

June '16

No. 152

The Stoker



Stoke Golding Village Magazine

Including

Dadlington Matters

50p



Note from the Editors



As we collate this edition of the Stoker (mid-May) we find ourselves in a period of high celebration including the Queen's 90th birthday and the fantastic achievement of Leicester City FC in their triumphant win of the Premier Football League. One local fan has laid on a buffet as a treat in the George & Dragon in celebration of

this win and Dadlington has organised a Picnic on the Green to celebrate the Queen's 90th year.

Other local celebrations include:

- Joy Hirons has become the Leicester County Champion in her sport. (Page 3)
- Two Stoke Golding Football teams, the U13s and the U15s, have become champions of their respective divisions of the Leicester District Sunday Juniors League. (Page 5)
- St Margaret's School's outstanding and good overall results following their recent inspections both from the Church inspection framework and from Ofsted. (Pages 16 & 17)

We so enjoy being part of a publication that heralds good news; please continue to submit your articles. Let's hope June brings more reasons to celebrate – we are sure it will.

Jane and Steve

The Stoker Team

Editors: Jane White (01455 212416), Steve Smithers (01455 213798)

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Please send articles for the **July/August 2016** issue of The Stoker by **15th June** 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.

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

*Cover picture: 'Ancient History' from the Dadlington Flower Festival
arranged by Caroline Fielden*

Joy Becomes Leicester County Champion

England International skeet shooter, Joy Hiron from Church Walks has had a tremendous start to 2016.

Having only received her brand new, factory made, Italian Beretta 12 bore shotgun in January, the intense training is beginning to work and last Sunday she became the 2016 Leicestershire County champion.

Joy has been the ladies county champion every year since she started but this time beat everyone to become the overall champion for the first time.

With skeet competitions Joy competes against everyone, not just ladies, and she shoots the same 100 targets that everyone else does. So to beat everyone is always her main goal with the sport and she trains extremely hard.

Later this month Joy will travel to Northern Ireland to compete in the Ulster Open and then the following day cross over the border into the Republic of Ireland to compete in the Irish Open before returning home to tackle the English Open at Northampton.

Joy will then try to win her third England cap in June, down south in Dartford, ending the first really busy period of the season for the Leicester Mercury Sportswoman of the Year.



Rob Hiron

Open Day

3rd & 5th June 10am - 4:30pm

4th June Observer Corps Reunion



Cold War Listening Post & World War II Aircraft Observation Tower

See original equipment as featured on ITV's Home Fires.

Entrance on footpath to the left of the new cemetery on Wykin Lane,

The Night We Won The League

I was there in 1979 when a goalless draw with Millwall, in the penultimate game of the season, ensured that Leicester City staved off relegation to the third tier of English football for the first time in their history. I was there in 1991, when Tony James scored against Oxford to save us a second time. I sat despondently at home in 2008 listening on the radio as another goalless draw, this time away to Stoke, did indeed send the team down to uncharted depths.

Thirty-six years as a season ticket holder has certainly been a memorable journey, with many lows but also a fair few highs. I should have been warned: in my first four full seasons following the Foxes, I saw a promotion, a relegation, an FA cup semi-final defeat and then another promotion. There were decades of under achievement – the eighties and the noughties. Then again, there were the six Wembley visits in the nineties. I was there when Steve Claridge scored in the final seconds to earn us promotion and I was there, ten months later, when he scored again at Hillsborough to win the League Cup for the first time under the charismatic Martin O'Neill.

That one and only season in the third tier was a turning point. Under the direction of Nigel Pearson, the team swept all before them, storming back to the Championship. Five years later, with Pearson back at the helm after a brief spell at Hull, it was the same story. I was there at Birmingham, when the club broke their record for the most successive wins. The Premier League proved to be quite a step up and, though the team was never on the receiving end of a trouncing, they weren't winning games. Nine games to go, seven points from safety: the rest, as they say, is history.

I was there when Andy King scored against West Ham to start the great escape, when Vardy equaled and then beat the record for scoring in successive games, when Chelsea were bamboozled and Liverpool sent on their way. You could see the players, under the brilliant leadership of Claudio Ranieri, were having the time of their lives: it was fantastic, unbelievable and such a hugely enjoyable experience. And then it got serious. There was a chance, perhaps Leicester's only chance ever, to do something absolutely amazing.

I had to stop reading about them in the press and online. I kept waking up at four in the morning, working out all the permutations for the remaining fixtures. Silly superstitions became solid beliefs: if I didn't park in the same place, then I jeopardized the team's chances. So with two games to go, I was sitting with friends in the pub watching Spurs go two



up at Chelsea. Disappointment had just turned into resignation when, suddenly, we were just six minutes of added time away from the impossible and the players on the television appeared to have stopped playing football and started taking chunks out of each other instead. A whistle was blown and Leicester were the champions. There then followed a ride into Leicester, with horn blazing, and a short walk to the King Power Stadium to join the hundreds of other supporters there chanting, singing and dancing: this was the night when Leicester City won the league – and I was there.

Michael Dix

Stoke Golding Youth Football Club

Congratulations to the U13 and U15 teams, who both compete in the Leicester & District Sunday Juniors League. The U13 team completed their fantastic season on the 10th April at the Rec. There was a sensational atmosphere, created by the resolute support of the parents and spectators, which aided in achieving an inspiring 3-0 home win against Cropston Rangers Foxes. This concluded their season as Champions of the division with an emphatic 42 points! The U15s had a very close last game of the season away against Goby Blues, resulting in a 1-0 win. This also saw them finish triumphant as Champions at the end of their campaign with an



impressive 38 points!

All teams have had an amazing season, despite playing in extremely wet and cold conditions at times during the winter. This has resulted in the occasional game having to be cancelled due to unforgiving weather, which were rearranged by our fabulous Secretary. Many of the teams are now enjoying a few friendlies and the odd summer tournament. Our more compassionate managers have even gone so far in letting their players have a couple of weeks off!

