

March 2022

No. 209

# The Stoker



**Stoke Golding Village Magazine**

*Including*

**Dadlington Matters**

**70p**



## Note from the Editors



With Spring around the corner. Seeing the bulbs starting to come up we can all look towards warmer better weather all being well, and towards the Queen's Jubilee celebrations in June. We will hopefully bring you an update on village celebrations in the next edition.

This month we have seen the installation of the glass viewing panel in St Margaret's church, you can read about it on page 10. We have a picture packed update on the Scouting activities on page 22 including the historic investiture of the Explorers for the first time. You can find this momentous occasion also gracing our cover this month. There are lots of activities happening across Stoke Golding and Dadlington to check out too.

As the battle against Covid turns, hopefully, an optimistic corner we will with a bit of luck, see a return to even more normal life soon. Until then stay safe everyone.

*Steve & Kate*

## 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, Jane White

Please send articles for the **April** issue of The Stoker by **15th March** 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 The investiture of the Explorers , by Fiona Shilladay, Scout Leader*

## **Congratulations to...**

Alan and Maureen Taylor, who will be celebrating their Diamond wedding on the 29<sup>th</sup> of March.

They were married at Stockingford Methodist Church in 1962. After living in Nuneaton for two years, they moved to a new-build in Stoke Golding where they have lived ever since.



They are both keen gardeners, caring for their large garden where they also show a keen interest in bird life.

Alan was a member of the Stoker production team until recently and is still delivering copies of the magazine in the village. Both Alan and Maureen are enthusiastic quizzers, attending various local venues. Maureen was a member of the "Sew and Sews" classes until they closed last year. They both enjoy a weekly coffee at the Stoke Club with friends and neighbours.

We wish them both health and happiness for many years to come.



## **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.**

## Locals of Note 5: Thomas Hooker – Founder and Father

Every year in the state capital of Connecticut, USA, a parade takes place to celebrate the life of Thomas Hooker, a fiery Puritan preacher who gained his initial education at the Dixie Grammar School in Market Bosworth. Born in 1586, Thomas attended the school at around the time it was being re-founded by Sir Wolstan Dixie. After studying at Cambridge he entered the church and after a short spell as a parish priest, he became a lecturer at what is now Chelmsford Cathedral, delivering impassioned speeches that upset the Church of England hierarchy. In 1630, summoned to appear before the Court of High Commision, he fled to Holland, and three years later he set sail with his family for the New World.



He settled in one of the earliest English settlements in America, the Massachusetts Bay colony, becoming pastor of the church in Newtown, now renamed Cambridge. The early colonies had been set up as commercial enterprises to exploit the natural resources on the east coast of America. Many of the inhabitants were, like Thomas, religious outcasts who began to exercise their independence from England. In the Massachusetts Bay colony, Puritan leaders began to exert their power, limiting voting rights to only the most devoted followers of their brand of religion, something that Thomas disagreed with. He was troubled to see Quakers and anabaptists expelled from the colony and in some cases executed. When the General Court of Massachusetts decided to allow groups to split off and form their own colonies, Thomas and his followers, known as Mr Hooker' Company, we're some of the first to go.

A group of about 100, led by Thomas Hooker, fellow minister Samuel Stone and John Haines, the governor of Massachusetts, established a settlement at Hartford, now Connecticut's state capital in 1636. Two years later, Thomas gave a sermon on the principles of government, espousing a broader suffrage to include those with differing religious views and demanding that governments must be held accountable to the people. This influenced those who wrote The Fundamental Orders of Connecticut later that year, a document described as the first written constitution. Because of this, Thomas is credited with being instrumental in the moulding of American democracy. Dying at the age of 61, he is remembered at Chelmsford Cathedral where a blue plaque describes him as 'The Founder of Connecticut and the Father of American Democracy.'

*Michael Dix*

## Bob White - Thanksgiving and Celebration Invitation

Following Bob's death on 19th December, we held a private ceremony with just immediate family in January to bury his ashes at the Wykin Road Cemetery in Stoke Golding alongside his beloved Pat.

We were very touched by your thoughtful messages following Bob's death and we would love it if you could join us for a Thanksgiving service for Bob (Robert) at St Margaret's Church, Stoke Golding followed by a Celebration at Stoke Golding Village Hall.

The Thanksgiving service will start at St. Margaret's Church at 12:00 on Monday 11th April.

