

February 2022

No. 208

# The Stoker



**Stoke Golding Village Magazine**

*Including*

**Dadlington Matters**

**70p**



## Note from the Editors

We hope everyone enjoyed all the festivities over Christmas in the villages. We would like to wish you all a happy and healthy New Year!

As you can see our editor team is back to two. Jane has decided to hang up her Stoker

Editor's hat and retire. Jane has put so much into the Stoker over the 20 years she has been involved with the magazine. You can read more about Jane's retirement on page 3. We are already missing her on the team but look forward to her Baxter Hall updates!

We have updates from various festive events from over Christmas, including the wonderful Advent Windows which can be seen on pages 18-19.

After the wet Christmas we are looking forward to next month and the arrival of spring and hopefully drier sunnier weather!

Stay safe everyone

*Steve & Kate*



Thank you flowers  
for Jane

## The Stoker Team

*Editors:* 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, Amanda Diboll

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

**The Editors, 23 Wykin Lane, Stoke Golding.**

**Email [thestoker@gmx.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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:* New Year's Eve Sun over Stoke Golding by Annette Dallas

## Jane Retires after Twenty Years at The Stoker

My involvement with the Stoker began shortly after the St Margaret's Church magazine folded and a meeting was called by Ruth Fisher to discuss starting a new village magazine on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2001. Following this meeting the first issue of The Stoker was produced in May 2001 at a cost of 35p and a team of deliverers was established – many of whom are still delivering the magazine today.



My role was initially supporting Ruth, who was the main editor, by writing a children's page and investigating local issues and writing articles. I particularly remember writing about the foot and mouth epidemic in the first edition, after interviewing Phil Gosling and Ken Waring – it was such a traumatic and devastating time for both farmers.

Many other articles followed, and I spent a few years as the treasurer after Denis Cash retired from the role. I took over as main editor when Ruth retired in 2015 but it wasn't long before Steve Smithers volunteered to help and share the role with me. Last year Kate Poyser Clark joined the editorial team too – the same age as I was when I started!

I can honestly say that being involved in producing The Stoker has been one of the most interesting, enjoyable and rewarding experiences in my life. I have learned such a lot and worked with some amazing people on the production team. I will miss my involvement, but I know it is time to move on after such a long time. I know the magazine is in good hands and I wish everyone on the production team huge success.

*Jane White*

### **The photo shows The Stoker Production Team in 2002**

**Back Row L-R:** Jill Webster, Rita Aston, Denis Cash, Alan Taylor, Netta Deaney, Rachel Terhegge

**Front Row L-R:** Ruth Fisher, Jane White, Penny James

*We are already missing having Jane on our team as she has really been a driving force, and for Kate she has left big shoes to fill! However, Jane remains active in her many other community ventures and we wish her all the best - Eds*

## Stoke Golding Scout Group

There's been a bit of a Xmas theme.

The cubs, scouts and beavers have all been taking festive Xmas activities. The beavers and cubs have been making snowmen which were smuggled into the church to join the Snowman festival. The cubs also decorated plates and a snowman poster for the surgery and made Xmas cards.

The scouts had a Xmas no bake cooking session making reindeer and melted snowmen.

The beavers had their annual nativity play which was amazing considering they only rehearsed it about 3 times !



Taking part in the nativity play for some of the beavers was the culmination of 3 months of hard work and earned them their World Challenge Award.



The cubs had a Xmas party that went ahead with a few extra precautions adhering to the updated Government guidelines.

Snowmen, reindeer and Santas abounded at the Cubs final meeting of the term as the pack enjoyed some festive games before the break, all courtesy of the Young Leaders group who organised the event for their younger brethren.

Cubs set to with enthusiasm to have a good time and rounded off a great evening with a delicious cup of hot chocolate.

The last Scout meeting was cancelled due to the current Covid situation. So all in all a very festive end to the season.

*Jennifer and Nick.*

### Thank You from the Croxall Family

Margaret, Martine and Melissa Croxall wish to thank everyone for their generous donations made in memory of Ian. A total of £1096 was given, to be split equally between The Dorothea Oncology Unit at the George Eliot Hospital and The Children's Society. Nearly £100 was also collected at Ian's funeral for St Margaret's Church.



## It's back - The Snowman Festival



What can I say, it's back - in a beautifully renovated church. The snowman themed displays were as captivating as they normally are. The church was also decorated with beautiful seasonal floral displays decorating the pillars and



marble vases scattered throughout the church. It was my first visit to the renovated church which was outstanding combining the traditional tiles, pillars, wooden arch with a new floor and structural renovations all sensitively combined. The effect was a crisp, bright more open spaced welcoming church. Well done to all of the team at St Margaret's. Well done, also, to all who helped to make the snow man festival such a huge success.

Despite getting down there early as the doors opened, it was getting busy so the Snowman Festival was proving to be a very popular event . As readers will know I do feel I am the secret "restauranteur " who has to provide the objective evidence that the cakes were up to the usual standard. I can vouch that they were as was the cuppa.



So what can I say to sum it all up, it's great to have the Snowman Festival back and thank you to all involved for such a great event and a fantastic way to get the festive season started.