The under 8s played in a very competitive tournament on the 7th May. There were some very strong teams present, but despite this the lads won their group of 5 teams and eventually were beaten by a wonder goal in the knockout stages whilst drawing 1-1. It was a great performance from our U8s and I'm sure we will be seeing more success from them next season.



With many thanks to Stoke Golding Bonfire Committee for their very kind donation, as the funds will go towards the much needed annual football replacements for the 2016/17 season!
The Committee

The Fool on the Hill

Does Brexit mean we can have our bangers back?

When the male of the species gather in small numbers in a hostelry of their choice, there usually comes a point in the evening where the continuous application of alcohol results in a severing of the tethers that restrain rational thought. Management types would refer to this as brainstorming or, heaven forbid, blue sky thinking when in reality it is simply talking rubbish.

On such a flight of fancy the other night the topic under discussion was the Bonfire Nights of yesteryear and, more particularly, the fireworks that we used to be able to buy. People of my generation will remember with great fondness the banger, which provided unbridled opportunity for schoolboy mischief. I well remember my particular favourite, the Brocks 3-2-1. This, when weighted with puddle clay from the local canal bank, made an admirable depth charge capable of concussing a stickleback at a depth of 3 feet. The little fish floated belly up to the surface and very quickly regained consciousness with, seemingly, no ill effects. Some of the more enterprising mischief makers even ran a book on which Stickleback woke up first. Inevitably, because young boys are inherently reckless, several ended up in A & E with varying degrees of deafness, blindness or a noticeable lack of the odd digit. Bangers were reduced in potency to the point that they would not have concussed a house fly even if you had attached it directly to the insect. Ultimately they were banned.

The slurring Brains Trust decided that this must be the fault of the sort of nanny state killjoys who inhabit the corridors of power in Brussels. We decided that the whole referendum debate could be summed up in an analysis of how Bonfire Night would look if we were in or out of the EU.

Under the "In" scenario Bonfire night would consist of one supervised child in a high vis, flame proof duffle coat, wearing welders gauntlets, full face mask and a hard hat. Said child would be at least 300 metres from any building, surrounded by fire engines and permitted one Euro Sparkler conforming to the Hand Held Pyrotechnic Directive EU/635524389/TR418. This sparkler would have the thermal capacity of a wet lettuce.

Under the "Out" campaign, mayhem would be the order of the day. Real fireworks with thermonuclear potential will be used and abused in a manner of our own choosing. It will be dangerous, exciting and fun. The point is, you will know that fireworks are dangerous so the responsibility for keeping out of harm's way lies squarely with you. Similarly, you know that a crocodile is dangerous so you don't try and see how close you can get to it whilst, you think, it is asleep. This degree of self-reliance would result in a more motivated, go getting population. At least amongst those who are still alive on the 6th November.

The Sticklebacks, however, will probably be voting to stay in.



F O T H

Ten of a Kind

As the country goes to the polls to decide whether to stay in or leave the European Union, how much do you know about Europe? Here are ten questions to get you thinking.

1. Which is the most northerly European capital city?
2. Which Russian mountains form the geographical boundary between Europe and Asia?
3. In which European city would you find the Van Gogh Museum?
4. Mont Blanc is the highest mountain in the Alps, but what has conveniently been built near the summit making them the highest of this kind of building in Europe?
5. Which year saw the fall of the Berlin Wall?
6. How many European capital cities are on the River Danube?
7. Which country's stamps have Magyar Posta on them?
8. There are only two kinds of primates found naturally in Europe; humans and macaques. On which island would you find the macaques?
9. In which decade did Swiss women finally get the right to vote, Switzerland being the last European country to grant universal suffrage?
10. What are the names of the three Baltic states?

Answers on page 23



Tomlinson's Farm Shop - Summer is Here!!

<p>Try our ever popular BBQ Packs: Feed 4 for £10.50</p> <p>8 beef burgers 6 pork sausages 4 pieces of free range chicken (plain or marinated)</p> <p>All using our own home reared Dexter Beef, rare breed pork and dry plucked free range Chickens.</p>	 <p>*** WE ALSO STOCK AN EXCELLENT RANGE OF PLANTS, INCLUDING BEDDING, POTS, HANGING BASKETS AND VEGETABLE PLANTS ***</p>
<p>Full range of home produced meat, fresh salads and vegetables, milk, cheese and Connors Bakery bread. Our own free range eggs £2.50/ dozen</p>	



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

A Top Class Degree

St. James' church in Dadlington has been holding May Day weekend flower festivals for many years, to critical acclaim. This year I got a sneak preview, finding out what goes on behind the scenes before the public starts arriving.



The Friday before the three-day event saw many of the flower arrangers busy at work both inside and outside the church. There was a calm, purposeful atmosphere as blooms were trimmed, ribbon was wound around stems and various parts of the displays were sprayed. The arrangements were mainly the work of the Earl Shilton Flower Club, but there were a number of other local enthusiasts who

contributed, turning the church into a floral extravaganza.

The theme this year was 'degrees', with most of the displays focusing on one of the many subjects studied at our universities. In one window there was a huge treble clef, surrounded by a variety of white blooms and musical manuscripts. In another giant explosions of red and purple flanked a collection of historical figures and artefacts. The font, appropriately celebrating theology degrees, featured words from the bible spiraling down a large piece of driftwood and foliage and flowers then cascading over the sides. Not that it was all traditional courses that featured. A lovely display near the organ took leisure and tourism as its subject matter.

The festival is a major fundraiser for the church, with parishioners and other friends of the church providing teas and raffles at the Village Hall next door. Whilst this year's event may not have taken place a few weeks after the visit of a long dead king or in the best of weather, a steady procession of visitors contributed a welcome £2,800 towards maintaining this beautiful church.



Michael

Dadlington Lottery Update

As at 16th May we have already sold 48 of the 59 lottery tickets available. Proceeds go to maintaining and developing Dadlington Village Hall.

The first monthly draw (Lotto Bonus Ball on 7th May) was No. 28, an unsold number, so the prize of £60 is a ROLL OVER to the next monthly draw.

This takes place on Saturday 4th June when the prize is expected to be at least £120.

A great time to buy a ticket!