You are welcome to join us afterwards for a celebration at the Village Hall. If you are joining us at the Village Hall, could you please let us know so that we have an idea of numbers for catering.

You can reply at [www.sites.google.com/view/bobscelebration](http://www.sites.google.com/view/bobscelebration) or ring or send a message to Alan on **07887 628245**.

Thank You

John, Alan & Jane White

## Ten of a Kind

On 16th March 1872, 150 years ago, Wanderers FC won the first FA Cup. Here are ten questions on sporting trophies.

1. Who are the current FA Cup holders?
2. Cricket's Ashes originated from a mock obituary in the British Sporting Times in 1882 after what historic event?
3. What item of clothing is given to the winner of golf's US Masters?
4. Which sport competes for the world's oldest international trophy, a trophy that spent its first one hundred years in the USA?
5. How many English football sides have kept the European Cup after winning it for the fifth time?
6. The Isle of Man TT is a round the island motorbike race. What does TT stand for?
7. In which decade were gold, silver and bronze medals introduced for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the Olympics?
8. At which racecourse would the Derby Trophy be presented?
9. Which fruit can be found on the top of the Wimbledon men's singles trophy?
10. Who competes for Rugby Union's Calcutta Cup, created from 270 melted down silver rupees, left when the Calcutta Football Club folded?

*Answers on page 24*

## This Island Nation (Part 1)

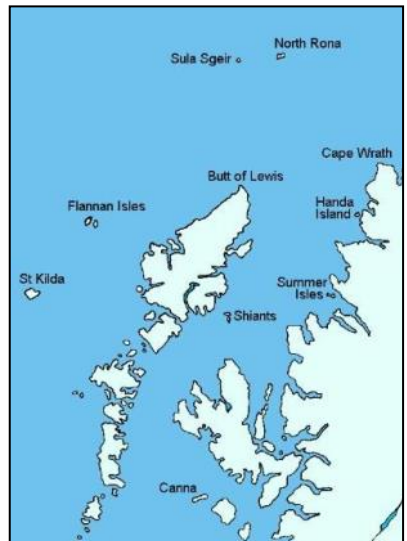
Recently I watched an 'international' football match between the Faroe Islands (who?) & Scotland. Regrettably this *El Clasico* of the sub-Arctic wasn't thrilling enough to stop my thoughts wandering off to the subject of islands. In Stoke Golding and Dadlington we are as far as you can get (in the UK) from the sea (actually, Cotton-in-the-Elms in South Derbyshire is the farthest, although our own Lindley Hall Farm is officially the centre of England). Nevertheless, like the rest of the British, we sometimes refer to ourselves as an 'island race', or an 'island nation'.

Well, we in this country do live on a large island. More accurately, we live on lots of islands. If you live in Northern Ireland you occupy part of another island. As well as the mainland, there are places like Anglesey and the Isle of Wight, i.e. smaller islands. Scotland is particularly rich in islands, isles, islets and skerries (whatever they are).

So how many islands are there? Someone must have counted them. But here the problems begin. What counts as an island? How big does a jagged lump of rock sticking out of the sea have to be to qualify as an island? And what if it's joined to the mainland or another island at low tide?

Perhaps it's better to concentrate on inhabited islands. Or islands that used to be inhabited, like Stroma, which is between the Scottish mainland and Orkney. That's to say, inhabited on a permanent basis. Which also raises questions of definition. And the population of some Scottish islands is so small that rather pathetically they couldn't even muster a football team, unlike the doughty Faroese (who?).

Some Scottish islands are extremely remote. We all know what the most remote formerly inhabited island is: St Kilda. Hmm.. well, St Kilda is actually a group of islands. The one that people used to live on is called Hirta. It's a long way away - about forty miles west of North Uist (wherever that is). And who was the saintly Kilda? Good question - there is no saint called Kilda. Nobody really knows how the islands got their name. Anyway, Hirta isn't the most remote formerly inhabited island - that distinction





belongs to North Rona, which is about forty-five miles from Cape Wrath and the same distance from the Butt of Lewis. It's also said to be the closest place in the UK to the Faroes (where?) although Shetland must run it pretty close.

All the UK's extremities are islands, apart from the easternmost point, which prosaically is Lowestoft Ness. Lowestoft is not really all that far from here. Quite a few of you have probably been there, but I bet not many of you have journeyed to Out Stack, which is the most northerly extent of these sceptered isles, Pednathise Head in the Scilly Isles, or Soay, which is part of the St Kilda archipelago (okay, Belleek in Co. Fermanagh is the UK's westernmost actual inhabited place).

