

April 2020

No. 190

The Stoker



Stoke Golding Village Magazine

Including

Dadlington Matters

70p



Note from the Editors

What unusual times we find ourselves in, probably the most extraordinary in the lifetime of the Stoker magazine, not to mention our own lifetimes.

Following government and medical guidelines, most planned activities are now cancelled or postponed. We've



replaced our 'What's On' page with an 'Event Cancellations' page so please check your event before travelling.

It is heart-warming to see the many offers of neighbourly help. We have received cards through the door and have seen much offered on the Stoke Golding and Dadlington Community Facebook pages. With no or limited contact with others being the order of the day, we hope you are managing to stay safe whilst maintaining reasonable levels of food, medicines and household essentials. If you need it, don't hesitate to use the help available.

We have a short story competition aimed at all age groups and a photography competition too. Why not give these a go? Prizes available, see page 5.

Let us know what you and your families are doing to keep safe and sane during these restricted times. We truly wish you all the best.

Jane and Steve

The Stoker Team

Editors: Jane White (01455 212416), Steve Smithers (01455 213798)

Production Team: Rosemary Collier, Beth Ellis, Richard & Ella Orr, Jan Pettyfer, Jill Webster, Jennifer Michie, Michael Dix, Jan Zelenczuk.

Please send articles for the **May** issue of The Stoker **by 15th April** to:

The Editors, 45 Station Road, Stoke Golding.

Email thestoker@gmx.co.uk

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

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

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

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

Cover picture: Stoke Golding by local artist Helen Shipton

Helen Shipton - Local Artist

Helen has lived in Stoke Golding for the past seven years with her husband, Mark, and eight year old twins, Noah and Martha.

Following her graduation, in 1999, from Bath Spa University with a degree in Illustration, Helen started her career as a commercial illustrator. As well as continuing with illustration commissions she has taught art since 2004, more recently teaching adults.

Helen has created an illustration of our village, see the front cover. The idea for the painting came about after visiting the art exhibition held in the Baxter Hall when she was inspired by the wonderful paintings there. She says that Martha and Noah inspired the Bath Piece inclusion in her picture after many happy memories of feeding the ducks when they were small. She completed her 'take on the village' and promptly put it away in a drawer, until Mark encouraged her to post it on the Stoke Golding Community Facebook page. Since then she has been asked for over eighty prints of her fascinating painting and she is absolutely amazed and delighted at the interest there has been.



The Giclee Fina Art prints are printed in Hinckley and all packaging has been bought locally. The artwork is A4 size centralised on a white piece of Archival Fabriano paper measuring 30x40cm. Each unframed print costs £30 and if you live locally, Helen will deliver it to your door in a cardboard tube for protection.

If you would like to buy a print please contact Helen on 213208 or email helenmills1@gmail.com

True Community Spirit

A post on the Stoke Golding Community Page from Liam Grady, asking for help with support for people isolated due to the Coronavirus, has had a massive response in just 24 hours. By the time you read this you should have received a leaflet with details of who to ring if you require assistance with shopping, collection of medical supplies or even need to just talk to someone.

Well done Liam and thank you to everyone who has offered to help. Together we will make sure no one goes without support and no one will feel neglected in our community.

**I cannot do all the good the world needs
But the world needs all the good I can do.**

(A lovely thought, recently posted on Facebook)

Cold Comfort Farm

If you have ever wondered how Stella Gibbons 1931 bestselling novel Cold Comfort Farm got its name, the answer is just down the road from Stoke Golding in Rogues Lane. Stella had completed her novel & was looking for an appropriately odd name, planning to call it God Curse Farm due to the main story of curses on the farm with names such as Queen's Bane, King's Evil & Prince's Forfeit, all of which ruined the crops. Her friend Elizabeth Coxhead's father was headmaster of Hinckley Grammar School, an old established institution that owned Cold Comfort Farm; at Elizabeth's suggestion the novel was renamed.

No one knew how the farm came by that name, however tenant after tenant went bankrupt and it fell into disrepair. Eventually David & Marjorie Abbott bought the farm for £5000 in 1957, dropping the Cold & simply calling it Comfort Farm. It was very run down & ramshackle when Mr & Mrs Abbott bought it, but being young & hard working they restored the farmhouse to a comfortable dwelling.

The oldest parts of the house & barn date from the 18th century (with deeds dated 1763). Later, Victorian parts were added, as the farm prospered in those times. Documents dated 1919 shows much of the 120 acre farm as pasture with names suggesting a gentler age, like Far Corner & Middle Field. In 1957 when the Abbotts moved in there were 50 acres, with only 38 remaining by 2001

Stella Gibbons characters were a rustic grotesque family called the Starkadders, who lived in dismal circumstances on the farm with their mad old aunt Ada Doom. This first novel made a huge difference to Stella's life giving her independence & financial security. It comforted her in her old age that so many people had enjoyed & laughed at "that book" as she called it. It went on to be a set book for "O" & "A" level examinations.

You won't find Cold Comfort Farm in Rogues Lane today, as they say, time marches on.

Hilary Ford – with acknowledgements to the Daily Telegraph 2001.



Help Available Across the Borough

We have volunteer networks covering all eight of our villages. Leaflets have been distributed to every household. In addition there is now a single point of contact across Hinckley & Bosworth. The response

across the community has been amazing. Please do contact me to help resolve any local issues eg supermarkets not realising you are purchasing multi items to help the vulnerable.