If anyone would like a ticket, please contact John or Jill Whitehead 01455 213244

Forthcoming Events in Dadlington

23rd July	Village Photo Treasure Hunt
20th/21st August	Art & Craft Fair
September (date to be confirmed)	Film Night
October (date to be confirmed)	Race Night

Thomas Merrick and the French Revolutionary Wars

There was a recent request on the Dadlington Village History website, www.dadlington-history.myfreesites.net, for information about Thomas Merrick who was born in Dadlington in 1772. Although a search of the available records brought nothing new to light, the information that his 4x great grandchild had already showed that Thomas was involved in a conflict that is rarely heard of these days: the French Revolutionary Wars.

Thomas Merrick decided in 1798 to give up his job as a stocking knitter to join the British army. Some men joined up at that time for patriotic reasons, but many left what they saw as humdrum jobs at home for a life of adventure. Or maybe it was for the money: Thomas had married Mary Young in Sutton Cheyney the previous year. His infantry regiment, the East Surrey 31st and 70th foot, had recently been amalgamated and his first months as a redcoat would have involved endless drilling and training at one of the regiment's bases in either Doncaster, Hull or York learning how to load and fire a regulation Brown Bess musket so that he was up to speed, being able to fire three rounds in a minute. The musket wasn't the most reliable of weapons, being inclined to misfire in wet weather and occasionally firing at random when stray sparks set the powder alight. Life in the army would have been tough for Thomas and the 853 other volunteers who'd joined the 31st foot that year, with fairly basic living conditions and severe punishments used to maintain order and discipline. Maybe this wasn't the adventure that he'd envisaged when he'd taken the King's shilling. However things were about to change.



Revolutionary France of the 1790s became embroiled in a series of wars with European monarchies. The first conflict of 1792 to 1795, known as the War of the First Coalition, ended with France victorious. A little known general, Napoleon

Bonaparte, had emerged as a key player and France had extended their influence in Europe and the Middle East. They had also created a puppet state in what had been the Austrian Netherlands. Now it was called the Batavian Republic and it was here that Thomas was sent in 1799 as part of an Anglo-Russian expeditionary force. Their aim was to neutralize the Batavian fleet and to ferment an uprising against the government, but things didn't go too well for both the expeditionary force and for Thomas Merrick.

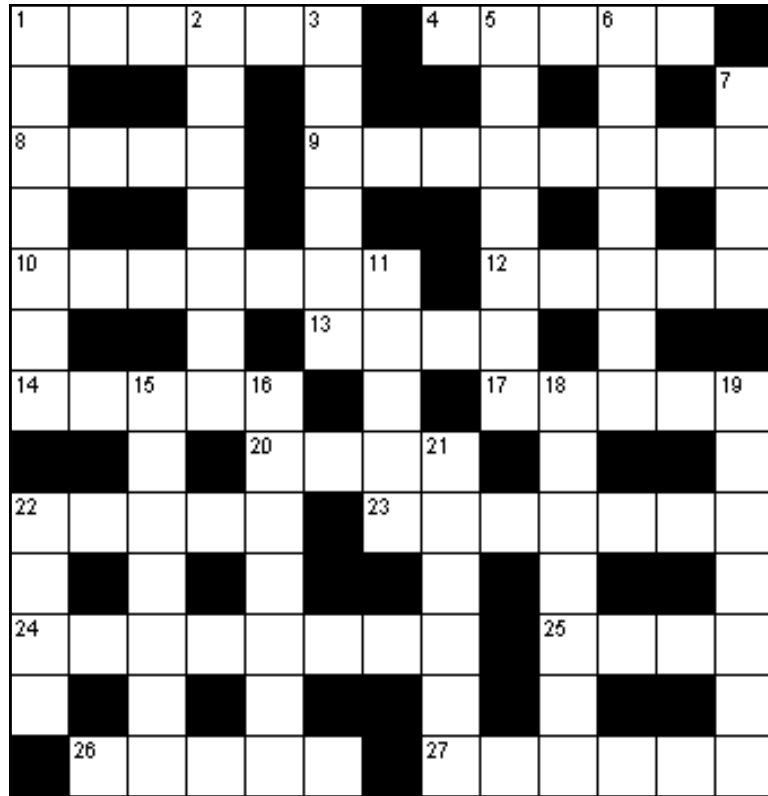
On the plus side, the regiment did not spend long in Holland. Camp life would have been fairly unpleasant. Conditions were dirty and cramped and there was always the possibility of disease, which could spread very quickly (three years earlier, stationed in the West Indies, the regiment had lost all but 85 men to yellow fever.) Thomas would have had an allowance of bread, meat, oatmeal or rice to eat with either beer or rum to wash it down.

Under the overall command of the Duke of York, the 31st Foot set off on the evening of 18th September to march to the strategically important village of Bergen, near to the city of Alkmaar. The autumn weather had been so atrocious that the roads were flooded and the journey took so long that, by the time they arrived the next day, they had missed the battle altogether. The French and Batavian forces had triumphed and the Anglo-Russian regiments withdrew to plan further attacks. Minor skirmishes took place over a couple of weeks as torrential rain put paid to any major offensive. Finally, after two days of false starts where the soldiers found themselves knee deep in mud, the second battle began on 2nd October. The 31st foot were part of the 7th brigade, supporting Russian troops who were attacking the village of Bergen again. Just over two thousand of the forty thousand strong army were killed or wounded with the British and Russians claiming victory. However, a defeat by the French at the Battle of Castrium four days later meant that, by the end of November all the British forces had returned to England.

And young Thomas, what became of him? His discharge papers of 19th November 1800 state that he "lost his leg in consequence of a wound received in Holland." This is a year since the fighting ended, so one can imagine him spending time in hospital and then at home during the interim period in which doctors decided to remove his infected leg. He became a Chelsea Pensioner, and could have moved into the Royal Hospital, an institution founded by Charles II in 1682 as a retreat for veterans. However, all soldiers who were discharged with a pension became Chelsea Pensioners and the vast majority, by this time, were out-pensioners, receiving their pension but living elsewhere, with just a few in-pensioners who exchanged their pensions for board and lodgings at Chelsea. He returned home and worked as a farm labourer for much of his life. No doubt he wore a prosthetic leg which at that time would have been constructed from leather, paper and glue, although a new design called the Anglesey Leg appeared in the 1800s, being wooden with an articulated foot and steel knee joint. He lived, minus his leg, to the ripe old age of 88.

