

April 2021

No. 200

# The Stoker



**Stoke Golding Village Magazine**

*Including*

**Dadlington Matters**



## Note from the Editors

Dear Readers,

It is likely that you have noticed we are celebrating the 200th edition of our Stoker this month :- ) so the magazine is looking a little different! 20 years ago, in our first edition, we reported on Stoke Golding being caught in the



middle of the foot and mouth outbreak. At the time of the report, foot and mouth had affected seven farms in the nearby vicinity including two in Stoke Golding. Of course today we're caught in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic, which is affecting all of us, with the vaccination program just starting to give us some hope of an ending.

Our caring community has helped us to get through this difficult time and we have to be so grateful for all key workers who have worked through, despite risks to their own health.

We hope you enjoy looking through the photographs and reading the articles in this issue which may jog your memory on key events from the past few years. Please keep sending us your articles and photographs so we can look back on them in another twenty years time!

*Stay safe, Jane and Steve*

## The Stoker Team

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

*Production Team:* Rosemary Collier, Ella Orr, Jan Pettyfer, Jill Webster, Jennifer Michie, Michael Dix, Jan Zelenczuk, Kate Poyser Clark, Sandra Pollard.

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](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: April Stoker Covers from 2001-2021*

## Spreading a Little Joy Around the Community



How lovely that there are people living here who spend their time bringing sunshine into other peoples' lives. Thank you to the kind person who has been busy crocheting flowers and dotting them around the village.

Mila-Rae, from Hinckley Road was delighted to find her flower whilst on her English lesson word hunt around the village.

Theo and Vita from Roseway were excited to find their flower too.

Mum, Ester, said " It is

such a joy to walk around the village and spot these little flowers We are very lucky to live here and have such marvellous and kind neighbours."

We need these acts of kindness, especially at the moment during the pandemic - now I must keep my eyes open when I next go for a walk, it just might be my turn to find one!

*Jane White*



## 200th Edition of the Stoker Free to All Residents

Thanks to funding from the Charity of Thomas Barton, we are able to deliver a free copy of this special edition of the Stoker to every household. Don't worry if you have already paid your subscriptions for 2020 - 21 because we will deduct 70p from your subscription next year.

You can read more about the Charity of Thomas Barton on page 12.

## Subscribe to the Stoker - so you never miss a copy

Why not subscribe to the Stoker magazine and take advantage of our free delivery service? A year's subscription costs £7, it's good value and easy to set up. Interested? Please let us know...

Email: [katepoyserclark@gmail.com](mailto:katepoyserclark@gmail.com)

Telephone: **Kate 01455 213744**

## Back in 2001

When the first Stoker went on sale, the world was a little different. Here's how.

- Tony Blair was prime minister, Sven-Goran Erickson was the England football team manager and Rev. Chris Gash was just finishing his 12 years as priest in charge of Stoke Golding and Dadlington.
- Foot and Mouth disease was hitting farming communities across the country.
- An online encyclopaedia called Wikipedia had just started up.
- People could smoke in pubs.
- The World Trade Centre (twin towers) was the tallest building in the US.
- The bones of Richard III were lying undiscovered under a car park.
- If you wanted to take a photograph, you needed a camera.
- Johnny Vegas was voted most promising newcomer at the British Comedy Awards.
- 0.8% of the population identified themselves as Jedi in the census.
- The most popular names for babies were Jacob and Emily.
- Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, the first in the series, was the highest grossing film.
- Donald Trump was an opinionated property billionaire who had yet to appear in The Apprentice whilst Boris Johnson entered parliament as the MP for Henley.
- The top selling Christmas toy was a Bob the Builder digger priced at £19.99.
- Red Marauder won the Grand National, Michael Schumacher the Formula 1 drivers' championship and Manchester United the Premier League.

Plus the words 5,000 to 1 outsiders, weapons of mass destruction, coronavirus and austerity were yet to gain the significance they have now, and nobody had heard of Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, iPhones, Brexit or Frozen.

*M.Dix*

## Imogen and Matilda Help the Animals at Twycross Zoo



Seven year old Imogen and her four year old sister Matilda, from Ryelands Crescent, have raised an amazing £400 for Twycross Zoo. Imogen has run a mile each day for a week and Matilda has travelled with her on her bike or scooter around the village.

Both girls love animals and when they heard about the difficulties Twycross Zoo has been facing during the pandemic, they wanted



to do something to help.

Twycross Zoo is set to open on 12th April, please visit [twycrosszoo.org](http://twycrosszoo.org) for more information.

*Well done Imogen and Matilda - Eds*

## Lincoln Raises Money to Help the NHS



Nine year old Lincoln, from Crown Hill Close, has raised £262 so far for the NHS by helping his Mum Heather.

Heather started by making mask bands for NHS workers at the beginning of the pandemic last year. These were used by nurses in the George Eliot and Leicester Royal hospitals, care homes and even used by a hospital in Italy. She then knitted little multicoloured hearts to spread a little love and joy in the community.

