

**February
2017**

No. 158

The Stoker



Stoke Golding Village Magazine
Including
Dadlington Matters

50p



Note from the Editors

So much will have been experienced by all of us over the Christmas and New Year period. If things went well, then it's likely that we've caught up with family and friends, had fun, shared our news, given out gifts with love and have probably over-eaten. Now is the time to put those New Year resolutions



into practice. Maybe we'll see you at the Gym or walking round the block - or not!

This edition has several reviews reporting on some of the wonderful festive activities and initiatives that took place in our villages in December, including the cover photo of the successful Christmas Lights switch-on in Stoke Golding.

You may notice that in addition to the wonderful events planned in Stoke Golding, the "What's On" pages also include Theatre and Film shows planned for Market Bosworth. Hopefully there will be something that appeals to you and your family!

We hope you enjoy this magazine and wish you all a happy, peaceful and prosperous 2017.

Jane and Steve

The Stoker Team

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Please send articles for the March issue of The Stoker **by 15th February** to:

**The Editors, 45 Station Road, Stoke Golding/email
janewhitesg@gmail.com**

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

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

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

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

Cover picture: Christmas light switch-on at Stoke Golding — Photo Mrs B Walton

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The Snowmen Festival — a cool “Thank You!”

Thank you everyone who decorated our church so beautifully it somehow looked extra special this time. Special thanks to all those who donated tombola and raffle prizes, also to those who cooked and baked all the Christmas fayre. It really was delicious. Thank you to all the 'welcomers' in church and those who worked in the kitchen and manned the stalls. We raised an amazing £1,383.08 which is our best yet. Poppy guessed the exact number of snowmen in church there were 257. Well Done! Thank you to all those who prepared everything for the Christingle service and to those who joined us for an enjoyable afternoon.

Margaret Croxall

Thankyou to Tammy

RSPCA Woodside would like to thank Tammy at Tammy's hairdressing for kindly holding a raffle for a bottle of champagne cognac and helping to raise £57 for the charity. Congratulations to the lucky winner and thanks to all those who bought tickets.

Thanks also to Wendy for the generous donation.



Stoke Golding website: www.stokegolding.co.uk

Stoke Golding Youth Football Club



Back in November the Under 7's participated in a tournament at Leicester, and did very well, being unbeaten and not even conceding a goal in their 3 games. But, like England at the '82 World Cup finals they sadly did not qualify for the semi-finals. There were no complaints though as the parents were especially glad to retreat to the warmth of their cars on what was a very cold and wet afternoon!

The Under 9's team had

an unbeaten run through to January and still remain unbeaten. They have now been re-grouped with teams of similar performances for the remainder of the season. Hopefully they will be able to continue their successful campaign with their resolute determination!

The U9's are looking very professional in their new tracksuits kindly sponsored by Pete Mason Carpentry Ltd. (Pictured right)



Huge congratulations to the Under 11's, who fought their way through to the U11's Blue (boys) cup FINAL on the 4th December at Holmes Park. The team played their resolute best throughout the game, but sadly once again the U11's experienced another agonizing defeat in a final. After some well crafted St. Andrews finishing, Stoke made a last- gasp come back with a wonderful goal from a corner. Unfortunately it was not to be, however the disappointment was eased a little after each player was awarded one of these fabulous very well deserved runner-up

medals, cherished mementos of a great experience and achievement! The U11's, pictured above, enjoying their new winter jackets at the semi-final kindly sponsored by Guy Wykes Agricultural Contracting.



Players wanted

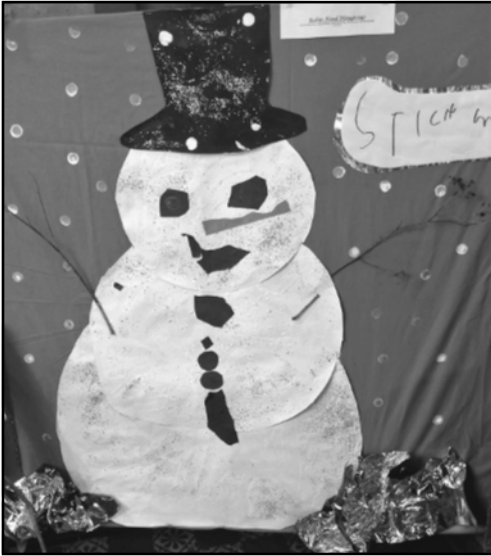
Friendly Under 10's team, school year 5.

Contact Pete Hill – 07824 836747/

peterhill1710@gmail.com

www.pitchero.com/clubs/stokegoldingfc

The Snowmen Festival



It's that time of year! On Saturday 3rd December, 10 - 5pm, was the Snowman festival at St Margaret's church. It is always a lovely atmosphere wandering round the church decked with its Xmas tree and decorations amongst all the snowmen. There were lots of them! And a competition to say how many there are as well as a snowman making Xmas bauble. A couple of highlights for me were the Mum and Toddler Group's display where they had used their feet to make the snowmen bodies and the Robin Hood play group large snow man beautifully painted. The Cubs again had their display and had backdrops of Xmas baubles that they had designed and painted themselves.

The Beavers had made small snowmen out of polystyrene cups all lined up in an

enchanting display.

I had heard there were going to be some gate crashing snowmen "visiting" the church on the day from beavers and Cubs which will be returned to their rightful owners later. I then wandered down to the Baxter Hall which had some stalls, Xmas themed decorated tables and an array of home made cakes and savouries as well as the cups of tea and juice.

I of course had to do my "secret shopper" bit and sample the wares and would have starred them to "highly recommended" and look forward to the festival again next year.