Stoke Golding website: www.stokegolding.co.uk

Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 & 27A canteen series starring 24A /20A (6 -6)
- 4 & 9A shop sketch starring 24A /20A (5-8)
- 8 someone who writes in verse (4)
- 9 see 4A
- 10 surname of character played by 22A/19D
- 12 slang for a small child (5)
- 13 part of an egg
- 14 on a cruise you would be this (2-3)
- 17 loose cover for a settee (5)
- 20 see 24A
- 22 & 19D actress who plays a waitress in 4A & 9A (5 & 7)
- 23 seabird (7)
- 24 & 20A deceased actress in 4A & 9A and also 1A & 27A
- 25 road in the country (4)
- 26 TV talent show which began 24A / 20A career new ***** (5)
- 27 see 1A

DOWN

- 1 certificate issued by a university (7)
- 2 Old song - Under the spreading Chest*** - **** (3-4)
- 3 word used to express shock or doubt (6)
- 5 sport with stumps (7)
- 6 more spherical (7)
- 7 child's 'looking' game (1 - 3)
- 11 companies badges (5)
- 15 Caribbean island (2 - 5)
- 16 something that is shocking or wondrous (7)
- 18 bartered (7)
- 19 see 22A / 19D
- 21 crash a railway engine (6)
- 22 dance from the fifties (4)

Answers on page 18

What's On

Methodist Church FLOWER FESTIVAL "INSPIRING JOURNEYS"

Saturday 28th, Sunday 29th,
Monday 30th May
Saturday and Monday 10.00-5.30
Sunday 12 noon-5.30



Ploughman's lunches
& Cream teas,
Various stalls,
Refreshments

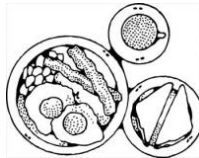
Coming Soon By Popular Demand

THE BIG BREAKFAST

at The Baxter Hall
Stoke Golding

June 12th 8.00am - 2.00pm

**Come along for a fabulous breakfast
£3 95 each**



Methodist Church

Coffee morning

Saturday 18th June
10.00-11.30

For Methodist Homes
for the Aged

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...



**FREE OPEN AIR CONCERT AT
BOSWORTH HALL HOTEL**

**FRIDAY 10TH JUNE
7.00 – 9.00 PM**

*Music on a
Summer's
Evening*

*featuring the principals, guests and
chorus of Stanley Opera with songs
from musicals, movies and the opera*

GATES OPEN AT 6.30 | BRING A PICNIC

**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

Pembroke College Easter Residential: 'Women in Science'



Saint Martin's successfully applied for Year 10 girls to attend the 2016 Women in Science residential at Pembroke College, Cambridge. This was a fantastic opportunity for two of our students, Katie Eaves and Charlotte Oliver. They spent three days living in the College and exploring what it could be like to study sciences at a higher level.

After the event, the school received an exceptional email thanking us for nominating the students. Apparently, 'they worked brilliantly as a team. They were a real credit to the school ...'. It was remarked that the girls participated in all of the activities with enthusiasm.

Julie Lowry



From St Margaret's Church

This month we celebrate the Queen's Official 90th birthday and, as we offer her our congratulations, there are many special events to celebrate the occasion in and around our villages.

After 64 years on the throne, Her Majesty must be one of the few 90 year olds still in full time work. In a strong statement of faith, she has said that she is "very grateful" to the nation for its prayers for her and that she has felt God's "faithfulness" during 64 years on the throne. This comes from the Foreword of a new book being published to mark her 90th birthday entitled 'The Servant Queen and the King She Serves', which gives rare insights into the Queen's personal thoughts and Christian faith.

Her Majesty writes, 'I have been – and remain – very grateful to you for your prayers and to God for His steadfast love. I have indeed seen His faithfulness.' She referred to the changes she has seen in her life, which has made her the longest-reigning monarch in British history. 'The extent and pace of change has been truly remarkable,' she said. 'We have witnessed triumphs and tragedies.' And she alluded to the current problems in the Middle East saying that the world is now experiencing 'terrible suffering on an unprecedented scale'.

The Queen's Christian faith is well-known. In recent years, Her Majesty has referred to her beliefs in public statements, including Christmas broadcasts. 'The Servant Queen and the King She Serves' highlights the Queen's faith and how it has shaped her personal life and service to the nation.

The words from her 2015 Christmas Broadcast say:

'Despite being displaced and persecuted throughout his short life, Christ's unchanging message was not one of revenge or violence but simply that we should love one another. Although it is not an easy message to follow, we shouldn't be discouraged; rather, it inspires us to try harder: to be thankful for the people who bring love and happiness into our own lives, and to look for ways of spreading that love to others, whenever and wherever we can.'

As we look to God to help us to love others, may He continue to bless Her Majesty in all that is to come.

Linda

Revd Linda Blay

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 June 2016 Services

St. Margaret's Church

5th June	10.30am	All Age Service
12th June	10.30am	Benefice Service,, Dadlington
19th June	10.30am	Holy Communion
26th June	10.30am	Morning Worship

St. James's Church

5th June	9.00am	BCP Morning Prayer
12th June	10.30am	Benefice Service,
19th June	9.00am	BCP Holy Communion
26th June	9.00am	BCP Holy Communion

Zion Baptist Chapel June 2016 Services

5th	6pm	Malcolm Welch
12th	6pm	Martyn Owens
19th	6pm	Bill McIntyre
26th	6pm	Steven Connor

The Methodist Church June 2016 Services

5th	10.30am	Mrs Judith Cooke
12th	10.30am	Mr John Cooke
19th	10.30am	Mr John Cooke
26th	10.30am	Revd Wes Hampton

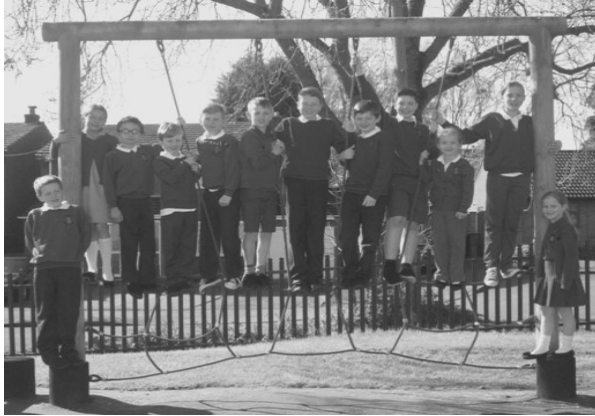
Stoke Golding Heritage Group

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

Roy Mitchell Chair SGHG

St. Margaret's School Council 2016.



