

Oct '16

No. 155

The Stoker



Stoke Golding Village Magazine

Including

Dadlington Matters

50p



Note from the Editors



There has been such a lot going on in the villages that we have had to add an extra four pages this month - thank you to everyone who has contributed. We are delighted to hear news from both St Martin's and St Margaret's Schools as well as local sports and recreational groups. We defy you not to laugh at this month's 'Fool on the Hill' offering (page 24) and there are various historical snippets to keep you interested. Activities over the summer including Stoke Fest, St Margaret's Flower Festival and Dadlington Craft Fair were a great success boosted by warm and sunny weather except, unfortunately, the Teddy Bear Jump which had to be cancelled due to torrential rain. We hear the Garden Show went well and will hopefully have a full report for you in the November issue. Many congratulations to John and Freda on sixty years of marriage. We both appreciate what a special number that is, having reached our sixtieth birthdays in July and August respectively.

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 **November 2016** issue of The Stoker **by 15th October** to:
The Editors, 45 Station Road, Stoke Golding/email
janewhitesg@gmail.com

If you can submit articles by e-mail or on a memory stick (Microsoft Word) it makes our job much easier, (**500 words maximum** please).
 All correspondence, including e-mails, must include your full name, home address and home telephone number.
N.B. All advertising enquiries to Ella Orr - ella42@sky.com

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

Cover picture: John & Freda Martin with their pony and carriage

Congratulations Mr and Mrs John and Freda Martin
DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARY 6TH.OCTOBER



John and Freda seem to be far too young to be celebrating their 60th anniversary this year. They arrived on the dot of 10am looking as sprightly as many a young couple at least twenty years younger. I listened, fascinated, to the story of their lives here in Stoke Golding. Like so many other villagers school life started at St Margaret's and in our local parish church, where they and their two families were deeply involved in the life of the church. Both of them were in the choir, and Freda's grandfather Harry was a regular preacher there. Freda continued her education at the old Mount Grace School while John went on to Westfield. The wedding, all those years ago, naturally took place at St Margaret's, with a buffet reception at the old Liberal Club, followed by their honeymoon at Bournemouth and then Babbacombe in Devon. It could only be for five days, however, as John had to be back to fulfil his work as a contract thresher. His first threshing machine cost £450 which was a large sum in those days. Stories of their early married years spent in a caravan in the orchard of what is now Reg Ward's garden brought the village alive back in those days. Baby Christina was born when Freda was just 21 and the three of them lived cosily enough for those first few years. One winter, when the canal was frozen hard, everyone was skating on it. John even made a make-shift baby buggy with runners so that they could pull Christina along with them from one bridge to the next and back again. It's reminiscent of something out of Charles Dickens' Christmas Carol. John's Mum was working at the Vicarage in Higham for the Fisher family. By the time Joanne, their second daughter was born, they were living in Greenwood Road, and Freda had made her decision to be a stay-at-home Mum to care for her family. Tragedy struck when Joanne was diagnosed with a brain tumour in her forties and they lost her at the early age of 49yrs. Six years before this Christina was diagnosed with kidney failure and Joanne gave her sister one of hers. During Joanne's illness, Christina came to live and nurse her sister at Whitemoors Road. Now Christina's two daughters, Melissa and Jessica, are central to this loving family and, as they all love working with horses, most Sundays are spent as part of a 'Carriage- Driving' group. This will be at the centre of their Diamond Anniversary party on September 10th when carriages from the group will be setting out from Sutton Cheney for a ten mile drive. As a final gesture they will be giving Smartie, their pony, to Springbridge Willowby 'Driving for the Disabled'. Their much loved pony passed all the tests with flying colours.

Best wishes from all of us. Beth

St Margaret's Pupils Go Outward Bound

Year 5 and 6 at St. Margaret's have had a fabulous start to the new academic year: attending a week long outward-bounds residential in Wales. The children had a fabulous time and achieved many new things. The children enjoyed rock climbing, caving, kayaking and exploring the beautiful countryside around the Redridge centre. We were extremely proud of the children's attitude and behaviour, and once again our school received many compliments regarding the children's



excellent attitude whilst on the trip.



Mystery Surrounding Memorial Plaque



Shortly after World War I the plaque shown here was presented to the village by the Crown Hill Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Manchester Unity No 7206 Stoke Golding. The exact date of presentation is not known but for many years it was on display in what was known then as the Women's Hall on Station Road. This hall was used by a number of organisations as a meeting place and latterly by the village Garden Society, before being sold as part of the private residence of our Editor of the Stoker. It became dilapidated over the years and was removed and restored to its present wonderful condition and eventually it was donated to the Hinckley and District Museum where it remains. However one mystery surrounds it, as only eight

men are recorded upon it. Thirteen others also died in the conflict and are recorded on our War Memorial in the village cemetery. I wonder therefore if the men recorded on the plaque were remembered because they were members of the Stoke Golding Lodge of Oddfellows.

Denis Cash

Fantastic Journey at St Margaret's Church Flower Festival

The Annual flower festival at St Margaret's church, supported by the Charity of Thomas Barton, took place over the August Bank holiday weekend with the theme of "A Journey Around the World" with all the countries within the UK represented, Asia, Europe and unusual places such as South Africa Savannah with arid grasses creatively arranged.

The standard of the flower arrangements depicting the themes never ceases to amaze me. I heard comments such as "speechless", "fantastic" and "beautiful" as I wandered round.

Afterwards, in very patriotically themed tables in the school hall, namely red, blue and white, I followed up my visit with a cup of tea and splendid cake. The people helping in the hall were particularly helpful and welcoming. The festival raised a massive £4,600.

So, next year, if you want to be amazed by flowers and enjoy a welcome cup of tea, put the date in your diary. Well done to all who created the displays and helped out over the weekend and placed the Flower Festival at St Margaret's on the calendar of "must see" events again.



Jennifer Michie

Thank you to Mark Ashworth for the photos below



Dadlington Matters

Dadlington Photo Treasure Hunt



On a fine Summer evening in July, Dadlington Village Hall hosted a photographic 'Treasure Hunt'. Our regular quizmaster, Michael Dix, prepared 40 photographs of Dadlington sights, all taken from safe, public path or village green positions and encompassing the length and breadth of the village. Even long-standing residents struggled to identify the location

of some of the more fiendish photos. But two of the teams scored 40/40, showing that it was possible to locate them all correctly. The Smallwood family, from Shenton Lane were one; the other, comprising visitors from Barwell and Sheffield, chose the team name of The Yorkshire Puddings and shared the first prize spoils.

Afterwards, the majority of the hunters spread out picnics on the Green and enjoyed the late evening sunshine. A big thank you to Michael for organising this novel and intriguing way of getting to know our village even better. *Keith Morton*

New Websites

Dadlington Village Hall has now got a new website at www.dadlingtonvillagehall.co.uk

The website gives information about the facilities available for hirers and provides an online booking form and calendar. It also features pictures of events that have taken place in the hall and details of future events.

An online search for Dadlington brings up another new site at www.dadlington.com. This expanding site provides information about the village for residents and visitors alike. It would be good to link this site with both the village hall site and the Dadlington village history site at <http://dadlington-history.myfreesites.net> but there are currently no contact details available. If you are the owner of this site, could you contact the village hall committee at dvhmc2015@gmail.com so that we can arrange this.

Sutton Cheney Parish Council July 13th - Dadlington Notes

Richard Mugglestone (Midlands Rural Housing) outlined the requirement of the Borough to assess housing needs and the possible outcome of a housing survey. This could enable affordable homes either through the rental or market sectors. The survey will probably take place in the autumn.

A new Parish Council website has been set up www.parish-council.com/suttoncheney

A draft letter was agreed to be sent to all residents adjacent to the Green requesting that no vehicles should park on the Green. Horses on the Green had also been a problem recently.