Jennifer Michie

EPIPHANY: (*def. A sudden revelation about the nature or meaning of something. An epiphany can often come about due to some experience that may trigger the sudden realization.*)

* * * * *

I so love all the childhood traditions that go along with Christmas, to the extent that I am totally boring about maintaining all the old 'rules' and keeping the Christmas tree *and* the crib *and* the cards *and* the holly wreath until Twelfth Night, and not a day earlier. This morning on John Humphry's BBC 4 programme, I was listening to a speaker telling about all the Xmas trees that had been piling up in her supermarket's re-cycling ever since the end of the month, making her realise that the old tradition of Epiphany was no longer of any interest to us all. She then went on about the meaning from a theological viewpoint, exploring the story of the three 'stargazing' guys or as TS Eliot calls them the Three Magi who had come on their long journey bearing gifts, and were given this amazing "*sudden revelation about the nature or meaning of something*" which resulted in their decision to go home changed, and by a very different route. Children all love this story, and the pictures of "WEE THREE KINGS OF ORY AND TAR" on their camels, but I love the theatrical side of "Twelfth Night". As an acting family, we used to have evenings when friends came with relevant stories and poems they'd found about "The Twelve Days of Christmas." Looking up the meaning of Shakespeare's play title, I discover it has at least two definitions. One says it was first performed for Elizabeth I on 6th January 1601, for her and her guest Duke Orsino. Another is that it's the revelation of Light and Truth when Viola eventually reveals her true identity as a woman. Finally, it is also a festival of anarchy and misrule with rebellious characters like Sir Toby Belch and Sir Andrew Ague-cheek ruling the roost. Whichever it might be, though sadly this evening I haven't got round to organising a real Twelfth Night party, there's a bottle of bubbly cooling in the fridge, and after supper Joshua, Amanda and Grandma Beth will be putting everything back in their boxes, the wreath comes off the door, the cards all go into the bag for re-cycling, the tree is dismembered, along with all the baubles. Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus are carefully packed away with the adoring animals and the angel and (if we can remember all the verses) the evening's ritual *might* finish with a unique version of "THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS MY TRUE LOVE SENT TO ME A PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE."

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL.

Beth xx

Joy Hiron

England International skeet shooter, Joy Hiron from Stoke Golding has been announced as the Hinckley and Bosworth Sport and Health Alliance Sports person of the Year at the awards evening held at Bosworth College in Desford.

Joy was shortlisted along with 3 other finalists, 2 golfers and a cricketer, and she was announced as the winner, of which she is extremely proud.

This is a fantastic end to a hugely successful season for Joy, and she will continue to train and keep working hard throughout the winter.

Joy gets a huge boost from many of the residents of Stoke Golding and Dadlington with the support that she gets and is always very grateful to them.

Rob Hiron

Methodist Church Christmas Fayre 26/11/16



The Methodist church hosted the first Christmas fayre of the village in their hall.

The stalls were decked with Christmas gifts for sale. There was also cups of tea and coffee with delicious homemade mince pies. It was a busy but friendly atmosphere when myself and husband dropped in to purchase some gifts plus the compulsory jars of homemade jam and cakes and

have a cuppa as well.

A lovely start to the village Christmas activities. The fayre made £633.00 for church funds. An amazing sum and well done to all involved for their hard work. *Jennifer Michie*



CASAG news

The Health Promotion theme for this month is Drink aware.

A recent Public Health report stated that people are drinking twice as much as they did 40 years ago. The report also warned that alcohol is now the leading risk factor for ill health, early death and disability among people aged 15 to 49 in England.

So if you are worried about your drinking or someone else's contact the confidential drink line on 0300 123 1110 or Drinkaware.co.uk.

The CASAG newsletter is out, bringing you up to date on changes within the practice. Dr Willmott is leaving in March 2017 and Dr Tull is leaving the practice at the end of December to pursue further other interests. Replacement doctors are Dr Squires and Dr Abraham.

There is also a repeat dispensing scheme for eligible patients who have 4 or less stable prescriptions, see the reception staff for further details. Patients phoning to order repeat prescriptions to call after 9 am to keep the telephone lines free for emergency appointments.

The defibrillator is now in situ in the surgery. Thanks to The Garden show, St Margaret's primary school and The White Swan Firework committee for their valuable financial support.

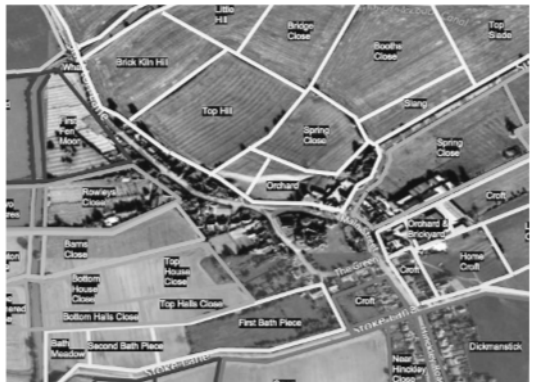


Collecting the Tithes

In the year 855, King Ethelwulf granted the church the right to receive tithes from the people in each parish. To pay your tithe, you would have had to hand over one tenth of everything you produced in a year – crops, eggs, cattle – and these would have been stored in a tithe barn and used as a form of payment for the clergy. Some tithe barns can still be found around the country, the Tithe Barn Restaurant at the Bosworth Battlefield Centre being a restored example, having been transported from its original site at Sandiacre in Derbyshire.

With Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries, a lot of land held by the church fell into private ownership, and the owners continued to collect tithes. However, by the early 1800s the system was in disarray and an act of Parliament of 1836, the aptly named 'Act for the Commutation of Tithes in England and Wales' replaced payment in goods with monetary payments. The price for each acre of land was set nationally, being based on a seven-year average for the price of wheat. In order to ensure these new tithes were fair, tithe maps were drawn up and these form probably the earliest accurate historical record of much of England.

The original maps now reside in the National Archives in Kew, along with the list of owners and occupiers and in some cases, details of the work carried out by the Tithe Commissioners. Tithe maps can be found for both Stoke Golding and Dadlington. What is striking about the Dadlington map is that the field patterns in existence back then, have changed very little. An overlay of the tithe map on an aerial photograph of modern day Dadlington can be seen on the Dadlington Village History website at <http://dadlington-history.myfreesites.net/>



maps . Copies of both tithe maps are held by the Leicestershire Archive at Wigston.

Where the owners of the land were the occupiers as well, the law removed the need for them to pay themselves. One such case involved Thomas Vernon who owned most of the land bordered by Shenton Lane, Sutton Lane and the Fenn Lanes. The vicar, the Rev. Samuel B. Hemmings, owned a parcel of land on the northeastern edge of the parish and the governors of Nuneaton Grammar School had a few fields bordering the Fenn Lanes. Some field names survive to this day, such as Bath Meadow and Bath Pieces, whilst others describe the landscape or what took place there. To the west of the last house on Shenton Lane, William Shilton Senior owned a number of fields called Fen Moor, whilst the first field on the right was called Brick Kiln Hill. Of the 1,021 acres in the parish, 408 acres were arable land, used for growing crops and 515 acres were meadow or pasture for animals. The church owned 52 acres of glebe land and there were four acres of fox covert, an acre of common ground and further land given over to roads, cottages with their gardens and the canal.