And what of Rockall, you ask? Well, as the Two Ronnies observed, there's not much at Rockall. However, it is, if you insist, the most westerly (and the most remote) part of the UK. But having arrived at Rockall, there we must remain for a month, before resuming our island-hopping in next month's Stoker.

*Andy Tomsett*

### **Stoke Golding Boys Charity**

Founded c.1923

Reg. No. 519728

Regulated by a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners  
of 17<sup>th</sup> September 1987

#### **The Object of the Trust**

Subject to payment of expenses, the Trustees shall apply the income of the Charity in promoting the education (including social and physical training) of boys under the age of twenty five, by the date of return of application as shown below, and who are resident in Stoke Golding.

The Trustees are considering the annual allocation of grants in accordance with the terms of the Trust as quoted above and applications are invited, stating the purpose of your application.

Please include your date of birth, address & telephone number and send to :

Clerk of the Trustees, 2 Church Walks, Stoke Golding, CV13 6HB  
by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Boys should apply in person (if possible)

Dated 1st March 2022  
By order of the Trustees.  
A.J. Smith Clerk & Trustee.

## Bob's Focus

Well here we are again, another month has flown by and although we are still in the depths of winter, officially, it remains very mild indeed. My favourite little furry friends will be starting to form new entrances to their homes along the banks of the canal, hundreds of tennis ball sized holes will be made in the grassy banks and the distinctive plops will be heard again as they dive into the water as you walk by. Yes I'm on about the Water Voles (*Arvicola amphibious*) but there has been some confusion in the past which I would like to clear up.

Is it a vole or a common Brown Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*)?

You see, the character "Ratty" in *Wind in the Willows* was actually a Water Vole so lots of people think if its brown and furry and lives by a river its a rat, you know if it walks like a duck and quacks like a duck, then it probably is a duck, well no! So how do we tell the difference?



### Water Vole

- Rounded blunt face
- Brown furry tail, half length of body
- Small hidden ears
- Furry paws
- Deep brown in colour (May be black in Scotland)
- Will dive in if alarmed (plop)

Surrounding vegetation cut off at 45 degree angle



### Brown Rat

- Pointy face
- Long pink tail, full length of body
- Visible pink ears
- Pink paws
- Light to mid brown with lighter belly

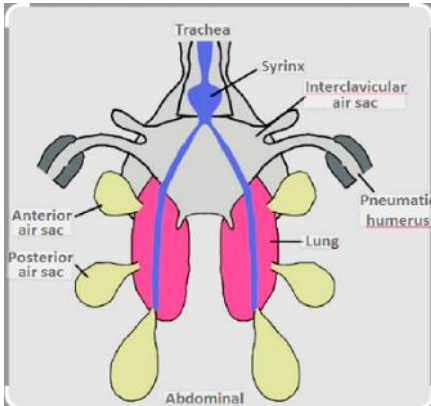
Good swimmers but won't dive in if alarmed

Rats eat just about anything

As we approach mating season our varied songbirds will be serenading us with a cacophony of sound, but how do such small creatures sing such lovely songs, the Wren and Dunnock seems to go on for ages and the Skylark never seems to take a breath, where does all that wind come from?

Well I'll do my best to explain but I did have to google this! Birds lungs are very different to our own or other mammals, their lungs don't expand and contract very much when they breathe but coming off their lungs are, in most birds, 9 air sacks with muscular development around them that allows them to push air back into the lungs, a bit like bellows (or bag pipes). So in effect they can use these pockets of air to supplement their





breathing whilst singing for longer periods of time. Also because a bird's flight muscles go right across their chest, this would restrict their lungs when in flight, hence a skylark that sings on the wing would probably drop out of the air when its started to sing if it were not for the sacks.

Birds also take mini breaths which last about a 30th of a second which allow them to replenish their air whilst in mid song, you wouldn't even notice

unless you recorded the song and slowed it down.

So what makes the sound? Birds have a little double voice box at the base of their wind pipe called a syrinx, this is two sets of muscles and membranes that vibrate at very high frequencies as air is exhaled, a bird can actually alternate between both lungs when exhaling and sing in harmony with itself.

Songs are learned and not inherited and its usually the males that sing.



I'm looking forward to the start of the dawn chorus as the mornings get lighter, until next time, stay safe.