Councillor Jonathan Collett Tel: 07740896805

Hinckley and Bosworth
Borough Council
Single Point Of Contact

01455 632984

www.nextgenhinckley.org

Keeping Busy in Isolation

Rainbow Walks

(from a share on Facebook)

Children are being isolated from their friends so spread a little joy. Put a rainbow in your window for children to spot as they are walking by. How many will they spot each day?



What Can You Do?

Bird watching
Write a short story
Go for a walk in the countryside
Paint a Picture
Learn to play a musical instrument
Singing
Gardening
Chair exercises
Read books
Sort out all those old photographs
Telephone a friend or family member
Take photographs from around the village

Competition Time

If you are needing to fill some time while staying at home, or if your children need something to do, then why not have a go at our competitions?

Short Story Competition



Write a story and we will print the best ones in the coming months. There are four age groups:

5-8 & 9-12 - up to 500 words and can include illustrations

13-16 and 17+ - up to 1000 words.

Photography Competition

3 categories - "local landscape", "local wildlife" and "enjoying life".



Prizes will be given to the winners in each age group or category.

Please email your entries to: thestoker@gmx.co.uk

Go on Have a Go!

This month's deadline is just around the corner, which is very unlike me. I love to know there's no stress, as I try to unpick my notes, and put them back in order again. If you could see the scribbles in my notebook, you'd understand why... My first problem this month has been finding my 'victim'! I am asked to contact Jan Zelenczuk, who has recently joined the Stoker team. Fortunately, Jan is able to meet me the very next day. I'm fascinated by her Ukrainian surname and it definitely rings a bell.



Where have I come across it before? The mystery is solved the following morning when the front door buzzer goes. The visitor is Jan, a surprise for me as I'd written the time down for the afternoon – oh well – at least I'm operating on the right day! We realise we've all met before as Jan's husband Pete is the landscape gardener, for whom I wrote an article a while back. It was through Pete I was introduced to his upholsterer friend, Martin, who renovated my much-loved, 18th century nursing chair. However, it's now my opportunity to really get to know Pete's wife, Jan. To learn how she and Pete met and married, and landed up here as two much valued members of our Stoke Golding community. One of the first things I notice about folk, are their colour schemes and with Jan it's her pale auburn hair, offset by a big fluffy autumn striped scarf deftly tucked inside a deep copper- coloured winter coat. Jan explains how she volunteered to join the Stoker team and how she plans to report on the all the various village committee meetings. This should prove interesting, especially when it comes to all the changes that seem to be happening at the moment.

She's originally from Wall Heath – not far from the West Midlands border, with Dudley being one of the closest towns. Her heart was always set on a career in hotel management and catering, which she was able to fulfil by studying at the University of Bournemouth. She really loved her time there and following her first year, she and her fellow students were expected to participate in a 'sandwich course'. This involved spending six months in Bournemouth, with the next six months being sent to train at another large hotel. In Jan's case it was the Holiday Inn, Birmingham. This suited her wonderfully, as it allowed her to combine work with commuting home to Wall Heath, and the preparations for her wedding to her boyfriend, a chartered surveyor. It was a traditional white wedding with all the trimmings, surrounded by the couples many friends and relatives. Sadly, Jan's husband died in 1998, leaving Jan to bring up their two teenagers on her own. Fortunately, it was at this time that she began volunteering with the Scout and Guide movement. She began as a Beaver leader, working with the smallest members of the movement, but she soon moved up through all the other age groups, before eventually finding herself accepting the role of Assistant District Commissioner for West Berkshire.

She was persuaded to have a go at camping and, having borrowed a tent for herself and her two teenagers, she began the tricky business of learning how and where to pitch it. She ended up pitched next to a tent owned by a guy who asked to borrow some tent pegs from her and, as the saying goes, 'the rest is history!' The neighbour in question was Pete who, like Jan, was also taking *his* two teenagers camping.

Since then the journey has moved on considerably. To begin with, life continued in and around Newbury. Jan was working for Vodaphone, while Pete was travelling around with his many commitments in Landscape Gardening. Ten years ago Pete and Jan decided to marry, with their marriage taking place at St. Margaret's Church here in the village.

Jan is attempting to make a compilation of some of her favourite Ukrainian dishes, alongside a list of Ukrainian feast days and festivals. She showed me a couple of magical pages from her album, depicting beautiful tables dressed for one of their celebratory evenings. Jan has so much to offer The Stoker team. From her creative flair, the use of her original training and skills in hospitality, to her wonderful people skills honed over the years whilst working with the Scouting Association. She will be our first reporter employed specifically to keep an eye on all the various developments that seem to be taking place in our very busy and constantly changing village. We wish you every blessing Jan, as we say a very big WELCOME and THANK YOU!

Beth

Stoke Golding Friends of the Community

The community group, formed by concerned residents, recently held a drop in public meeting at Stoke Golding Club. Although they believe in development in the right place, 15 fields surrounding the village may be at risk in the future and this is a cause of concern.

The group are currently focussing on the outline planning application on Wykin Lane and had on display many of the comments made by objectors. The chair of the group, Steve Martin, said that they believed that over 252 objections had been lodged to the plans with only two in favour (at 7 March 2020) but they were asking people to make their feelings known by objecting online using the HBBC planning portal (Quote ref:19/01324/OUT) before 31 March 2020 or by contacting the local borough and county councillors, Jonathan Collett and Ivan Ould.