When people came to collect them they started to leave chocolates and flowers, so

Lincoln said "why don't we put out a collection box and raise money for the NHS." So he made one and helped by drawing rainbows for the labels.

He is obviously a very kind and thoughtful young man who is following in his Mum's footsteps by making the community a happier place.

*Well done Lincoln - Eds*



## Tammy's Hairdresser - Open one Minute, Closed the Next!



The lockdown has had a huge impact on Tammy's hairdressing business, particularly having to deal with the uncertainty of not knowing whether the salon is allowed to be open or closed.

For her clients it has been the uncertainty of bookings that has been the main thing. Tammy said that having to wear PPE and sanitising between clients has had an impact, not only on the time in between bookings, but also the

number of bookings she is able to do in a day.

However Tammy said her clients have been lovely, their support has "been amazing" and they have been very understanding of the situation.

*Jennifer Michie*

## A Note of Appreciation



A word of thanks to the three school girls viewed from my window, who dropped their school bags on to the pavement and performed a circular dance game much to their obvious delight and to mine. A ray of happiness on a dull and

blustery afternoon.

Thank you girls - *Jill Webster*

## Sehmbi Stores Reopens

Following the sad death of Paul Sehmbi and the closure of the village shop, we are pleased to report that, thanks to the hard work of his family over the past few weeks, the stores are open again. Paul's son, Pinder, has asked for ideas from everyone about what you would like him to sell, as he needs to increase footfall to keep it as a viable business.

He says he is opening from 8am at the moment on weekdays and staying open all day until 8pm, but these hours are not set in stone and he may close at 7pm if it is not busy. He asks for everyone's patience while he is sorting everything out.

He has brought in new Irish products including chocolate, Taytos crisps, Clonakiltz sausages and puddings. There is a wider variety of cider, lager and wine.

Please pop in and say hello to Pinder or Paul's wife, Surrinder, who will be serving in the shop a few afternoons a week - a friendly welcome awaits you.



## How Many People Does it Take to Produce a Stoker Magazine?

We had a quick count up and think it is around 45! This includes the production team - editors, treasurer, advertising coordinator, proof reader, Dadlington representative, subscription coordinator, delivery coordinator, welcome pack organiser, events reporter and secretary. We have a team of twelve deliverers, seven regular contributors of articles for the magazine, seventeen advertisers and at least one person involved in the printing process from Elite Printers.

The Production Team, Stoker deliverers and the contributors of articles and photos are all volunteers and this huge team of people gives time each month to make sure the Stoker is produced and delivered on time and whatever the weather. A huge thank you to all of you.

Most of the founder members of the Stoker Team are on this photo taken in 2002, including Ruth Fisher, who was the main instigator. Jill Webster and Jane White remain part of the team and Alan Taylor is still involved as a deliverer.



Notable absences from these photos are Simon Rees-Jones, Ann Edginton, Gordon Webster and Reg Ward. All have been involved at some stage over the years, but they somehow escaped the camera! The 2016 Team included Beth Ellis, Richard Orr and Rosemary Collier.

## Stoker Team in Lockdown 2021

**Top:** Steve, Jane, Jennifer,  
**Middle:** Sandra, Jan, Michael,  
**Bottom:** Jan, Ella, Kate

Jill (unable to join the Zoom meeting)



## A Warm Welcome Awaits at The George and Dragon



As we get close to a year of lockdown restrictions, I interviewed Katie and Alex from the George & Dragon in the village about their experiences of managing the pub in lockdown. Sadly, not over a lovely pint in the pub but online!

At the start of the pandemic Katie was managing the pub whilst Alex was on maternity leave. Katie described how surreal it was not opening the pub and seeing staff that first morning after being closed, sitting on the balcony in the centre of the village

with everything so eerily quiet.

Alex said that for her the strangest experience was Christmas Day. It felt very quiet and strange not being open and she was concerned for those who may otherwise be alone. Alex has messaged and called isolated regulars throughout lockdown because the pub is a lifeline for so many. As it was her daughter Hetty's first Christmas, Alex was thankful to be able to just enjoy the day.

Katie had very obvious concerns around the worry of a closed business, the staff and how they would be supported. Katie is very appreciative and relieved about the furlough scheme, feeling very fortunate to have a strong business and fantastic staff, whilst others in the hospitality sector struggle to survive.

Both Katie and Alex praised the support of the village, both during spring /summer lockdown when copious sausage rolls and beer were purchased through the off licence, and over the second lockdown when Alex diversified with fish and chip suppers. Alex is so thankful to those who come rain or shine on a Friday evening. They are overwhelmed by people's kindness and commitment to the pub; they cannot state strongly enough how much that has helped them both stay positive.

They are very excited to welcome everyone back safely on the 12<sup>th</sup> April, a Monday no less. I for one am looking forward to a pint at the pub and seeing them both.

*Kate Clark*





## Memories of Lockdown by St Margaret's School Pupils



### **Alfie**

My favourite memory in lockdown was when me and my family went stargazing. We managed to see lots of constellations and even saw Mars! It was my favourite memory because it was my first time stargazing.

