

November 2021

No. 206

The Stoker



Stoke Golding Village Magazine

Including

Dadlington Matters

70p



Note from the Editors

This month's magazine sees us looking forward to many festive events and celebrating the success of the group that have saved the Baxter Hall for the village.

We would like to say a big thank you to all those who have paid their subs, and to the volunteer collectors and deliverers. We now have over 330 subscribers, which is amazing. If you still need to pay, there will be a slip inside your Stoker with ways to pay.



The renovation of St Margaret's church are almost complete and we look forward to seeing the finished results.



Please do keep sending us your announcements, we hope you enjoy this month's magazine.

Stay safe

Jane, Steve & Kate

The Stoker Team

Editors: Jane White (01455 212416), Steve Smithers (01455 213798)
Kate Poyser Clark (01455 213744)

Production Team: Rosemary Collier, Ella Orr, Jan Pettyfer, Jill Webster,
Jennifer Michie, Michael Dix, Sandra Pollard.

Please send articles for the **November** issue of The Stoker **by 15th October** to:

The Editors, 45 Station Road, Stoke Golding.
Email thestoker@gmx.co.uk

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

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

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

Publication of any articles or letters submitted does not imply approval of, or agreement with, any views and comments contained, and are published without prejudice. Copying of content without our explicit consent is not permitted.

Cover picture: Bob White celebrating his 99th Birthday with a 99 ice cream, delivered by Tony Del Busso, organised by Doreen Rose

The Baxter Hall is Safe at Last !



Gill Lamb, secretary of the charity, signs the 25 year lease.

After lengthy negotiations, The Baxter Hall Charity has signed a 25 year lease with the Leicester Diocesan Board of Education (LDBE) to ensure we keep this valuable community facility.

But it doesn't end there - we are still working with LDBE to agree a complete transfer of the hall so that it is eventually returned to local ownership.

The Baxter Hall Charity was formed by a group of local residents and was officially registered with the Charity Commission in February this year. Its main aim is to maintain the Hall for the benefit of the community. You may have noticed some work being done already in the small garden area and the main door.

The Lower Hall has had a bit of a makeover and is a bright and cheerful space for the Little Explorer's Playgroup. Smiles Breakfast and After School Club use the Community Hall before and after school on weekdays.

We have already had interest from various groups interested in using the hall during the day and evenings and hope for many more. If you would like to find out more about the facilities, please visit our website:

www.thebaxterhall.com

Helen Shipton, a Stoke Golding artist, has designed a beautiful logo for us which has been incorporated into a new sign for the building. This will be unveiled on Sunday afternoon on 7th November at 2.30pm and you are all very welcome to come along.

We are hoping to establish a 'Friends of the Baxter Hall' group. This will be for anyone who would like to help in any way they can. This could be helping with practical tasks such as gardening, supporting events or helping us financially.

If you would like to get involved in any way please get in touch with us:

Email: thebaxterhall@gmail.com

Tel: 01455 212416

A huge thank you to everyone who has shown their support so far and helped us over this first major hurdle.

Jane White



Volunteers Paul and Louis remove the old sign.

Letter to the Editors



I love fireworks, but my poor dog is terrified by the noises and vibrations that come from them.

So can I ask that, if you are planning to have fireworks for Bonfire Night and/or Diwali and/or New Year's Eve, you could pop a short note through your neighbours' doors beforehand with details of your planned date and time? It would give owners of scared dogs a chance to turn up the TV or music to try to drown out the bangs and hisses, or to administer some calming treatment, or to take avoiding action by putting them in the car and driving them round for that period. Better still, go along to any organised fireworks displays if they are going ahead this year. For much less money you can enjoy a better display, and our dogs will not get stressed at home.

Thank you from Stephanie Sandiford and Scout.

Please Continue to Wear a Mask

An important message from Castle Mead Surgery

We have noticed increasingly that patients are forgetting their masks. Can patients please wear a mask or a face shield when entering our buildings. COVID has not gone away and we presently have staff members off sick with COVID. Staff at both surgeries will remind you to wear a mask or Shield when you arrive.

We are sorry that Stoke Golding patients are having difficulty booking suitable blood appointments, and they are not on a bus route. We have a contract with George Eliot, within that contract they are supposed to provide phlebotomy services. We have lost a total of 14 hours service over 2 sites, and now we share the appointments at the other venues with Heath Lane. We have been trying to communicate with George Eliot to explain that Stoke Golding is a rural setting, as such no direct buses go to the Leicester Road Football club and also difficulties getting to George Eliot. We are constantly trying to get them to improve the service, at the moment they are not answering our calls or emails. We are escalating our case to our MP Luke Evans and the Clinical commissioning group to see if they can help us in this matter.