The group have retained consultants to help them fight the planning application and are currently fundraising to pay for their services. If you would like to know more about the group or how you can help or make a donation contact them by email: stokegoldingaad@gmail.com

Staffroom Memories 23: The Art Teacher

In my loft I have a pastel drawing of a fish head. I drew it when I was training to become a teacher and it is my greatest achievement in the field of art. Let's be honest, it's my only achievement in the field of art. As a primary school teacher, you have to be able to teach all subjects but, having been fairly dire at art when at school myself, I found passing on these particular skills and techniques to a younger generation somewhat of a challenge. When I found something that worked, I rolled it out, year after year: silhouettes at Halloween, bonfire collages of tissue paper flames on black paper, sunsets in various shades of red and orange.



The art lesson was a mixed blessing: little planning but a fair amount of preparation; no marking but quite a lot of clearing up. I never ceased to be amazed at the variety of places primary children could get paint: on the walls, on the ceiling, on each other, on me. Glue had a similar distribution pattern, with the added problem that paint washes out yet dried white PVA glue doesn't. A particular favourite of mine was glitter. I was once blamed for getting through a year's supply in one lesson, and one caretaker issued a ban on me ever using glitter again - and this was in a school where I was the headteacher! I also upset another caretaker with my excellent stained glass windows. It was a simple idea: the children coloured in outlines of a church window with wax crayons and then brushed cooking oil on the back to make them translucent. Not only did they look amazing, but they stuck to the windows really easily, the oil forming a bond with the glass that took the caretaker several hours to remove when we finally peeled them off. That resulted in another ban.

With the introduction of the National Curriculum, art lessons became about much more than learning to hold a paintbrush and produce a nice picture. As teachers struggled to cope with the new demands, a series of sample lessons were produced nationally. One of these was about copying Van Gogh's techniques to create giant sunflowers. For years you couldn't go into any school without encountering a wall of sunflowers. At my last school I had a teaching assistant, Rita, who had a degree in art. Not only was she brilliant when we needed backdrops for our school plays, she was a great help to non-specialist teachers in the classroom. When teachers were given time out of the classroom, we got Rita to do art with the children and the results were amazing. The highlight was having some of the children's work displayed in the National Gallery in London. My only concern was what Ofsted would say about the arrangement when they came a-calling. Well, fortunately, what they said first was what fantastic artwork we had displayed around the school, to which I replied, "That's because we have Rita. She's not a teacher but she's better at teaching art than any of my teachers." To which Ofsted said, "Fine." Of course, if they'd seen my fish head drawing, they may have wondered why I wasn't doing all the art teaching.

Michael Dix

Updates from the Pubs and Clubs

This page has changed several times whilst preparing April's Stoker! We have provided the most up to date information we can find as of 21st March.

Stoke Golding Club

From Saturday 21st March we will be closed until further notice and on advice from the government. Unfortunately this means **all** events for the next 4 weeks are cancelled, including Betty Bangs on Saturday 21st March which will be rescheduled and tickets will remain valid for the new date, but refunds will not be issued. As soon as the situation changes we will post on the website and Facebook.

The George & Dragon - Off Licence

The off-licence hatch means we hope we can become a little shop, selling Tony's homemade food from our freezers (he's busy cooking) and I can fill your existing carry out jugs or sell you one (we've stocked up). Also we can supply you with bottles of Prosecco, beer, wine, crisps and soft drinks. We will be accepting card only when this happens and ask that only one person is in the shop porch at any time. Thanks Katie

The White Swan

The White Swan is considering home deliveries of meals during the virus outbreak. Our strict hygiene rules will obviously continue. Please, if you have any symptoms or have been in contact with anyone who may be a carrier, stay at home and follow government guidelines.

If we can help the community in any way let us know on 01455 212313.

Please stay safe and well. *Andy, Debs and Staff at the White Swan*

The Three Horseshoes

Due to everything going on in the world at present we are sure you are all aware of the government announcing closures of pubs. We would like to thank everyone for their custom and hope to see you all very soon. Stay safe and well. Jez, Vicki & Paul.

St Margaret's Church Heritage Lottery Grant Application

Thank you to all those people (17) who came to the meeting that was held last week - and to those unable to come because of other commitments. It was heartening to have such good support from across the community. We will send a fuller report for the next Stoker with details of what we might apply for etc.

David Goodsell

Kiss Ethel for me - John Burton

John gave us a very interesting talk about Thomas Harrison, a young man from Bedworth who was sent out to France in the First World War, and the letters he wrote home to his family.

Thomas came from a working-class family and had had a basic education. He writes as he speaks and the letters are eternally optimistic as he tries to brush over the terrible scenes he is seeing, so as not to upset his mother.

He is the only son of the family and has four sisters, Mabel, Gertie, Lizzie, and Ethel. He starts all his letters 'Dear Mother' and ends them all 'Yours Truly, Son Tom'. Each letter ends with kisses, then each name is written with kisses to each family member individually and all end Kiss Ethel for me (she was his youngest sister, and about 6 years old). We saw a photo of him - he was a handsome young man. His first letter is dated 17th October 1916 when he was aged 20.

Although John read a lot of his letters to us, all written as Tom would have spoken, I have taken a few instances to explain the talk.

On 28th July 1916 he received a parcel from his parents, he thanked them for 2 bananas, a packet of Woodbines, ham and two batches and a 'two bob' piece. He received more ham and batches on 14th August and asked his parents to thank the butcher, he said the ham was lovely.

On the 5th October he asked his father to send him a small pipe, which he did, and his mum sent some tobacco, which he thanked them for.

On 6th November he explains that if they don't hear from him for a while he is on the move.

On 29th Nov 1916 he received another parcel with chocolate, cigarettes, cake and sugar and sent grateful thanks to everyone who had sent things including his neighbours. He often mentions his neighbours.

In April he sent home some souvenirs including a German helmet which he has rescued !!