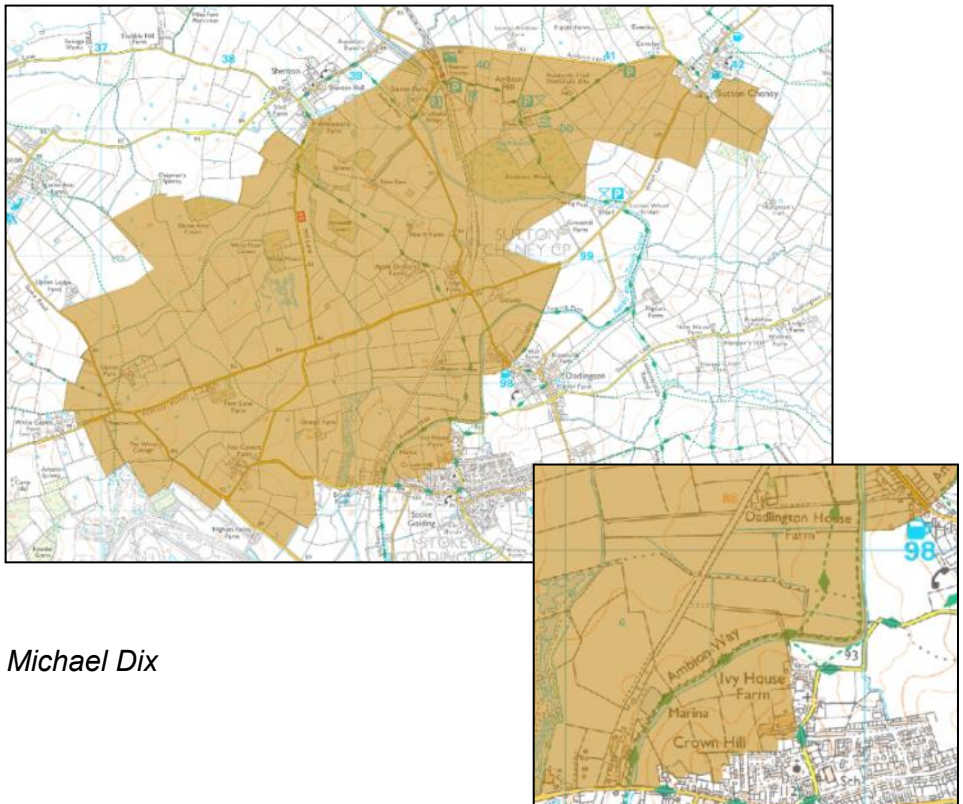
*Jennifer*

## Bosworth Battlefield Area of Historic Interest

When we extended our house in Dadlington a few years ago, we had to apply to Historic England for permission because we fell within the registered Area of Historic Interest from Bosworth Battlefield. We expected a horde of archaeologists to descend on us, hoping to find Richard's crown, or possibly a visit from Channel 4's Time Team. But the diggers came and left and any finds that might have been beneath our garden remained unfound.

The registered battlefield was agreed by English Heritage in 1995 to protect the area around Ambion Hill where the battle was then thought to have taken place. It was then amended when archaeological remains were discovered in the new millennium. Given the spread of finds, a border of one field was inserted to allow for further investigations in the future. The area encompasses parts of Stoke Golding and Dadlington and includes land within the parishes of Witherley, Higham, Sutton Cheney and Sheepy.

The two maps show the overall area and the position of the boundary in relation to Stoke and Dadlington.



*Michael Dix*

## Ten of a Kind – February 22

February 14<sup>th</sup> is St. Valentine's Day so here are ten love related questions for you to ponder on whilst penning a romantic message to the love of your life.

1. On which TV channel would you find Love Island?
2. In which year (2 either way) was the Beatles' hit single 'She Loves You' released?
3. Which modern country was the birthplace of St. Valentine?
4. How many points does a winning tennis player need to make in order to win a men's Wimbledon match if the loser gets love in every game?
5. Which Shakespearian characters are called star-crossed lovers?
6. Who said, "I'll tell you, honestly, I will love it if we beat them. Love it!" In a post-match interview in 1996?
7. Who wrote 'The Life and Loves of a She-Devil'?
8. Which fruit was once called a 'pomme d'amour' by the French, which translates as 'love apple'?
9. Who starred in the 1970 film 'Love Story'?
10. What does a bibliophile love?

*Answers on page 23*

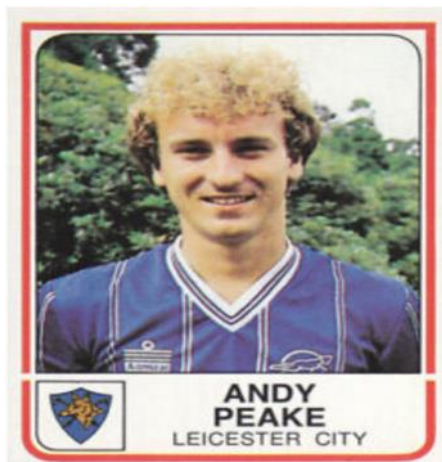
## Leamington Spa Guide Dog Day Centre

**David Abbott**, from Stoke Golding, is currently negotiating with the Guide Dogs to buy a day centre unit at the Leamington spa site. It is one of a number in a larger unit. It involves an awful lot of money so things are progressing slowly. The unit will be especially dedicated to David's parents on his behalf.

David visited the centre last Thursday. He took Murphy with him, his black Labrador that he had from them three years ago. When he let him off the lead, Murphy was about 60 yards from Debbie, who had looked after him as a pup. She got mobbed! Debbie took Murphy for a very special wash and shampoo. Then she took David to see a very special addition: a grey standard poodle, Gershwin, flown in from Canada for breeding purposes.

The Centre is a truly amazing place and has a special place in David's heart.

## Andy Peake – Leicester City Footballer



It was with some trepidation that Leicester City fans arrived at Filbert Street for the third game of the 1980 season. Newly promoted, Leicester were facing league champions Liverpool and, having lost their opening two games, very few thought Leicester would get a result. Step forward Andy Peake, then an 18-year-old midfielder for the Foxes, now a resident of Dadlington for the last 15 years and well known to the pupils of St. Martin's as one of their minibus drivers and cover supervisors. His thunderous goal in a 2-0 shock home

win is still considered to be one of the best ever scored by a Leicester player.

A year earlier, Andy had made his debut as a 17-year-old apprentice in a televised 3<sup>rd</sup> round FA match against Norwich, remembered by many as the one where Keith Weller wore tights. Shortly after that game, he signed professional forms and his wages increased from the £20 a week he was getting as an apprentice. He'd been spotted playing for Enderby Juniors and signed as a schoolboy when he was 14. It is a fact that very few youngsters signed by clubs actually become professionals and Andy credits his father for his success, having been persuaded by him not to train with the club twice a week which was an option, so that when he became an apprentice, he made huge progress compared with the those who'd been making steady improvements at the training sessions.

Leicester's manager at the time was Jock Wallace, a plain-speaking Scotsman for whom Andy had the upmost respect because of his man-management skills and fairness, not that Andy could understand much of what he said and tended to just nod his head when spoken to. An example of this was when he got a last-minute call up to the England Youth Squad in 1979. Collecting his passport from the club and wondering how he was going to manage in Rome on his first trip abroad with about £5 cash, he found Jock Wallace had put £100 inside his passport.