Regards

Alison Ellis
Practice Manager

Tears of Laughter at the Village Hall



The first arts event at Stoke Golding Village Hall since before lockdown was a huge success. Simon Mayor and Hilary James were high class performers with outstanding musical ability. Hilary has a beautiful voice and plays guitar and the rare bass mandolin you can see in the photo. Simon is a master of mandolin as well as a talented violinist. He also writes poetry and has the rare ability to keep

an audience entertained with amusing anecdotes - he really did have us crying with laughter at times!

If you want to check them out go to: www.mayorandjames.com

Jane White - Photo by Ruth Fisher

On Saturday 20th November we have something a little different - a drama production of the classic **"Three men in a boat"**. Giles Shenton expertly takes the helm and pilots you through Jerome K Jerome's ridiculous tale of men behaving badly while messing about in boats! The Telegraph calls it a "pitch perfect comedy". For more details and to book visit stokegoldinvillagehall.co.uk/events or call Alan on 01455 212416. Limited tickets remaining

KNIGHTS AND DAMES Quiz

Answers on page 14

1. Darling Lili, Mary or Maria?
2. Amstrad Apprentice?
3. Scottish John Brown?
4. The only Mrs. James Bond?
5. The real 'M'?
6. Did this Hannibal cross the Alps?
7. The Prime of a Dowager?
8. You couldn't send an email without this person?
9. He's not the Old Man on a bike?
10. Time Goes By for the Fictional 'M'?



Bob's FocusA Witchy Tip

There I was the other day, filling in a few minutes by scrolling down the old Facebook pages when my attention was drawn to a post entitled "Witchy Tip". I'm always up for a tip that doesn't include the words snow, yellow, eat and don't!

It read 'Pick up the very first acorn you find in autumn and carry it in your purse or pocket all through autumn and winter. It will protect you from negativity and bring you prosperity and draw good luck to you through the dark months. Then, come spring, return it to nature as a "thank you" for all its assistance'. Well I wouldn't mind a bit of that I thought to myself, what harm could it do? (Other than get mugged by a rabid starving squirrel.)

So, imagine my disappointment when I embarked on my morning walk which would take me by numerous large Oaks to find that there were no acorns to be found. Surely the squirrels couldn't have hidden them all already?

I had already passed several chestnuts which had dropped their spiky little mines all over the place, releasing their beautiful brown shiny conkers, each one individual. I still love the feel of a conker in my hand, maybe I have never really grown up.

But I still had to solve the mystery of the absent acorns.

Well, in short, the Oaks have had a year off this year and it's all to do with the conditions in the spring. The Oak flowers (you have to look really hard to see them) are not pollinated by the insects but the wind. A dry spell in spring with a gentle breeze will see a good crop of acorns develop, whereas the Chestnuts have large, pretty flowers that are pollinated by our insects. Hence the weather is not so critical for the conker crop, possibly the oaks further south fared better if the spring was kinder down there.



When you have walked along the canal, have you ever had a really good look at the bridges? If so, you may have noticed deep grooves worn into the corners of the brickwork by the constant rubbing of the ropes when the horses would pass under the

bridge pulling a narrow boat. The canal network really started growing in the middle of the 18th century, boosting the industrial revolution. We now have 4700 miles of navigable canals throughout the UK but they were used less and less as road/rail transportation improved.

The winter of 1962/3 saw the few remaining narrow boats locked in the ice for 3 months and sounded the death knell for haulage by boat.

For a few years until the leisure industry really kicked in, a lot of canals saw very little use, horses pulling narrow boats didn't muddy the water much and it wasn't long before the water turned gin clear and native plants took over.

An old friend of mine recently told me of how he would cycle to Dadlington from Nuneaton to fish. It was so weedy that he used to use a bicycle wheel with barbed wire wound around it on a rope to clear the weeds to make a swim - the fishing was excellent he assures me.

If you ever venture to Foxton Locks, have a look at the disused arm of the canal at the top of the inclined plane, crystal clear water so clear that you can easily identify the shoals of fish (the red fins of the Rudd and the stripes of the Perch really stand out) and lovely native plants thrive.



Until next time, enjoy the autumnal colours.