*Coli Bob*

## CASAG Update

A new Practice Manager has been appointed, but won't start for a few months yet. Also the Health promotion board is up and running again. It's worth visiting [Drinkaware.co.uk](http://Drinkaware.co.uk) or ring 0207766 9900 where there are lots of resources on support and help if you are concerned that you or someone you care about has a problem with alcohol. Interestingly it also identifies the stress of the Covid 19 pandemic as a trigger for drinking too much. So speak to your GP or practice nurse for further advice as well.

*Jennifer Michie*



## St Margaret's Church Update

The glass floor panel has now been fitted and so the 13<sup>th</sup> century stone foundations to the central pillars of the Arcade can be clearly seen.

Our thanks go to all members of the community who donated towards the cost of constructing the floor space and the glass panel. Special thanks go to John Harvey of Advanced Glass Ltd. who gave the special safety glass designed to withstand a person stepping on it and who spent a considerable amount of time ensuring it was fitted accurately and safely, all of this without charge.

As a result of peoples generosity the money, which was donated, exceeded the cost so as was originally stated the excess funds have paid for the kerb around the tomb in the South wall and have contributed towards the inscription on the slab above the time capsule prepared by the pupils of St.Margaret's Primary School. If you haven't visited the Church recently then please do so and have a look at the glass floor panel. We hope you are pleased with the new limestone floor and the LED Lighting system.

The Church is open every day during the hours of daylight and we are always pleased for visitors to appreciate its beauty and peace.



*David Goodsell*

## New Neighbours???

One of the things we are most proud of at The Stoker is being able to help new villagers in both Stoke Golding and Dadlington feel welcome when they move here. We provide a handy, helpful welcome pack as well as a recent copy of the Stoker to all new villagers when we are aware of them! With Stoke Golding expanding, its hard to keep on top these days of all the comings and goings! If you have new neighbours please drop us a message at [thestoker@gmx.co.uk](mailto:thestoker@gmx.co.uk) or call the editors, please find



our contact details on page 2. Thank you for helping keep our villages a welcoming place to move to. I personally was made to feel very welcome 5 years ago and found this pack very useful.

*Kate Poyser Clark*

## Fool on the Hill

## Puttin' on ma white tie.....

Back in the time of Bertie Wooster it was common practice for those of a wealthy persuasion to have a personal valet. I can almost hear the sharp intake of breath from the more politically correct as they dust off their arsenal of modern slavery slogans. I would have to say that I am partially in agreement with them except in one very important respect. I would consider it an act of great humanity, for which I would pay handsomely, if someone could be persuaded to lay out my clothing which would be perfectly coordinated and entirely appropriate to the schedule of activities planned for the day. Sadly, this will never be because no manservant in history would be able to fathom out which of my disparate assembly of uncoordinated clothing items would be appropriate for a day whose activities included the unblocking of a sink, lunch at a Garden Centre and the inserting of an ingenious draught excluding balloon into the chimney flue. Particularly since the last activity involves sticking your head up the chimney for the final stage of inflation. Will sir be wearing the mauve shirt with the soot and bird droppings?

Let's be honest, I, like many of my male associates, have a problem with clothing. Colour coordination or discussion of which style of trouser is currently in fashion rarely forms the basis of conversation around the pub table. However on a recent trip to a large shopping mall, Mrs Fool and I agreed to divide and conquer the retail outlets reconvening at an agreed time to discuss the results over coffee. First up was TK Max which, although offering a wide range of clothing items, looked to me just like a jumble sale albeit organised by Harrods. Marks and Spencer's seemed to offer a little more in the way of structure but on the way through to the men's section it was noticeable that the area devoted to clothing the fairer sex could easily have doubled as a hanger for a brace of transatlantic jets whereas the male section would have struggled to accommodate a small microlight. Of course nothing should be read into this. Having selected a pair of trousers and a shirt to try on for size I repaired to the changing rooms where I disrobed to the level of socks and underwear. In order to save time I had not removed my hat and scarf. I can clearly state, without fear of contradiction, that the last thing you need to encounter in this state is a full length mirror. Recovering slightly from the shock, I tried on the garments described laughingly as a Regular fit and was forced to conclude that my body must be highly irregular. I hastily redressed and attempted to rehang the garments but despite my best efforts they looked as if the experience of my trying them on had left them irrevocably damaged.

I understand Sports Direct do a natty line in leisurewear.