The following year, Andy found himself going through the rigours of Checkpoint Charlie in Berlin en route to the European Youth Championships in East Germany, a competition they won. A year later and he was off again, this time to Australia, playing two games at Sydney Cricket Ground in the Under 20s World Youth Championships, losing to a



team from Qatar in the semi-finals. He also got an England Under-21 cap in 1984.

A change in manager and a nasty injury meant that Andy missed out a lot of the next season and then he found it difficult to regain his place as new players had established themselves. After a year playing for Grimsby, where he regained his fitness, he signed for the newly promoted 1<sup>st</sup> division side, Charlton Athletic, going on to become the club captain. In 1991, he moved to Middlesbrough and finally retired from football in 1994.

He still follows the Foxes – as an ex-player he receives two tickets for every home game – and he keeps in touch with one or two of the other players from his time at Leicester. He remembers being interviewed by a very young reporter called Nick Owen and another Dadlington Leicester player, George Dewis, who retired from the backroom staff at the club at about the same time as Andy began his career there.

*Michael Dix*

**ALL THE ANSWERS TO THIS QUIZ ARE TOWNS AND CITIES IN THE U.K. - Put your thinking caps on! Some are easy but others need some deep thought.**

1. ***Scouse organ by pond***
2. ***Look at Douglas, gowned by local designer Mackintosh***
3. ***Put on sugar? Must be in the north***
4. ***Clot cheers around roman capital***
5. ***Where everything is shipshape***
6. ***2<sup>nd</sup> class home for squirrel around midland town***
7. ***Is actor Don from here?***
8. ***Wiltshire pigs lose direction by professor***
9. ***Welsh bird on the briny***
10. ***A place to enjoy books***

***ANSWERS on Page 23***

## Staffroom Memories 32: IT

There was a joke doing the rounds at the time Michael Gove introduced the current version of the National Curriculum, that he'd taken schools into a new century: the 19th century. Much of what happens in a typical primary school classroom today would be familiar to our Victorian ancestors, but there is one glaring exception and that is Information Technology. I can chart its development in a series of events over the years, beginning with a staff meeting in 1979 when we had a talk by the husband of one of my colleagues who informed us that there would be some things called 'computers' coming into schools before long. It would be another couple of years before the first BBC B computers were available with a limited number of programs contained on cassettes. Loading took forever and crashes were commonplace but the children did get to sample the delights of 'Granny' Garden, one of the first educational programs available. The next major development was the introduction of CD Roms which brought the wonders of the online encyclopedia Encarta and the sights and sounds of San Diego Zoo into many classrooms. I remember spending a summer holiday fitting these into our existing machines.

One issue many teachers had was that the children often knew more about the actual technology than they did, something that could be quite challenging. It never bothered me. Many of the shortcuts I use today were taught to me by the children I was supposed to be teaching. One of my pupils was a real whizz when anything went wrong. Unfortunately, he was also a little light fingered. When a vital computer component went missing, I thought I knew where it had gone and quizzed the child over its disappearance. He strenuously denied all knowledge, until I showed him the way the computer had been opened by the thief. Unable to cope with this inaccuracy, he showed me exactly how he'd removed it and he returned it and reinstalled it the next day.

The arrival of the internet brought huge changes. Funding was put in place to install networks in all schools. This work went on during the school day, with installers crawling about in the roof space as teachers tried to teach below. One of them was intrigued by some of our children, who chatted with them at break times. "I must have been to about twenty schools," he said, "but this is the first one where the children have offered to buy the copper wire off me." He'd met some of our gypsy traveller children. With a whole new world of possibilities opening up, the government decided all teachers must be trained in IT. This would have been an excellent move had they the faintest idea what that training should look like. They didn't and it was barely adequate and a colossal waste of time, money and opportunity.

The potential dangers of the internet were becoming apparent in the last

couple of years before I retired. I had one nasty incident of online bullying to deal with. I was castigated by complete strangers on Facebook after one parent and I had disagreed over the way to resolve an issue her child had and she'd posted critical comments. And I had a deluge of angry parents demanding to see me after one parent took a video of sports day without permission and posted it on YouTube.

*Michael Dix*

## White Swan Christmas Quiz Night

The Sunday night Quiz is back at the White Swan, and the Christmas Quiz was extremely successful.

Sue College wrote on Facebook "thankyou to all you 'Stokers' who donated prizes for the White Swan Christmas Quiz raffle, you really did the village proud with lots of fantastic prizes in aid of Macmillan Nurses. Together with the quiz entrance fee the total amount raised was £181.00."



The Landlord Martin Etheridge added "A big Thankyou to everyone that came and supported our charity Xmas quiz last night which raised a fantastic £181 for Collie Bob's chosen charity of the Macmillan Nurses. Special thanks to Vicki and Sue for organising the quiz and raffle and to everyone who put themselves out a bit to donate some excellent raffle prizes."

Look out for details of the next quiz on facebook and at the pub.

*Well done everyone involved, and such a well deserved charity.—Eds*

### Wanted!! - Your Used Stamps

Hello everyone, if you don't already save your used postage stamps, would you consider saving them (attached to a small piece of envelope) for a worthy charity - Canine Partners? It uses the stamps - U K and worldwide to raise funds to train assistance dogs, you can read more about them here: <https://caninepartners.org.uk>



Thank you for the stamps donated to me over the Christmas period, if you can keep dropping them in an envelope through my letterbox at 21 Hinckley Road that would be great.

*Ruth Fisher*

## Bella's Bake Sale

After receiving an enormous delivery of apples grown by Mr. Spokes, Bella took it upon her self to get baking for charity. Bella baked some absolutely beautiful apple pies to sell on her driveway, she raised a whopping £195 in total through various channels for Heartlink Children's Charity. Her Mum Emily said that they are so proud of her, she is such an insanely cool person for doing this, and wanted to thank everyone for their support and donations.