### **Aimee**

My memory of lockdown is that I always went to the park. I enjoyed going to the park because it's peaceful and calm. I rode my bike through puddles which splashed upon my face.

### **Anthony**

My happiest memory in lockdown was when me and my family went for a litter pick walk down basin bridge lane. I had a good laugh and had loads of fun. There was only one concern, we only got half way on our walk and we had already filled up two huge bin liners. We did not expect that amount of litter and was utterly shocked and overwhelmed at the sight. On our litter pick, me and my family noticed that most of the litter was beer cans which were probably thrown out of car windows while driving. This is awful as people may be drink driving and polluting at the same time. Please stop.

### **Lola**

My memories of lockdown are that all my family have had a birthday in lockdown. A happy memory is that we got a puppy and a tortoise which was exciting. A not so nice memory is that some of us had to homeschool which meant being separated from our friends.

### **Callum**

My biggest Memory of lockdown will be getting my puppy Amber. She is my best friend and I have enjoyed being able to spend everyday with her.

## A Search through the Dadlington Directories

Today, if you are in need of someone to do a job for you, your first port of call, after scanning the small ads in *The Stoker* of course, is likely to be Google. Two hundred years ago, it was a different story. Before the industrial revolution, tradesmen and women would have been well known in their small communities but as industrial towns began to grow, a need for information arose which James Pigot addressed in 1811 when he published a trade directory for Manchester. He expanded his enterprise to include other towns and cities, including London in 1823 and, over the next thirty years, other publishers such as Kelly's, White's and the Post Office began creating their own versions. Dadlington first appears in the 1846 History, Gazetteer and Directory of Leicestershire and Rutland. As well as a brief history and description of the village it lists six farmers plus Henry Freeman, maltster and victualler at the Dog & Hedgehog, George Lawrence, a hosiery manufacturer and Martha Wigley who was a shopkeeper.

Hagar's 1849 directory gives a little more information about the church of St James, informing us that the Rev Thomas Bourne was the vicar and there were services at 10am and 2pm on a Sunday: these were the days when everybody went to church. By 1870, the population of the village was about 150 and, alongside the farmers, we now find a boot and shoemaker John Bromley, William Fairfield who was a baker and shopkeeper, John Grimes, another shoemaker who ran a shop and John Kendall, the coal merchant. The Dog & Hedgehog was now run by William Hollyoak, who was also a tailor, and the village had a dressmaker, Miss Kightley.

By the 1880s, all of the directories mention the burial in the churchyard of those killed at the Battle of Bosworth and further details about the church are included in Wright's 1880 directory. It states that services are now only at 3pm on a Sunday and the rite of Holy Communion is only administered four times a year. The Rev Bourne is still popping over from Stoke Golding and farmer John Geary of The Poplars is the churchwarden. Miss Perry accompanies hymns from the collection Hymns Ancient and Modern on the Harmonium. The independent chapel, now part of Hall Farm had services at 6pm with Thomas Hextall named as the chapel keeper, though by 1888 'services have been discontinued.'

The directories continue through to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the last being published in 1941 by Kelly. The changing times are reflected in the information contained so there are references to children attending school in Stoke Golding, the nearest railway station and telegraph office being in Stoke Golding. There is a wall letter box that is emptied at 8:30pm but if you need to send a money order, you'd have to go to... That's right – Stoke Golding. If you are interested in looking at the directories in more detail, all 32 relating to Dadlington can be found at <https://dadlington-history.myfreesites.net>.

*Michael Dix*

## Fool on the Hill

Neither borrower nor lender be.....

By the time you read this I hope that you will be eagerly awaiting your booster dose of whichever of the 90 billion vials of vaccine the Government has acquired on our behalf. With any amount of good luck and the advent of a glorious spring, the plan is that the virus will be in full retreat. Well goodbye and good riddance. Only problem now is that there will be a discreet cough and someone will utter the immortal words, would sir like to settle his account?

I am lead to believe that our chancellor has had the begging bowl out and that we are now going to settle up with a colossal wad of borrowed money before he gets his abacus out and calculates what our individual contribution will be. This is not likely to make for pleasant reading. What I can't quite understand, however, is where on earth he is going to borrow this from. Our brothers across the pond are in the same boat as us, as well as all our European chums. The Russians are already eating coal and drinking potatoes so no chance of touching them for the odd trillion. South America is fine if you want a Latte or some white powder, but generally money was pretty scarce before all this kicked off so borrowing from them now is a definite non-starter. The only prospect I can see is the Chinese. Many believe that behind the smokescreen of State secrecy, the truth is that they owe more than everyone else put together. However, this week they have managed to put together enough Yuen to send one of their big fireworks to the moon to bring back some rubble. Given their recent track record, it is highly probable this Moon Rock will contain some deep frozen bacterium, lethal to human beings. This bacterium will remain harmless unless it comes into contact with a bowlful of sweet and sour Pangolin. So nothing to worry about there then.