The staff and pupils of St. Margaret's feel very lucky to be part of the St. Margaret's 'school family'. We are extremely proud of our achievements whether they be academic, on the sporting field or personal successes. We are continually striving to improve the school for the benefit of all, so with this in mind we have an elected School Council. Through the school council our pupils 'have a voice'.

Suggestions/opinions are given to the class representatives which are then discussed at the meetings.

The school council, which is made up of twelve children from Year 2 - Year 6, meets once per term and is chaired by a member of staff. A new school council is elected each year by secret ballot. The school council notice board gives information: forthcoming dates and minutes from the meetings etc. The minutes are also posted on the school's website.

Recently the class representatives were asked to comment on the role of a school councillor. Their responses were as follows and I quote:

Year Two: *In assembly you get an award and a badge. All of us have different ideas and there are two ideas that have been done, there are steps onto the field and lunchtime awards. At Christmas we choose two charities for the KS1 Christmas performance."*

Year Three: *"We have suggested loads of ideas for the school including: the safety of earrings, the steps to the field, different lunchtimes for KS1 and KS2, helped in the healthy eating school award, different punishments, uniform for teachers and healthy eating for teachers."*

Year Four: *"We try to make the school safe and a better place for young children to educate. Being a school councillor means we can make the school a better place. We can make this school nicer for young children and make the school a popular place. The things we like about being a school council are; special jobs to do, miss lessons, get special badges and rewards, get to change things about the school and we get to make people happy."*

Year Five: *"We were picked and we are very good at being school councillors. The responsibilities of being one of us is to make sensible suggestions to change our school and make it a better place. To look out for children not doing what they should be and tell them what's right (obviously we don't need to very often because St. Margaret's is full of good children). We need to find charities for our school to support. We have a big job to do."*

Year Six: *"The school councillors, who are a small group of people who suggest things for their class, help with some problems that are able to be done through*

school money. In year six one person is chosen from each house: Falcons, Eagles, Hawks and Kestrels.”

It is obvious from the comments that our children really enjoy being part of the school council and the special part they play in the life of St. Margaret's. We wish them every success in the future and look forward to listening to many more of their ideas.

Sarah Hill

St. Margaret's – A School to be Proud of

St. Margaret's Primary School in Stoke Golding is celebrating after receiving very high praise from both SIAMS Church School inspectors and Ofsted inspectors.

The SIAMS inspection focussed on the distinctiveness of the Christian ethos of the church school and the effect that has on the children who attend it. The school was delighted to achieve an Outstanding grade in all

areas. Inspectors commented that 'Christian values are embedded in all aspects of school life, resulting in pupils who are confident and well equipped to contribute to life in a diverse society.' They also praised the school for its Christian vision ensuring that the school remains highly effective in enabling pupils of all faiths, and none, to thrive.

When Ofsted visited the school in the Spring term, the inspectors described it as 'one big family'. The school was judged to be good overall and outstanding in personal development, behaviour and welfare as well as Early Years provision. The school was delighted to be recognised for the outstanding behaviour of its pupils with inspectors commenting that 'The pupils attitudes towards each other, their teachers and their work are exemplary, founded on mutual respect, high expectations of good manners and consideration for others.'

Leadership was also identified as a strength in the school which is good news for new Headteacher Emma Prokipczuk. 'We are extremely proud of the education that we offer at St. Margaret's and so are delighted that this has been recognised by inspectors. It is a privilege to lead a school with such committed staff, supportive parents and governors and wonderful children.'

Andrea Mepstead



HINCKLEY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL “SUNNYSIDE HOSPITAL”

We are so fortunate to have this rehabilitation hospital on the Ashby Road, housed in an attractive modern building. It's light and airy, with a friendly and welcoming reception area. Unlike the big teaching hospitals in Leicester, Coventry and Nuneaton, being smaller and more compact, the whole building has a less intimidating feeling. Being part of the Chaplaincy team over the last eight years, I've had enough time to hear all the very positive expressions of our patients. I always remember one elderly gentleman who had been brought in by his daughter saying; *'I turned to her and said, are you sure this is a hospital you've brought me to, it's more like a three star bed & breakfast.'* I laughed at his description. He was in a single room, with views of the countryside behind the building, and with its own ensuite shower room and wall-mounted television set. The majority of the patients have the privacy of their own room, although there are a couple of wards with four beds, one for women and one for male patients, in both East and North wards. There are no mixed wards at all. One of the highlights are the special rooms that have the extended space for families who have had to travel a distance and who may need to sleep over with their loved one. These have a curtained area with a comfortable sofa bed, along with the ensuite facilities, and a small kitchen as well. So much thought has gone into the design of the building which mirrors the morale of the patients and the hospital staff. The times I've heard patients say *'The nurses are so wonderful, they'll do anything for you. They're so kind and cheerful, whatever they're asked to do.'* Just recently, there was a sweet old lady in her nineties, getting close to the end of her days. Her bed had been lowered for safety and I found one of the nurses kneeling on the floor, gently stroking her hand. When I commented on this she told me; *'I just like being here with her whenever I can, she's such a lovely lady.'* We read such negative press articles about the NHS, and the media constantly feeds us with horror stories about the lack of care, all of which, in this case, I strongly want to contradict by giving my personal experience of the complete opposite with our own Hinckley Sunnyside Hospital and all its wonderful caring staff. Long may they all know how valued they are by us.