*Kate Poyser Clark*



### **The Baxter Hall, Stoke Golding A Perfect Place for Your Gathering**

The Community Hall, within The Baxter Hall, is a bright, attractive space suitable for community groups, small businesses (such as exercise classes) and private parties. It can accommodate up to 45 people seated around tables and has clean, modern kitchen and toilet facilities.

For more information about booking the hall take a look on our website [www.thebaxterhall.com](http://www.thebaxterhall.com) or contact Alison Bates, our booking clerk, Ring 213779 (before 9pm please) or email [bookings@thebaxterhall.com](mailto:bookings@thebaxterhall.com)



**We would love to hear from you.**

## Fool on the Hill

## It makes no scents.....

To the more delicate of us, this year has been a litany of events to make us fearful. There has been the fear of Covid when we had no vaccines. Then we had the fear of running out of toilet rolls followed later by the fear of running out of petrol. Then back to the fear of a new Covid even though our arms were taking on the appearance of a pincushion. This coupled with the fear of having Christmas whipped away from us again has led many, my good self included, to lead the life of an agoraphobic monk in the hope that social isolation from the many would enable us to celebrate the festive season with the chosen few. This course of action was successful in its primary purpose but did come with some collateral downsides. This time of year most households are overflowing with the sort of stuff that allows Cardiologist to pay their subscriptions to the golf club. Being confined to barracks when it is full of delicious things and copious amounts of alcohol, especially when the evening starts at 4pm, has no doubt come as good news to the shareholders of Weightwatchers. The other thing that causes my blood pressure to go off the scale in the festive season is the plethora of extravagant perfume adverts that appear on the telly. What on earth is the point of advertising a product on a visual media whose sole selling point is the way that it smells? What am I supposed to deduce about the fragrance when the image I am presented with, is a sweating man in a desert accompanied by couple of mangy wolves? I find it hard to imagine that this would be the sort of aroma to have Angelina Jolie breaking down your front door. The RSPCA possibly. If these adverts are being aimed at men, then even the repetitious showing of the bottle is unlikely to register. Remember, purveyors of pongs, this is a creature that cannot remember the plot of The Great Escape even though he has watched it every Christmas since the onset of puberty. Even if by some miracle of chance he is able to register in his little grey cells the name of just one of these bottled whiffs, then by the time he has purchased it (how much!!!), had it wrapped by the young lady at the counter (how much!!), when he presents it to the love of his life, this much I can guarantee. It will be the wrong one. Buying perfume for the fairer sex is right up there with playing hopscotch in a mine field. Unless she has written down for you the specific fragrance of the specific brand, the bottle size and preferably, to avoid any doubt, its chemical composition. I have however perfected a fragrance guaranteed to attract any male downwind of it at a distance up to three miles. Eau de Bacon Butty. Form a queue girls!

**F.O.T.H**







# Dadlington Matters



## Coffee and Chat

Dadlington Village Hall

*Come for a friendly chat while enjoying delicious home-made cakes and a cuppa*



Thursday 3rd February

**10.15 am - 12.15pm**

**All Welcome**

## ? Quizzing Again ?

After a two-year absence, the Dadlington Quiz returned at the start of November, albeit in an adapted version with limited numbers and no accompanying meal.

However, four teams of quizzers put their minds to work in what was a very close contest, a few points separating first from last. For the first time in the ever-lengthening history of the quiz, there was a tie for first place with a tie breaker question hastily arranged to separate the two teams.

**Look out for details of the next quiz which will hopefully be early 2022 .**

## Christmas Cheer at Hall Farm

Mark & Kate Walker were delighted to hold the inaugural Christmas Get Together at Hall Farm Dadlington in December.



The rain held off, despite the forecast, and a fun night of food, drink and music was enjoyed by all.

Tamsin Grant-Reason and Ambion Voices with Michael Dix put on a fantastic show to get us all into the Christmas spirit, with songs and carols, and the food and drinks flowed.

Kate & Mark would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who helped with the event, and to all who attended and donated, making a fantastic total of over £1600 raised for St James' Church.



The next Hall Farm event will be the Cream Tea on August 13<sup>th</sup> which is already in planning and hope to be even better this year.

*Kate Walker*



## What's On

### Stoke Golding Village Hall

On Saturday 19th February at 8pm we have returning guests, this time in the form of **She'Koyokh** as a quartet. Last time around they brought the house down with their lively mix of Balkan and klezmer music – put on your dancing shoes!

All shows are in Cabaret format so bring your own drinks and nibbles. Standard ticket £12.00 available from Alan White Tel: 01455 212416, [stokegoldingvillagehall.co.uk/events](http://stokegoldingvillagehall.co.uk/events), or [stokearts@gmail.com](mailto:stokearts@gmail.com).

We will be carrying out a Covid risk assessment before the show. **Please wear a face covering when moving about in the hall.**



STOKE GOLDING METHODIST  
CHURCH  
COFFEE MORNING  
SATURDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY  
10.00 -11.30 AM

COME ALONG  
AND ENJOY A  
COFFEE AND  
PERHAPS ONE  
OF OUR  
FAMOUS TOASTED TEACAKES!



*Mask wearing advised  
when moving around  
the hall- thank you*



Join us for the popular Monthly  
Charity Quiz Night!

**The George and Dragon  
Starts at 7.30pm**

**Wednesday 23rd February**

Maximum team size of 6 people.  
Bring a picnic tea and pit your wits!

## What's On

### **Messy Church at the Methodist Church** **2<sup>nd</sup> THURSDAY each month,** **5pm – 6.30pm**

Messy Church is a monthly activity with food, fun and fellowship. The sessions usually begin with sharing a meal together, then we have fun making crafts or playing games. Although many of the crafts are planned for children, all ages are welcome. There is no need to book, just turn up on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday each month at 5pm. We will be very pleased to see you. In December, we had a wonderful Messy Nativity at Willows Farm, surrounded by animals and hay! At Easter we are planning a Palm Sunday procession through the village (with donkeys!).

More details can be found on our Facebook/Meta page;  
*Stoke Golding Methodist Messy Church*



Stoke Golding

## **Community Coffee Morning**

New for 2022 at Baxter Hall

Everyone welcome!

Time - **10am-12pm**



**Thursday 17th February**



**Thursday 17th March**



**Thursday 21st April**



**Thursday 19th May**

Tea, coffee &

homemade cakes!