He was in Hospital from 18th Sept 1917 until January 1918 but played down his injuries so as not to worry his mum, but it would appear that he had been affected by gas.

He did get some leave and attended an friend's wedding before returning to the front.

He was killed in action on about March 30th - Easter Day.

His parents received a letter of condolence from the Chaplain on the 9th April 1918 and also had a letter from Lance Corporal Carter, who had known Tom. He explained that Tom had died of shock when a shell landed near him. It is not known where he is buried, but his name appears on the Pozieres memorial and on the memorial in Bedworth.

Lesley Gent

Stokefest is back!

Stoke Golding's very own music festival is back in business on Saturday 25 July 2020 after a year off. This year the annual

celebration of local bands and musicians will include headliners *Still Thirsty*, who will be supported by amongst others, local favourites *Marky T* and *Audio Monkeys*. This year Leicester Animal Aid (LAA) will be running a dog show and there will be 'Beat the Goalie', fairground rides, craft stalls, a cake stall and a BBQ provided by Black Apron Catering.

The popular bar will feature beers from Church End Brewery and Market Bosworth Brewery and this year card payments will be taken for the first time.

The event is free of charge but the funds for donations to this years charities LAA, Leicestershire and Derbyshire Air Ambulance, Rainbows, Wishes for Kids and BLISS, come from bucket collections during the event and the profit from the bar. So please do use the bar rather than bring your own supplies so the event can raise as much as possible for the charities.

If you would like to book a craft stall or have some photos from previous years events that can be posted on the Stokefest website then use the contact form at www.stoke-fest.co.uk

Jan Zelenczuk



The Stoke Golding Boys' Charity

Object of the Trust

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

The Trustees are considering the annual application of grants in accordance with the Terms of the Trust, as quoted above and applications are invited stating **the purpose of the application, date of birth, address and telephone number** to the:

Clerk of the Trustees, 2 Church Walks, Stoke Golding, Nuneaton, Warks.
CV13 6HB by **Sunday 17th May 2020**

By Order of the Trustees, *Tony Smith (Clerk)*

Dadlington Matters

Keith Morton



Keith, of Austrey, had lived in Dadlington for several years and has, sadly, passed away on 18th February 2020, aged 64 years. Devoted husband of Jacqui and a much loved dad and grandad. The funeral service was held on 12th March, 2020, at St James' Church, Dadlington. Donations in memory of Keith may be made to British Heart Foundation, via G.Seller, Upper Bond Street, Hinckley.

Many people remember Keith with great fondness as he was an active member of the community while he was living in Dadlington. He was a parish councillor for a number of years and a member of the Dadlington Village Hall committee. He ran a number of wine-tasting events for Dadlington and Stoke Golding and regularly advertised his business Wine-2-You in the Stoker. One of his very close friends, Alan Wareham, will particularly miss him.

When Alan and his wife, Margaret, moved into Dadlington thirteen years ago Keith and Jacqui came round to introduce themselves. Soon after they found themselves on the same table at the, now famous, Dadlington Quiz Evening. Alan realised then what an intelligent man Keith was. Since then, they have met up most Friday evenings either at the Dog and Hedgehog or at each other's homes and all four of them have enjoyed holidays together. He remembers Keith and Jacqui getting married at St James' Church four years after they arrived in the village - he says it was a lovely wedding.

Alan, a keen rugby fan, feels privileged to have been introduced to football as Keith was passionate about the sport and was a Director of Accrington Stanley, even helping to save the club when times were very difficult. Many supporters attended his funeral and the club announced Keith's death on their big screens.

Keith was a lecturer at Warwick University, teaching students from the UK, Europe and China. He put his heart and soul into everything he did including several trips to China, where he went on the bullet train and walked the Great Wall, as well as learned to speak Mandarin. Many students sent letters after his death, some were read out at his funeral, showing how much they thought of him.

Alan still has a bottle of 'Château Pech Latt' that Keith gave him and he says he will keep it forever.

Jane White

We send our sincere condolences to Jacqui, her family and friends at this sad time.

A Battle on the Fenn Lanes – but not that one! Part 2

‘A Defeat given to Colonel Hastings by the Lord Gray's Forces, July 1, 1644, at Bosworth Field, in the very Place where King Richard the Third was slain,’ was how a report at the time recorded the ‘other Battle of Bosworth.’



It was 1st July 1644, the day before one of the key battles of the English Civil War, the Battle of Marston Moor in Yorkshire. Troops under the command of the Royalist Colonel Henry Hastings of Ashby de la Zouch had been plundering in and around Hinckley. Not far away was a contingent of troops under the command of Parliamentary Lord Grey. Captain Babbington, the leader of these troops discovered the Royalist soldiers on the site of the earlier Battle of Bosworth and gave chase. After three miles, the sides came together and six of Hastings' men were killed with a number wounded. Forty prisoners were taken off to Hinckley by the victorious but slightly unlucky Captain Babbington: he was the only Parliamentary wounded in the encounter, having been shot in the hand.

The two battles are separated by 159 years and both occurred during periods of civil war in England. There, however, the similarities end. The Wars of the Roses was a series of battles that stretched over a 32 year period but probably took up no more than 13 weeks. The main casualties during this period were the nobility. It is estimated that in the years 1460-61, one third of the 50 peers perished either in battle or through summary execution in the aftermath. In contrast, the English Civil War lasted only nine years but involved regular hostilities for much of that time. It is thought to have resulted in the deaths of 3.6% of the population (compare this to 2.6% killed during World War I,) and set brother against brother, father against son.