Colli Bob

A Big Thank You From Geoff

Thank you so much to The George and Dragon at Stoke Golding for the wonderful donation of £1033.00 for the animals at the sanctuary. Thank you to everyone who supported their charity fundraiser held over the summer.



Care home residents losing cone-trol! - Ice-creams left, right and centre!

On Thursday 30th September 2021 Saint Martin's choir visited 4 care homes and sang 2 songs to the residents whilst receiving a free ice-cream from teacher and local ice-cream man Tony Del Busso!

The Saint Martin's students were taken to the 4 care homes on a school bus, the first care home they visited were Saffron House, in Barwell. They braved the weather and sang loud and clear for the residents to hear in their rooms!



The next stop was Harvey House, Barwell! Ice-cream and cheer all-round! The residents were singing along to Waterloo by ABBA and I'm Still Standing by Elton John with the delicious ice-cream in one hand and the other moving along to the music.

By the time they arrived at Park House Grange, Earl Shilton, the choir were eager to sing to the residents again! One by one the residents were wheeled out to the front of the care home, with their woolly hats on and wrapped up in blankets. Each of them with a smile on their face dancing to the music and eating their ice-cream. Such a delight to see!

Kingsfield Court, Earl Shilton, was the fourth and final stop. The Saint Martin's students lined up outside the care home entrance ready to sing their hearts out again. The residents remained in the foyer due to the weather outside (some residents had just had their hair permed)! All of the residents got given an ice-cream and their smiles could not be bigger!

Our ice-cream man Tony Del Busso said a few words about the day: "It was amazing to see the delight on their face as they enjoyed the music and their ice-cream!" One of the staff on the trip said "It was a heart-warming event and so lovely to see the residents smiling and enjoying the music!"



Regina Summerfield from Park House Grange, Earl Shilton, commented on our Facebook social media: "Thank you so much for visiting, our residents enjoyed the singing and ice-cream."

Emma Wilkinson from Harvey House explained that the visit from the Saint Martin's school choir "was wonderful" and that the "residents loved it."

One of the residents who is 93 years-old joked and exclaimed "Ice-cream, you scream, we all scream".

Of course, Saint Martin's students were also given an ice-cream for their hard work and dedication to bringing pure joy to the residents within all four care homes! A fabulous day out!



*Alexandra Shelton-Bourke
School Lay Chaplain*

St Margaret's Church – The Re-opening!

The renovations and repairs are now about to be completed – after seven months, an extended time due to a number of supply issues, although of course the Church has been closed since the beginning of the year. At the moment there is no permanent seating in place but we have plenty of chairs available to use.

On Sunday 21st November our first service will be held – Holy Communion at 10.30 am. Then at 12.30 we look forward to our first baptism with the font in its new position.

From 2.00 pm onward the Church will be open for all members of the community to 'have a look'. Please come along and be amazed at this wonderful building. We do hope you will be pleased with the renovations and changes which have been made.

If you can't make that time the Church will, as before, be open daily from 9.00am until 5.00 pm

And don't forget that the Snowman Festival is taking place on Saturday 4th December 10.00am – 4.00pm.

David Goodsell and Ian Hiron

The Re-Carving of Queen Philippa.

Queen Philippa is remembered in Stoke Golding because the main building of St Margaret's Church was completed in the reign of herself and her husband, King Edward III. And as far as we know stone carvings of their heads have been part of the parapet of the tower for nearly the last seven hundred years.



That is until the morning of Tuesday 5th October 2021! For a while there have been anxieties regarding the state of the carving of Queen Philippa which, although previous attempts had been made to protect her, had very badly deteriorated. An opportunity to get funding for her to be re-carved arose during lockdown. Historic England had a grant available to maintain and develop such skills as stone carving of heritage items and we were delighted when our application was approved.

To remove the carving from the parapet was not an easy task to say the least. Firstly the masons looked at removing it directly from the narrow walkway around the tower. This was not feasible so scaffolding was considered- and discounted. Then a 'cherry picker' was summoned but could not get up the bank close enough to the tower. Finally a special ramp was constructed for the cherry picker to get into position and a stalwart person on the platform rose into the air to join the two masons working high above on the tower.

The quite awful sound of the ancient stone work being sawn away filled the churchyard. But finally the section of the parapet containing the carving was free and was brought slowly and carefully to the ground. It was rather shocking to see the sad state of the head. The new carving will be returned to the parapet and the old one kept by the church.