**F.O.T.H**



# Dadlington Matters

## Dadlington Village Hall Management Committee

- Are you keen to join a friendly, sociable and committed group of villagers?
- Are you interested in being involved in Dadlington events?
- Can you spare the time for a 1.5 hour meeting every alternate month?



That's all it takes to join the Village Hall Committee. Please contact Rachel on [dvhmc2015@gmail.com](mailto:dvhmc2015@gmail.com) or 07815 128856 to have a chat about what the committee does.



It's the famous  
**Dadlington Quiz  
Night**  
**Saturday 26th  
March**

Bar opens 7pm  
Food at 7.30pm

Teams of up to 6  
Tickets £9

Please contact [dvhmc2015@gmail.com](mailto:dvhmc2015@gmail.com)  
to book your team

## Dadlington Neighbourhood Plan – Unwarranted Delay by Parish Council

Following the questionnaire sent out to all 119 households in Dadlington in January 2021, the group received 97 returns. The replies indicated that villagers supported only a modest development in the village for new housing but were totally against any development that would reduce the area of separation between Dadlington and Stoke.

Accordingly, the DNP group, made up of around 12 volunteers, put together a DNP reflecting those views and presented it to the parish council on 24th November 2021.

Since then, the Sutton Cheney Parish Council have refused to progress the plan on the grounds that one councilor may allegedly have failed to make a declaration of interest at a meeting of Sutton Cheney Parish Council. This delay is not a planning issue and no objections to the plan have been raised.

Our group are concerned that developers are threatening to develop our fragile area of separation.

There will be adequate opportunity for villagers and stakeholders to raise any queries or objections to the plan when copies are sent to every household. It will be then subject to independent examination prior to a village referendum.

We call on Sutton Cheney Parish Council to resolve this matter without further delay in order to safeguard our precious village.

*(Submitted by DNP volunteers Phil Kiteley, Graham Grimley, Peter Siddon, Melanie Siddon, Rupert Setchell, Michael Dix, Simon Rees-Jones, John Whitehead)*

### Dadlington Village Hall

Due to changes in the government's Covid restrictions, the committee has decided to reinstate the **maximum of 60 persons**. Enhanced cleaning will continue as will access to hand sanitiser.

**Please do not attend any event there if you are experiencing Covid symptoms.**

## What's On

### Sheepy Friendship Club

If you are 60 plus, live in Stoke Golding and you would like to meet new people, then you are invited to join us.

We have a monthly lunch and share cars. Later we may organise days outings.

If you are interested, please ring  
**Jean Thomas on 01455 212917**



Join us for the popular Monthly  
Charity Quiz Night!

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

**Wednesday 30th March**

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

## STOKE GOLDING METHODIST CHURCH

1933- 2022

AN INVITATION TO CELEBRATE OUR 89<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY WITH US!

SATURDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

10.00-11.30AM- COFFEE MORNING

~~~~~  
SUNDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

AT 4.00PM

ANNIVERSARY SERVICE LED BY OUR FORMER MINISTER:

REVD ANDY MURPHY

FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS

~~~~~  
A DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES:

SATURDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> MAY

10.00AM - 2.00PM

A JUBILEE SPRING FAIR



DETAILS TO FOLLOW SHORTLY



## What's On

# Cake Stall

Saturday 26th March  
10.00am - 2.00pm

At Springbank, High Street

Delicious variety of homemade cakes, pies and jams

Proceeds in aid of the Children's Society



Stoke Golding

## Community Coffee Morning

New for 2022 at Baxter Hall

Everyone welcome!

Time - 10am-12pm

Tea, coffee &  
homemade cakes!



**Thursday 17th March**



**Thursday 21st April**



**Thursday 19th May**

Drink & cake

£1.50

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

Hosted by Stoke Golding W.I.



## Battle of Bosworth Myths & Legends - 1

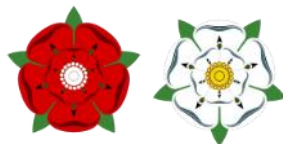
According to the oral history of Stoke Golding, passed down through the generations, the villagers of 1485 climbed the tower of St Margaret's church - no spire back then - to watch the three armies of Richard III, Henry Tudor and the Stanleys engage in a battle that changed the course of English history. Archaeological finds a few years ago established the location of the fighting in the vicinity of Fenn Lanes Farm, giving credence to the St Margaret's story, so why, for hundreds of years, was the battlefield thought to be on the side of Ambion Hill?