Art & Craft Fair



A steady stream of visitors weaved their way around an art and craft filled village hall in Dadlington over a recent August weekend. The stalls displayed a wide variety of things for sale and demonstrated a wealth of talent within our locality. Amongst the items on offer were ceramics, papercraft, knitwear, wooden ornaments and glass pendants. There was also a display of paintings from the Art Club who meet on Wednesdays, every week at the hall. A marquee

outside the hall provided the opportunity for browsers to take some light refreshment before embarking with renewed vigour on finding that perfect gift or bargain.

This was the first time that an Art & Craft fair has taken place at Dadlington, but judging by the number of visitors, the positive comments of the stall-holders and the money raised, it will not be the last. The financial success of the venture means that the Village Hall Committee can now move forward on the second phase of alterations, extending the hall towards the green and installing bifold doors.

Michael Dix

HISTORIC FIND COMES TO LIGHT IN DADLINGTON.



In the years following the 500th anniversary of the Battle of Bosworth Field many people were scouring the area around Dadlington in an effort to locate the actual scene of the confrontation between King Richard III and Henry Tudor. For many years various artifacts had been found in and around the village and it was about 1995 whilst digging for a drain in one of my fields that I discovered this cannon ball just a few yards from the Ashby Canal, where it had lain for just over

500 years. It is made of stone or flint and is not perfectly spherical. Many of the early guns used ammunition that was not specifically made for a particular gun but nevertheless those guns were able to fire such projectiles a considerable distance. Over the years other 'cannon balls' have also been found in the same area by a number of Dadlington residents some made of stone like my discovery and some made of cast iron.

Charles Frisby

Thank You

Thank you to all the Stoker sub collectors for your hard work. We really appreciate your help.

Rosemary Collier

News from the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan – your help is needed, your views need to be heard

The process of putting together the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan has reached the point of consultation with residents, businesses and local groups to find out what people want in the Village Neighbourhood Plan. The Advisory Committee has been contacting local groups, societies and clubs along with businesses in the Neighbourhood Plan Area to get their ideas, and two drop-in suggestion events have been arranged to collect the views of residents.

Please make a note of these dates on your calendars.

Wednesday, 26 October at the Methodist Hall, between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Saturday, 29 October at the Baxter Hall, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Keep a lookout for the postcards and posters in October advertising these events.

Once the suggestions have been collected, the Advisory Committee will use the results to design a questionnaire, which will be sent to every household and business within the Neighbourhood Plan Area.

From all of this, it is hoped to put together a Neighbourhood Plan that truly reflects the overall view of those in the Neighbourhood Plan Area.

Volunteers needed

This is a plan for the village and help from some volunteers would be very much appreciated to carry out a few small tasks at the suggestion events e.g. transporting display boards, setting up display boards, keeping a record of attendance, guiding residents if they need help registering their views and tidying up etc.

If you feel you can devote some time to any of these tasks on either of the suggestion dates, please could contact Jim Hope on

sgnpjimhope@btinternet.com.

Ella Orr

Ten of a Kind (Answers on page 20)

A year ago, I put together my first Ten of a Kind on the theme of 'firsts'. So, with that in mind, here is this month's on the theme of 'seconds'. How many can you get?

Seconds

1. Which fictional character upset the Beadle by asking for seconds?
2. Who was the second president of the United States?
3. In which month in 1939 did Britain declare war on Germany after they had invaded Poland?
4. Mount Everest is in Nepal. The second highest mountain in the world, K2, lies on the border of which two nearby countries?
5. Which is the second largest planet in the solar system?
6. What is the title of the second book in JRR Tolkien's Lord of the Rings trilogy?
7. The second amendment to the US constitution ensures which right of the people will not be infringed?
8. What happens in tennis if the ball touches the top of the net during a second service?
9. What is the cost of a second class stamp?
10. In time, how many microseconds are there in one second?

CHRISTCHURCH NEW ZEALAND

To the people of New Zealand the danger from earthquakes is ever present. Every year they experience around 15,000 measurable seismic events most of which are not felt but none the less underline the constant threat that this country faces.

In September 2010 the city of Christchurch, in the Canterbury region of the South Island, suffered a quake measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale. The epicentre of this shock was over 40 kilometres from the city and it was sufficiently deep to result in a violent shaking that, mercifully, caused no loss of life and only limited damage to buildings. Usually a quake of this magnitude is a once in a hundred year event and there was a sense that, in many ways, the city had got away with it.

On 22nd February 2011 at 12.51 on a normal working day the city was hit by a second devastating earthquake. Although this event was of a lesser magnitude, 6.3 on the Richter scale, it was much shallower with its epicentre a mere 6 miles from the central business district of Christchurch. The shaking lasted less than 20 seconds but resulted in 185 deaths, 164 serious injuries and a further 1500 people requiring medical treatment. Most of the deaths occurred when the Canterbury Television Building collapsed killing 115 people.

For the outside world this event in a faraway land soon slipped from the headlines, lost amongst the many natural disasters that occur every year. We were in Christchurch in 2012 and at that time the centre of the city remained cordoned off so it was not possible to comprehend the scale of damage that had occurred. Driving around the suburbs, the only visible signs of the earthquake were the odd abandoned house and the distorted road surfaces. This distortion is caused by a process known as liquefaction where the subterranean water table is forced upwards during the earthquake, turning the top strata of ground into quicksand. The effect on the road surface and the utilities running underneath is devastating.

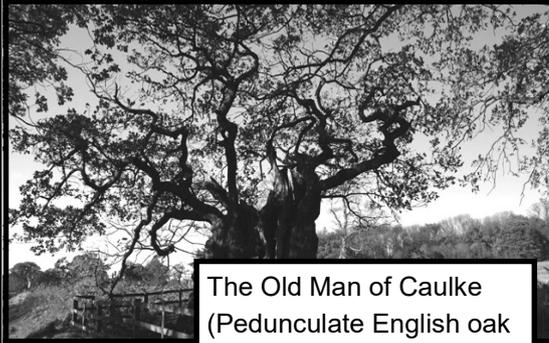
This year we returned to Christchurch and as most of damaged buildings had either been demolished or structurally stabilised, it was possible to walk in the slowly recovering city centre. We visited an exhibition that told the story of the earthquake and it brilliantly conveyed the enormity of what had occurred. In those violent seconds, 80% of the buildings in the city centre were damaged beyond repair including the iconic Anglian Cathedral and the Catholic Basilica. 18,000 homes were destroyed or badly damaged and 4,000 cars were written off. The total damage was estimated at £20 billion. By any standard that is a huge sum of money but in a country with a population of just 4.5 million the burden is immense. The 30,000 seat AMI stadium that should have hosted important games in the 2011 Rugby World Cup stands empty, irreparably damaged, as a sad monument to a suffering nation.

In Christchurch today the feeling is of a sad reflection of the past tempered by an optimism that a new and different city will emerge from the ashes of the old. It will have more open spaces and buildings constructed to even more stringent codes to resist future earthquakes. It is a huge task but the resolve of the New Zealanders will make sure it happens.

Graham Grimley

What's On

Stoke Golding Heritage Group



The Old Man of Caulke
(Pedunculate English oak
over 1200 years old)

Sally Cunningham will be giving a talk on "British Trees" on 20th October at 7.30pm in the Baxter Hall. Non-Members are welcome at a nominal charge of £2.50. Currently a number of native species are under threat and of course virtually all Elm Trees disappeared changing the look of our countryside for ever, Come along and look back at where are native trees came from and what does the future hold for them.