**Drink & cake**

**£1.50**

**A chance to meet new people and catch up with old friends**

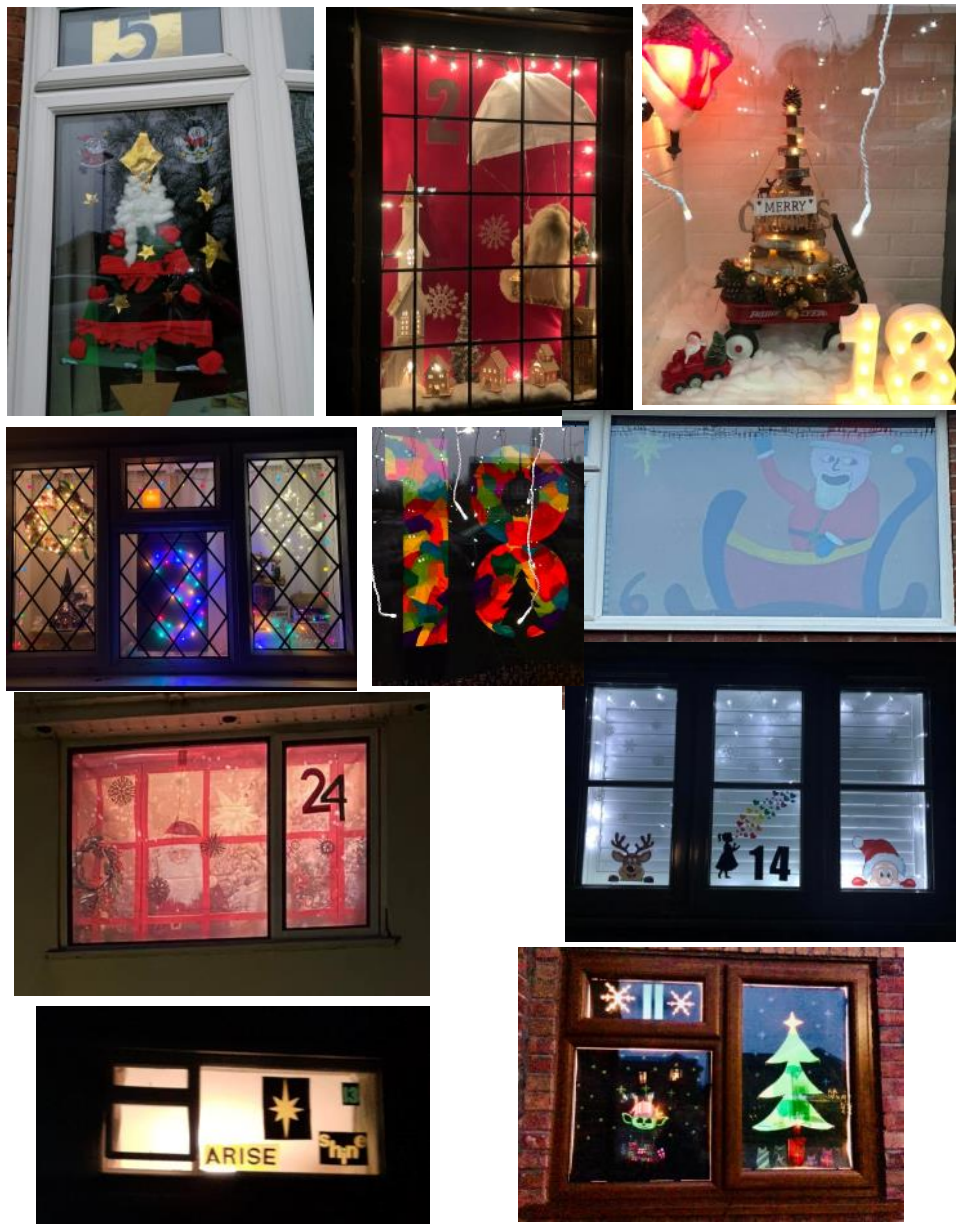
**Hosted by Stoke Golding W.I.**





## Stoke Golding Advent Windows 2021

What beautiful Advent Windows were created again this year. It was lovely seeing them spring up across the village over December. These were all posted on Facebook, there are a few missing, so if yours was one of them you can email them to us at [thestoker@gmail.com](mailto:thestoker@gmail.com) and we will add them next time!







## St Margaret's Snowman Festival

A huge thank you to all those who decorated the church, to those who donated items to sell and to all those who baked, made jams and prepared the delicious food. Thank you to everyone who helped in anyway to make our recent Snowman Festival so successful. We raised £1,980.02 in all for church funds. You can see some of the beautiful displays below.

Our last thank you goes to all our visitors who made the day so successful.



## Neighbourhood Plan draws to a close

The Neighbourhood Plan now needs to be approved by the village in a formal referendum before it can come into full force.

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council (HBBC) approved our plan in October to go for referendum. This is currently planned for 3<sup>rd</sup> March and will be a vote (like an election) at the polling station. The referendum should have taken place by the end of December but due to staff shortages HBBC was unable to offer a date before early March.

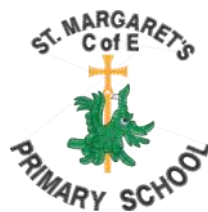
The plan will be approved if a simple majority of those voting support the plan. Full details and voting cards will be issued by the election officials in due course.

However, this will not be the end of Neighbourhood Planning for the village, as the plan is a living document and needs to remain current. Already various potential changes are under discussion and HBBC is well underway with the preparation of its new Local Plan such that, before long, our Neighbourhood Plan will need to be updated to align with the new HBBC (Borough-wide) Local Plan. We will be discussing this at our next Neighbourhood Plan meeting in January.

*Mervyn Ward*

### Could you be a school governor?

St. Margaret's Church of England Primary School, which is part of a multi school academy, has a vacancy for a foundation governor. Although foundation governors are appointed by Leicester Diocesan Board of Education, mostly they are local people. They may have come to the role because they have an interest in education or the school in question, or they may have a strength or quality which they can offer to the school.