Amongst the information held in Kew are a series of letters from one of the commissioners about his dealings with the landowners of Dadlington. A notice advertising each of his meetings would have been posted on the door of St James' Church and at the first meeting, a Mr. Arthur Malin brought up two concerns

regarding the new settlements. Firstly, the landowners were receiving nothing from the Ashby Canal Company whose canal crossed some of their land. They had been written to and had agreed to pay the sum of £2 2s 2½d. Secondly, there were some issues with the accuracy of each owners' acreage, the areas have been estimated in some cases. The commissioner accepted the first concern and rejected the second.

As a consequence, an appeal was heard on 20th April 1843 at the George Inn in Hinckley. Mr Malin now had his solicitor with him and there was also a Mr Chapman for the Dean and Chapter of Westminster who owned land in the parish. The commissioners had re-measured the land and found two errors, either by mistake or by design, they couldn't prove it one way or another. One field had been recorded as 8 acres when it was in fact 18, another as 88 when it was 94. The appeal was therefore upheld and an additional 16 acres at five shillings an acre was added to the total for the village. A further meeting was held in Dadlington, at what was then called the Dog and Gun, the following year, and there is also a letter from the rector, George Dealtry, and two churchwardens acknowledging the rent charge.

Michael Dix

Waxwing photographed near Stoke Golding



Stoke Golding resident **Martyn Fisher** took this beautiful photograph of a Waxwing. It's a shame we can't print it in colour this month!

About 25 Waxwings turned up at the roundabout near the Triumph factory on the perimeter road, feasting on the berries there.

Waxwings are similar in size to the Starling. They would fly in have a feed then fly off again every 10 minutes or so. They are not a resident bird in the UK but fly in from Scandinavia during the winter months in search of food, usually berries such as Rowen and Hawthorn. Sometimes they come over in large numbers called irruptions.

Dadlington Matters



Following the success of last year's Valentine's Ball, you are cordially invited to:

An Early Spring Ball on Saturday 18th March

At Dadlington Village Hall

This is a black tie event

Drinks at 7pm (including a free glass of Prosecco)

Followed by a three course meal and dancing to

Dean Thomas

Tickets cost £17.50. Please contact Sally-Ann Faulks on 01455 212 456

Coming Soon: 20th May Murder Mystery Evening



DADLINGTON'S STONE AGE MEN

Whatever was it that attracted Stone Age Man to the Dadlington and Stoke Golding area?

That they were here in some numbers is attested by the various artefacts that have been discovered in the fields around these two villages. Towards the end of the Stone Age in about 8,700 BC there would have been many wild animals at large in the countryside, before the development of agriculture and farming and the domestication of cattle. Bison would have roamed wild, along with their predators such as wolves and lynx.

Stone Age men were producing tools and axes of stone and spears and arrows for their bows with heads of the same material. In the Fen Lane area only two or three years ago a polished axe head was found on a farmer's land which was reported in this village magazine, one of three or four which have been discovered I am told. To reinforce the evidence for Stone Age Dadlingtonians I discovered in my garden some few years past the "knife" of flint pictured below, along with lumps of flint which may or may not have been found locally.

"Flint napping" was a common way of these ancient men producing tools for killing animals and for preparing them for the pot. This particular one was no doubt used for cutting up meat and for scraping fat and meat from the skins of dead animals to make their clothing. It holds comfortably in the hand and is the right size to be used as a knife for dismembering animals. The long side nearest the 50p piece placed to indicate its size was literally razor sharp and could even be used to trim off the long hair of a beard. *Charles Frisby*



If you would like to book Dadlington Village Hall for an event, please visit:

<http://dadlingtonvillagehall.co.uk>

BETH'S CORNER.

JOY HIRONS

It was one of those nasty grey days, with a drizzly rain, and I was very glad that Joy was coming round to meet me here at home. I arranged a small tray with coffee cups and biscuits, wondering what our village 'Champion of the Clay Pigeon' world would be like. Joy Hirons is a nationally known name - probably even internationally. The door buzzer sounded. I am going to find out. A small, rather damp, and attractive fair-haired young woman steps in briskly, apologising for being a few minutes late, quickly unzipping her waterproof at the same time. *"I've just driven over from a shoot in Normanton, with some of my pals."* Taking her jacket, I ask her: *"Tea or coffee Joy?"* but she's already settling herself down in the corner of the sofa. *"Neither thanks Beth. I'm looking forward to our chat."* I have to admit I know nothing about the sport of clay pigeon shooting. *"OK Beth you fire away and ask me the questions, and I'll have a go at answering them."* I look over, noting the quick smile, her short, boyish hairstyle and bright blue eyes sparkling with enthusiasm. We are ready to start. *"Let's begin at the beginning Joy. Have you always lived in the village?"* Gradually we start to put the pieces of her life-story together, which begins in Brookside, Burbage, with her two brothers Barry and Chris. Schooling follows the well-known course at Westfield Primary, Hastings, and finally John Cleveland. She always accepted the fact that she will never be an academic, but Joy's Dad is very proud of his sport-loving young daughter. He suggests she learns typing, qualifying her for office work, and as he had been employed at Sketchley's for many years, he persuades her to join him there for her first job. She wrinkles her nose at me; *"I was sort of general dogsbody, you know, starting at the very bottom, and I soon got bored and left."* After this she worked at Clinton Davies Knitwear, and thoroughly enjoyed being part of a large team. Has she ever had any other ambition, I ask, and discover she wanted to join the Navy, but didn't know how to get started. She also applied to be an air stewardess, but was told she wasn't tall enough. In the meantime she was having a great social life, including volunteering for local charities, and it was while she was helping collecting with the firemen one Christmas time, that she met her future husband fireman Rob. They have now been together for fifteen years, having had a romantic wedding in Las Vegas. *"So what decided you to get into the clay-shooting sport?"* Another infectious grin: *"It was through Rob really. He'd wanted to have a go at it, so I bought him a 'one-off' present for Xmas. While I was there one of the guys in charge asked me if I'd like a go. Oh no, I'm only here as a spectator."* But after some persuasion, and a few tips on how to handle a gun for the first time, she started shooting, and, to her delight and everyone's amazement, scored time after time. Eighteen months later, in 2012 she won the Leicestershire County Badge. She says shooting is being part of a very big friendly community, on a par with fishing (or should that be angling?) and explains that the two essential attributes are co-ordination and a 'good eye'. I love her enthusiasm as she tries to explain SKEET to me. *"There are 25 shots, all set in a big semi-circle Beth"* which she describes with her hands in a wide arc. Her coach, Dave Beardsmore is constantly given much credit. She is, without doubt, now the top UK lady, and currently 15th out of thousands of competitors, nearly all men. She's also broken the history records by winning the British Open title four years in a row, the first time in 44 years. Joy already has three England Caps – only two more to go before she's satisfied! Her custom-made 12 bore Beretta shotgun made on her Italian visit to the Beretta factory, was given to her, and she believes it's made all the difference. To my delight, she suddenly phones me later. *"Oh Beth I completely forgot to say - Rob is England Manager for 2016/17 and 2018. I'm so proud of my supportive wonderful husband."* The perfect name for this bubbly infectious Champion lady, I discover - is JOY, and our chat together has been just that.