So who was Philippa? She came from Hainault in the Low Countries and was married to Edward III in 1328. She was crowned Queen at Westminster Abbey on March 4th 1330. The chronicler Jean Froissart describes her as "The most gentle Queen, most liberal, and most courteous that ever was Queen in her days."

Philippa served as Regent of England while Edward was away fighting. In 1346, facing a Scottish invasion, she gathered the English army and met the Scots in a successful battle near Neville's Cross. She rallied the English riding on horseback before them prior to the battle. It resulted in an English victory and the Scottish king being taken prisoner.

She is credited as the merciful woman who, in 1347, persuaded her husband to spare the lives of the Burghers of Calais, whom he had planned to execute as an example to the townspeople following his successful siege of that city. This event is commemorated in the famous statue by Rodin, the London cast of which stands by the Palace of Westminster. The Queen's College, Oxford, was founded in 1341 in her honour. In 1979 Women were admitted for the first time. She died in 1369 and is buried in Westminster Abbey.

The rivalry of the numerous descendants of Philippa and Edward resulted in the Wars of the Roses. These came to an end with the death of Richard III in the Battle of Bosworth and with the crowning of Henry VII on nearby Crown Hill in Stoke Golding.

In September 2018, Queen Philippa graced the cover of *The Stoker* as one of the 'Extraordinary Woman' chosen to be featured as part of the 'National Trust Open Day' exhibition held in the Church.

We look forward to seeing her newly carved likeness as she returns to the parapet of the Church in the next few weeks.



From St Margaret's Church

A Big Thank you from Age UK

The Age UK Earl Shilton Centre would like to say a huge thank you to the George and Dragon for the very generous donation of £1033.33!

Sarah Moore, who volunteers at the centre accepted the cheque. This money will benefit clients using our Day Centres, some of whom live in Stoke Golding. The Centre also provides delicious hot lunches and many activities including a Friendship Club for anyone in the area. Please call 01455 847666 for further details.



Dadlington Matters

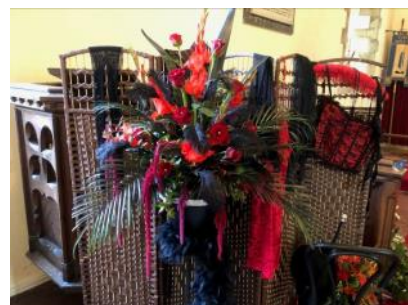
Dadlington Flower Festival - Return of the Flowers



After an absence of two and a half years, the flower festival returned to St James' church. With the last two May Day weekends unavailable due to the COVID restrictions, Carolyn Fielden, the festival's organiser, plumped for a Friday to Sunday weekend in September. It was wonderful to see the church bedecked once again with a multitude of vibrant blooms.



The wonderful floral displays were all created by local flower arrangers following the theme of '**A Night at the Movies**'. Entering the church alongside a red carpet and rolls of cinema tickets, there were a host of displays with a variety of films themes from Alice in Wonderland to Goodnight Mr Tom and West Side Story.



Dadlington Village Hall Update

Dates for your Diary

- 4th November:** Coffee Morning (every first Thursday in the month)
6th November: Quiz Evening – please order tickets in advance
12th November: Screen on the Green – Parasite*
3rd December: Christmas Lights Switch On – flyers to be sent with details
10th December: Screen on the Green – One Chance*
5th February: Wine Tasting Evening – details to follow

**** Screen on the Green numbers will remain restricted to 30 for November & December.***

Use of Dadlington Village Hall

The village hall is open for a number of different purposes. These are:

- For community events (Screen on the Green, Coffee Mornings etc.) – open to the wider community;
- For civic events (polling station, Parish Council meetings etc.) – open to the wider community;
- For regular hirers (weekly classes, U3A etc.) – open to the wider community;
- Private hire (weddings, parties) – available to residents of Dadlington only.

Defibrillator Training



On behalf of Sutton Cheney Parish Council, we would like to thank everyone who attended the recent defib training. As you will see from the photos, its never too young to learn, as Ruby has shown us here. Thanks go to Peter Dyde - Councillor for Dadlington Ward - for taking the photos, and of course Martin for the expert training, thank you.

Julia Jarvis

Locals of Note 3: Geoffrey Fisher – The Archbishop

As you enter Higham on the Hill from Stoke Golding, the first house on the right, set back a way from the road, is Canterbury House, the former rectory and birthplace in 1887 of Geoffrey Fisher, the 99th Archbishop of Canterbury. Geoffrey was the youngest of ten children: his father, Henry, was the rector of Higham, a position previously held by Henry's father and grandfather. Young Geoffrey spent a short time at the village school before a spell at Lindley Lodge preparatory school, now King's Lodge on the A5. Then it was off to Marlborough College and Exeter College Oxford before returning to Marlborough as an assistant teacher. During his time there, he decided to enter the priesthood and was ordained in 1913.