One final thought. In 1788, a historian named William Hutton wrote the first definitive account of the 1485 Battle of Bosworth. It was he who sited it on the side of Ambion Hill, a location fairly universally accepted until recent finds placed the battle along the Fenn Lanes. He may well have been influenced by mapmakers of his period who had copied earlier maps and added the cross swords symbol on top of the hill. Back in 1644, the actual position of the earlier battle would most likely to have been known to many villagers, it having taken place in the time of their great great grandparents. The Civil War skirmish account describes its now known position as do maps of that period. It's a pity that none of those who wrote about it afterwards referred to this information as it could have saved over 300 years of people getting it in the wrong place!

With thanks to Eddie Smallwood and the late Denis Cash

Michael Dix

Stoke Golding Community Litter Pickers



On Saturday, February 29th, a group of 8 pickers collected a total of 15 bags, which is amazing considering that it only took one hour to do it. There are numerous villagers who go out independently, at various times of the month, in an effort to keep our lanes tidy and thanks to them our local lanes are in a pretty good condition.

I admit, to my shame, this was my first litter pick with the group - but it won't be my last. Once toggled up with the very fetching safety gear, bags and grabbers, it was no hardship to walk along Wykin Road, picking up bits of litter on the way, finishing with some delicious homemade cake back at the George and Dragon, an hour later, with everyone else. What a fantastic group of people - thank you for all your care for our village.

Jane White



BORN TOGETHER

THE STORY OF
CONJOINED TWINS



MICHAEL L COX

A fascinating insight into the
history of this rare phenomenon

A new book from local author and
former gynaecologist/obstetrician
MICHAEL L COX

Looking at the complex ethical issues
involved in treating and caring for
conjoined twins and the question of
whether it is justified to sacrifice one
life to save the other.

BORN TOGETHER

reviews many questions around this
rare phenomenon.

With accessible language and
Illustrations, this book is for those
interested in popular science and
psychology.

Available from bookshops and
Amazon from 28th April For more
information visit www.bookguild.co.uk

Stoke Golding Scout Group

A busy time !



The group have been celebrating Shrove Tuesday - pancake day - by all cooking pancakes and consuming them and their delicious fillings as well.

The Scouts have been doing their navigation badge, menu planning and had an internal hockey tournament within the Scout Group which I heard was very competitive! The Scouts have also been taking part in the District Shooting event.



The Cubs have been doing their Communication badge, pack forums and their craft badge. The craft badge included painting, making flowers from paper, baking and Mother's Day cards. Some of the Cub's paintings, of a spring scene, can be seen in the surgery.



The Explorers have been doing their navigation badge, had a games and social evening as well as learning their promise in different languages

The Beavers have been learning life skills of promise, learning their names and addresses and folding their Neckers, as well as eating pancakes! And we haven't got as far as Easter activities yet.

Jennifer



Event Cancellation Notices

Stoke Arts @ the Village Hall

Live and Local, the organisation that supports our shows, has now cancelled all shows to the end of the season. This is to help keep us and the actors safe during these very unusual times. This means "Updownsizing" on 25th April will no longer go ahead.

Steve Smithers

The Arts Society Sparkenhoe April and May Lectures Cancelled

It is with much sadness that I have concluded, in consultation with the other members of the committee, that we must put our lecture programme on hold until further notice.

Best wishes, **John Hawkes** Chair, The Arts Society Sparkenhoe
www.sparkenhoearts.co.uk

Dadlington Event Cancellations

All events at Dadlington Village Hall have been cancelled until further notice due to the Coronavirus outbreak including:

Quiz Evening 13th April

Wine Tasting Evening 4th April

Screen on the Green 3rd April

Coffee and Chat 2nd April

All Church Services are cancelled until further notice.

Zion Baptist Chapel

We are sorry to tell you that services have been cancelled until further notice.

Drowning Their Sorrows!

John Whitehead has had to cancel the Wine-Tasting at Dadlington Village Hall, but he says he and Jill are taking this opportunity to do some decorating and gardening. He also has a good stock of wine!



Well Being Walks

Wellbeing Walks in Hinckley and the nearby countryside locations in the borough have been cancelled because of the Coronavirus .

Stoke Golding Parish Council Statement regarding Coronavirus

Stoke Golding Parish Council has suspended monthly meetings from April until further notice due to the government guidance on Coronavirus and to protect the health of members and residents. There will be an extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council on Monday to put temporary emergency procedures in place to ensure that business can continue during this period to maintain public open spaces and ensure the cemetery remains open and to ensure staff and contractors are paid. The government is looking at a longer-term solution and the Parish Council will review its position in light of any further advice.

In the meantime, the Parish Council would like to thank all residents who are pulling together to help the vulnerable and those self-isolating in the village. We are very lucky to live in a village with such a public-spirited community. The coming months will be difficult for us all, but by continuing to work together we can strive to protect our residents.

The Parish Council will post any further information on the Stoke Golding Village Website at www.stokegolding.co.uk/local-government/ and on the Parish Council Noticeboard.

Methodist Church and Church Hall

Sadly all Church services and the Spring Fair have been cancelled and there will be no activities and events at the Church Hall until further notice.

The Fenn Lanes Group of Churches

It is with a heavy heart that I inform you, in light of the Government guidance around non-essential contact, the Archbishops of Canterbury & York have issued advice that public worship is suspended. All group meetings and services at our churches will cease until further notice.

It is a huge disappointment not to be able to worship together, and the idea of not being able to celebrate Easter with all our congregations seems unthinkable.