Thanks – Beth.

A Cathedral Journey – Part 5:

It was the summer of 1998 when my friend Andrew and I visited cathedral number 21 on our list of 44 Anglican cathedrals in England – the majestic St Paul's. We'd travelled down with our families as this was to be a group visit, and after lunch in Regents Park and a trip to the Planetarium, we set off for Christopher Wren's masterpiece.

On arriving, my wife decided that the entrance fee, a rare thing back then, tipped the balance between exploring an old church and shopping. So now we were seven, and when Andrew's wife, having had a good old whisper in the whispering gallery, announced she was going no further because of the sudden onset of a fear of heights, we were reduced to six: Andrew and I plus four children aged between 9 and 12. We managed to herd them up to the external gallery where we were rewarded by magnificent views of London. In the crypt, we saw the memorial to Wren and the model, based on his designs, that so impressed Charles II that it persuaded him to award Wren with the job of rebuilding the cathedral following its devastation during the Great Fire of London.

Later in the year, as Christmas approached, Andrew and I set off on our traditional Christmas Shopping Day, to Bristol. We decided to use the Park and Ride and after parking up, we boarded the bus and took our seats. The bus set off and two minutes later it pulled up outside a shopping centre and everyone got off – undoubtedly the shortest Park and Ride, I've ever experienced. We explored the old maritime city, enjoyed its hostelrys and then set off for the cathedral. As we approached the large green that stands before it, we noticed a number of people wearing gowns. Our visit had coincided with a graduation ceremony that was in full flow as we reached the west door. I was all for having a wander in and ticking it off our list, but Andrew wouldn't countenance such intrusive behaviour, and so we trundled back to the Park and Ride stop, waited 20 minutes for a bus, got off 2 minutes later and embarked on the return leg of a 250-mile round trip.

Our next trip took us east, firstly to Peterborough and then on to Ely. Both cathedrals are impressive structures and were well worth visiting. Peterborough was once the final resting place of two queens of England. Henry VIII's first wife, Catherine of Aragon, died at Kimbolton Castle near Huntingdon, and she was entombed here in 1536. 49 years later, Mary, Queen of Scots followed her, after her execution at nearby Fotheringhay Cathedral. When Mary's son became James I of England, he had her body moved to Westminster Abbey, so only Catherine remains (pun intended.) The journey from Peterborough to Ely took us across flat fenland country, the odd farm dotting the empty landscape. Because of this, Ely's Romanesque West Tower can be seen from miles away, and close up it was a magnificent structure. One of Ely's unique features is the centrally placed, octagonal lantern tower, the lantern at the top providing lots of natural light into the main body of the cathedral.

Two Yorkshire cathedrals were next on our list; both of them converted parish churches rather than purpose built. Sheffield has to be the most bizarre cathedral in the country. When the diocese of Sheffield was created, the original church was not big enough and so they extended it – at right angles to the original building. In essence, what you have are two separate buildings in one cathedral. Bradford was a far more sympathetic conversion, but as unimpressive as Leicester City's dismal 3-0 defeat to Bradford City which we endured after our visit.

Michael Dix

Stoke Golding Charity Sleigh

Many thanks to all those who contributed. Once again your generosity has been wonderful. This has allowed us to support the following: Stoke Golding Village Hall, Cubs & Scouts, Dadlington Village Hall, Junior Football Club, Robin Hood Playschool and the junior section of the Flower Show.

Thanks to all the snowmen for their collecting efforts, even in very poor weather conditions on the second night! Thanks to Phil Burgess for pulling the sleigh around on both nights.

The Sleigh committee



Richard Durrant's Christmas Concert

At Stoke Golding Village Hall, Richard was joined by his very special guests: Amy Kakoura – a singer with Greek Irish roots and an indescribably stunning voice and Nick Pynn – composer & multi-instrumentalist and one of Britain's greatest folk fiddlers. Together this talented trio took the audience on a magical "Christmassy" journey with their music, stories and humour. A wonderful night's entertainment!

Ten of a Kind

In Anglo Saxon times, February was known as Kale Monath, or cabbage month. Here are ten questions that have a cabbage connection. How many can you answer?

1. 'The phrase 'cabbages and kings' first occurs in which children's book by Lewis Carroll?
2. The 2016 film, The Queen, revealed that the Queen has two nicknames: Lilibet and Cabbage. Who calls her Cabbage?
3. 'Double or Drop' was a game involving contestants being given prizes to hold if they were correct or cabbages if they incorrect. In which popular children's TV programme did this feature?
4. Which celebrated American writer (real name: Samuel Langhorne Clemens, born 1835) wrote, "Cauliflower is nothing but cabbage with a college education"?
5. Cult American toys of the 1980s that are still on sale today, they have been featured on US stamps, been Olympic mascots and even been into outer space on the space shuttle: what are they?
6. How many varieties of Cabbage White butterfly are there in the UK?
7. Which American baseball player, one of the first to be inaugurated into the Baseball Hall of Fame and considered by many to be the best of all time, wore a cabbage leaf under his cap to keep him cool?
8. Which of these is not a member of the cabbage family: kohlrabi, spinach, brussel sprouts, collard greens, broccoli?
9. These lines are from a book by a Lake District author: "Peter lost one of his shoes among the cabbages and the other shoe amongst the potatoes." Who is the author?
10. Which actor plays the latest manifestation of Doctor Who and starred alongside Pauline Collins in the 2002 film, Mrs Caldicot's Cabbage War?