Methodist Church
Coffee morning

Saturday October
22nd
10.00-11.30

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

HIGHAM ON-THE-HILL

The Oddfellows Arms
(rear Car Park, Main St)

SEP 8TH & 22ND | OCT 13TH
NOV 3RD & 17TH | DEC 1ST

STOKE GOLDING

Village Hall Car Park
(end of Hall Drive)

SEP 15TH & 29TH | OCT 27TH
NOV 10TH & 24TH | DEC 8TH

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

DOMESTIC PLUMBER



New Stoke Golding Based Service

Contact Will Alston

07980 586481 / 01455 212941

Small jobs very welcome

No minimum charge

StokeFest 2016



Seeing Hinckley Road lined with cars on a sunny August Bank Holiday Sunday afternoon was an encouraging sign that this year's StokeFest was once again attracting folk from further afield as well as Stoke Golding and Dadlington. It was a delight to see the Rec filled with families and friends, picnics, folding chairs, blankets and more than just a few bottles and cans of something whilst enjoying the music and relaxing in the sun. Yes, the weather was kind



despite heavy rainfall the day before and grey clouds looming from time to time. As well as the music, there was plenty to keep the crowds entertained as the dog show had our four legged friends, looking well-groomed and at their most obedient and the 'Beat the Goalie' Shoot out challenged the budding footballers. The beer and BBQ tent attracted long queues and kept the customers happy. The stalls and bouncy castle and slide did steady business as the young people made the most of the opportunity to catch up with their friends at the end of the long summer holiday. Great music was performed by a range of acts, playing covers from Blondie to The Stereophonics, rock music to indie music and there was even a Meat Loaf tribute act who gave us two encores including a full version of Bat Out Of Hell. There was plenty to applaud and cheer and even some enthusiastic (and sometimes memorable) dancing as the evening drew in. So much organisation goes into putting on a whole day event like this so it was heartening to hear so many



positive comments about what a fantastic event StokeFest is. It's a day of great entertainment all for free but it also raises money for some very worthwhile local causes: Wishes 4 Kids, Rainbows Hospice, Leicester Animal Aid and the local Air Ambulance as well as local village projects. Hopefully all the charity collection buckets were heavy by the end of the day. This annual event is run by a small team of hardworking, dedicated volunteers and our thanks goes to them, all the helpers, the bands and stage and lighting crew for another super Stoke Fest. Here's hoping it will all happen again in 2017.



Ella



From St Margaret's Church

It's the time of year when Harvest Festivals are celebrated all over the country and, as the bales of hay are gathered up in our fields, I am reminded that October is a good month to say 'thank you.' A good time to thank God for his generosity towards us.

Harvest Festival is still one of the most popular celebrations in both town and country churches, and a reminder at this time of the year of how fortunate we are. Harvest is a celebration, and one of the songs we sing declares 'all good gifts around us are sent from heaven above, so thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all his love.'

God's generosity to us comes, of course, with a challenge to share what we have been given.

One way we thank God for creation and for the wonderful variety of food we enjoy, is to be generous in **our** giving, even as God has been generous to us.

There are still large numbers of people, here in the UK as well as overseas, who are struggling to feed themselves and their families.

At Harvest, and indeed throughout the year, we ask for donations of in-date, non-perishable food for our local food banks. I know that many people already support us in this – your donations are much appreciated. Thank you.

Later this month, on Sunday 30th October, we are holding a special service - '*In Loving Memory*' at St Peter's Church, Witherley at 10.30am. This is a service of hymns, readings and prayers, when we remember anyone dear to us who has died. There will be the opportunity to light a candle in memory of anyone who is special to you.

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

Wishing you God's blessing

Linda



St Margaret's Church Teddy Bear Jump

We are sorry we had to cancel this year with the weather being so bad. We hope to see you next year.

Margaret Croxall

Church Matters

Church of England October 2016

St. Margaret's Church

2nd October 10.30am Harvest All Age Service
9th October 10.30am Benefice Service Dadlington
16th October 10.30am Holy Communion
23rd October 10.30am Morning Worship
30th October 10.30am Benefice Service Witherley: 'In Loving Memory' Service

St. James's Church

2nd October 9.00am BCP Morning Prayer
9th October 11.00am Benefice Service
16th October 9.00am BCP Holy Communion
23rd October 9.00am BCP Morning Prayer
30th October 10.30am Benefice Service Witherley: 'In Loving Memory' Service

Zion Baptist Chapel October 2016 Services

2nd	6pm	Steven Connor
9th	6pm	Martyn Owens
HARVEST		
16th	6pm	Richard Cotton
23rd	6pm	Bill McIntyre
30th	6pm	Malcolm Welch

The Methodist Church October 2016 Services

2nd	10.30am	TBA
9th	10.30am	Revd Wes Hampton
16th	10.30am	TBA
23rd	10.30am	TBA
30th	10.30am	TBA

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.



WE WERE THERE!!!!

For those of you who are regular readers of this column, you will recall that 15 scouts from Stoke Golding went to the international camp for scouts and guides at Whatton Hall. 23 countries were represented which was obvious from the flags carried in during the opening ceremony which accommodated the 5,500 youths and their leaders in an enormous Marquee.

The camp lasted a week and had so many fantastic opportunities from climbing and sailing to circus skills, bush cooking and craft - just a few examples. The atmosphere was great and the scouts got to make new friends not only within our camp and other units from Hinckley, but also further afield.

The pitch for this age group of 11 to 14 year olds was just right with evening 'chill' activities including disco, chill zone, smoothie bar and hot dog and chips.

Considering the amount of activities the scouts were doing, the injuries were relatively few and the scouts all had an "awesome" time and "it was the best thing ever." The week sped by.

Thank you to all the leaders who gave up their valuable time to organise the event and also be there during the week to help. Without their ongoing commitment and support the scouts would not have been able to have such an amazing life time experience.

Jennifer Michie



A few Garden Show Photos



Report in next month's Stoker





Stoke Golding WI - A Subject Dear to our Hearts

After enjoying a lovely afternoon tea at the Larder Café in Atherstone for our August meeting, which had been arranged by the two Sues, for which we thank them, the ladies of Stoke Golding W.I returned to the usual meeting place of the Methodist Hall for a talk by Dr John Sutton on a subject dear to our hearts, that of the Suffragette Movement.

He told us of the movement headed by Emmeline Pankhurst and her daughters, but also of many women around the country including Leicestershire who fought for our right to vote.

There were many ways that the movement brought to the attention of the politicians and the public the need that women had the right to vote but even then it was only for certain women, those over 30 and property owners or with a secure income and although there were many women who didn't fall into this category there were still many working class women who joined the fight.

Dr Sutton gave the members an insight into the acts of civil disobedience for which many women were imprisoned and subjected to force feeding etc. , and of course the famous story of Emily Wilding Davidson who was killed at the Epsom Derby by The King's horse.

Here in Leicester we also had our heroines, one being Alice Hawkins, and he told us that a statue to her is being erected in Leicester in the near future to honour her stance.

It wasn't until 1917 that an act was passed in parliament that enabled women in a certain categories to be eligible to vote even though the movement had begun in 1903.

Dr Sutton's talk made all members realise what those women went through to give us the vote and to make sure that we always use that vote whenever there is an election.

Our next meeting will be on 12th October and will give us a glimpse of another set of very special women, The Wartime Housewives. Do come and join us, you will be very welcome.

Val Hartwell

Thank You

At last Thank you to everyone of you for your wonderful support at our big breakfast and our ongoing charity book sale at the Post Office. I was able to send a cheque for £750 to the Acute Respiratory Syndrome Disorder research fund. The research carried out by professor Dan McAuley at Belfast university is vital to find a cure for this awful problem. Thank you to my family and friends and everyone who helped. Without you all I could not do it. Once again thank you for your continuing support.