The connection between the church and public schools was very strong at that time with headmaster's frequently being priests. It may seem strange that after only four years teaching experience, Geoffrey was appointed as the headmaster of Reston College in Nottinghamshire. He was noted for his organisational skills and his focus on discipline. This had apparently become rather lax under his predecessor, William Temple, a man who became Geoffrey's predecessor again as the 98th Archbishop of Canterbury. Coincidentally, one of Geoffrey's pupils during his time at Repton was Michael Ramsey who would follow Geoffrey as the 100th Archbishop of Canterbury.

After 18 years at Repton, Geoffrey was appointed Bishop of Chester and in 1939 Bishop of London. As the capital came under daily assaults from enemy bombing during World War II with many churches being badly damaged or destroyed, Geoffrey organised a multi-denominational reconstruction committee and headed a war damage committee. As the war came to an end, so did Geoffrey's tenure in London as he was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury. He presided over the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, placing the crown upon her head and he also became the first Anglican leader to meet a pope since the Reformation. He travelled extensively and finally retired in 1961 to live out his final years in Sherborne in Dorset.

Michael Dix

Knights and Dames Answers

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Dame Julie Andrews | 6. Sir Anthony Hopkins |
| 2. Sir Alan Sugar | 7. Dame Maggie Smith |
| 3. Sir Billy Connolly | 8. Sir Tim Berners-Lee |
| 4. Dame Diana Rigg | 9. Sir Chris Hoy |
| 5. Dame Stella Rimington | 10. Dame Judi Dench |

What's On

Methodist Church Christmas Fair

Saturday November 27th
10.30am - 2.00pm

**Cakes & Preserves
Books & Bric-a-brac
Refreshments**



Christmas at Hall Farm, Dadlington

11th December 4pm - 7pm

An outdoor Christmas get
together.

Join us for food, drink, carols
and entertainment



In aid of St James's Church

Festive Lights Switch On

in the Grounds of Park House

Thursday 2nd December

Mulled wine served from **6.15pm**

Lights switched on at **6.45pm**

**Come and meet Santa and
listen to the brass band**

Everyone Welcome



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



The Return of the Famous

Dadlington Quiz

Saturday 6th November at 7:30pm

Bar opens at 7:00pm

Please note that due to the current guidance
entry is restricted to 5 teams of no more than 6

Food will not be served

Tickets cost £5, payable on the night but must
be booked in advance

To reserve tickets, please contact:

01455 212538

Coffee and Chat

Dadlington Village Hall

*Come for a friendly chat with
other residents from Dadlington
and Stoke Golding while
enjoying delicious home-made
cakes and a cuppa*

**Thursday 4th November
10.15 am - 12.15pm**

All Welcome

At last month's coffee morning
we raised a fantastic £155 for
Macmillan. Thanks to everyone
who supported this event.

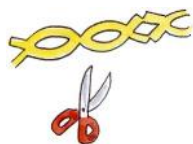
Ten of a Kind – November 21

November 21st is World Hello Day where everyone is encouraged to greet ten people. Here are ten questions relating to meetings and greetings.

1. Who supposedly greeted the lost explorer with the words, “Doctor Livingstone, I presume?”
2. What name is given to the challenge that begins New Zealand international rugby matches which is also used by Maoris to welcome special guests?
3. Who had a number 1 hit in 1984 with the song “Hello”?
4. “Good Morning campers, hi-de-hi,” was the greeting given every day by Gladys Pugh to the residents of which fictional holiday camp in the BBC sitcom Hi-De-hi?
5. According to a December 2020 industry report, which online company has the largest market share of the UK greetings card industry?
6. What name is given to the Scottish tradition of bringing luck to a household by being the first person to visit after midnight on New Years Day?
7. Which building was the final meeting place at the end of the Cary Grant, Deborah Kerr 1957 film ‘An Affair to Remember’ and the 1993 film ‘Sleepless in Seattle’?
8. “Zum Geburtstag viel Glück,” in German, “Tanti auguri a te,” in Italian and “Penblwydd Hapus i ti,” in Welsh are all versions of which greetings song?
9. What is the opening line of the 1963 comic song ‘Camp Granada’ by Alan Sherman that begins with a greeting to his mother and father from a very wet summer camp?
10. Englishman Graham Fagg met Frenchman Philippe Cozette on 1st December 1990 on a momentous occasion in a location no-one had ever been before. Where did they meet?