It is rather curious that most of the developed nations seem intent on maintaining their space programmes despite governments around the world being in more debt than at any time in history. Perhaps behind this there is an ulterior motive and all these space probes are carrying a message to the outer reaches of the universe to see if anyone out there is in need of something on Earth that is surplus to requirements. Given all the ranygazoo going on about the climate at present could it be that we are seeking a Galactic market place where Carbon Dioxide enjoys the same sort of appeal as gold on Earth? What a coup that would be to eliminate Global Warming and solve the debt crisis at a single stroke. Interested parties should apply to the third rock from the Sun (Closed Wednesdays).

If it should be that next year's winter fuel payment is made in Venusian Zyglots, then remember you heard it here first.

**F.O.T.H**



## Our Dreams for the Villages in Twenty Years Time

I would love to see small areas of woodland for public use, possibly around the edges of the recreation ground, around the Bath Piece area or along one side of the road from the Bath Piece up to Dadlington. More renewable energy systems. More wild flower areas. Three churches and the village halls still in existence. The continuation of the lovely friendly atmosphere the villages have always had.

*Jill*

My hopes for the next 20 years would be a cycle lane up to the perimeter road and a continuing and enhanced bus service. You never know it might just happen!

*Jan*

I would like better pavements for walking along and slower traffic through the village would be brilliant. There would continue to be a least one thriving shop, pubs, a café and lots of benches to sit on and chat with people.

*Jane*

### Thomas Barton

The Charity of Thomas Barton was founded on 10th July 1400 and so celebrated its sixcentenary in millennium year.

He was a member of the Barton family of Lancaster who moved south in the 12 – 13th century. He owned houses and land in Hinckley and Stoke Golding.

He set up his Charity “on account of the many ways around the aforesaid Stoke ruined on account of default of payment.” He wanted to put right the neglected village roads. This benefited local trade and improved access to the market towns and his act of Christian faith enabled “the roads pavements and cawsys”, to be made up for one mile in each direction.

In 1992 the Trustees asked for a new charter to allow them to spend interest from investments for the general benefit of the people of Stoke Golding.

This order was granted and the most generous endowment of Thomas Barton still provides for the local community.

### Current trustees.. Chair Paul Spokes



Left to right: Steve Avent, Bernard Arnold, Alan White, Paul Spokes, Morris Bolton  
Seated: Ann Jones, Gillian Groom

## Our Welcoming Village

When we moved into our new home in March 2004 we had a welcome pack posted through our letterbox and amongst the interesting leaflets (which included the Blue Plaque trail) was The Stoker.

Apart from thinking that this was an incredible thoughtful way to welcome new residents (something that still happens) it had everything you needed to know about Stoke Golding with reports on local events, puzzles, adverts for local businesses and interesting articles about past residents and local history.

I didn't realise that there is an archive of past issues from 2010 which you can access at:

[www.stokegolding.co.uk/the-stoker/the-stoker-archive/](http://www.stokegolding.co.uk/the-stoker/the-stoker-archive/)

It was when I was looking at the February 2010 edition I realised I'd come across one that touched our family in many ways.

The front cover was a photo of a tree sculpture in willow that used to be at the entrance to Willow Park, which was created by our friend Tom Hare, who is a local visual artist (and Chelsea Gold medal winner).

Inside was an article on Harry 'Skip' Stonely who used to live in our house with his mother and was the village wheelwright and blacksmith at the forge next to the Methodist Hall. He also ran a club known as Skip's Hut in High Street where local boys played table tennis and billiards and learned to box in the tin hut behind it. We have had so many people who have stopped to chat about Skip and their wonderful memories of him when we have been out in our garden. This mainly includes the pot of stew that he always had hanging from a metal arm that hung over the wood fire. But here in the Stoker was more detail on Skip's life that we hadn't previously known.

Pictures of a flock of sheep being herded through the village brought back the memory of that frosty day when we couldn't believe our eyes as they trotted down Main Street past our house to High Street. You don't see that very often!

Sadly, further on in the issue was an obituary of our dear friend and neighbour Eric Quinney, who had lived with his sister Eileen and brother in law John in Laburnum Cottage when we moved in. The wonderful garden come allotment he tended was a joy to behold and he was rightly very proud of it.

But that's just one issue of the Stoker. It's a great record of our village life, the good and bad, the ups and downs. Run by volunteers for the last 20 years, delivered to your door if you subscribe. We are truly fortunate to have it!

Jan Zelenzcuk



# Dadlington Matters

## Ambion Court - Affects of the Pandemic

In the early days of the pandemic, hotels and guest houses weren't too heavily penalised as we were allowed to continue operating while other hospitality businesses had to close down. At first we could take all guests without restriction, then we were required to accept only those who had valid reasons to travel (such as for work or training), and finally we have had to



close down altogether along with most other small businesses. We have benefitted from some government grants to help cover basic operating costs as the buildings still need to be maintained, but we have to tighten our belts until we experience a solid recovery in our trade. In the meantime we have also been evaluating which items and services are essential and which can be dispensed with, either temporarily or permanently; for example, there is little point in renting a credit card machine when we have no customers.