Training is given to all governors and updating of training is ongoing. Anyone appointed to this post must support the Christian ethos of the school along with the school's vision and Christian values. These can be found on the school website. Further information on the role of a foundation governor can be obtained from:

- Gill Lamb (Secretary to St. Margaret's Parochial Church Council): p - 01455 212523, email – gill.lamb2098@gmail.com
- David Goodsell (Church Warden of St. Margaret's Church): p - 01455 212955, email – millburn5@hotmail.co.uk

School governance is vital, could this role be for you?

## Stoke Golding Charity Sleigh

Many thanks for all the generous contributions that were collected on the two nights we took the sleigh out. The following organisations have benefited : Stoke Golding Village Hall, Dadlington Village Hall, Little Explorers, Junior Football, The Cubs/Scouts, Garden Show (Children's section) and the Engine Shed.



Thanks to all the snowmen for their efforts and to Mark Fowler for pulling the sleigh around.

Thank you again everyone for your contributions!

The Sleigh Committee.

## Volunteers Needed for the Stoke Golding Santa Sleigh



The Parish Council has been advised that the existing committee will not be continuing with organising the charity sleigh. The current committee are stepping down after 20 years of delighting the village and raising funds for village groups and buildings.

If anyone is interested in taking over this wonderful village tradition please contact Ron on 01455 212574.

We are sure you will all agree this is a fantastic event that would be greatly missed and we all wish to thank the committee for all their hard work.



## Public Penance at St. Margaret's

You may remember from your school history lessons how Henry II paid public penance for his part in the murder of Thomas Becket, allowing himself to be whipped by the bishops and monks present when he visited Canterbury Cathedral. You could argue that this was a voluntary act, although Henry was facing rebellions from his subjects and tricky relations with the Pope. Public penance was also used as a form of punishment by the church for many centuries with the last occasion on which this happened in Stoke Golding taking place in the 1840s.

During a period of renovation, the high pews, where everyone had their own allotted place, were replaced with free seating. When a certain Mrs. Frith, landlady of one of the village's taverns, made her way into church for the first time after this work had been carried out, she was dismayed to find someone else sitting in her spot. We don't know what conversation took place between Mrs. Frith and the interloper as she tried to persuade him to vacate his seat, but the upshot was that Mrs. Frith set about the man with a fair degree of ferocity. Summoned to appear before an ecclesiastical court for brawling in church, she heard witnesses tell how she 'lugged him and gouged him' and, being found guilty, the sentence was one of public penance.

The punishment seems designed to belittle and humiliate the woman and also to act as a deterrent to others inclined to fisticuffs in the aisles. For three successive Sundays, she was made to stand by the door as the congregation came in, wrapped in a sheet and holding a candle. Obviously, this was far less physically painful than being whipped by a group of bishops and monks but the loss of dignity to a woman of some standing in the community must have been truly damaging.

*Michael Dix*

### Answers to 10 of a Kind

1. ITV
2. 1963 (1961-65)
3. Italy
4. 72 (4 per game x 6 per set x 3 sets)
5. Romeo & Juliet
6. Newcastle United manager, Kevin Keegan (about Manchester United)
7. Fay Weldon
8. Tomato
9. Ryan O'Neil & Ali MacGraw
10. Books

### Answers to Quiz

1. Liverpool
2. Glasgow
3. Doncaster
4. Colchester
5. Bristol
6. Derby
7. Warrington
8. Swindon
9. Swansea
10. Reading



## Church Matters



### From St Margaret's and St James's Church



'February Fill-Dike'! To me this could be a member of the cast in a Shakespeare play like *A Midsummer Night's Dream* where Cobweb and Mustard-seed also appear... Not to mention Quince, the carpenter and Flute, the bellows-mender! 'February fill dike Be it black or be it white' actually refers to the amount of rainfall or snow accumulation that countryfolk expect in the second month of the year. There are a significant number of sayings for this month which make reference to weather patterns. I was intrigued to find 'All the months of the year curse a fair Februeer' and 'If February bring no rain, 'Tis neither good for grass nor grain'. Farmers and gardeners alone would be able to tell me the truth.

But what about this verse: 'In February, if thou hearest thunder, Thou shalt see a summer wonder.' One would have to wait several months to verify the truth of that!

My favourite of all, however, is this rhyme:

'If Candlemas Day be fair and bright. Winter will have another flight,  
But if Candlemas Day be clouds & rain. Winter is gone & will not come again'.

Candlemas Day is the second of February, and in the church's calendar marks the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. It is a Jewish ceremony forty days after a baby is born to purify the mother. Baby Jesus would have been taken by His mother and father to the temple in Jerusalem for this ceremony. There He was met by two godly, elderly people who recognised Him as the Messiah or Christ (meaning 'the Anointed One') that God had sent into the world. Candlemas also marks the official end of the Christmas season.

But back to the weather and seasons: our weather pattern seems to be changing and becoming more extreme. But after a season of relative darkness and deadness in the natural world --- an interval of quietness and sleep --- we do look forward to the appearance of new shoots, buds and leaves. Harbingers of Spring and new life returning...

Which brings me to my final quote 'Fair maids of February'! Which is a lovely name for our dear Snowdrops.

*Carolyn*

*All quotations from 'The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady' by Edith Holden*

## Church of England Services February 2022

### St Margaret's, Stoke Golding

6th	10.30am	All Age Service
13th	10.3am	Benefice Communion HIGHAM
20th	10.30am	Holy Communion
27th	10.30am	Morning Worship

### March

2nd	7.00pm	Ash Wednesday Holy Communion
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### St James', Dadlington

6th	9.00am	Morning Prayer
13th	9.00am	Benefice Communion HIGHAM
20th	9.00am	Holy Communion

## THE METHODIST CHURCH

### February Services 2022

6th	10.30am	led by Pat Starbuck
20th	10.30am	led by Revd Pat Mukorombindo (this service will include holy communion.)

## Bob's Focus

Firstly I would like to wish everyone a happy and prosperous New Year but most importantly a healthy one.

What a mixed bag of weather we have had since I last wrote, we have had a few frosts, a touch of snow and 16 deg C in late December and as I type this it's mild and miserable again. Very confusing for us let alone the flora and fauna, Dandelions can still be found in flower in the fields off Wykin Lane and my *Zalusianskya Ovata* which would normally have been killed off a couple of months ago are also in bloom.