Beth

CROSSWORD ANSWERS (from page 11)

ACROSS 1 Dinner ladies; 4 & 9 Acorn antiques; 8 poet; 9 see 4A; 10 overall; 12 kiddy; 13 yolk; 14 at sea; 17 throw; 20 see 24A; 22 & 19D Julie Walters; 23 seagull; 24 & 20A Victoria Wood; 25 Lane; 26 Faces; 27 see 1A.

DOWN 1 diploma; 2 nut tree; 3 really; 5 cricket; 6 rounder; 7 I spy; 11 logos; 15 St Lucia; 16 awesome; 18 haggled; 19 see 22A; 21 derail; 22 jive.

ALBERT BRIAN JOLLY known as 'JACK'

This watercolour gives me such a sense of calm and peace. The sky-line is dominated by a tall church spire with a cluster of cottages huddled around it. In the foreground the placid shimmer of water under a summer sky. I stand gazing at this picture in our 'George & Dragon,' one of the hundreds of watercolours painted by Jack. They were all discovered by his son Peter, after his father died at the fine old age of ninety-three, in 2014. Jack was a well-known and much loved 'regular' at The George. A group of friends from Andrew Close always met every Friday to spend their evening in the pub. I manage to contact Jack's son Peter to hear a little more about his father's story.



Jack and his wife Peggy came to Stoke Golding in 1979, being one of the first residents in Andrew Close, as the bungalows were being built. Peter tells me his father loved the village and the surrounding countryside. He would often go out at dawn, while the mist was still hanging over the canal, taking his camera with him to capture scenes he wanted to take home and transpose into one of his many watercolours or, sometimes, even oils. Knowing how his Dad had enjoyed so many evenings with friends at the pub, it seemed a priority to Peter and his wife Diana to offer them first to Katie, who made this one her choice and had it framed. It will always be a fitting reminder to his many friends who loved the company of the villager they always called 'Jack'.

Beth

Stoke Golding Railway Station in Victorian Times



On page 500 of the issue of The Railway Magazine for June 1931, reference is made to the fact that Royalty used this route on their visits to Gopsall Hall. It may be of interest to record that when Queen Victoria travelled in 1890, the Royal train drawn by the 7-ft. Webb compound No. 1304, negotiated the track some weeks before on a trial trip, with the result that, owing to the overall width of the engines of this class, it was considered prudent to make slight

alterations to the station platforms on the branch before the Royal train passed through. The platform at Shackerstone being lowered to allow the Royal Party to alight for Gopsall Park with some dignity.

Denis Cash

Poems from Year 7 Students at Redmoor Academy

You with me

Grass so green,
Trees so lean,
Sky so blue,
Birds tweeting too,
I feel so free,
You with me,
Sun so bright,
Air so light,
Flowers so sweet,
What a treat,
I feel so free,
You with me!

Caitlin O'Hara (age 12)

Riots

Ruthless riots rumble round the roads,
People praying, protesting for their rights.
Conniving criminals convince children to
convert to crime,
And murderers are marauding miserably.
Teenagers tear around the town,
Testing trouble and tempers.
Ruthless riots rumble round the roads,
Tell your family to stay at home.

By Will Dilley

What is War?

The guns are as loud as thunder,
Soldiers like broken glass.
Trenches as cold as ice,
Uniform like ripped sheets.
War is like an open door -
To what? What's the point anymore?
Soldiers slowly starving,
knowing they're done for
Fighting bravely for their country,
I wonder what will happen to them?
War is like an open door -
To what? What's the point anymore?
So now you have heard my poem,
Don't you believe it could happen again
here one day?

By Ashleigh Cole

Normal

I wish I was a normal person,
Maybe it's worse in my head.
Why can't everything be normal?
I wish I could live in bed.
I get picked on,
Shoved and pushed,
I get ripped apart
And always rushed.
At home nobody will listen,
They don't understand,
My sister glistens and they always
listen to her,
Why won't they understand?
I wish I was a normal person
But what is normal anyway?
Everyone is different,
With different things to say.

So I'll try not to be sad,
Because I am who I am,
From now on I'll be glad
Or at least that's the plan!

Jess Fisher (age 12)

My Light

I wish I could express myself,
In every single way.
I like to imagine myself,
Able to laugh and play.
I'm scared of what kids might think,
Why can't I be like everyone else?
I'd disappear with just one blink,
I'm not happy with myself.
People say 'just be louder'
But I don't know how.
My parents never seem prouder,
I wish it would change now
I always dread going to school,
But I like to write,
Some people might think I'm a fool,
But writing is my light

Lucia (age 12)

Staffroom Memories 3: Sporting Success

My educational belief that all children should be entitled to the widest possible range of experiences during their primary years meant that I was always committed to providing sporting opportunities for the children I taught. Alongside PE lessons, I also ran a number of extra-curricular sporting activities.

After being fairly useless at football as a youngster, I developed a passion for watching the game whilst at university and, in my second year of teaching, another member of staff suggested that I help him with the football club he was about to start. Two months after setting the club up my colleague got another job and I was left in sole charge. I have to say that we were all fairly clueless and consequently we rarely had a win to celebrate. After each defeat I would descend into the depths of despair whilst the children would be over it about two minutes after the final whistle. Parents did come along and they did help me out. One of the parents was the chief football correspondent for the Sun newspaper. He'd be interviewing me about my tactics and strategies on a Saturday morning and posing the same questions to Brian Clough and Bob Paisley in the afternoon!

One particular match I refereed stands out in my memory. We played an Enderby school that had won the league many times. The weight of expectation on their team that day led them to employ an offside trap that was wholly ineffective: I failed to spot a single offside. At the end of the game, which my school had won through a controversial penalty, an old gentleman - an opposition grandfather I suspect - came up to me and said, "I've followed football for over 70 years and that is the worst display of refereeing I've ever seen!" It's always good to be number one.