Answers on page 26

Church Matters



From St Margaret's Church

Is it the way that you say it?

Archbishop Robert Runcie used to quote St. Francis as saying: 'Preach the Gospel – use words if you have to.'

In one of the parishes in which I worked in South Yorkshire there was a strong Salvation Army corps. Officers were moved on frequently but I got to know one lieutenant well enough to compare and contrast our respective congregations. The township of Maltby had a marked cross section of people in its population of 18,000. A colleague carried out a housing survey and found that half of the homes were owner-occupied and the other half rented from the Coal Board, Rotherham Borough Council or private landlords. We had miners in our local colliery and commuters into Sheffield, Rotherham and Doncaster.

Our Anglican and Salvationist congregation both reflected our varied Maltby community and were in many ways similar. Their generosity to the church and charities, their habit of occasional swearing (not in worship!) and their commitments and prejudices were very much the same.

What was markedly different was the way in which, in general, the two groups of people expressed their Christian faith – and not only when each assembled for services.

The Salvationists were much more likely to talk about 'salvation' - 'Jesus as saviour' and our 'being saved'. There was more of a 'red meat' feel to their vocabulary when discussing faith. The words and phrases used were 'special' – sacred rather than secular. The Anglicans were more hesitant and less assertive in expressing their beliefs. They would normally use more everyday language.

But, and I repeat, when one considered the lives of the two groups of believers outside the specific vocabulary of religion, they were remarkably similar in behaviour and attitudes.

All this was thirty years ago. Obviously, when you hear someone express what they believe in very strong 'special' language you cannot always ask them to unpick it; that is, explain in non-religious words what they mean. Firstly, there is usually not time – and secondly it may be a way of losing friends very quickly! However, it is as well to remember that many people live out their Christian belief as faithfully as possible but do not have the right 'religious' words on the tips of their tongues.

Alan Davis

Church Matters

Church of England February 2017 Services

St Margaret's Church

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

St James's Church

| | | |
|------|---------|--------------------|
| 5th | 9.00am | BCP Morning Prayer |
| 12th | 10.30am | Benefice Service |
| 19th | 9.00am | BCP Holy Communion |
| 26th | 9.00am | BCP Holy Communion |

Zion Baptist Chapel February 2017 Services

| | | |
|------|-----|---------------|
| 5th | 6pm | John Needham |
| 12th | 6pm | Mark Menzfeld |
| 19th | 6pm | Steven Connor |
| 26th | 6pm | Malcolm Welch |

The Methodist Church February 2017 Services

| | | |
|------|---------|--|
| 5th | 10.30am | Mrs Joan Ledson |
| 12th | 10.30am | Revd Wes Hampton |
| 19th | 10.30am | Mr John Cooke |
| 26th | 9.30am | Circuit Service at Hinckley Methodist church |

The Methodist Church

Coffee Morning
Saturday February 11th
10.00 -11.30
For mission funds

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.



What's On

Stoke Golding Village Hall

Claude Bourbon Medieval & Spanish blues Saturday 25th March at 8pm



Ready for a unique and talented take on a wide range of musical traditions? Claude Bourbon is known throughout Europe and America for amazing guitar performances that take blues, Spanish, Middle Eastern, and Russian stylings into uncharted territories. Each year Claude plays more than 100 shows around the world.

One reviewer noted that although "Claude's roots were in blues, that is like saying Leonardo da Vinci was a painter". Intrigued?

On Saturday March 25th, Claude's show will hit Stoke Golding!

Tickets £10 from Steve Smithers
01455 213798 or
email stevie.smithers@btinternet.com

Stoke Golding Heritage Group

Votes for Women, The Suffragette Movement February 16th at 7.30pm in the Baxter Hall

Dr John Sutton will give an illustrated talk entitled "Votes for Women, The Suffragette Movement". It probably seems strange to the current generation that full equality in voting for men and women was not achieved until 1928. The talk will show how the Suffragette Movement were so influential in starting the process that ended with full equality.



Stanley Opera Proudly Present

Verdi's "A Masked Ball"

Friday 31st March, Tuesday 4th April, Thursday
6th April and Saturday 8th April 2017 at 7.30PM

Tickets available online from 30th January at:

www.concordiatheatre.co.uk/shows/a-masked-ball/
Or telephone Jane White 01455 212416

What's On



QUIZ NIGHT

at **Stoke Golding Club,**
Hinckley Rd, Stoke Golding
CV13 6DZ

on

Thurs 30th March 2017
at 7.30pm

hosted by Stoke Golding WI

Teams of 4

Tickets at £5 per person
include refreshments, tea/coffee.
Drinks can be purchased at the bar.

Tickets are available from Anne Fullagar
01455212340 or
annefullagar30@btinternet.com or
26 Wykin Lane, Stoke Golding, CV13 6HN

This is a fundraiser for Stoke Golding WI

Market Bosworth Festival
are hosting a theatrical
production

Uncle Richard

by Tell Tale Theatre

at

The Dixie Grammar School Hall
Saturday February 25th
7.30pm - 9.30pm.

Tickets are £10 available from
Michaelmas House,
Market Bosworth
or

www.bosworthfestival.co.uk

Market Bosworth

Winter - Spring FILMS 2017
Dixie Grammar School
7.30pm, admission £5

Mon. Feb. 20th

Suffragette



Mon. March 20th

Welcome to the Sticks

French comedy with subtitles



Mon. April 24th

Swallows & Amazons



Mon. May 15th

Bridget Jones's Baby



Fool on The Hill

Repent ye sinners.....

Long ago when I was a lad and coal was one of your 5 a day, a man used to parade outside Woolworths wearing an "A" board proclaiming that the end of the world was nigh. My recent round of internet searches has revealed that he was, in fact, quite correct. That is as long as you are allowed to make a fairly liberal interpretation of what nigh means.