Enter William Hutton, a Birmingham antiquarian and bookseller whose book, 'The Battle of Bosworth Field: Between Richard the Third and Henry Earl of Richmond', was the first dedicated to telling the story of the battle when it was first published in 1788. Drawing on original sources, maps and local traditions, Hutton placed Richard on top of Ambion Hill facing Henry's army approaching from Whitemoors, with the ensuing action taking place on the slope of the hill, this despite contemporary accounts saying it happened on a plain. In his defence, trying to pin down the precise location of any medieval battlefield was, and still is, an almost impossible job: reports of battles were rarely written by anyone who was actually there.

Medieval map makers also confused things. The first map drawn after the battle shows the battlefield in almost the exact position we now know it to be in. However, later map makers would copy earlier maps, often embellishing them and adding additional features, so that by the time Hutton wrote his book, the area the battlefield encompassed included Ambion Hill. In Raphael Hollinshed's 'Chronicle', written in 1577, he stated, "King Richard pitched his field on a hill called Anne Beame..." It is thought that Hutton mistook the word 'field' to mean Richard's army prior to engaging in battle, as opposed to where it spent the night before the battle - it can mean both things.

So why didn't Richard take a strategically strong position on top of the hill? Current thinking is that had he done so, Henry Tudor would have continued on his march down Watling Street to London in the hope of gaining more support - his army is estimated to have been half the size of Richard's. By descending the hill, Richard forced Henry's hand on a piece of land that his scouts or harbingers would have identified as a suitable place to fight. It's a pity they didn't warn him about the marsh!

*Michael Dix*



## Time to get walking again!

At this time of year we start to think about the mud drying up and getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Leicestershire <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/leics> has hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (the custodian of the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Leicestershire (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris

[www.walkinginengland.co.uk](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk)

[john@walkinginengland.co.uk](mailto:john@walkinginengland.co.uk)

*Thank you John for sending this information. Looking forward to a walk or two now! - Eds*

## Cryptic Quiz - Towns and Cities in the UK

1. Bring hot turn to the sea-side.
2. Where Doctor Foster might meet old spots.
3. Where brogues go to learn.
4. West Midlands silo around by ship's body.
5. Oriental action movie series from Sussex.
6. Some witches attempt to find Cathedral City.
7. Dark water by sea-side tower.
8. Novel fortified wine from Wales
9. Give box to Queen by paddock in Derbyshire
10. Mr. Fawlty gets university teacher here



*Answers on page 25*

## Interview with the out-going editor Jane White

Jane is the second eldest of five and, although born in Birmingham, she was brought up in Alcester. She went to Teacher Training College in Southampton where music was her main subject.

Jane worked as a primary teacher for approximately 15 years and then worked for the voluntary sector when she managed a small charity until she retired.

She has lived in Stoke Golding for over 40 years and has 4 grown up sons and 6 grandchildren ranging from 5- 11 years old, including 2 in Australia who she and her husband haven't seen much of due to the pandemic. Most of her sons and some of her grandchildren play instruments and enjoy music.

Music has always been a massive part of Jane's life; she enjoys teaching and passing on skills she has learnt. Jane herself played in The Shambles, a local folk group which performed for over 30 years. She said that the Shambles group did in fact make a CD, but only had 100 copies made so they didn't make a fortune or The Charts!

Jane has taken part in amateur dramatics at the Concordia Theatre with The Community Guild and has been a member of Stanley Opera for 12 years. She is very happy to be in the back row of the chorus and has tried to stay that way!

Occasionally she has taken on more noticeable parts- one has a little story attached. Jane took part in a couple of review shows for the over 40s, produced by the brilliant, late Tom Goodluck, who had a bit of a reputation for not taking no for an answer. He announced the scenes at rehearsal for a show called "Clapped Out" and Jane was told she was joining the tap group. On informing Tom that she couldn't dance, let alone tap dance, his answer was a very curt "well you will just have to learn then", so she did! - see the photo to prove it.