Answers on page 21

Christmas Craft Workshop



Join us for a morning of craft activities, which will include colouring, making cards and decorations, icing Christmas biscuits and hearing the Christmas story.



10.30 – 12.30
Saturday 27th November
At St Peter's Church,
Higham

For all children and their families – under 8's please bring an adult.
Admission free.



Raising a glass; trustees of the Baxter Hall Charity celebrating their success in saving the hall for our community

Fool on the Hill

Set teleporter coordinates to A&E.....

So, after years of make believe in countless TV programmes and films, it would appear that Captain James T Kirk (aka the actor William Shatner) is about to boldly go into space. The 90 year old actor is dipping his toe into the final frontier aboard one of the Amazon man's latest fireworks. It is unlikely that he will encounter any alien life forms as the time spent in space is so momentary that they will hardly have time to come round with the inflight duty frees. He will at least get to see the Earth as the homecoming USS Enterprise might have done. This got me thinking about one particular alien life form and long-time sidekick to the good captain, Mr Spock. You may recall that he was a Vulcan which was basically a human with pixie ears and a complete lack of emotion. All his actions were governed by the strict application of logic, admirable qualities for the safe governance of a Starship, however I would imagine a Vulcan stag party could be a rather muted affair. Actually, when I think about that, if pure logic was the only criteria employed to evaluate the wisdom of entering the matrimonial state, it is highly unlikely that there would be a stag party in the first place. But I digress.

Having recently spent a warm summer evening in a seaside A&E, it occurs to me that there might just be some mileage in the Vulcan approach if we want to give the dear old NHS a fighting chance of survival. In my humble estimation, a good 50% of the occupants of the Emergency facility could certainly have avoided their visit if pure logic had been applied. Rather, if any slight semblance of logic had been applied. The problem seems to be that we have not yet developed a vaccine to counter the effects of human stupidity so we, and you know who you are, place huge strain on our medical resources as a result of actions that defy any rational explanation. We know, for example, that alcohol is basically a toxic, mind altering substance and that any consumption of it is illogical Captain, but still we are prepared to imbibe it in quantities that make it a stupidity accelerant. Did the chap in the cubicle next to us really need to rugby tackle a traffic bollard? What was the 20 stone guy with his bum wedged in a child's swing seat thinking about when his actions brought the afternoons drinking session to a premature end. Even without the benefit of a bucketful of Carling Black Label what on earth was the thought process when little Tamsin decided to see how far up her left nostril she could insert a pea? You are no doubt wondering what brought the writer into such esoteric company that balmy evening. Suffice it to say that it involved a plastic water buffalo and a tennis racket.

Beam me up.

F.O.T.H.





Obituaries



John Martin

John Martin, of Stoke Golding, passed peacefully away on 30th August, 2021, aged 91 years. Beloved husband of Freda, much loved Dad, Grandad and Great Grandad. Donations in memory of John to The Brook Horse Charity via McCartneys, Funeral Directors, 47, Coventry Road, Hinckley, LE10 OJR.

Ken Matthews

Ken Matthews of Stoke Golding passed away peacefully on the 20th September aged 82 years. Beloved husband of Jean, loving father to Ian and Suzanne. Special grandad to Ryan, Naomi, Will, Dali and Kai and Great Grandad of Lisa and Theo. Ken will be sadly missed. The Funeral was held on Tuesday 12th October. Donations in Ken's memory may be made to Dementia UK, via G Sellers, Funeral Directors, Upper Bond Street, Hinckley, LE10 1RH

Norman Harrison

Norman Harrison, of Stoke Golding, passed away peacefully on 13th September, 2021, aged 94 years. Much loved husband of Joyce and dearly loved uncle and great uncle. Donations in memory of Norman may be made to R.N.L.I. c/o Devall and Son, Funeral Directors, The Green, Attleborough, Nuneaton, CV11 4FJ.

We offer our sincere condolences to the family and friends of John, Ken and Norman from The Stoker Team.

Christmas at the George and Dragon

Christmas Craft Fair

Thursday 2nd December
From 5.30pm onwards



With food, mulled wine and hot chocolate in the George and Dragon Marquee.