Kindest regards, Margaret and the Villiers Family

A Cathedral Journey – Part 4: The Long and Short of It

With a quarter of the cathedrals in England visited by the start of 1997, the next two years brought my friend Andrew and I to just under the halfway mark. We began in April with a trip to Bury St Edmunds where we'd expected to find an ancient pile containing the buried bones of the aforementioned St Edmund. We didn't. Almost nothing is known about St Edmund, an East Anglian king killed by the Vikings in 869, including the location of his tomb. In fact, the Bury bit of the name comes from the word borough, and the cathedral was a converted parish church that left us slightly underwhelmed.

We found another converted church serving as a cathedral in Birmingham. However, this was a beautiful building, constructed in the baroque style in 1715 to alleviate pressure on the nearby St Martin in the Bull Ring when Birmingham's population began to expand rapidly. It became a cathedral in 1905 and is notable for having an upper level, something we didn't find anywhere else, and also for being rather small: strange as it serves the second biggest city in the country.

During the autumn half term that year, our two families spent an enjoyable few days by the sea at Cromer and, not wishing to miss an opportunity, we decided to stop off on our return journey in the city of Norwich. We took advantage of their Park and Ride system and were within sight of the cathedral when my youngest, Jamie, said he was feeling sick. And then he was! We disembarked in front of the magnificent Erpingham Gate that leads into the precincts, whilst the bus set off back to the car park with one child still throwing up and his mother desperately trying to clean up the bus. This cathedral was a far more of an ancient edifice and very splendid, although it had seen its fair share of problems over the years: being damaged by riots in 1272, catching fire in 1463 and being vandalized by Puritans in 1643. With the second biggest set of cloisters, where the Benedictine monks would walk and pray, and the second tallest spire, it's not quite premier league: a bit like it's football team I suppose.

Three short visits to Oxford, Coventry and Worcester came next. We only had limited access to the cathedral in Oxford as the BBC were setting up equipment for filming a programme about organ music. It was going to be presented by Howard Goodall of Blackadder, Mr Bean and Vicar of Dibley theme tune fame, but he was nowhere to be seen. However, a friendly guide did draw our attention to a magnificent stained glass window by the English Pre-Raphaelite painter Edward Burne-Jones. It tells the story of the founder of the first church on the site, St Frideswide, and contains the incongruous image of pink flushing toilet behind various medieval characters.

Apparently, they had just been invented when he did the painting. Worcester proved to be another restricted visit as a service was taking place and we were kept to the sides and back of the building. We could have spent hours in the modern Coventry Cathedral, built to replace the bomb-destroyed building that adjoins it: a monument to peace and forgiveness. We could have gone anywhere inside to admire the brilliant stained glass, the imposing tapestry behind the altar or the giant sculpture of the archangel Michael defeating the devil. But Andrew comes from Leicester and has a thing about Coventry. It was hard enough to get him to go to the city in the first place, let alone spend any time there. We didn't stay long!

The summer of 1998 saw our two families holidaying again, this time up in Scotland. It had seemed like a good idea to detour from the A1 on our return in order to take in the delights of York and its commanding minster. But then we got stuck in traffic jams, and then got lost in the suburbs, and then we couldn't find anywhere to park, in

hot cars, with fed up children. Eventually we made it to the minster. Fortunately, Andrew and I had both visited it on a number of occasions previously, although never together. Fortunately, because the glory of the architecture, the contemplative calm and the angelic music were drowned out by, "When are we going home," "I want an ice-cream," and "Why did we have to come here?" from the children, whilst the wives engaged in a fairly constant barrage of abuse directed at their husbands. As I said: It had seemed like a good idea. *Michael Dix*



In the Centre of Things

During long, hot summer months, (do you remember those?) a favourite destination is often the seaside, but here in Stoke Golding and Dadlington we appear to be about as far away from the sea as is possible.

However, that's not the case: the Derbyshire village of Coton in the Elms holds that distinction, although it's only 14 miles away, near Burton on Trent. If you measure the distance from Stoke Golding to various parts of the coast, they mostly lie

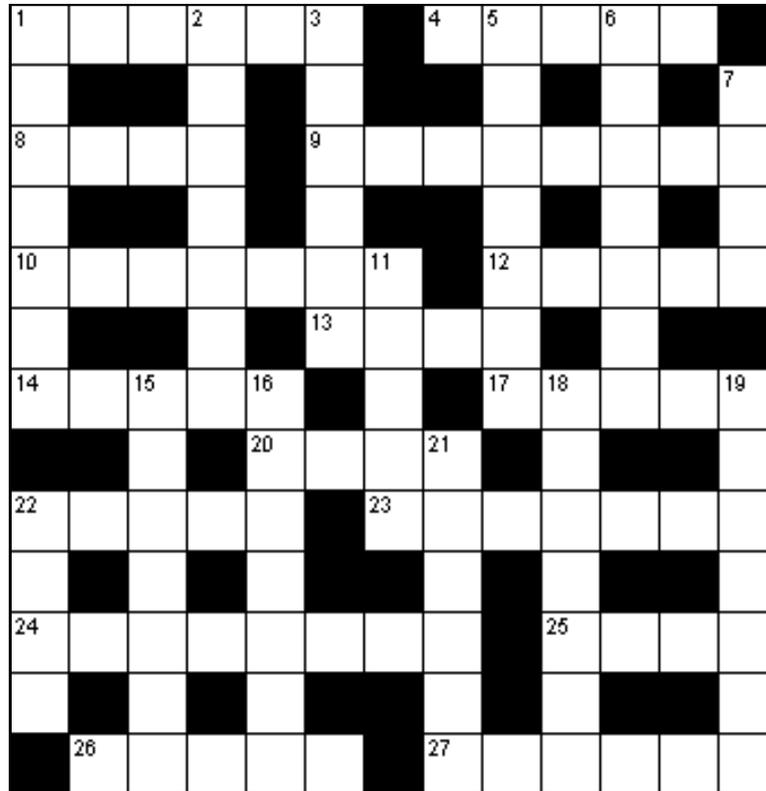
within a radius of between 85 to 110 miles. We are actually only 66 miles from our nearest sea, but this is a fairly inaccessible bit of marshland on The Wash. The closest holiday resorts are Skegness and Hunstanton, both 84 miles away. Then comes Formby, north of Liverpool, Rhyl on the North Welsh coast and Weston Super Mare, all around the 100 mile mark. Even the south coast is only 115 miles as the crow flies, although getting there is a much longer journey. We are also at the centre of a ring of five major cities, London, Bristol, Liverpool, Manchester and Leeds, which all lie between 86 and 92 miles away. So would we have a good claim to be living at the centre of England?

Traditionally, that honour has been claimed for at least 500 years by Meriden in the West Midlands. Although its road signs pronounce it to be so, and it has a much moved monument to mark the centre with rival claims and an eye to a unique selling point coming from the local pub, this is only an oral tradition. The Derbyshire village of Morton, which lies just west of the M1, has a better geographical case, being both the midway point of a line going from north to south and another going from east to west, an English oak tree, what else, marking the spot. A different calculation, performed by Oxford geography professor Danny Dorling, looks at the distribution of England's population and places the centre at that in nearby Appelby Parva. In truth, there can be no accurate method of calculating the centre of our or any other three dimensional island, with its various contours, tidal boundaries and river inlets, and sitting, not flat, but on the spherical Earth. The best approximation would be to construct a two dimensional map of England out of wood, and then try to balance it on, say, the point of an upturned drawing pin. This is what the Ordnance Survey did a few years ago (probably with computer software rather than wood and drawing pins), and they discovered the balancing point was just two and a half miles away from the centre of Stoke Golding, at Lindley Hall Farm, just off the Fenn Lanes. They erected a plaque there in June 2013 and whilst Fenny Drayton and Higham are slightly closer, Stoke and Dadlington are there or thereabouts. That explains why we're all such well balanced folk.