Being a dog owner means walks in all weathers, but even as I walked back through Dadlington this morning in the rain I was reminded how much I love village life as two beautiful horses were ridden beside me for a few hundred yards.

Sadly though I would like in this first offering of 2022 to highlight some practices that are harmful to our environment, I'm not going to rant or rave but I ask all to be vigilant.

Hare coursing/poaching is still a big problem in the area, in particular on the Shenton Estate, a recent walk with the farm manager enlightened me to how many fields had been entered by people in 4X4's, having had padlocks cropped or gates smashed off, causing damage to the fields, the tyre marks showing how many times they had driven around in search of their quarry.



Last year one of our local farmers Eddie lost three calves after they had ingested bags of dog poo that had been thrown from the towpath into one of his fields, I (and another young lad from the village) posted some laminated signs asking for this practice to stop, well most of those signs have been ripped down and the individual(s) still think its acceptable to try to kill livestock by continuing to throw poo bags into the hedge/field.

Rams (Tups) have been put to the sheep and Topping is well under way, soon our fields will be full of Spring lambs who are all budding Houdini's, not all the fields used have solid

hedges and it is common practice to deploy the use of electric fences to keep the stock in so they don't get killed on our roads or cause a serious

accident which may be a threat to human life. Someone still insists on breaking the fences down by kicking and snapping the posts along the public footpath between the nature reserve and the old barn near Wykin Lane. It is criminal damage, wildlife camera's are very useful, just saying.



Lastly over the last 18 months the historic barn has attracted graffiti, damage, all sorts of rubbish being dumped, evidence of a BB gun being used down there plus a handful of .22 spent blanks have been found, possibly from a starting pistol or some other imitation firearm. The result of this extra activity has meant that the Barn Owls have moved on, they had been there for years, the odd glimpse early evening or morning was a magical sight, I do hope one day they will return.

Whether they be villagers or not, it's sad that a few want to spoil our countryside for so many. Sorry to start on such a dull note but I think these things needed to be said, next month, back to wildlife.

*Coli Bob*



### **Alison Ellis Retires –Thank You from CASAG**

Readers will be aware that Alison Ellis the practice manager is retiring at the end of January. Jennifer, Anne and Bernard met at the surgery to present Alison with a bouquet of flowers on behalf of the Stoke Golding representatives of the patient group known as CASAG. They also thanked her for all her hard work during her time at the practice and wished her a long and happy retirement.



The Xmas news letter is overleaf on pages 28 and 29 for those of you who did not collect their own copy whilst attending the surgery over the festive period. Although slightly out of date as Xmas is over! It has useful information regarding staff changes and what is happening regarding the booster jabs.

*Jennifer Michie*

# **Castlemead and Pine Close Surgery December 2021 Newsletter**

## **THANK YOU**

The partners and staff would like to thank so many of you for your support in 2021. The Covid-19 pandemic has forced us to adapt our ways of working. Limiting patient footfall through the surgery in the form of face-to-face appointments has been an important step to protect patients; especially vulnerable ones and our staff, allowing us to maintain a reliable and efficient service. Incorporating technology and remote consultation into our practice; including video and telephone consultations. This moves away from the gold standard and of course our preferred method of consulting with you. However, we feel many of these changes will continue after the pandemic, as it makes us more efficient and gives you as patients choice about how you would like to consult with us. We feel it important to address reports in recent months about the lack of face-to-face appointments provided in General Practice; we have always been open and seeing patients where it is clinically indicated. We can honestly say we have never been busier with high patient demand. We know sometimes it seems like the phone lines are constantly engaged and if you do get through, all the appointments have been taken for the day. Our trained reception staff ask you questions about why you have phoned so they can direct you to the most appropriate member of staff. This may not be a GP. Specifically, David Wilkinson, our Nurse Practitioner, or our Advanced Nurse Practitioner, Amanda Thompson, who are independent prescribers. We have also established a superb Pharmacy team, who deal with medication reviews and queries, becoming an invaluable addition. They may call you to discuss your medication. We welcome Mo Sattar, Reena Tailor and Tejal Patel to our Pharmacy team.

## **STAFF CHANGES**

We welcome to the surgery a new salaried GP, Dr Shuriah Barrett. Shuriah has joined us from Ibstock Surgery, and we know that she will be a wonderful addition. We have had several changes within the nursing team. Anne Turner has retired after almost three decades of service. As Nurse Manager, she steered the surgery through many changes, we wish her well for the future. In her place, we have been fortunate to recruit Tamyka Stewart and Helen Dedmen -Ert. Amanda Thompson and David Wilkinson have taken over as joint nurse managers. We also welcome Annie Robinson as a nurse associate. In the admin team, we welcome Ben Senior and Jess Frith. In reception, we welcome Gillian Chatfield, Amanda Bond, Faye Makepeace, Lisa Campbell, Donna Bruce and Natalie Snook at Pine Close Surgery. We also report that Sheila Ableson is retiring, and we wish her all the best. After over 2 decades, Emma Fulford-Knibbs our long serving midwife is also moving onto a new role. We thank her for her wonderful care. Our dedicated Practice Manager, Alison Ellis, will retire in January, leading our team for 12 years and we thank her for her hard work and wish her a very happy retirement.

## **COVID-19 BOOSTERS**

As many of you will be aware, we have actively been involved in the COVID-19 vaccination programme. We are extremely proud to report that we have, since



the beginning of the year, delivered MANY THOUSANDS of vaccinations to our patients from both surgeries. The Partners would like to place on record our sincere gratitude to all of those who have assisted in this programme. We will be continuing to provide booster jabs into 2022.

### **FLU VACCINATIONS**

Similarly, our successful flu campaign, the biggest of all time, continued despite the pandemic. We are indebted to our loyal and hardworking reception and admin teams ensuring usual surgery activities continued to operate as normally as is possible throughout the campaign.

### **HOSPITAL WAITING TIMES**

We are sorry to say more patients are waiting for outpatient appointments than ever. We are getting numerous requests to try and resolve this issue and reduce waiting times. Unfortunately, we have no influence, as this is managed by the hospitals. We are also getting requests from patients to send letters to consultants to expedite this process. Although we are happy to do this, it makes very little difference. If your condition is deteriorating, then it may be best to call the hospital directly to speak to the consultant's secretary.