But I hope that we can cling to the words of Psalm 46: "God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in times of trouble, therefore we will not fear". God remains with us in the midst of the trials we are experiencing, so let us not give up loving Him, as we trust that He will bring us through.

Our churches will remain open whenever possible, for anyone who wants to come and pray, and we will continue to pray on a daily basis for those who are sick, the health service, our communities and our nation.

Keep safe and do be in touch if you need anything that you think we might be able to help with, or would like specific prayer.

Wishing you God's blessings

Revd Linda

Notes from the Parish Council meeting 4 March 2020

As the Stoker's latest recruit, I was tasked with going to the Parish Council meeting to see if I could fill in the gaps on the minutes that are usually published! Armed with a notebook and pen I entered the Methodist Hall to find the parish council, Councillor Ivan Ould and two other residents. We were welcomed by the chair, Cllr Rachel Terheege who seemed surprised to have an audience, as it doesn't seem to happen very often judging by previous minutes (we were joined by a fourth resident later).

I decided to focus on issues discussed more fully than reported on the minutes that I thought other residents would, like me find of interest. Long discussions about some topics such as the cost of maintaining the roundabout on the play area are, although essential, probably of limited interest to most of us, so here goes.

Councillor Ivan Ould, County Councillor for this Parish, talked of his discussions with the Planning department about how the delay to the Barwell Sue and other proposed, but so far unbuilt, developments in Hinckley are impacting on Stoke Golding. They have had a knock on effect because the councils shortfall on housing supply means that villages are being targeted by developers who can quote this as reason to obtain planning permission. (More in this months Stoker).

Cllr. Beale reported that at the Parish Forum, local policing commander Inspector Emma Maxwell, mentioned a Neighbourhood Link survey that the Police will instigate by door knocking individual properties to ask if residents are interested in signing up for a survey on the internet. This method of involving residents was met with some surprise. There was also mention of an increase in beat officers in the area.

As there was still some money available to provide more Heritage street signs, it was agreed that Bosworth Manor and Laburnum Gardens would benefit. This caused a debate as to whether the street name of the new development on High Street was called Laburnum Gardens or Laburnum Close. This was to be checked before a sign was ordered.

The potential sale of the Baxter Hall was discussed and it seems that some negotiations may already be under way but it was proving difficult to discuss this with anyone at Diocesan Board of Education. If necessary the Parish Council could apply to make the hall an Asset of Community Value, which if granted would give local community groups up to six months to raise funds to buy the property, develop a business plan and make a bid to buy a property on the open market if it was put up for sale. But as the application is quite involved, time may not be on the Parish Council's side to do this. The Parochial Church Council is due to meet Caroline Lewis, the Diocesan Director of Education and the fourth member of the audience appeared be one of their number, as she said they would provide feedback from the meeting. If necessary, the Parish Council may have an extraordinary meeting to discuss any further developments before the next official meeting on 1 April 2020.

I'm a great believer in democracy and the power of the people to change things, so to see the first tier of our representatives in action was interesting. They are all volunteers doing a difficult job but I think they deserve to have a bigger audience if only to show them how passionately we feel about the (it seems) many issues that are affecting this village at the moment. Go along and see for yourself. I'll be going back soon!

Jan Zelenczuk **Full copy of the minutes can be read on the website:**

https://www.stokegolding.co.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/sgpc_03_20d.pdf

Ten of a Kind – April '20

April 13th is National Scrabble Day. Originally called Lexico and the Criss Cross Words, its creator Alfred Mosher Butts settled on its current name. April 13th was his birthday. Here are ten questions relating to letters of the alphabet.

1. How many points is the letter J worth in a game of scrabble?
2. Which letter is sometimes seen on cars to show the driver has only recently got a full license?
3. Who hosted the original Blockbusters TV quiz show, where young contestants would delight in saying, "I'll have a 'P' please Bob!"
4. Which river, whose name sounds like a letter, is the UK's fifth longest, rising in mid-Wales?
5. In the NATO phonetic alphabet where A is alpha, B is bravo, C is Charlie, which two letters are the names of dances?
6. Which area of Germany is signified in the B of the motor manufacturer BMW?
7. To avoid a ban on skyline advertising alongside the River Thames in London, a tower belonging to a meat extract company used the three letters of its most famous product as the design for the tower's windows. What is the product?
8. Which newsreader sang the song 'A, you're adorable,' with Morecambe and Wise on their 1976 Christmas show?
9. Which letter comes next in this sequence: B, C, D, E, G, P?
10. What did the S stand for in the name of American president Harry S Truman?

Baxter Hall Coffee Morning

We enjoyed delicious coffee & cake with Julie, Lisa & Pat at the Thursday morning Community Café. They are very friendly & welcoming, open every Thursday 10 – 1.30pm & would love to chat with you. They are intending to do light lunches such as soup & sandwiches for those who would like to have a lunch with friends.

Hilary Ford NB - due to the coronavirus the coffee mornings may not be going ahead until the situation returns to normal.

Kitchen Corner

LEMON CHIFFON PIE

Ingredients

4 Eggs, separated	1tblsp. Gelatine
½ tsp. Salt	¼ cup of Cold Water
Juice of 3 Lemons	½ cup of Caster Sugar
2tsp. Grated Lemon Zest	½ cup of Double Cream
½ cup of Caster Sugar	1Baked Pie Crust or Biscuit Base

Method

Separate the eggs, putting the yolks into a medium sized bowl and the whites into a large bowl. Put the whites to one side and leave at room temperature.