Every time I moved school, I would be cajoled into getting involved with football teams and, such was my growing expertise that, occasionally I'd get it right and the team would win. I never liked refereeing however, always tending to penalise my own side in 50:50 situations and question myself if I got disagreement from the sidelines. Once I met up with my squad at an away game, having come straight from a meeting. The opposition teacher approached and asked if I would referee, she being eight months pregnant and likely to give birth at any moment. Reluctantly I took to the mud bath that they called a pitch wearing my best head teacher's suit and I tiptoed around, trying desperately not get splattered, all to no avail.

I finally experienced success at my last school where I had the services of a talented ex-parent and, at times, some pretty special footballers, one of whom signed professionally for Leicester City last summer. We won the second division and then the first in two glorious years and the many years of dismal failure slipped from my memory.

Football was not the only sport that was on offer to the children. At my last school we ran clubs for hockey, rugby, tennis, cricket and rounders. Rounders, a game similar to baseball, was always a sport I enjoyed teaching and every year the staff would challenge the leaving year 6s to a contest. Whilst those staff who could actually connect the bat with the ball were likely to hit it to the far reaches of the field, there were many equally impressive children who could bat, bowl, throw and catch with great accuracy. Unfortunately for them the challenge was always open to the whole year group and so, along with the brilliant players, there were plenty of other children to get in the way and mess up the catches. The staff won eleven times to the children's one victory. We felt it was an important lesson for them to learn – life can be unfair.

Michael Dix

1st Stoke Golding Scout Group

The Group marched through the centre of Hinckley with others for the annual St George's Day parade. Now the summer is supposedly upon us, with discussion with various divisions of the Group, there is more of an outdoor theme to their activities. The Beavers have been busy working on their My World Challenge Award and My Adventure Challenge Award. Some of the activities for these awards have involved planting sunflower seeds (which are growing well so far) leaf rubbing, practising the Green Cross Code and helping to tidy up the store room (which they all enjoyed forming a human chain to pass things down, sorting it out and reversing the process). Apparently they are not so keen to tidy at home!!!

The Cubs have been working on their outdoor challenge and fire safety badge.

They also wrote a thank you letter more like a 10 metre scroll to the fire brigade for their recent visit. They went on a hike down to the canal, which was a lot quieter after they left it, and experimented with making hot air balloons. John sat down and told a story of the history behind St George's Day parade. The Cubs are planning their athletes badge for the summer term.



The Scouts have been busy with their creative challenge award and have designed and made miniature soapbox carts. The future Jag design team might feel threatened. They have also been experimenting with hot air balloons and been out and about on a hike as part of their Adventure Challenge Award.

So, as you can see, all of the group have been busy out and about enjoying the outdoors.

This year the Cubs are celebrating 100 years since their invention. There is a centenary camp planned for June at Kirkby Malory which 24 of our Cubs are attending with approximately 500 other Cubs.

Fifteen of our Scouts are having the fantastic experience of attending the Leicestershire International Scout and Guide Camp in the first week of August with 5,500 approximately in total. Yes thousands!! The camp is to be near Loughborough. Their section's theme is the 1970s so their gateway is a tribute to the silver jubilee with a crown and bunting.

SO if you have any bunting to recycle (and it will be non returnable) then please contact Fionna Shilladay on [01455 212908](tel:01455212908) and she can collect. We need loads to decorate our site in bunting.

Thank you.

Jennifer

Stoke Golding Methodist Church

I am writing this as the appointed Local Pastor of S.G. Methodist Church and, being the new boy on the block, it will give you an insight into my life to date. 1966 was a very important year for me, beginning with qualifying as a local preacher in the Methodist church. Then came my wedding in July and, unbelievably on the very same day, England played Germany and won not only the match but the football world cup.

We returned from our honeymoon and set up home in Newbold Verdon which is where we still live 50 years later. My work was selling textile machinery until the demise of textile production in the UK.

On retirement I found there was plenty to do with various jobs in the voluntary work place, particularly in the life of the church. It was in 1966 that I was appointed to preach at Stoke Golding. This was my first appointment since moving into the Hinckley circuit. Judith, my wife, came with me and we found it to be a warm welcoming church. So coming to the present time, I offered myself to be a local pastor to serve the church here. I then asked myself along with the members of the church what could I do to help and support the members here. After prayerful thought I could see what I felt was important and it can be summed up in one word "community". The building is often referred to as the church but really it is the place where the church meets as the church is the people.

Therefore the role of the local pastor is to go out beyond the walls of the building to the place where the people are. Some may not be able to make their way to the church building due to age or infirmity, others may have drifted away and find it difficult to come back, some may have lost their faith and see no point in coming. Whatever their circumstances they all come into bounds of community. As a result of this I will be visiting people and I can assure you, you are not forgotten. By the time you are reading this we will have had our flower festival and I hope I will have met many of you there.

Every blessings

John D Cooke.

Answers to Ten of a Kind (page 7)

1. Reykjavik (Iceland)
2. Ural mountains
3. Amsterdam
4. Toilets
5. 1989
6. Four: Vienna (Austria), Bratislava (Slovakia), Budapest (Hungary), Belgrade (Serbia)
7. Hungary
8. Gibraltar
9. 1970s (1971 in fact)
10. Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania

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

Cllr R Terheege was re-appointed as Chair with Cllr Beale as Vice-Chair. Members of standing committees were re-appointed en block. The Parish Clerk was re-appointed as Financial Officer.

Matters arising from April's meeting:

Crime figures for February 2016 – 1 burglary near Church Walk.

New litter bin request - HBBC will install and service an extra litter bin by the lay-by/bridge on Higham Lane.

Jitty from High St to Hinckley Rd – the Public Rights Inspector will attend within 90 days.

Block paving Hinckley Rd cemetery – cleaning complete.

Reports by Council Representatives:

Cllr Beale reported on two meetings attended by herself and the clerk: a meeting about changes to the auditing arrangements and the branch meeting of LRALC. The branch meeting focused on website provision by *2commune*. A number of Parish Councils commented that the Stoke Golding Village Website was a very good resource, which combined community and Parish Council information very well. Cllr Terheege and Beale attended the Growth Workshop. The main issue to come from discussion seemed to be the provision of infrastructure. Cllr Beale stated that it was good to bring officers, officials and councillors together to discuss issues and it encouraged transparency.