In order to reduce the risk of contact between guests we have closed the main building and its public rooms. Fortunately our courtyard layout means that - when permitted - we can use our stable bedrooms, which all have individual accesses. This independence means that guests can check in, stay overnight and then depart without getting close to other guests or even us. For further safety, guests will find that disposable items have replaced china mugs, glass beakers and so on in their rooms - not as attractive but definitely safer. They can still enjoy a good quality breakfast too but only as a takeaway item, and this has proved to be very convenient and surprisingly popular. We won't allow cleaners to enter guest rooms while occupied nor for the three days after the guests have left; only after this 'fallow period' will we allow them to carry out a rigorous cleansing and disinfecting regime. This spacing of bookings means that we have had to reduce our capacity vastly but it is worth it if we can guarantee the safety of our customers and staff. But even without customers we have to keep the bedrooms and stocks fully maintained in

readiness for when we are given permission to open up again; fortunately our main stockists have remained open throughout the pandemic so we are not short of essential supplies.

Most of the small businesses like ours have taken a severe financial hit over the last twelve months and we don't know when any of us will be back in business. We look forward to that moment, of course, but are concerned about what impact the pandemic might be on the accommodation industry, particularly as many businesses have seen how much of their work can be conducted from home. So there might well be a reduction in business guest numbers, but we are confident that plenty of other customers will be booking accommodation with us when our social lives are restored to their normal levels.

*John Walliker*

## **Dadlington Village Hall Roadmap**

All of us on the Village Hall Committee are so looking forward to being able to open the hall again and recommence our community events. So, we have set out our own Roadmap. This will follow Government Guidelines at all times and so may be subject to change. But here is a heads up to how we hope it will pan out:

The hall will be open as a Polling Station for the local elections on May 6<sup>th</sup>. This is a special dispensation to allow for democratic voting to take place and HBBC guidelines will be followed by the polling clerks.

From May 17<sup>th</sup> (or later if the regulations change) the hall will be open for our regular class hirers. There will be a reduced limit to the number of people allowed in the hall for any class.

After June 21<sup>st</sup> (or later if the regulations change) the Thursday Coffee Club can start again. The actual opening date will be advertised in The Stoker nearer to the time.

The Film Club will start again in the autumn. Dates and films will also be shared in The Stoker nearer to the time.

Obviously, we will be asking all groups to follow stringent hygiene rules and Covid regulations for the foreseeable future.

Finally, there will be the return of the much-anticipated Famous Dadlington Quiz in the autumn. Again, watch this space for dates and details.

In the meantime, rest assured that we are doing all we can to put the village hall back at the heart of the community.

For any enquiries, please contact [dvhmc2015bookings@gmail.com](mailto:dvhmc2015bookings@gmail.com)

*Rachel Rees-Jones (DVHMC Secretary)*

## A few Notable events in Stoke Golding and Dadlington since 2016

### 2016:

- Picnic on Dadlington Green for Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday.
- Stoke Golding Cricket Club celebrates 85 years.
- Cub Scouts Centenary- 25 Stoke Golding Cubs attend Centenary camp at Kirby Mallory.
- 15 Scouts attended International Camp at Whatton Hall.
- Local author Beth Ellis has book signing at Dadlington Village Hall.

### 2017:

- Joy Hiron announced as Hinckley & Bosworth Sportsman of the Year.
- Stoke Golding Post Office closes after second robbery.
- Bell ringers from St Margaret's Church win Hinckley & District Bell Ringing Competition.
- Dadlington Village Hall reopens after extension completed.

### 2018:

- 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Methodist Church.
- Dadlington presents Screen on the Green.
- Stoke Golding Tree Warden appointed.
- Restoration of Stoke Golding village sign completed.
- Heritage signs erected on Marina bridge.
- Defibrillator for Dadlington.
- Dadlington takes part in WW1 Beacons of Light Ceremony.

### 2019:

- Ambion voices take part in UK choir festival in Manchester.
- St Martin's pupils take part in Big Sleep Out for charity.
- Stoke Golding U10's football team win League Cup.
- Stoke Golding Club 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- First Stoke Golding scarecrow festival.
- Dadlington Summer Ball.
- George & Dragon win CAMRA Country Pub of Year.

### 2020: PANDEMIC AND LOCKDOWNS HAVE A BIG IMPACT BUT OUR COMMUNITY SPIRIT SHINES THROUGH

- St. Martins donate protective gloves and glasses to NHS design and produced over 500 face shields for Key workers
- Rainbows begin to appear in front windows.
- Clap for Carers on Thursday evenings.