Beat the egg yolks slightly with a hand whisk, add ½ cup of caster sugar, salt, lemon juice and zest. Place the bowl over a pan of simmering water and stir until the mixture thickens. Pour ¼ cup of cold water into a small saucepan and sprinkle the gelatine over the water. Leave until spongy, then heat slowly until all the granules have disappeared. Do not boil. Strain the melted gelatine into the lemon mixture and stir until combined. Leave until cold.



Beat the cream into soft peaks and fold into the lemon mixture, now beat the egg whites and gradually add the other ½ cup of sugar. Take 2 tblsp. of the meringue and add to the lemon and stir to loosen the mixture, then add the remaining egg whites and carefully fold in with a large spoon or balloon whisk until everything is smooth.

Pour the lemon chiffon into the pie crust or biscuit base and smooth the top. Decorate with grated chocolate. Another alternative is to put the chiffon into pretty glasses.

This recipe is not the easiest but well worth the effort.

Cooks Tip : Before putting the egg whites into the large bowl, put a tsp. of vinegar into the bowl and wipe around with a paper towel, this ensures the bowl is grease free.

Good luck and enjoy, Avis

Fool on the Hill

A tale of two journeys.....

The Grandson, as is the way of all grandsons, was in dire need of a little Grandparental indulgence. On such occasions we are in the habit of driving to London, for it is there he resides, as the paraphernalia associated with such visits is rather difficult to manhandle across the London Tube system. This time however we cut the treats to the bare minimum and opted for the train. So it was that, on a bright and sunny Thursday lunchtime, we were transported to Nuneaton station by a kind friend. Having allowed sufficient time for a Double Choc Macchiato Latte we strolled, disposable cup in hand, to platform 5. The train arrived exactly on time and was sparsely populated so we were able to take a seat and settle back. The countryside sped by and even a stop at Milton Keynes did little to dampen our spirits. We trundled into Euston ahead of schedule and skipped, hand in hand, to the bowels of the station where the Northern Line produced a train coinciding exactly with our arrival at the platform. Seats were as plentiful as politician's promises so the brief trip to Charring Cross was achieved in some degree of comfort. On arrival, the train to complete our journey was announced giving us the feeling that it had been waiting for us and us alone. On time and in high spirits we alighted some 18 minutes later at our final destination and walked downhill from the station in bright sunshine. The next 3 days were spent in undoing all the good parental work achieved since our last visit. The day of our departure coincided with the arrival, in all its majesty, of Storm Ciara.

All trains into London were cancelled with no alternative options. A taxi to North Greenwich, site of the O2 Arena, would enable us to take the Tube into Central London and then connect to Euston. Our taxi driver would have made Eeyore look like Mary Poppins, the extra heavy London traffic doing little to lighten his mood. The next 40 minutes was spent with three Koreans wedged under my armpits whilst I struggled to control a wayward wheeled suitcase with my left leg. We spilled out of the train like a split Haggis at Euston Station and dashed upstairs to find that for "the comfort and safety of passengers" the station was closed and we had to stand in a freezing monsoon. When we were allowed in, there appeared to be two trains heading North and as the departure platform was announced a sea of humanity surged towards it as if it was dispensing free beer and chocolate. After five hours of standing up wedged shoulder to shoulder with our fellow travellers, during which a remarkable and typically British spirit of bonhomie pervaded, we landed back at a dreary and windswept Nuneaton where a bandit with a taxi badge completed our misery.

Next time is a fully loaded spoiling mission. In the car.

F.O.T.H



Church Matters

From St Margaret's Church



Writing this in the middle of March, I can only assume that the Corona Virus has continued to dominate headlines, and will do so well into April and perhaps the rest of 2020.

Perhaps by the time you are reading this we have had confirmed cases in this area, and maybe even someone you know has it. Hopefully the spread has been contained and it's on the retreat, but I suspect that's wishful thinking.

The situation has been somewhat confusing up to now. Half of what I see tells me not to panic, and the other half tells me it's like the end of the world. There's been a run on loo roll, and sporting and social events have been cancelled.

There is also a great sense of community care, as many are offering help to those who are vulnerable or elderly, with offers of shopping, errands and phone calls, by posting fliers through doors. It's inspiring to see such neighbourly support. Whatever our faith, we can ensure that we don't neglect to do what we can to care for those in our communities who are struggling at this time.

In April we finish our Lenten observance and go into Holy Week, marking Good Friday followed by Easter Sunday. We remember a God who came, out of love for us, into our world of disease, of sickness and selfishness. That extravagant, healing, forgiving love took Jesus to the cross... and raised him from the dead. Such love can transform despair into hope, as we come to understand that, whatever our circumstances, we are loved with a love that is totally indestructible.

May the God of love fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him – this Easter, and in the days ahead.

Linda

Celebration!



We like Doreen Rose's suggestion of a Stoke Golding and Dadlington 'End of Isolation' celebration party when all this madness is over! Let us have your suggestions.

Heritage Apples



There is nothing I like more than biting into a crisp apple. Preferably an apple picked straight from the tree with the combination of tangy flavours and juice dribbling down my chin. With this in mind I enrolled myself on a grafting course hoping to establish my own heritage step over trees.

A heritage tree is one that has been in commercial cultivation in the past but gone out of fashion leaving us with a choice of half a dozen varieties on the supermarket shelves. There are estimated to be at least 2,000 species apples, some perhaps best left as curiosities but many with terrific flavours or having specific features to provide all year round fruit to the point of having blossom and apples at the same time. For those of us who walk or gaze out of the side windows of vehicles observing the apples in the hedgerows - they are crabs, the result of discarded cores which grow from seed and therefore never come true to a specific variety. Always worth a taste though.