Michael Dix

Crossword

Mainly Victorian Personalities



ACROSS

- 1 Edith ***** WWI Nurse (6)
- 4 Theatre in Leicester (5)
- 8 One of the Bronte sisters (4)
- 9 First name of Crimean war nurse (8)
- 10 Daniel ***** Leicester's fattest man (7)
- 12 Faithful (5)
- 13 Titanic set this from Southampton (4)
- 14 Agreed with (5)
- 17 To rest at night time (5)
- 20 Surname of actor who was Sykes in Oliver (4)
- 22 Indian for genuine (5)
- 23 Poems (7)
- 24 Joseph Merrick was known as the ***** man (8)
- 25 Musical songwriter **** Porter (4)
- 26 Author ***** Wilde (5)
- 27 "Surname" of the Whitechapel murderer (6)

DOWN

- 1 & 15D Oliver author (7 & 7)
- 2 Pleasant to look at (7)
- 3 Slang for 'prisoners never to be released' (6)
- 5 Unfolds a carpet (7)
- 6 Surname of male lead in Mary Poppins (3-4)
- 7 Surname of telephone inventor (4)
- 11 Book. ***** of Beatrix Potter (5)
- 15 see one down
- 16 Old Greek currency (7)
- 18 Cover on front of a camera (7)
- 19 French chemist who produced vaccinations (7)
- 21 Occupation of the murderer Crippen (6)
- 22 Founder of the police force (4)

Answers on page 30

Friends of Kenya's Children

Yes, it's that time of year again! The annual FKC Garden Party.

The weather was perfect, the venue delightful, the home-made cakes delicious and the tea unlimited. Add to that a stall with irresistible bargains, lots of lovely people and you have the recipe for a really enjoyable afternoon. We also made over £1,100 - with more donations still coming in.

Thank you to everyone who supported the event - especially the tireless helpers. The amount raised will ensure support and education for one child for a whole year.

Children like Emmanuel, who couldn't read, write or speak English or Kiswahili before he had support.

Emmanuel has written to thank his sponsors for their support:-

"How are you? I hope you are fine. I am writing this letter to thank you for sponsorship. My performance is improved highly. Last year we did two exams. The first exam I was number twenty out of twenty two with four hundred and eleven. The second exam I was number seventeen out of twenty two with four hundred and seventy two marks. I promise next exam I will be number one with five hundred and eighty four marks.

In school I like playing football and reading story books. When I grow up I would like to be a pilot. May God be with your sponsorship.

Yours faithfully Emmanuel."

Jan Pettyfer



Fantastic Start to the Season



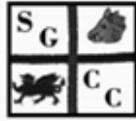
Over the summer the Club's annual mini dribblers has successfully produced another fine development squad which, as you can imagine, has caused St Martin's playing field to become a little crowded on Saturday mornings. The Club has now grown to such a successful extent that we've branched out to additional training ground and match pitches. These being our two eldest teams who now reside at Heath Lane Academy, Earl Shilton, with a couple of our other teams also playing their home games there.

Nearly all the teams are enjoying a new football kit to kick-start the 2016-17 season off thus assisting in a new found confidence, resulting in some fabulous wins and inevitably the

odd humbling defeat.

The U14s have had a fantastic start to the season after winning Division D last season. The team is relishing their promotion, with a convincing win over Quorn Juniors 5-1 and a 6-2 win in the County Cup over Anstey Swifts.

On Sunday 11th September Stoke Golding's U11 Man Of The Match, received the Charity of Thomas Barton Trophy for his all round team effort during the match against Oadby Owls Hawks. They played as a team and won convincingly 7-4 totalling a massive 20 goals already in just their first two games!



Stoke Golding Cricket Club Celebrate 85 Years

This year Stoke Golding Cricket Club celebrated its 85th anniversary with a very successful season.

The club has made considerable progress since last year and the future is looking very bright. The 1st XI are being promoted to division 4 of the Leicestershire Everards League and the 2nd XI have had a very competitive season, finishing 4th in their division.

SGCC has gained many new players (most from the village), raised significant funds for essential facility improvements, helped out with Stoke Fest and hosted a very successful T20 club fundraiser day.



The club would also like to use this opportunity to once again thank the Stoke Golding Boys Club and A.S. Contractors for their kind donations and sponsorships.

As ever, new players both youth and senior, are more than welcome to come and take part at our winter nets due to start in February.

Stoke Golding Cricket Club

Ten of a Kind Answers (from page 8)

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1. Oliver Twist | 6. The Two Towers |
| 2. John Adams | 7. Keep and bear arms |
| 3. September | 8. The server repeats their second service |
| 4. Pakistan and China | 9. 55p |
| 5. Saturn | 10. One million |

St Margaret's Flower Festival Thank You

Thank you to all the ladies who decorated St Margaret's so beautifully. Thank you to the Thomas Barton Trust and our other sponsors for their generous donations.

We would also like to thank those who donated items to sell, manned the stalls, prepared food or washed up, to everyone who kept the delicious cakes coming, our welcomers in church and Jan for the quiz. We couldn't have done it without you. Lastly thank you to our many visitors who support us year in year out.

The quiz was won by the Waters family who got 22 out of 25 questions right - a brilliant result.

Margaret Croxall

WOW DAYS 'WORLD OF WORK'

Monday, 11th July – Thursday, 14th July 2016

WOW 'World of Work' days for Year 10s were held during the last week of the summer term. There were a variety of activities including a visit from the RAF to encourage personal development, a career talk by the Army and on the same day staff from Santander provided tips for a successful CV and cover letter, interview skills and the importance of social media presence. There were relevant trips including Caterpillar, London Art Day and students visiting PDSA in Leicester. Talks from professionals from different sectors included a BBC News reporter - Amy Harris, a past Saint Martin's student; do look out for her on East Midlands News. Other visitors included



a logistics representative, a police officer who spoke about the opportunity to volunteer as a police cadet enabling



students to make a difference to the community. This year, there was a mock law trial and for the sporty students, Mel Thomas presented a 30 minute 'Insanity' session and gave insightful tips and strategies specifically designed to help build strength, gain muscle mass, lose fat, enhance endurance and maintain healthy eating habits. Plus, students participated in a

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (commonly known as **CPR**) session and students appreciated learning the new skill. There was a full day of Sixth Form taster lessons including A-Levels and BTEC subjects; a big thank you to Hinckley Academy/John Cleveland Sixth Form College for providing this day. The last day was an Ashfield Music Festival, an activity in which students develop skills in enterprise and learn how physics applies in the context of setting up a music festival by taking on one of six roles: project manager, health and safety advisor, construction manager, electrical engineer, sound engineer or lighting engineer. They were supported by real-life experts and used a mixture of physics-based knowledge, creativity and skills associated with enterprise in order to win the contract to build the main stage. There was a prize for the winning team.

Julie Lowry

COPY DEADLINE for November 2016 ISSUE: 15th October

Stoke Golding website: www.stokegolding.co.uk



New Landlord for The White Swan

Jamie Sinton is very excited to be the new landlord of The White Swan. He has worked in the catering industry for 31 years including several pubs and aims to have well kept ales, traditional British food and a welcoming atmosphere. Although currently closed for refurbishment, he hopes the pub will be open again very soon.

Jamie will need some staff to help out in the pub - if you are interested please contact him. He is offering some land behind the White Swan for local people to grow fruit and vegetables and, again, if you are interested please get in touch. Contact Jamie: tel - 01455212313 Mobile - 07803254498

Saint Martin's achieves exceptional GCSE results

Saint Martin's has been situated in Stoke Golding since the 1940s - however, this was the first year we had a cohort of our students taking their GCSEs. Along with much of



Leicestershire, we

have gone through an age range change making us an 11-16 school. In the early summer, our Year 11s sat their GCSE examinations and, along with most 16 year olds, waited anxiously for the results day in August. When finally published, we were delighted to see how well our students achieved. One of the key government measures, the percentage of pupils achieving an A* to C grade GCSE both in English and Maths, was an amazing 87%. The results across the country are not published until January, however, based on last year, the county average was 59% and the highest state comprehensive school in Leicestershire achieved 80%. On the older measure, no longer used, the number of pupils achieving five or more A* to C grades including English and Maths, we achieved 83%. The county average was 57%. Again, based on last year's results, this would again make us the highest achieving State Comprehensive in Leicestershire.