Cllr Fisher attended a Bosworth 1485 Legacy meeting and reported that Creative Leicester had put forward a bid for funding for the Richard III Heritage Trail.

The Clerk reported that Malc Watson would be removing the soil from the recreation field as soon as ground conditioned allowed.

Planning Applications:

New Applications:

48 Roseway – proposed dwelling and associated access.

Land off Hinckley Rd – removal of condition 2 of planning permission to allow for removal of an oak tree.

Land Off Hinckley Rd – variation of condition 1 of planning permission to amend positioning of plots 75-80 due to water main easement. Clerk will seek clarification on extent of changes and substitution.

b) Permissions granted:

20 Andrew Close, SG – felling of 4 conifer trees.

The White Swan, High St – display of 2 illuminated fascia signs, 3 non-illuminated fascia signs and 1 illuminated hanging sign.

Cloneen, Ivy Close – erection of 2 dormer bungalow dwellings (outline – access, layout and scale).

d) Planning Amended:

Tithe Farm, 12 Wykin Lane – erection of barn.

A tree preservation order notice has been received for 38 Station Road.

Review of Parish Councillors' areas of responsibility

Cllr Pegg – ground maintenance, cemeteries, recreation ground, Convent Site Development Committee and Chair of Sport in Stoke Golding.

Cllr Beale – play equipment, compliance, Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee and Village Hall Management Committee.

Cllr Fisher – play equipment and Chair of the Village Hall Management Committee.

Cllr Mitchell – Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee.

Cllr Goodsell – Chair of the Convent Site Development Committee.

Cllr Terhegge – Sport in Stoke Golding Committee.

All Councillors share responsibility for planning issues.

Review of matters arising from the Annual Parish Meeting

Footpath at St Martin's Catholic Academy – the Parish Council has been trying to establish ownership of the verge; County Cllr Ould to investigate further as part of a larger issue of child safety.

Wykin Lane potholes – Parish Council to inform LCC Highways of the continuing poor condition of verges. Signage was also discussed.

Solar Panel Farm wild flower meadow – the clerk has contacted Anesco to find out what action they intend to take. If no reply has been received by the next PC meeting the Clerk will contact the Compliance Officer.

Women's Hall Charity – an annual report will be made at the APM in future.

Neighbourhood Plan

Jim Hope attended on behalf of the Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee (NPAC). Appointment of a Consultant and an application for government funding were discussed. Jim Hope provided additional information about the consultants and the reasons for the NPAC's recommendation to appoint Kirkwells. Councillors were happy with the recommendation; however they were still concerned that proper procedure was not followed when voting for this recommendation and this may not stand up to scrutiny in the future. It was agreed that there should be a second correct quorate vote taken by the NPAC at its next meeting; this would be followed by approval of the recommendation at the PC meeting in June and ensure the decision was watertight.

Sport in Stoke Golding

Cllr Pegg and the Clerk will meet with Graham Chilvers on 23rd May to discuss the pavilion and drainage; he will then assess the sports' clubs development plans to ensure they will allow the Parish Council to apply for sports grants.

Environmental Improvement Programme – Church Walk and grave repairs

In light of information from Paul Grundy regarding necessary permissions for work to Church Walks it was agreed that the Parish Council will not proceed with this proposal at this time. A quotation has been received for work to reinstate gravestones at Hinckley Road Cemetery which were previously laid down for safety reasons. It was agreed that priority should be given to graves of people which have no living relatives.

Convent Site community land

Cllrs Pegg and Goodsell have met with Phil Day from the Allotment Society to discuss the implications of the proposed agreement. Subsequently Cllr Pegg has spoken to Mar City and is awaiting a reply; it would be difficult to manage the allotments and obtain funding for work on the community land with a one year contract in place.

Leaflet distribution

The Clerk has sought prices from two companies to deliver Parish Council newsletters etc, but has received no information.

Recreation ground parking

Due to increased use of the facilities at the village hall and sports field it has become apparent that further car parking is necessary at the rec. Increased use of the pavilion in the future may create further pressure on car parking. It was agreed that the Parish Council has a duty to provide adequate parking for those using and paying for facilities at the rec. An initial quote for an overflow car park and possible funding options were discussed. Any improvements to car parking will need to be

considered in light of any potential decision to site a new pavilion, which has not yet been agreed.

Plant troughs

Hilary Smith has given up her role co-ordinating the team of volunteers who attend to the village planters. As Jason (Groundsman) is unable to take on the work at this time the remaining volunteers have agreed to continue in their role. The Parish Council would like to thank Hilary and her team of volunteers for their work.

Communications received by the Chairman of the Council:

Verbal

As part of the 4th Annual Snapdragon Children and Families Festival the Borough would like to host a full day event at the rec – they will contact the PC to discuss arrangements when they are known.

Any Other Business

Cllr Pegg reported that a price has been sought to repair the ceiling in the pavilion. Cllr Beale reported on the need for play equipment/facilities for teenagers in the village, and also progress on the planned picnic for families at the rec.

Next meeting: Methodist Church Hall, Wednesday 1st June 2016 at 7pm.

OBITUARIES



A number of villagers have sadly passed away during the last few weeks and to all their families and friends we send our most sincere condolences in their losses.



ALMA WENTWORTH

Alma was the much loved mother of four sons and a daughter and a loving grandmother to her grandchildren.

GEORGE TONGE

George of Andrew Close has passed away. He was a much loved husband, father and grandfather.

JOHN JORDAN

John lived for many years on Hinckley Road and Hall Drive before going into Harvey House in Barwell four years ago.

JOSIE MACDONALD

Josie was a former teacher at St Margaret's Primary School and a well known judge of Great Dane and Schipperke dogs. She passed away in Walsgrave hospital Coventry on 28th April 2016 aged 81 years. Donations in lieu of flowers may be sent to DeVall and Son, Funeral Directors of Attleborough for The Dogs Trust.

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