- 7 year old Emily does litter pick.
- 8 year old Mia has hair cut and donates to Little Princess Trust.
- Socially distanced VE Day celebrations.
- Knitted poppies found around Stoke Golding. Stoker cookery book published.
- Advent window displays in both villages.
- V.E. Day Celebrations

## 2020 V.E Day in our villages



## 2020 Thank You Rainbows for Key Workers





## Thank You for Your Suggestions for Stoke Golding and



- 2002: Opening of St Margaret's School Jubilee Garden.
- 2003: St Margaret's Big Hair Day
- 2004: Picnic in the Park.
- 2004: Scouts benefit from Crown Hill development.
- 2007: Save Our Skate Ramp.
- 2008: New Cemetery Opening.
- 2008: Mars City unveil plans for Convent site development.
- 2009: Denis Cash retires from the Stoker.
- 2012: Jubilee Celebrations.
- 2012: St Martin's plant apple trees.
- 2015: Reinterment of Richard III





## and Dadlington in Pictures over the Past Twenty Years



2016: StokeFest.  
2018: Scout wreaths  
commemorate 100  
since end of WW1.  
2018: Peace Tea



## A Selection of Photographs from the Past Five Years

Scarecrow festivals 2019 & 2020, Bob 'the postie' retires 2018, Liz before the Post Office closed, Joy wins British Open 2016, Picnic on Dadlington Green May 2016, John & Fionna Shilladay receive Service Awards 2017, World Book Day at St Margaret's 2017, Stoke Golding Under 10s win the league 2019, Pancake supper 2018, Cubs survive the mud at Charnwood 2019, Bronze Award for Beavers 2018, Kate wins first prize at the Garden Show 2018.









## Bob's Focus

Well, spring is coming and lots of things are happening, so much so that I'm going to struggle to keep things brief!

Firstly may I thank the villagers, who have donated bedding for the wildlife sanctuary, for their generosity. This

time of year sees a rapid rise in admissions due to young animals being found and some injured on our busy roads. All the bedding goes to good use and Geoff is very grateful.

Last year I wrote an article on North farm and the Shenton Estates, valuable contributions to conservation in our area. In a recent update, Stephen, the farm manager, expressed disappointment at a poor autumn and winter. Despite the fields being planted to sustain bird flocks over the winter period their numbers were low with nothing really interesting showing up. The frosts have also caught the early kale and have set it back.

Having said that he has had a flock of 150+ linnets and chaffinches and he flushed out a Jack Snipe, which was a special sighting, when mowing the millet.

I myself walked past North Farm last week and spotted a flock of finches whose numbers were so great that they were able to perform their own numeration before descending on the crop to have a snack.

The lapwings have returned to their breeding areas but as of yet no sightings of the curlews, although Stephen is disappointed stating "If you want to be a conservationist, you have to have a sense of humour". I think they are doing very well.

I had a call last week about a possibly injured badger asleep down the side of a garage in Hinckley Road. I woke him up to say "Hi" and he wasn't phased at all by my presence. We left him with some food and water with the intention that if he was still there in the morning I would very carefully crate him up and take him for a check up. I also left a camera to see what he got up to in the night. The next morning he had dug a hole under the fence and done a bunk, never even set the camera off! Think we can put this one down to a rogue badger that had been ousted from the set.

Reed Buntings are back along the Ashby canal, they seemed to have had a good year last year and hopefully their numbers will continue to rise.

The nature reserve in Wykin Lane has been coppiced and brush piles left to encourage small mammals, bugs and amphibians. These piles may also be used by Dunnock's, Wren's and Robin's and the odd Hog.



Speaking of Hogs I collected one this week for release and it is a heavy weight (Henry). Normally they stay a few days and disappear into the field at the back of our house, however the camera showed that Henry likes the hotel and spent most of his first night fetching more leaves and packing them into his sleeping quarters, looks like I'll have to build another hotel!

Finally, and I know I've gone over again Eds, Stoke Golding has enrolled in the wildflower

verge scheme which I am excited to be involved with, albeit so far I have only made some of the blue hearts and Tit boxes you will see in the trees by Pine Close. I hope the areas do well and we can all enjoy some patches of wild flowers right here in the village, thanks to all those involved in setting the scheme up for us.

*Colli Bob*



**Many congratulations** to all The Stoker Team on reaching your 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and 200<sup>th</sup> edition – it's a great achievement. You do a wonderful job of keeping people informed of everything that is going on in Stoke Golding

and Dadlington, as well as being entertaining and educational.

Thanks also to all the deliverers, some of whom have been with the team since 2001, going out in all weathers to ensure that residents have their copy of the magazine.

Keep up the good work and here's to the next 20 years.

Best wishes to you all,

*Ruth Fisher*



## **Bosworth Battlefield - Keeping Heritage ALIVE!**

We are amid an unprecedented global crisis which is affecting all our lives and livelihoods, as well as the social and cultural fabric of society. Within this, COVID-19 is impacting our movable, immovable and intangible cultural heritage and will continue to do so in the coming months.

In March 2020, faced with temporary closure, Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre turned towards generating new digital offers such as virtual event & exhibition content, children's learning & activity packs and new approaches to connecting digitally. This transformation allowed us to remain in contact with our patrons and we hope, if you follow us on social media, you have enjoyed keeping in touch.