Our aspiration as a school, is to provide an outstanding, high quality academic education for all pupils, irrespective of their initial ability or background. Our belief is that through excellent teaching, uncompromising standards of discipline, and unrelenting care, we can help all pupils to achieve beyond expectation.

Clive Wright



The Health Promotion for July/August focused on SKIN CANCER.

Information included how to prevent skin cancer by slapping on sun screen, wearing a hat and shirt and seeking out the shade.

On another note the fund raising for the defibrillator is going well with monies pledged from Stoke Fest, Garden show and money donated from St Margaret's school end of year concert. Dr Patterson and myself attended the school for a presentation of the cheque. The

school children were well informed about supporting the local community and Dr Patterson explained the basics of what the defibrillator was. She also answered some interesting questions such as what it was made of and how do you feel!!!

A training session at the club on the use of the defibrillator at the beginning of July was well attended with around 30 people.

Jennifer Michie

NEVER THROW ANYTHING AWAY !



It is now some forty years since I came into possession of the above railway ticket dated 17th July 1832, which was issued to passengers who rode on the first train to use the then new Leicester to Swannington railway line. It was not built for passengers but to transport cheap coal from the North Leicestershire coalfields which fuelled the industrial factories in the city. The train consisted of George Stephenson's engine called 'Comet'

pulling 20 coal trucks (they were new !) lined with plank seats for the 400 guests, the first two had roofs on but all the others were open to the elements. The guests comprised the county's gentry, shareholders and industrialists - and the rich. It set off for Swannington terrifying both public and animals alike and it was said that the 13 foot chimney of the engine caught the roof of Glenfield tunnel. On arrival at Swannington the smoke grimed guests enjoyed open air refreshments before their return journey.

A year ago I again came across the faded but preserved ticket and having then just come through two cancer operations decided to see if it was worth anything with the idea of selling it and donating the proceeds to a cancer charity. A Daventry auction house specialising in the sale of railway tickets said they only knew of one other such ticket and even the National Railway Museum at York did not have one, "So it might be worth a few quid " ! It came up for auction on 17th July 2015 exactly 183 years after the event and was knocked down for £940. ! - And that for a piece of old card four inches by three inches. As the proceeds were going to Charity the auction house waived their charges and their cheque made out to MacMillan Cancer Support arrived three days later. So - as I said at the beginning - NEVER THROW ANYTHING AWAY.

A Stoker.

The Fool on the Hill

How the dog got its balls back.....

On an impossibly hot day in early May, Mrs Fool and I were taking the air along the banks of the beautiful River Ribble. The air was alive with birdsong, the leaves on the trees were bursting forth and a dog was floating gently downstream.

The dog's owner was opposite us on the northerly bank of the river accompanied by a second dog whose role in the unfolding saga was minor, but significant. It appeared that the owner had been throwing tennis balls into the river for her two hounds to retrieve when the minor canine tired of this and transferred its attention to a decaying rabbit.

This left one dog in the middle of the river with two tennis balls. Being only a smallish creature it was unable to hold both tennis balls in its mouth. As it released one to retrieve the other, the first ball floated off with the current. This ball, now being in motion, became of greater interest so the dog swam towards it and whole process repeated itself. The dog seemed to be engrossed in its task and I feel sure it would have happily carried on until it was swept out to sea at Preston.

Judging by the agitated state of its owner, this had been going on for some time prior to our arrival. She had, thus far, been unable to find a command that would appraise the dog of the futility of its task and require it to return to the shore minus one tennis ball.

Along the southern bank appeared a second dog owner who Mrs Fool, always blessed with the Wisdom of Solomon, entreated to assist in putting a stop to the floating dog's pointless endeavours. Southbank dog, who I suspect was of greater intellect than North bank dog (floating), was informed by his owner of his intended role into which he threw himself with great glee and a loud splash. He rapidly returned to the south bank with the superfluous spheroid. North bank dog (floating) seemed to take this in the spirit of which it was intended and returned with one ball to his much relieved owner. This just left the tennis ball of north bank dog (decaying rabbit) on the opposite bank. Fortunately south bank dog owner was possessed of a good throwing arm and hurled the ball a good 95% of the way across the river. He had, however, neglected to inform South bank dog that further retrieval was unnecessary. North bank dog (previously floating), having deposited one ball with his owner, now transferred his attention to the recently arrived ball of his (decaying rabbit) partner. South bank dog made a manful attempt but was unable to reach the ball that his owner had thrown before north bank dog (now floating again) nipped in and restored the tennis ball status quo.

Oh and shame on you for thinking as you did on reading the title of this little tale.



F O T H

Meadow Lane

Meadow Lane was the favourite lane of all our village folk
Bordered on both sides by high hedges of mixed thorn
In summer smothered in a glory of sweet briar roses
Whose fragrance lingered on the air with the breezes borne

At intervals along the lane there stood majestic trees
Elms, sycamores and oaks
Whose leafy branches in summer overhung like green bowers
Affording protection from hot noonday sun, and April's fickle showers

Lovely primroses and celandines starred the hedge banks, and butterflies gaily flew
One might see a shy vole peep out of its hole
While croaking frogs could be heard in the deep water ditch
And the dainty little field mouse had carefully chosen its pitch

There were pleasant country sounds of grazing cattle, bleating sheep
And cawing rooks high in the trees
The sweet musical notes of many small songsters
The sighing wind, and the soft murmuring of the honey bees

Over the years the lane had witnessed many happy scenes
Young courting sweethearts and new parents pushing shiny prams
Cheerful chattering families often with dogs on their Sunday walk
And the old folk walking slowly but smiling still and holding hands

Whenever heavy rains swept across the meadows
A low dip in the lane became a ford
Whether paddling barefoot or splashing in wellies
We children loved it and were never bored

Now we have reached the long lanes end
To the old stone arched bridge which spans
The calm clear waters of the Trent
And if we're lucky we'll see the gliding swans

Now only a step to our beautiful chase
Where we'd often picnic or paddle in the gurgling stream
Pick heather for Mum or delicious bilberries for a pie
Happily roaming for miles it seems

Then it happened, the woodmen came with saws and axes
They felled all those lovely hedges and trees
Which had proudly stood for well over a century
Firm as a rock and free of disease
I was sad that I'd never see again
Those friendly branches nodding in the breeze

It was all to gain a bit more space
The march of progress so they said
But to me and many others
That dear old lane could never be the same again.

