donation to Community First Responders would be appreciated – you never know when you might need them...

Variety Night Live

With The New Theatre Players & The Stanley Opera Company

Hollycroft Park 15th July.

More details www.hollycroftpark.co.uk

London 2 Paris Event June—Rob Watson

If you recall, in a previous edition of the magazine we told you about Rob Watson who is raising money for LOROS in memory of local man Gary Bench by doing the Extreme London to Paris bike ride in June 2016.



The ride took place between the 2nd to the 5th June earlier this month which Rob completed along with his friend Richard Pearce. It started off in Crystal Palace on a dull wet morning, with some really tough hills towards Dover where we caught the ferry to Calais after two punctures and a set of missed directions. The second day was a wet and windy day in France which made the cycling harder from Calais to Amiens and was completed on the third day with a ride into Paris. The ride was 300 miles across two countries, in three days.

All the hard training which started back in February on the cold winters mornings and in the gym paid off and we both felt really good throughout the event, although the legs burned most days, especially when we went up the steep hill climbs some of which seemed to go on for ever. Nutrition was important to keep us going and over the three days I don't think I have ever eaten so much food but of course we were burning this off in time on the bike.

After three hard days on the bike it was a fantastic feeling entering Paris and getting the reception that we did riding along the Champs – Elysees up to the Arc de Triomphe, although it was a bit risky due

to the many cars, however, we were protected well by the escort vehicles.

Notwithstanding completing the event itself this was really about raising money for charity and well over £65,000 was raised by all the cyclists who completed the L2P event. At the time of printing we estimate, although sponsorship is still coming in, we will have raised over £3,200 for LOROS and the target was £1,370 which is a fantastic achievement. I could not have done this without the tremendous support that I have had and would like to personally thank my wife Sarah who supported me throughout the event with allowing me to disappear on the bike for over 5 hours at a time and organising the coffee and cake event. Special thanks to friends, family and the fantastic support from the community that made the coffee & cake morning a success, local businesses who donated prizes, all those who baked the cakes and of course everyone who sponsored me for the event.

Now to next year's challenge which has already been talked about!

Rob Watson

Answers to Ten of a Kind (page7)

1. Andy and Jamie Murray, 2. Double helix, 3. Kim Philby, 4. Double entendre,
5. London Double Decker buses, 6. Hughie Green, 7. No, 8. Hale & Pace,
9. Preston North End, 10 Four



From St Margaret's Church

And July Stars...

Browsing through the celebrity church people whose days are marked this month takes you on a fairly extensive journey.

July commences with St. Thomas. The one who gained the title 'doubting' is in fact the disciple making the greatest claims for Jesus – 'My Lord and my God.' It is interesting that from earliest times is the negative comment that clings to his name rather than the faithful one.

Two of the Fenn Lanes benefice churches' saints are celebrated this month: St. Margaret of Antioch – Stoke Golding - on 20th and St. James the Great – Dadlington – on 25th. Margaret is the patron saints of women in labour – that is giving birth rather than Harriet Harman! James is elder brother of John, two of the four fishermen first called by Jesus.

At college I produced 'A Man for All Season' a play by Robert Bolt about St. Thomas More who feast day is on 6th July. He was, of course, badly entangled in the decision of Henry VIII to divorce Catherine of Aragon, and declare himself governor of the Church in England, through which he lost his life.

The first person to meet and worship the risen Christ was Mary Magdalene who met him in the garden and at first thought he was the gardener. It is interesting that, considering how male-centred the Church has been over the centuries, the first witness to the resurrection was a woman. Mary's day is on 22nd.

And to close with someone rather nearer to our own time – William Wilberforce (1759-1833) who has his day on 30th July. William wished to take Holy Orders but was persuaded to serve God in parliament and is mainly remembered for his work there on the abolition of slavery.

From a doubter (and early believer), through a leading apostle, a 7th century patron saint of women, a politician and churchman sharing the name of Thomas, to the resurrection witness and the 19th century M.P. (July has a great many people to celebrate)

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us set aside every weight and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us." Hebrews 12.1

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.