It is my firmly held belief that the real reason the powers that be want us to reduce our carbon emissions is a bit more sinister than just being considerate to Polar Bears. I reckon that, underneath the layer of ice on Antarctica, the great creator, as a final flourish on completing the Earth, has embossed an expiry date. If the Antarctic ice melts this will be revealed and the whole planet will go into a state of trouser ruining terror. Be of good cheer though, because the boffins estimate that the Sun will grow and engulf the Earth but not for another 4 to 5 billion years. Plenty of time for that last minute shopping.

However, it is not all good news. The expanding sun will render all life on Earth impossible, except for some bacteria with a decent supply of factor 50, in around 1.75 billion years. The hope is, of course, that before too long we will have the USS Enterprise for real and we will be able to boldly go and make a complete mess of somewhere else. Although this is very much in the planning stage, I am led to believe that the planets Keppler-22B and Gleise-581D might prove to be a suitable location for our generations to come. Obviously we are going to have to change the names as they just sound like a couple of pieces of industrial machinery. Perhaps we could run a phone in and hope that we come up with something better than Planet Mc Planet face.

One school of scientific thought actually believes that it might, in the future, be possible to relocate the Earth somewhere in the Universe that is conducive to our environmental needs. I did a quick internet search and discovered that JCB do in fact make earth moving equipment so maybe it is not such a big problem after all. I have horrible feeling though, that the fabric of the Universe is so intricately woven that even moving one item could send the whole lot spiralling into a black hole like a bad move in a game of cosmic Ker-Plunk.

It is entirely possible, of course, that the man with the "A" board was not referring to the end of the earth in terms of cosmic events. Rather it might have been a veiled critique of our propensity to elect or have imposed on us such charming and well balanced individuals as those currently in charge of Russia, the USA and North Korea.

Goodness knows what might happen if they had nuclear weapons. Oooops!

FOTH



Charity Lanequest Returns to Dadlington. Sunday 26th February, 2017.

Following last years successful event, Dadlington is again hosting an event which combines cycling and map reading, known as a Lanequest. Dadlington Village Hall will be the start and finish venue for the event which is being organised by Geoff Ford and Bernard Lamb. The event is under the authority of the Midlands Mountain Bike Orienteering or MMBO, who were impressed with the organisation and historic area last year that they were keen to see more of the same this year.



The Lanequest involves using local, mostly quiet lanes and public highways. 30 checkpoints will be placed around a course within the confines of an A4 size Ordnance Survey map. This is given to each rider as they start, and the rider(s) set off at times to suit themselves between 9:00 and 10:30. The aim of the competition is to visit and confirm on a punch card as many checkpoints as possible within the 3 hour time limit. Lateness will incur penalty points on an escalating scale so it is important to try and finish as close to the 3 hour limit as possible. More leisurely riders may chose to ride for a shorter period and just enjoy the experience, perhaps riding some lanes for the very first time. Each checkpoint has a points score so the winner will be the rider who has the highest points total less any penalty points.

The event however is not a race. Each competitor, or team of two, can go at whatever pace they are comfortable with and choose which checkpoints they visit and in which order to clock up the points on offer. As the sport involves combining bike riding and map reading to plot an efficient way of gathering the most points, it is not just the best or fastest cyclists that will necessarily win an event. It's a great way of combining different skills with a new way of keeping fit and seeing the countryside in a new light. This event is on tarmac roads but any bike, either road or mountain bike can be used. There is even a separate category for e-bikes. A helmet is essential to compete whatever your choice of bike.

The event is open to all ages, (under 16s will need to be accompanied by an adult), and although there will be an overall placing for every rider, they will also be entered into age categories so there will be separate competitions within age groups as well as male and female competitions all within the same event. At the end of the event whilst the scores are being calculated and results totted up, there will be refreshments and high quality home made cakes on offer and time to chat with your competitors about the merits of routes chosen! No one went away hungry last year!

All surplus funds from the event and donations for the food will be donated to a leukaemia charity as the youngest son of one of "The Stokers" regular advertisers is currently undergoing treatment for the disease at Leicesters hospitals.

Anyone with a roadworthy bike and a basic ability to map-read is most welcome to try out the event with registration at the Village Hall being between 8:30 and 10:00, with a start at the riders choice between 9:00 and 10:30. Further details as well as how to enter are available on the Midlands MBO website www.bmbo.org.uk

The event is a great opportunity to see the historic landscape that makes this area special at a pace which ensures time to soak in the features and places of special interest. Why not give it a try? *Bernard Lamb*

The Nights We Played in Europe

A defining moment in Leicester City's brilliant season was their first ever qualification for the Champions League. When Bruges, Copenhagen and Porto came out of the hat, they represented a reasonable chance of further glory and appeared easily accessible from the East Midlands. Getting tickets proved to be a nervous affair. Arriving an hour before the ticket office opened, I discovered a lengthy queue already in place, some hardy souls having camped out overnight. However, I was in luck and bought tickets for the games in Bruges and Porto.



The trip to Bruges entailed planning of military precision. The friend I was going with could not leave until 12 noon, and then we had to have a smooth run to Folkestone without any hold ups. Despite the improbability of this, we sailed down and arrived in Bruges in plenty of time to collect our tickets and have a drink before starting the 30-minute walk to the ground. An hour later, we arrived. Getting lost didn't help; neither did the kindly Belgian police who

directed us in a loop. We finally entered the stadium just as the evocative Champions League music was playing and found there was someone in our seats. We stood elsewhere, only discovering at half time, we were sharing the one seat. Never mind - the team played brilliantly, winning 3-0, and we emerged triumphant.