Peggy Holmes

BETH'S CORNER



ROSEMARY COLLIER

Every month I discover a completely unexpected life story from one or another of my 'victims' I've managed to inveigle onto the sofa in my sitting room. It's always an unexpected delight, especially as in this case it turns out to be someone I see so regularly at our editorial meeting sitting quietly at the end of the table. Who would ever have dreamed that this quiet motherly figure had ever managed to exist, as well as give birth to two of her children in the most basic bush village in Kenya – Kitui – about 150 miles south of Nairobi. However- Rosemary's early life begins in Loughborough *"above my grandmother's furniture shop, grandfather was a master carpenter, and Mum helped in the shop. After Loughborough High School, I decided to train as a teacher, and was accepted by London's Goldsmith's College."* It was here that she met Mike, her husband-to-be, at the college bridge club. After the wedding they decided that they want to stay in South East London to teach in some of the most deprived areas, ending up in Deptford. Mike taught in a secondary school, while Rosemary was a primary school teacher. She takes a deep breath; *"It was a complete eye-opener Beth. One mother seemed to sew her children into their clothes, which never appeared to be removed. The children didn't want to learn, so it was a constant challenge. In those days you also had to make all your own resources at home, for class next day. We had an expression "there's always a way'."* It was a dreary depressing place to live and work in, so after six long years in London, they made a radical decision, applying to The Ministry of Overseas Development to teach in East Africa – hence to Kitui. Then Rosemary discovers that she is pregnant, with Baby No.1 already three months on the way. Realising this might prove a small problem she contacts a lady librarian in Nairobi, who delivers the daunting details of living and giving birth in this small Township in the African bush. I wait for the next revelation. *"Well – what was it like? What about your accommodation?"* There's an enormous chuckle: *"Well it was one half of a breeze block building with a corrugated iron roof and small metal-framed windows, a living room and bedrooms. The kitchen made my heart drop into my boots. The stone sink was about four inches deep in cockroaches with a cold water tap, and basic cooker".* I stare at her: *"No fridge – in that heat?"* Apparently that came later. *"Electricity was on a generator – so it often broke down."* The boys' secondary boarding school, with an African Principal, was also in a basic building with few resources. Mike was head of the English Department, while Rosemary was coming to terms as mistress of her domain. In Africa everyone is expected to employ house staff, and she was lucky to find Jonathan, who had trained as a cook in the merchant navy. Two weeks before the birth, Rosemary had to travel over rutted roads to Nairobi, staying with the lady librarian, where Sarah was born in a private hospital. Justin's birth came 14 months later, with the same procedure. By this time, Rosemary was also teaching in the school and had found Jedida, a young local girl she trained from scratch, as an Ayah for the children. To my amazement, not only did they come to appreciate their first term's contract, they made the decision to return

for a second term, enjoying socialising with the friends they had made before. They returned to the UK after five years.

Mike was soon employed in Nuneaton at the George Eliot School, while Rosemary house hunted, and found a house in Stoke Golding, where they still live. The children went to St. Margaret's, and to begin with Rosemary found the transition from Kitui difficult. "*Somehow I felt I didn't belong*". I can relate to this myself, coming back from poverty-stricken countries and working with street kids, for instance. The heart rebels at our Western cosiness – but not for long! With other Mums she soon began a mums and toddlers' group and did some part-time teaching. After her third child Daniel's 6th birthday she was appointed to run a multi-cultural centre in Nuneaton and later became a development officer and headed the Access Course at North Warwickshire & Hinckley College.

When Sarah was seventeen, Justin fifteen and Daniel too, the family adventure continues, back-packing all the way to Africa to show the children the village where two of them had been born. From train to London, Heathrow to Nairobi, bus rides and living under canvas they arrive back in Kitui. Sarah even recognised Jedida's house. The trek ended with a beach holiday on the glorious Mombasa coast at Twiga Lodge.

What an amazing life Rosemary – and I've only told half of it, but I've loved travelling with you.

Beth.

Protect Your Vehicle

Don't give thieves an easy ride

- ⇒ Leave it on show expect it to go! Always remove valuables from your vehicle.
- ⇒ Remove sat navs including the support cradle and cables. Wipe away any suction pad marks.
- ⇒ Don't leave tools in vans overnight.
- ⇒ Make sure that doors are locked, windows closed and keys removed when you leave the car, even if it's only for a moment.
- ⇒ On icy mornings, never leave your vehicle unattended with the engine running.
- ⇒ Park your vehicle in a well-lit area that is visible to others, or covered by CCTV.
- ⇒ If you have a garage, use it. Always lock your vehicle and garage.
- ⇒ Consider fitting a cage to your catalytic converter or have it etched.
- ⇒ Register any vehicle equipment such as CD players, in car DVD players and sat navs for free with immobilise.com

Leicestershire Police

Leics.police.uk/vehicle-crime

Notes from Stoke Golding Parish Council Meeting - September (not ratified)

Residents, Tony and Pam Hayward attended the meeting to discuss their situation in relation to unfinished works by Mar City and safety issues in relation to St Martin's Academy. These matters are still unresolved and all available actions have been taken by the Parish Council, County Cllr Ould and LCC. Cllr Terheege advised that the dispute with Mar City was a legal matter and perhaps Mr and Mrs Haywood should seek independent legal advice.

County Cllr Ould reported that the financial situation at Mar City is yet unresolved and Rebecca Henson at LCC is doing what she can to get the funding to complete the works to the roads on the development.

Matters arising from August's meeting:

Crime Report for June 2016 – 2 crimes reported near Wykin Lane, both theft - investigation complete, no suspect.

Cemetery section markers – the Charity of Thomas Barton has agreed to pay for the installation of cemetery markers in both cemeteries.

Kissing gates on jitty - Ironstyles has quoted to renovate the gates and add a panel at a cost of £1140.

Reports of Council representatives:

Cllr Pegg reported that the GPS grid markers in Wykin Lane Cemetery have become visible above ground and damaged the contractor's mower. Jason (Groundsman) has obtained a map of marker locations and will knock the markers back down below ground level.

Concerns were discussed about the gap at the side of the rec field gate. A bollard is required or a dog waste bin could be re-sited to block the gap.

Planning Application Matters:

New Applications:

46 Convent Drive – work to sycamore and oak trees.

Highfields farm, Wykin Lane – erection of 3 static banks of solar panel arrays.

32 Wykin Lane – fell beech tree – this is an ancient and protected tree and any decision should be subject to HBBC obtaining a tree surgeon's advice as to whether the tree is diseased.

50 Station Rd – removal of ash tree, and conifers to be removed.

Permissions granted:

47 Wykin Lane – two storey extension and porch.

Morris Homes – removal of oak tree. A site visit and map to show sewerage in relation to the oak tree have been requested by the Parish Council.

Neighbourhood Plan

The question of whether the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) should be until 2026 or 2036 was discussed. It was agreed that the NP should be extended to 2036 and revised as necessary.

Jim Hope reported that the grant submission was actioned on 5th September and the funds should be in the bank account in three weeks; in time to make arrangements for the drop in meetings. Cllr Beale reported that Steve Martin had resigned from the advisory committee. The September advisory committee meeting will go ahead for information purposes, but may not be quorate.

Sport in Stoke Golding (SISG)

The Committee and constitution have been submitted to Graham Chilvers and Pro-help for approval. Pro-help will advise Cllr Pegg on submission for architect's advice. Work to upgrade the showers and changing rooms at the pavilion is complete. An extra £288 was agreed for the additional work.

Requests for use of football pitches

Pitch requirements and comments from the Youth FB Club were discussed. As a one-off concession it was agreed that if 12 games are required on the adult pitch, the 12th game should be charged individually.

It was agreed that pitch maintenance and hire fees for all clubs should be reviewed.

Play equipment

The base and matting for the outdoor table tennis table will be installed on 15th Sept.

Bus shelter

The Charity of Thomas Barton has confirmed it will fund the bus shelter by St Martin's Academy.

Convent Site community land

The arrangements for the community land are on hold due to the liquidation of Mar City Development Company. The proposed location of the wicker apple was discussed - no action be taken at this time.

Stoke Fest damage

Prices and recommendation for repair of the tarmac surface in front of the football wall were considered. It was agreed that the whole area needs to be replaced to current standards in order for the work to be guaranteed and that Stoke Fest should be responsible for the total cost. Stoke Fest should also clear the debris, as children are throwing it around and this presents a further health and safety hazard. .

Communications received by the Chair

Written

Email from Cllr Mitchell re VAS battery. £72.50 was agreed for replacement battery. Email from Scout Group. Cllr Fisher is working with the Cubs to plant cyclamen in four of the village troughs; cost of plants £48, to be funded from the allocated budget.