Carols by Candlelight

Wednesday 15th December
7.30pm - 9.00pm



Join us outside for carols by candlelight, all welcome.

Staffroom Memories 31: What to Wear?

About five years prior to taking early retirement, my wife introduced an embargo on the purchase of new ties. I'd discover all manner of interesting neckwear only to be told, "You're not buying it because you're retiring soon!" The tie was a constant throughout my teaching career, being paired initially with a jacket, then a jumper and finally, when I reached the dizzy heights of headship, with a suit. It rarely came off except in very hot weather or when I donned my tracksuit to teach PE and games. It was only when I became a head that what to wear became a dilemma. The problem was attending all day meetings. There was never any guidance on dress code and I invariably made the wrong choices. I'd turn up in my suit and tie only to find everyone else dressed casually. Then, for the next meeting, I'd dress down and walk into a room full of suits. It bothered me as a new head wanting to make the right impression although, as time went on, I found it mattered less and less.



No matter how much I tried, I could never match the sartorial elegance of a close friend and fellow headteacher, Andy, and this was amply demonstrated the day we went to the Education Show at the National Exhibition Centre. He was giving me a lift and arrived looking like a mannequin from Saville Row. My own choice of clothes were verging on scruffy but a day traipsing round rows of stalls demanded comfort in my mind. Andy spent the journey to Birmingham pointing out the error of my ways. "They'll never take you seriously if you don't look the part," he informed me several times. As it happens, our divergent dress sense appeared to make no discernible difference to the enthusiasm of the reps as they bombarded us for four hours with information on anything and everything school related from desks to computers and from pencil sharpeners to reward stickers.

My most embarrassing dress disaster occurred one evening after I'd just returned home from school. Andy's father in law was a local historian whose writing had featured in the local Lichfield newspaper. The paper was sponsoring the annual Dr. Johnson lecture and their guest speaker was Colin Dexter, the creator of Inspector Morse. As Andy's father in law had written a book about a murder that Colin Dexter used for one of his novels, he'd been invited to attend the lecture and Andy and I were his guests. I was in my suit when Andy arrived at the door in jeans and a sweater. I quickly changed into something far more casual and off we set. At the newspaper offices we were informed that, prior to the talk, we'd been invited to a reception of the Dr Johnson Society. This turned out to be a black tie event and amongst the bow ties and tuxedos, our jeans and open neck shirts stood out a mile. We spent the whole reception studying the walls and trying to blend in. The one saving grace was when Colin Dexter arrived, nobody had told him about the dress code either and the four of us engaged in conversation, an island of casual in a sea of pomp.

Michael Dix

Scout Group Report

With the beavers we completed our Team Challenge award by playing team games, building dens and made a ginormous junk model before taking our own little bits of it home .

The cubs have been doing their collectors, sports enthusiasts or hobbies badge by bringing along things to support these badges.

The scouts took part in the County Splash camp and they enjoyed exciting activities on land and in the water and most have since completed their adventure challenge award.

We enjoyed a walk round the village tossing a coin at each junction.

Thus deciding that there were many different ways to reach your goal and sometimes the scenic route might be the best !

The Explorers helped at Splash camp and enjoyed the activities after the scouts had left. They were treated to a Chinese takeaway to thank them for their hard work.

All sections of the group have had at times had to be cancelled due to the outbreaks of the Covid virus in the local schools.

Fiona Shilladay

Answers to 10 of a Kind

1. Henry Morton Stanley
2. The Haka
3. Lionel Richie
4. Maplins
5. Moonpig.com
6. First Footing
7. Empire State Building
8. Happy Birthday to You
9. Hello Muddah, Hello Fadduh
10. 100 meters under the English Channel when the British and French tunnels broke through to each other.

Church Matters



From St Margaret's and St James's Church



Dear friends, I wonder what pictures you conjure up in your minds when I mention the word 'reflection'.

One kind of reflection is the one where you look at in the mirror every morning. As you look at yourself do you say 'good morning', or smile, or frown, or just think how much older you're looking? A friend of mine couldn't cope without time first thing in the morning in front of the mirror as she put on her 'face for today'. You never saw her without make-up as she didn't feel dressed and ready to face the world without it.

But our faces aren't the only reflections we see. This time of year it's good to take a walk down to the canal, the river or another place where there is water and look at the reflections there. Some of the most peaceful places are around water. Reflections in water can be as clear as any mirror, but at other times – when the wind ruffles the surface, or the mud and weed obscure things – it can be hard to see. However, reflection can also mean thinking deeply about something, meditating or mulling over in the mind. We reflect on incidents gone past – and sometimes wish we'd done things differently! We reflect on possible courses of action, considering the pros and cons before we make a decision.