Due to ongoing restrictions the 2020 Bosworth Medieval Festival was not able to happen physically. The cultural value of the Heritage centre is often renewed due to the cyclical nature of the flagship anniversary festival. This year the team rose to the challenge and seized the opportunity to re-imagine the event to allow our patrons to remember the Battle anniversary as always and offer an alternative to connect with the site. The digital transformation and new approach towards the festival meant that we were able to successfully run a full week of events through Facebook. We reached a global audience and managed to commemorate the Battle of Bosworth in a new format.

As restrictions eased in late summer, our Front of House team welcomed around 1,900 people back to the centre, utilising a new structured booking system to assist with site flows and with extensive work to manage risks allowing us to implement a COVID secure offer, which was very well received by our patrons.

Cultural events will play an important role in the mental and social recovery of many people after the pandemic is over. Heritage is a crucial instrument in bringing people together and strong community relationships are necessary to help heritage thrive. Going forward we are working to re-open again in a COVID secure manner, offering an event programme that provides patrons opportunities to re-engage with us. The events programme will cover regular children's activities, re-enactment weekends and theatre.

As a team, we are thankful for the communities of Stoke Golding and Dadlington for their continued support of local heritage. We look forward to welcoming you back inside the heritage centre when government guidelines allow, and it is safe to do so. In the meantime, the car park remains open and the Tithe Barn is offering a limited take away service.

We love engaging with you online and really love it when you share your photographs with us. Get in touch at: [bosworth@leics.gov.uk](mailto:bosworth@leics.gov.uk)

If you want to support us and be the first to know about our events programme and get the latest updates around re opening then you can follow us on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter.

*Katrina Shilladay*

### Scout Group - What haven't we been up to !!!

The Scouts have been making pancakes in their own kitchens and have worked really well in Teams for an escape room challenge where they had to crack codes to progress through the rooms and involved a lot of navigational skills.

The Cubs have been doing planning nights, they did a secret code breaking exercise and a truth or lie game as well. They have also made chocolate Easter egg cakes again at home.



The Beavers have completed their cooks activity badge. Apart from cooking a mud cake and a pizza they also learnt about hazards in the kitchen. The hazards were completely up to date with Covid 19 restrictions with keeping 2 metres apart and less people in the kitchen ! Their words . They also had a healthy eating quiz as well.

Rita and Rosie are now officially appointed as Beaver leaders, well done to them both.

All the sections including the leaders and parents have joined the " Mucky March" national Scout Association campaign to do

a litter pick wherever you are out for your daily exercise. The 1st Stoke Golding Scout Group have collected the most number of bags within the Hinckley District.

*Jennifer*



Cubs visit RAF Cosford 2017



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## Church Matters



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

"Do not be afraid"... these are the words said to Mary and the other women, by the angel on that first Easter morning. "Do not be afraid... He is not here; he is risen".

In many situations in life we know what lies ahead. Sometimes it is good, fun, joyful and life giving. Other

times we are filled with apprehension or even great dread or fear.

Fear is a thing that crosses our paths almost every day in all sorts of different circumstances: fear of the future, fear of failure, fear for our family or friends, fear about life choices or finances or health or even fear of other people.

This past year has been one of those years when perhaps we have experienced fear more than usual, in the form of sickness, suffering and loss.

I wonder how much Jesus feared the path that was ahead of **him**, as he faced the cruel, painful death on a cross. He knew what it was to be... and yet.... it was not the end. That utterly dreadful death led on to resurrection and new life.

In a world where there is still darkness and fear, Easter offers a glimpse, a vision, of what God intends for us and all people; that is hope in the risen Christ who loves us and who promises to walk beside us and to be with us through all the changing scenes of life.

The risen Light of the World offers comfort and hope into even our darkest places. At Easter we celebrate that it is on offer to us all!

May you have a happy and blessed Easter,

*Revd Linda*

### Services on Easter Day

There will be an online service at 9.30am on the 'Fenn Lanes Group of Churches' Facebook page.

Then at 10.30am, an outdoor service for Easter Day at St James' Dadlington and St Margaret's School Car Park in Stoke Golding (due to the renovation work at the church). Everyone is welcome.

## Church Matters

### Zion Baptist Chapel

Whilst Churches are allowed to open we have reluctantly taken the decision that we must stay at home and must heed the Prime Minister's pleas to stay at home. The Chapel will remain closed until the end of lockdown in order to protect the community.

### STOKE GOLDING METHODIST CHURCH

We are currently closed because of Covid but are hoping  
to reopen on :  
Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May  
at 10.30am  
We look forward to seeing you then.



## Obituary



### The Venerable Alan Norman Davis

The Venerable Alan Norman Davis, a valued member of the Ministry Team at St Margaret's and St James', died, aged 82, on Wednesday 3rd March 2021 at the George Eliot Hospital.

Born in 1938, he was brought up in Birmingham, and, after joining a church youth club run by the local vicar, his path to ordination as a priest was set.