Verbal

The mole man has caught the remaining mole, but reported evidence of another animal digging at Wykin Lane Cemetery.

Any Other Business

Cllr Beale reported that the picnic in the pavilion was a great success. Also the cricket and FB Clubs were intending to hold fundraising events to raise money for the new pavilion.

Cllr Beale has received concerns from residents about the state of the road at the top of Pine Close and safety issues regarding parking at the school. These matters remain on-going and unresolved.

Cllr Fisher reported the following:

Recycling of plastic and cans at the recreation field. Clerk to contact HBBC.

The village sign needs repainting. Clerk to contact Charity of Thomas Barton as it funded the sign.

The jitty is overgrown with nettles. Clerk to inform LCC.

Rough land on Thornfield Avenue. Clerk has already contacted HBBC. A further letter will be sent, with copy to Borough Cllr Ward.

Bosworth 1485 Legacy – meeting on 19th September. Cllr Goodsell to attend.

Cllr Goodsell reported on parking on pavement outside Morris Homes development.

A resident highlighted that the construction vehicles were from the development at Stoke Lodge.

He also reported that the units on Pete Mayne's land are being used for business and heavy vehicles were using the site. Clerk to notify HBBC planning.

Next meeting: Methodist Hall, Wednesday 5th October at 7pm

 **OBITUARIES** 

John Spence



John passed away on in Leicester Royal Infirmary on 6th September 2016 aged 85 years. He leaves behind his beloved wife Margaret and son Gary, and much loved grandchildren and great grandchildren John and his dear wife Margaret and their children Kim and Gary came to this village in the mid 1970's and moved into the Three Horseshoes pub as mine hosts. John made an immediate impact and it was not long before they began to have a good reputation for meals served from the pub's small kitchen. But they had bigger ideas and it was not long before John's plans for a much larger restaurant and kitchen were put in place, and the present layout of the premises took shape. With the restaurant vastly extended John and his family were able to give the people of the village and surrounding area eating facilities which were second to none. With John 'front of house' their clientele increased to such a degree that advance bookings filled their restaurant at lunchtimes and at two evening sittings. John and Margaret were good friends to all their numerous staff and to many people in this village who will all be saddened by his passing. In the mid 1980's they retired to Spain and it was only about two years ago that, due to ill health, they reluctantly returned to the UK and took up residence in a Bitteswell care home. We are sure that the Stoke people who remember John,

Ivor John Dawe

We are also sad to report that Ivor passed away at home on 8th September 2016 aged 72 years with his family beside him after a bravely borne fight against cancer. He was the loving husband of Mary and a much loved father to his daughters Joe and Carolyn and a devoted grandfather to six grandchildren and one great grandchild. Born in Atherstone he and Mary lived in Witherley before moving to Stoke some 22 years ago. Mary said how proud she was of the support of all her wonderful family throughout Ivor's long illness and that as there were family flowers only at Ivor's funeral service they wished any donations given in lieu of flowers to go to The

Vincent Paul Allen

We regret to inform readers that Vincent Paul Allen of Station Road passed away on 2nd September 2016 at Walsgrave Hospital Coventry aged 86 years.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS (from page 18)
ACROSS :1. Cavell, 4. Curve, 8. Anne, 9. Florence, 10. Lambert, 12. Loyal, 13. Sail, 14. Sided, 17. Sleep, 20. Reed, 22. Pucka, 23. Sonnets, 24. Elephant, 25. Cole, 26. Oscar, 27. Ripper.
DOWN: 1&15. Charles Dickens, 2. Eyeable, 3. Lifers, 5. Unrolls, 6. Van Dyke, 7. Bell,



Tomlinson's Farm Shop
Your local Farm Shop, Station Road

Free range chicken, Dexter beef, locally sourced cheese and milk and more

Open Tues - Fri 10am-6pm
Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 10am-3pm

Tel: Jo or Garth on 01455 212199

Farm Assured Home Produced
Pork, Beef, Eggs & Potatoes
Lodge Farm, Dadlington Rd, Stoke Golding

Mon 12- 5.30pm
Thurs & Fri 9.30am-5.30pm
Sat 9.30am- 4.30pm
Sun 9.30am-1pm

Closed all day Tues and Wed

Tel: Linda Gosling 01455 212598



Designer Travel



L318X

Your local truly independent travel agent for all your holiday requirements

Fully ABTA and ATOL bonded
01455 213590

e-mail: sue@designertravel.co.uk
www.designertravel.co.uk/suetodd
www.facebook.com/SueDesignerTravel



Luisa Quinney MFHT, MHFST

Remedial Therapy & Massage
'Dorn' Body Realignment
Now offering facials
Equine Sports Massage

Hinckley Clinic or Local Home Visits

Contact Me - 07813 172377



Yoga Classes

Burbage * Stoke Golding

Fully qualified Yoga teacher, Fitness instructor,
Corrective exercise & Posture specialist.

Yoga and exercise techniques to improve mobility, strength,
balance, flexibility, increase energy and reduce stress.

Drop in - £6.50 per class pay as you go

Private 1-1 yoga tuition

Call Adele, 07837 927 227

Email: yogawithadele@live.co.uk



Sophie's Beauty Room

Offering all aspects of Beauty Therapy in
Stoke Golding

Call Sophie on 07583019333

Professional and friendly service



10% off your first treatment



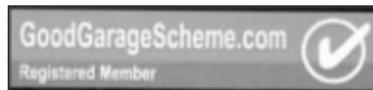
SERVICING & REPAIRS on all makes and models

We now **SUPPLY and FIT TYRES**
AIR CON RE-GAS

MOTs.....Used Cars for Sale

Now moved to new LARGER premises
Unit 7 Willow Park Ind Est
Upton Lane, Stoke Golding

Contact 01455 213413/07739 738 056
service@eskdalemotorshinckley.co.uk



L **Joanne's** **P**
SCHOOL OF MOTORING

D.S.A Approved Driving Instructor
Pass Plus Registered

QUALITY DRIVING TUITION
at competitive rates
FOR BEGINNERS - PASS PLUS - CONFIDENCE BUILDING
Tel: Joanne on **07513 456971**
joiliffe@tiscali.co.uk

SQUARE DEAL DOMESTICS

Repairs to electric cookers and washing machines
Also sales of new and reconditioned washers

All work fully guaranteed

Tel Nick : 07976 718392



 **Paul Howard** 

Painting & Decorating
Home Improvements

Stoke Golding Based

Email: howard_paul@hotmail.co.uk
Tel: **07850 246 701**

WINE 2 YOU



Battle of Bosworth Wines
Chateau Pech-Latt

10% discount for Stoker readers!
Call 01455 213214 for lists
Or email keith@wine-2-you.com

FootWorks

Podiatry & Chiropody
HPC Registered - 20 yrs experience

Gillian Poole D.Pod.M., M.Ch.S., DMS
128, Wood Street, Earl Shilton
Tel:01455 842941 Mob: 07785 397515
Home visits available

Need help with your computer?

Neil Sherry
Computer Services



Locally based professional for home or business
Contact: neiljsherry@talktalk.net
Tel: **01827 713848 - 9am-9pm**

J.E.SUTTON
PLUMBING & HEATING
A LOCAL FRIENDLY SERVICE

TELEPHONE:
01455 870 290

MOBILE:
07921 073 479



GAS BOILER SWAPS
START FROM £1300

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF 5, 7 & 10 YEAR MANUFACTURE WARRANTIES.

ideal
WORCESTER Bosch Group

- + CENTRAL HEATING INSTALLATIONS
- + BOILER UPGRADES, SERVICING, BREAKDOWNS & REPAIRS
- + SYSTEM POWER FLUSHING
- + LEAKS & DRIPPING TAPS
- + FITTED BATHROOMS
- + RADIATORS

gas safe REGISTER