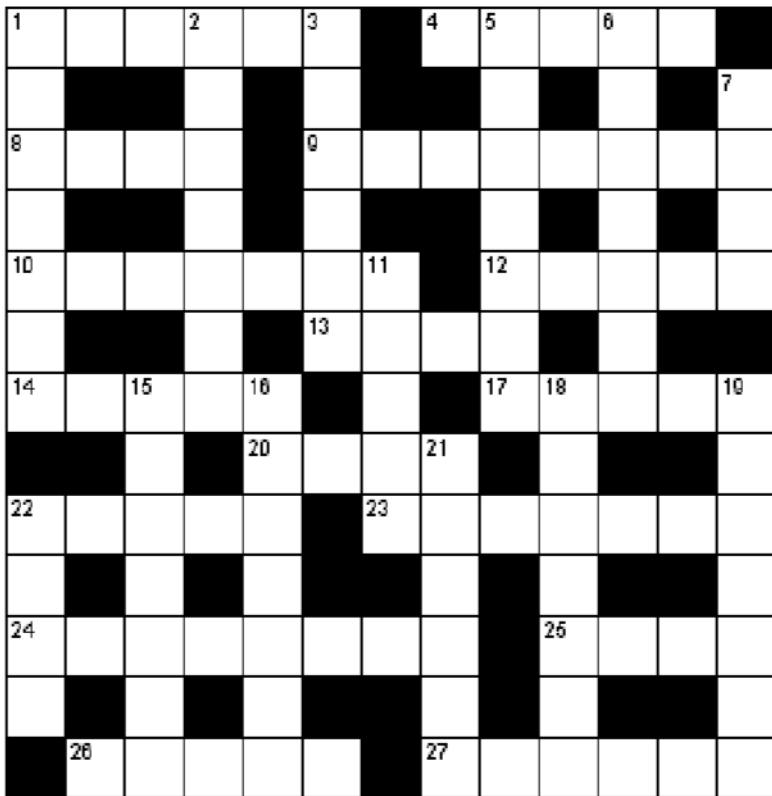
Whilst getting to Bruges was straightforward, Porto provided quite a challenge. Eventually, I put together a four-day trip that would give me time to enjoy both Porto and Lisbon, as well as watch a match that had become fairly meaningless, Leicester having already qualified for the last 16. The journey there was fairly traumatic, a delayed flight from Birmingham resulting in a missed connection, the outlay of £250 for a later flight to Lisbon and a three hour train journey up to Porto, arriving at my hotel in the early hours of the morning, considerably poorer than when I'd set off.

The day of the game was a complete contrast. I saw the sights, drank red wine and ate fresh fish in the December sunshine. I reached the Estádio do Dragão, with loads of time to spare. There was someone in my seat! The atmosphere was incredible; the stadium impressive; the match awful. I did get to see the Porto goal celebrations - five times! We had a corner and hit the bar, but I could only agree with the Leicester faithful's chant as they kept us in the stadium for 20 minutes after the game: We want our money back, we want our Leicester back. Never mind, all that was forgotten when Seville was drawn against Leicester in the next round, five days later. The planning began anew. And in the future, when my grandchildren ask me about Leicester City's great European adventure, I'll be able to say, "I was there."

Michael Dix

THIS YEAR IS THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF DONALD CAMPBELL IN HIS BLUEBIRD BOAT AND THIS CROSSWORD CONTAINS A NUMBER OF ASSOCIATED CLUES.

Crossword



Across

- 1 Author (6)
- 4 Poem – I wandered lonely as a ***** (5)
- 8 & 24A National park where 9A is (4 & 8)
- 9 Donald Campbell died on this lake (8)
- 10 Spoils or hampers (7)
- 12 & 16D Campbell's target in MPH when he died (5 & 7)
- 13 Wordsworth's home ***** Cottage (4)
- 14 Twelfth of a year (5)
- 17 Dangerous situations (5)
- 20 Single item (4)
- 22 Citrus fruit (5)
- 23 County of the Lakes (7)
- 24 see 8A
- 25 Running competition (4)
- 26 Next to something (5)
- 27 Type of fuel (6)

Down

- 1 First name of Wordsworth (7)
- 2 Where India and China lie (3 & 4)
- 3 Campbell tried to beat this in Bluebird (6)
- 5 Special spear to catch salmon (7)
- 6 Tips over (7)
- 7 Leg joint (4)
- 11 ***** boom made by a fast jet (5)
- 15 Someone who gets the best of you (7)
- 16 see 12a
- 18 To supply with money (7)
- 19 Highest point of 23a ***** Pike (7)
- 21 Type of duck (6)
- 22 Public outdoor swimming pool (4)

Answers on page 26

World Premiere in Stoke Golding

On Monday 12th December, an appreciative audience of nearly one hundred locals were festively entertained by Ambion Voices Choir at Stoke Golding Club.



The thirty strong group of talented ladies were on fine form, commencing the concert with a flash mob rendition of Swing Low Sweet Chariot, showcasing their harmonies with an 'a capella' Kumbaya My Lord; a Christmas twelve song medley; and playful sung rounds celebrating among other things, cupcakes.

The Ambion ladies treated everybody to their culinary talents during the interval with a wonderful buffet.

The Voices, directed by Rachel Rees-Jones and Jane White, were accompanied by Michael Dix on keyboard, and were later to delight the audience with the first ever public performance of the Dadlington composer's latest work, the first movement of his 'Reflections' suite, inspired by the story of the Ashby Canal.

The complete 'Reflections' Suite in three movements, which Michael has written for Ambion Voices, will be performed for the first time as part of Market Bosworth Festival. The piece chronicles the building and early working life; decline and neglect; and resurgence of our local waterway. The choir will perform, appropriately, at Market Bosworth Marina on Tuesday June 13th. Further details in the Stoker, this will be one of the 'do not miss' events of the summer!.

Simon Rees-Jones

Notes from Stoke Golding Parish Council January Meeting (Draft)

Matters arising from December's Meeting:

Crime Report for October 2016 – 1 vehicle crime near Ivy Close, 2 vehicle crimes near Church Walks, 1 burglary near the rec – all investigations complete and no suspects identified. 1 violence/sexual offence near Church Walks – unable to prosecute suspect. 1 violence/sexual offence near Thornfield Avenue – under investigation.

Interpretation Board:

It was agreed to proceed with the repair of the board at a cost of £70 and to consider the replacement of village noticeboards after April 2017.

New Bus Shelter – is now installed outside St Martin's Academy. Clerk to write letter of thanks to the Charity of Thomas Barton for their donation.

Convent Site Balancing Pond – Mark Horsley states the fencing will be carried out shortly and has copied the PC's correspondence to the Technical Construction Directors at Mar City. Severn Trent has confirmed it has not yet adopted the drainage and this matter remains a Local Authority issue.

Wykin Lane Cemetery Water Rates – Severn Trent Water has credited the Parish Council for previously backdated charges.

Reports of Council Representatives and Clerk:

Clerk reported on a request for football training facilities at the rec. It was unanimously agreed that this request should be declined.