St Paul reminds us that we are also reflections – of God's glory – but whether we are good reflections or not doesn't depend on us putting on a 'face for today'. It's not outward appearance but the reflection of God's nature.

So when you look at yourself in the mirror at the start of the day, look beyond the outward appearance to that inner you which is being transformed day by day.

With every blessing, Patty

Church of England Services November 2021

ST MARGARETS

7th 10.30am All Age
14th 10.45am Remembrance
21st 10.30am Holy Communion
12.30 Holy Baptism
28th 10.30 All Age + Baptism

ST JAMES

14th 9.00am Morning Prayer for
Remembrance
21st 9.00am Holy Communion

THE METHODIST CHURCH November Services

7th 10.30 am Revd Patricia Mukorombindo
14th 10.45 am at the War Memorial
21st 10.30 am Mrs Sheila Grice
28th T.B.A

Remembrance Day Service

The Remembrance Day service will take place at Hinckley Road Cemetery on Sunday 14th November at 11am (adhering to the Government Covid guidelines at the time) .

1st Stoke Golding (St Margaret's) Scout Group will be providing a Peace Tea afterwards at the village hall. Tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits will be provided.
Everyone is welcome to come along.



The Snowman Festival Returns

St Margaret's is pleased to announce that this year will see the welcome return of the much loved Snowman Festival on the 4th and 5th of December. More details will be available soon, look out for it on the village notice board and Facebook.



Joe Oldacre and the Anker Morris Men

We had a great meeting on 21st September, when the Anker Morris Men came to entertain us, and the dances and the History were explained to us by Joe.

They were wonderful, 6 dancers and a lovely lady playing an accordion to accompany them. Also some of the dances were accompanied by a drum and tabor to keep the time.

Morris Dancing originated in France in the 13th/14th century and it is thought that it started as a wooing dance, where the men danced to impress their lady, Most Morris teams had a fool who danced with them, (and often walked off with the Lady !) They were known to dance in all the Tudor courts where they danced for the monarch.

In later years the Puritans tried to ban Morris Dancing referring to them as "The Devil Incarnate", they moved from the city into the Country Villages. There are records in the accounts of Arbury Hall in 1624 and again in 1629 where Morris Men were booked to entertain.

Some of the tunes used by Morris teams were utilised by Dancing Masters who travelled around teaching dancing (such as the dances seen in the Jane Austin stories).

From 19th century Morris went into decline as the industrial revolution took the men into the towns. "Merry England" was dreamed of when the Industrial dirt got too much, and a brief revival started then faded.

In 1906 Mary Neal and Mr Sharp researched and revived the Morris dances and started to teach them again. They taught a series of ladies the dances and they went out into the villages to teach the dances again. The revival started in earnest in the 1960's the number of Morris men rose to about 800 around the country.





Kitchen Corner

PASTA WITH VEGETABLES, NUTS AND 3 CHEESES

The majority of this recipe can be prepared earlier, and put together just before serving.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 Cups of Pasta shapes
- ½ Cup of Pine Nuts
- 2 Courgettes (sliced)
- 1 Broccoli (broken into small florets)
- 8 Mushrooms (sliced)
- 125gms Full Fat Cream Cheese
- ½ Cup of Milk
- 125gms Blue Cheese (crumbled)
- Salt & Pepper
- 1tblsp Chopped Basil
- Grated Parmesan Cheese

METHOD

Begin by cooking the pasta in plenty of boiling salted water for 10 minutes. When cooked drain the pasta and plunge into cold water and set aside.

Steam the courgettes and broccoli for 5 minutes, drain and plunge into cold water and set aside.

Put a little oil into a pan and toss the pine nuts until browned, watch the carefully so that they do not burn, drain on kitchen paper. This can be done ahead of time.

Put the cream cheese into a large saucepan or wok, heat gently stirring all the time and slowly add the milk, when the sauce has come together stir in the basil and sliced mushrooms, cook for 2-3 minutes, then stir in the blue cheese and season with salt and pepper.

Drain the pasta and vegetables and add to the sauce. When heated through add the pine nuts. Serve in individual bowls and grate the parmesan cheese over the top.

This dish can be accompanied by a tossed green salad.

A vegetarian dish that everyone will love.

Cheers, Avis

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