Jane has expanded her passion in music and getting others involved by setting up the local Community Choir, now known as Ambion Voices, with Rachel Rees-Jones. The choir started as a one-off Adult Learning experience and was formed in 2014. One of the Choir's earliest performances was at the reinterment of Richard III as the procession stood still on Dadlington Green before heading to Leicester Cathedral. Jane has played a big part to support the local community with not only being one of the founder members of the Robin Hood Play School, led by Ruth Fisher, which originally met in the Village Hall, but recently



helped to save the Baxter Hall for the local community, providing space for activities such as the before and after school club and preschool, as well as a place for local groups to meet and for Church activities. Jane will be known to you as she recently stepped down as the editor of The Stoker. She started the magazine off as co-editor with Ruth Fisher and has done various roles including treasurer and advertising as well. The Stoker has been a vital link and network for the whole of the Stoke Golding and Dadlington community especially during the recent pandemic when the team met virtually to produce the magazine. Outside all these activities, Jane loves living in the village and the access to the countryside. She enjoys cycling and walking with friends and, two years ago, she and her husband Alan purchased a camper van and plan to do lots more travelling as well as spending time with all her family.

I enjoyed spending time with Jane, who modestly said she didn't think she had done much, but a common strand came through that she is an enabler and facilitator for people and her family; to enjoy life experiences whether its music, theatre, networking, a holiday of a lifetime as well as a huge support for the whole community in her various roles - past, present and in the future. She certainly HAS done a lot and has unique skills and vision to bring it altogether as they go on their journey.

*Jennifer Michie*

## **Tosca comes to Hinckley**

Great news for local opera lovers. Stanley Opera are back at the Concordia Theatre in April with the Hinckley premiere of Tosca, once described as Puccini's 'shabby little shocker' and now rightly regarded as one of the most thrilling operas ever written. The tale of the singer Floria Tosca and her impassioned love for the artist Mario Cavaradossi has gripped audiences ever since it was first performed. Throw in one of opera's greatest baddies, Scarpia the obsessive Chief of Police, and you have a heady recipe for riveting drama and great music. With three performances in English on the 12th, 14th and 16th April, The production features Debbie Dubberley in the title role, Chris Marlow as Scarpia, and London tenor Robin Whitehouse as Cavaradossi, together with a full supporting cast and chorus. Tickets cost just £13 and can be booked in person at the theatre, by phone (01455 615005), or online at [concordiatheatre.co.uk/shows/tosca](http://concordiatheatre.co.uk/shows/tosca).



# Church Matters



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



This year the first day of the month of March brings with it Shrove Tuesday – or Pancake Day as it is better known by some – followed by Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent.

In times past everyone would have known the meaning of these strange words and seasons – now, for many its just the pancakes that survive! But why the connection between 'Shrove' Tuesday and pancakes? Its all to do with Easter – celebrated 40 weekdays on from Ash Wednesday – after the period known as 'Lent' – a period where traditionally Christians observe a period of 'fasting' or, at least, of giving up some of the richer foods and treats,. So, Shrove Tuesday was the day to eat up those rich foods in the larder – eggs, flour, and sugar! Mix it all up and we have pancakes! Yummy!

Fasting for Lent has been softened by many to the practice of giving something up – maybe chocolate or cake, or even wine! Although I have to acknowledge, that like New Years Resolutions, such promises are easily made and often easily broken!

The period of 'fasting' encouraged Christians to be more aware of their faith – and many still observe it in some way or form. Others prefer to 'take something on' – maybe reading or studying – or turning it all around and concentrating on spreading a little 'good news' through sharing random acts of kindness on a daily basis.....children particularly love that challenge!

So, enjoy your pancakes, and perhaps mark this period up to Easter by challenging yourself on a daily basis as we all look forward to the celebrations of Easter on 17<sup>th</sup> April.

### Shrove Tuesday Prayer

God Our Father, as we prepare to begin Lent, help us to remember what today, Shrove Tuesday, is truly about.

Thank you that you Love all of us as your children and that through the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus, we can receive forgiveness for our sins. Help us to celebrate and live that message of forgiveness today by forgiving those who have sinned against you.

Lord, we know that you created the world and you created us. You created pancakes and you created our tastebuds too! Enable us to enjoy 'pancake day' in a spirit of celebration of the goodness of your creation. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.

**Janet H**



## Church of England Services March 2022

### St Margaret's, Stoke Golding

6 March	10.30am	All-Age Service
12 March	10.00am-3.00pm	(Saturday) Quiet Day
13 March	10.30am	Benefice Communion HIGHAM
20 March	10.30am	Holy Communion
27 March	10.30am	Service for Mothering Sunday

### St James', Dadlington

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

## STOKE GOLDING METHODIST CHURCH

### March Services 2022

March 6 <sup>th</sup> at 10.30am	Michael Holt
March 13 <sup>th</sup> at 4.00pm	Revd Andy Murphy
March 20 <sup>th</sup> at 10.30am	Michael Haighton

## Messy Church at Stoke Golding Methodist Church

Thursday 10th March

5pm-6.30pm

All welcome—come and join us.