Planning Applications:

New Applications:

Land off Hinckley Road – variation of condition 1 of planning permission 15/00073 REM to amend siting of plots 49-71 with associated substitution of house types.

Clerk to request an up-to-date plan from Morris Homes and clarification regarding siting of social housing.

Tithe Farm, 12 Wykin Lane – two storey extension and alterations to house.

8 Stoneley Road – erection of single storey side extension.

Permission approved:

Clonee, Ivy Close - Approval of reserved matters for 2 dormer bungalow dwellings.

50 High Street – works to silver birch tree.

To resolve upon Precept and Parish element of Council Tax

It was agreed that the Parish Precept for 2017/18 should increase by 2% from the current council tax level of £49.71 to £50.70, providing a Precept of £35,495.00 at the parish's current tax base of 700.1; this is in line with Local Authority's capped increases.

Date of the Annual Parish Meeting

Annual Parish Meeting will be on Thursday 20th April at the Methodist Church Hall.

Dates and location of Council Meetings and committees

It was agreed that all Parish Council meetings take place at the Methodist Church Hall on the first Wednesday of each month and Neighbourhood Plan meetings on the third Wednesday of January, February and March.

Neighbourhood Plan

It was agreed to proceed with the following timetable for the questionnaire document:

- First draft should be ready by 6th January and forwarded to the PC for information.
- First draft to be discussed at the NP meeting on 18th January, copies available for residents.
- Any necessary alterations to be made and a copy forwarded to the PC ready for discussion at the next PC meeting.
- Draft should then be submitted to HBBC to check the wording is appropriate and legally robust.
- The finalised draft should be forwarded to the PC ready for ratification at the March PC meeting.
- Figures for printing costs should be presented to the PC at the February meeting for ratification.

The brief to obtain quotes for a consultant to carry out a Traffic Impact Survey, which will be funded by an additional government grant, will also be presented for ratification.

Christmas tree

The arrangement for the Christmas tree in future years was discussed. Clerk to chase HBBC regarding permission to plant a tree, which could be decorated annually.

Any Other Business

The Clerk reported on the progress of memorial grave repairs. It was agreed that the contractor should repair a cracked headstone as advised to the Parish Council.

Cllr Beale reported on progress with an artist to paint the village sign.

The rough land on Thornfield Avenue was discussed, no action agreed.

Next meeting: Methodist Hall, Wednesday 1st February at 7pm

100 years of Glue and Glitter (well not quite!!)

The scout group ended the year in seasonal spirit. The beaver had their nativity play and didn't they do well.



The cubs painted and made snowmen as well as a Xmas themed evening of chocolate biscuits, snowmen, cards and bauble with so much glitter and glue!! The scouts made a Xmas table decoration.

The cubs snowmen took part in the " snowman festival " at the church.

AND then to finish off we had the big Xmas party with themed games with about 75 in attendance. What an end.



If that wasn't enough some of the cubs attended THE 100 years of CUBS celebration at Castle Donnington on Friday 16th December. They arrived in coaches, renewed their promise at the same time world wide, set a new world record, played games, danced the hours away! Well until 10pm and then went home again.

The cub and scout leaders Fionna and John Shilladay were also presented with a special medal. See their interview with Beth in the next couple of Stokers. What an ending to the term and year!! Can't say more than that.

Jennifer Michie and John Shilladay

OBITUARIES



Patricia White (Pat)

Pat, from Crown Hill Close, died peacefully at the George Elliot Hospital on 11th January 2017 aged 91 years. She and her husband Bob moved from Ealing seven years ago to be near Alan and Jane and she has loved every moment here.

Pat was born on 1st August 1925 and lived in London most of her life. She was a qualified shorthand typist and worked in various administration roles until her retirement. She was a great cook, enjoyed knitting and did yoga

everyday until well into her 80s. She liked to look smart and was never seen without make up, beautifully manicured nails and her hair done. Pat enjoyed a very happy 65 years of marriage to Bob including nearly 30 years of retirement which have all been spent together and included annual holidays to Majorca and more exotic trips to their absolute favourite –The Seychelle Islands.

She has been a devoted mum, wife, nana and great nana to two children, six grandchildren and nine great grandchildren who will all miss her.

MARGARET ALLMOND

Margaret passed peacefully away on 31st December 2016 at the Leicester Royal Infirmary aged 87 years. Donations if so desired are being accepted in Margaret's memory to benefit Parkinson's UK can be sent to S.J. Murray Funeral Directors (cheques should be made payable to Parkinson's UK) at 48 Lower Bond Street, Hinckley LE10 1QU. May we send our sincere condolences to Margaret's family and friends.

MERELNE BETTY WRIGHT

Originally from Thornfield Avenue in this village Merlene passed away at Barons Park care home on 1st December 2016 aged 78 years. The funeral service was held at the Methodist Chapel before interment in Hinckley Road Cemetery. Donations in memory of Merlene may be sent for the Parkinson's Disease Society care of G.Seller and Co Upper Bond Street Hinckley if so desired.

COPY DEADLINE for March 2017 ISSUE: 15th February please.

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Answers to Ten of a Kind Page 13

1 Alice Through the Looking Glass, 2 Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh,
3 Crackerjack! 4 Mark Twain, 5 Cabbage Patch Kids, 6 Two: the large and the
small, 7 Babe Ruth, 8 Spinach, 9 Beatrix Potter, 10 Peter Capaldi.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS (from page 21)

- ACROSS 1 Writer, 4 Cloud, 8 & 24a Lake District, 9 Coniston,
10 Impairs, 12 & 16d Three hundred, 13 Dove, 14 Month, 17 Risks, 20 unit,
22 Lemon, 23 Cumbria, 24 see 8a, 25 Race, 26 Aside, 27 Diesel
- DOWN 1 William, 2 The East, 3 Record, 5 Leister, 6 Upturns, 7 Knee,
11 Sonic, 15 Nemesis, 16 see 12a, 18 Imburse, 19 Scafell, 21 Tufted, 22 Lido



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Mon 7.30pm Baxter Hall, Stoke Golding

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Tues 7.40pm Swan House, Market Bosworth

Wed 6.30pm Yoga Loft, Burbage

Thursday 10am Sapcote Pavilion

Thur 12.15pm Swan house, Market Bosworth

Fri 10am Sapcote Pavilion

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