In the company of enthusiasts from the Market Harborough area I had my head turned in several ways. Why grow step over fruits, commonly known as trip over apples from those in the know, when I could grow espaliers or fans. Why not graft more than I needed with a view to planting (with permission) in public places like parks, abbeys, as gorilla planting along Highway verges etc. I recalled how disappointed I felt when I heard that some of our village children had been encouraged to do what I was proposing to do to find the orchard was no longer a viable proposition. Have times changed? Has the prospect of high prices on imported fruit and rising consciousness of caring for our environment rekindled an interest in growing our own?

For the doubters on long term upkeep why not indulge in wilding, leaving the fruit to the birds (and beasts) - fieldfares and redwings would have a feast. All trees would be grafted onto dwarf root stock with a maximum height of 10 to 15 foot (3 to 5 metres) high with no risk of roots interfering with buildings. Anybody interested in giving it a try?

On another tangent, I have spoken to people in the village who have apples going to waste. My enterprising companions had raised £1,000 by selling shares for roughly £50 each to raise funds to employ a local carpenter to make a fruit press and buy other equipment to produce juice which would then be returned to the fruit owners or used to raise funds for whatever.

Karen Jones



The rise, Fall and Resurrection of Cricket in Stoke Golding

The February 2020 issue of the Stoker provided us with a fascinating insight into the beginnings of organized cricket in Stoke Golding, courtesy of Alan Quinney. When records were kept, back in 1935, a time devoid of television, mobile phones, and social media, it's easy to see how cricket would have grown as a focus for the 'lads of Stoke Golding and the surrounding villages. Even when matches resumed in 1946, following the end of the war, distractions would still have been in short supply when compared to the world of today. As Alan pointed out in his article, interest was high, with the majority of local lads playing for the village teams for cricket, football, or both.

Moving forward in time, there have also been periods of keen local interest in the Club, with the 1996 Grace Road Final against Hinckley Amateurs being an obvious high point. However, the story doesn't end there with League success following in the seasons afterwards, culminating in the division topping efforts of the Village side under the captaincy of Ian Proud. Being part of that created many fond memories from the times on the pitch, as well as a few more from the pubs and clubs of the village that are slightly less easy to recall with clarity.

Stoke Golding CC joined the new ELRCL in 2014, commencing in Division 6 West along with other local sides, Barwell, and Sharnford, finishing third that season, enough to earn promotion to Division 5 West in the fledgling League. After a consolidating season in the Division 5 West, Stoke Golding CC were moving onwards and upwards once again with a side benefitting from the nucleus of younger players now come of age. Promotion to Division 4 West for the 2017 season, with a third place rewarding some excellent individual and team performances under the captaincies of Clive Ryder and father and son pairing, Guy and Joe Rollins.

Competition in local leagues can be tough and winning not always so easy, and so it proved for the village side of 2018, with availability challenges thwarting efforts to continue the performance levels of the previous seasons. Maintaining two sides each week became increasingly difficult as dwindling membership, increasing work and family commitments of the remaining players, plus the inevitable injuries and retirements depleted numbers. After the highs of the previous seasons, back-to-back relegations and the inability to find enough players to field a 2nd XI were to take the Club to the point of folding.

New Beginnings...

In an effort to keep the Club alive, approaches were made to other local teams with a view to possible mergers although, after due consideration by

the members, it was decided to retain independence for as long as was possible. But after a difficult season, 2019 delivered the realization that without swift and decisive action, cricket would be lost from Stoke Golding completely. So, at the start of this year merger talks started again, resulting in the formation of a new Club to be known as, Burbage and Stoke Golding Cricket Club.

The new Club takes its place in the ELRCL at the start of the 2020 season, fielding three teams between the two villages, these playing in the following divisions;

1st XI Playing at Burbage – Division 5 West

2nd XI Playing at Burbage – Division 6 West

3rd XI Playing at Stoke Golding – Division 8 West

The hope is that through the merging of the two clubs it will be possible to secure a future for the playing of cricket in both villages, and with it help preserve our villages as thriving communities, rather than simply growing collections of commuter dwellings. As sports such as cricket get squeezed by lack of money, changing leisure patterns, and lack of participation in schools, Clubs such as BSGCC can only survive by attracting new members, but the opportunities are there.

Building for the Future

Whether you're for or against the recent and prospective expansions of the Village, it's difficult to escape the fact that Stoke Golding is changing and evolving with each additional dwelling or new development.

As Stoke Golding grows, there exists an opportunity to harness local team sports such as cricket and football to help build a sense of community, and as a club, we would like to do our bit by welcoming anyone keen to get involved.

Whether you're a player or supporter; new to the Club, or returning after a break, BSGCC would like to welcome you one and all.

For those wanting to play, Winter Nets are already under way, taking place every Wednesday from 7-8pm at the City Cricket Academy, Leicester, with outdoor nets due to start in April.

Or for those with kids wanting to get involved, then we are keen to extend the already thriving Burbage, 'All Stars' junior cricket sessions to bring the junior cricket back to Stoke Golding and with it the next generation of cricketers.

To get involved, contact, Ben Waters – benwaters94@gmail.com

And if you can help by providing sponsorship to help us improve Club facilities and drive the new Club forward, then Ben would love to hear from you too.

Ben



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Answers to 10 of a Kind

1. 8
2. P for pass
3. Bob Holness
4. Wye
5. F for foxtrot and T for tango
6. Bavaria (translated it stands for Bavarian Motor Works)
7. OXO
8. Angela Rippon
9. T: they are letter names that rhyme
10. Nothing. It was just a letter S.

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