## Scouting Update



There's been lots of activities going on. The cubs and scouts have been doing a team building activity : designing and making a chair out of balloons and masking tape. Some more successful than others. But good fun.



The cubs have also been doing their First Aid Level 1 including recovery position, calling for assistance and how to deal with cuts, grazes and bleeding wounds.



They also had a cinema night as well. Complete with popcorn and pop!

The beavers have celebrated Chinese New Year by making lanterns and sampling Chinese food.

They also did parts of their navigation badge by drawing maps.



The Scouts and Explorers have been talking on zoom to a Cave rescuer who was involved in the Thailand cave rescue.

The Younger scouts did "Stoke Golding's got Talent" and presented a play which was written and performed by them, fantastic musicians and magicians as well. Well done to all who took part.



The older scouts are working on Expedition challenge skills.

The Explorers got invested and celebrated this event with donuts and pink fizz.



So all in all a busy start to the year.

*Jennifer Michie*



## Obituary



### **William (Bill) Watkins**

William (Bill) Watkins of Stoke Golding, sadly passed away on 23rd January, 2022, aged 93 years. Beloved husband of Rosemary, loving father of David and doting grandad of Danielle. Donations in memory of Bill can be made to a Cancer Charity via G. Seller, Funeral Directors, Upper Bond Street, Hinckley, LE10 1RH.

*The Stoker team send our sincere condolences to the family and friends of William.*

### **Stoke Golding Village Hall**

Stoke Golding Village Hall is available for group or individual bookings at the following times:

Monday: 9am to 6pm

Tuesday: 12.30pm to 4.45pm

Wednesday: 1.30pm to 3.30pm

Please visit our website:

[www.stokegoldingvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.stokegoldingvillagehall.co.uk) for information on how to book.



### **Well Done Joe!**



Big congratulations to Stoke Golding's Joe Taylor for beating Coventry's Kenzie McCluskey unanimously on his own turf. His Mum Shelley Bagshaw told us she was 'such a proud Mum'. We will be hearing more from Joe himself in the next edition of The Stoker. Well done Joe from the Stoker Team on your achievement.

*Kate Poyser Clark*

It's been a busy time already at Stoke Golding W.I. with an excellent night of wine tasting for our February meeting!



For our March meeting we have lined up a relaxing evening of Tai Chi with Margaret Lawrence. This will be at 7.30pm on 15th March at the village hall.

As always visitors are more than welcome to come along, we'd love to see you! If anyone has any questions about visiting or joining W.I. please contact Jean at [jeanbuckby@btinternet.com](mailto:jeanbuckby@btinternet.com)

### Answers to 10 of a kind

1. Leicester City (easy question but it had to be included)
2. Australia's first win on English soil
3. Green jacket
4. Yachting- the America's Cup
5. One - Liverpool
6. Tourist Trophy
7. 1900s - 1904 St. Louis
8. Epsom
9. Pineapple
10. England and Scotland





## Kitchen Corner

### Salmon & Pasta

#### INGREDIENTS

*Pasta of your choice, (shells, bows or spirals)*

*4tblsp. Cream Cheese*

*4tblsp. Natural Yoghurt*

*1 Green Pepper, cored and sliced*

*1 Red Pepper, cored and sliced*

*1 tin Red Salmon*

*2tblsp. Olive Oil*

*Black Pepper*

*¼ tsp. Grated Nutmeg*

#### METHOD

Put the sliced peppers into a small saucepan, cover with water and bring to the boil. Simmer for a few minutes until soft. Drain and set aside.

In a medium sized bowl, beat the cream cheese and yoghurt together until smooth, add the peppers,

black pepper and nutmeg and stir to combine. Remove the skin and the bones from the salmon and flake the fish, add to the cream cheese mixture.

Cook the pasta according to the instructions, drain well. Rinse and dry the pan and add the olive oil. Heat over a medium heat and return the pasta and toss well until coated with the oil, now add the salmon mixture and stir over a low heat until heated through.

Serve with a side salad and crusty bread.

Quick and simple.  
Cheers, Avis

### Answers to Cryptic Quiz on Towns and Cities in the UK

1. Brighton
2. Gloucester
3. Oxford
4. Solihull
5. Eastbourne

6. Coventry
7. Blackpool
8. Newport
9. Chesterfield
10. Basildon

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## 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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