### **COVID-19 SYMPTOMS**

We have had a number of patients arriving with COVID-19 symptoms, awaiting results of PCR tests, or after being told by NHS Track and Trace to isolate. It may be that we do need to see you, despite these circumstances, however, **please do not attend unless asked to by a clinical member of staff**. We would ask that you ring us in the first instance. We have a procedure in place to safely see patient's with COVID-19 symptoms, whilst keeping other patients safe.

### **LATERAL FLOW TESTS**

Can we kindly remind all patients not to use lateral flow tests if you have COVID-19 symptoms. COVID-19 symptoms include a new continuous cough, fever or loss of smell and taste. Lateral flow tests are for screening if you do not have symptoms. If you do have any of the above symptoms, please book a COVID-19 PCR test and self-isolate until you have the result. These can be booked by calling 119 or through the Government website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

### **FIT NOTES**

For statutory sick pay, where employees need to take time off from work due to sickness, after 10 December 2021, employers can only ask employees for proof of sickness (such as a fit note) after 28 days of sickness (including non-working days). Fit notes do not have to be provided for DWP benefit claims until the 27 January. This short-term initiative was brought in by the government, to help free up GP time, for increased patient activities.

**Stay safe and well this winter Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from everyone at Castle Mead Medical Centre and Stoke Golding Surgery**



## Obituaries



### Robert White



*Bob with his '99' cone on his 99th Birthday in October*

Robert (Bob) White, from Crown Hill Close, died peacefully on 19th December 2021 aged 99 years.

He and his beloved wife, Pat, moved up from London to be near family in Stoke Golding over twelve years ago. Bob always said it was a brilliant decision, as they have loved being in the village with the friendly people who live both here and in Dadlington.

Bob became quite a village character with his daily walks, often to be seen waving his stick in the air and giving everyone he met a cheeky smile. He loved having a chat and took a real interest in the many people who stopped to talk to him.

He will be missed by everyone who knew him and particularly by his sons, John and Alan, daughter in law Jane, his six grandchildren and his ten great grandchildren - all were so important to him.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your kindness to Bob during his life and to us following his death. It has really helped us during this difficult time.

We have buried Bob's ashes alongside Pat's in the Wykin Road Cemetery and are planning a celebration of his life in two or three months time when we can hopefully welcome as many of you as possible. We will let you know the date through The Stoker and Facebook Community Pages.

*The White Family*



## Obituaries



### **Angela Cox**

Angela Cox, of Stoke Golding, passed away on 23rd November, 2021, aged 84 years. A very much loved wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Donations in memory of Angela can be made to Cancer Research UK, via G.Seller, Funeral Directors, Upper Bond Street, Hinckley, LE10 1RH.

### **Carol Smallwood**

Carol Smallwood, of Dadlington, sadly passed away on 26th November, 2021, aged 68 years. Beloved wife of Eddie, devoted mum to Zoe and sister to the late Robin, the late Colin and to Brian. Carol and Eddie met at Ryton Police College and shared a great love of travel and the countryside.

*The Stoker team send our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Bob, Angela, and Carol.*

### **St Margaret's Church Volunteers Wanted!**

**Help needed!!!**

After many months of refurbishment, the church reopened in November 2021.

Following the many services over Christmas we now need to organise a church cleaning rota to keep the church looking it's best for our services and the many weddings that have been booked. We also need help with flowers and brass cleaning. (It is just being able to put flowers in a vase)



If anyone is able to help in any way please contact Jenny Hiron Tel: 01455 699734 or email: [jenny@thehiron.com](mailto:jenny@thehiron.com)

We started 2022 with a more social evening of fun and games for our January meeting. We had a number of visitors this month and it's always nice to see some new faces among the familiar ones. After first putting forward all our votes for the resolutions, we began with some bingo! After much hilarity over pens (will this one work? Maybe this one!) and trying to find all the numbers, someone did eventually get a line and someone else a full house. The winners received much sought after prizes, a classic chocolate orange (which were definitely not from our cancelled Christmas meeting).

We then moved on to our take on Pictionary, I don't think there were many artists amongst us. Have you tried to draw King Kong or a matador? What about toad in the hole? Each picture seemed more impossible than the last and we all had great fun trying to guess what our team mates were drawing. The winning team got, yes you guessed it, chocolate oranges!

Our next meeting will be on February 15th at the village hall and is an evening of wine tasting with John Whitehead. As always visitors are welcome and we would love to have you come along.

*Sally Halstead*



## Kitchen Corner

### MIXED BERRY MUFFINS

Everybody that I have spoken to loves the Blueberry Muffins. This recipe is just as good or some say, better!

#### INGREDIENTS

2 ½ Cups of Plain Flour  
4tsp. Baking Powder  
1tsp. Ground Cinnamon  
1 Cup of Caster Sugar  
1 ½ Cups of Frozen Mixed Berries  
1 ¼ Cups of Milk  
¼ Cup of Vegetable Oil  
2 Eggs

#### METHOD

Pre-heat the oven to 200C (180C fan) or 400F or Gas Mark 6.  
Grease the muffin tins or line with paper cases.

In a large bowl sieve the flour, baking powder and cinnamon. Add the sugar and berries, and stir to combine. Whisk the oil, milk and eggs together and pour into the dry ingredients. Stir gently to combine, but do not over-mix.

Divide mixture between the prepared tins and bake in the oven for 20-25 minutes. This mixture makes 12 Muffins.

A taste of summer fruit in the middle of Winter.

*Enjoy, Avis*



## The White Swan Opening Hours

Thursday and Friday 6pm - 11pm

Saturday and Sunday 12noon - 3pm and 6 pm - 11pm

The White Swan Sunday Night Quiz is back!  
Check at the pub for dates and details

## Join The Stoker Team!



Are you interested in getting involved with the magazine? We are looking for someone to join the Stoker team who may be interested in writing articles or learning to edit content. If interested, please contact us at [thestoker@gmx.co.uk](mailto:thestoker@gmx.co.uk)

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