Alan was ordained in 1965 and worked in Birmingham, Sheffield and Carlisle. He was made Archdeacon in 1996. He and his wife, Fran, retired to Atherstone in 2004, when he became involved in the five churches of the Fenn Lanes Group.

He was a much loved and respected priest – many will remember him conducting their wedding or child's christening, as well as supporting church events in our villages. He was a dear friend and colleague to me and he will be sadly missed.

He leaves a wife – Fran, three children and five grandchildren.

Alan's funeral service took place on 17<sup>th</sup> March at Witherley Church.

Donations in his memory may be sent to M G Evans & Sons, Holmville House, Long Street, Atherstone, Warwickshire, CV9 1AX.

Revd Linda Blay

## Stoke Golding WI The Atherstone Hatting Industry



We enjoyed our monthly meeting on Zoom in February. Our speaker was Eddie Smallwood talking about The Atherstone Hatting industry, and the living arrangements of the hatting families.

The hatting industry started in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, during the Tudor dynasty. Elizabeth I passed a law stating that all men had to wear a hat and Atherstone was supplying hats around the world, supplying anyone from slaves to nobility. There was, at one time, 12 different factories in Atherstone, and the last one closed in 1999.

Atherstone has a great legacy and its heritage is important in the hatting industry.

In order to achieve this status it required enormous hard work from its workers and the living conditions they endured were dreadful. Many of the workers lived in a total space of 58 square yards which contained 415 different houses with a total number of adults and children amounting to 1,840, of which 700 were children. In one yard alone there were 22 houses containing 84 adults and 39 children. This is three and a half times more crowded than the most overcrowded part of Birmingham. When work was slow, the workers would work in the local mines or quarry to make ends meet.

The wall around the Merivale estate from the main gate and along the road, was built by the women and children with stones quarried by the men.

Lots of commonly used words and phrases come from the industry, 'doff your cap', 'I take my hat off to you', 'a hat trick', 'black as your hat', 'cap in hand', 'at the drop of a hat', 'eat my hat'. 'Keep it under your hat' refers to archers keeping their arrows under their hat, to keep them dry.

*Lesley Gent*

*Our advertisers are adhering to current Government guidelines regarding COVID restrictions and if they are allowed to offer their services.*



## Dadlington Neighbourhood Plan Update

12 volunteers have been working to produce a village plan that should meet the needs of villagers up until 2039 in accord with HBBC planning.

A 30 page questionnaire went to all 117 households in the Dadlington Electoral Area. 97 replies were returned by 29th January 2021, a terrific response showing that villagers really care about the future of the village.

These have now been analysed and the views and suggestions, together with comments from stakeholders, will form the basis of a draft Pre-submission document. We are actively working on this key step in the NP process.

*John Whitehead*



### Removal of Trees

Approx ten years ago people visiting the cemetery were met with a sight of destruction. We had been told what was going to happen, but it was worse than most of us visualised. We were in the cemetery a few weeks later and were approached by two visitors from Atherstone (apparently visited Stoke yearly). They asked us, "Did they catch the vandals"? When we asked them what they meant, they said that all the graves had been vandalised. We pointed out it was all legally done, they were amazed. So that's how legalised vandalism came about.

Now ten years on vandalism on a larger scale has taken place. Seven beautiful conifers (not leylandii) have been sawn down, is it legal? Fifty years plus of nature has gone in a few hours. We are often being told to think of nature ,plant trees and now this.

Excuses given were that they were too big and encroaching on graves. One headstone partly covered. Now this lovely place has been opened up to all traffic noise, no privacy for visitors or funerals to take place. No thought for birds nesting and all other wildlife that enjoyed these lovely mature trees.

Over the last ten years most of the graves that were legally vandalised due to health and safety have been restored. There is no way that these lovely trees can be replaced. Yes they are being replaced, but how long before the new trees reach maturity and it's very doubtful if they will be the same species. Almost certainly not evergreen trees. The question remains why did these trees have to be cut down ?

If it was necessary to remove the trees ,why not remove three and leave four or remove four leaving three until the replacements had grown.

*David Rawlings*

## Ten of a Kind – March '21

As we are celebrating 20 years of The Stoker, here are ten questions about Stoke Golding and Dadlington for you to try.

1. Which Stoke Golding landmark was removed during World War II and put back after hostilities had ended?
2. In elections for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, what is the name of the ward that contains Stoke and Dadlington?
3. What was established in 1948 in Stoke Golding by a group of Dominicans?
4. Which creatures assemble in large numbers at the Bath Piece?
5. What industrial feature would you once have found on the north-east corner of Dadlington's green?
6. What was the name of the railway that ran through both parishes with a station in Stoke Golding?
7. In a game of pub cricket where you score runs for legs (e.g. The Green Man would have two legs so two runs), how many runs would the pubs of Dadlington and Stoke score?
8. Off which road in Stoke Golding would you find a Cold War nuclear bunker?
9. Where does Mole go at the end of the day, frequently to be joined by Badger?
10. Who did the parishioners of St James' church, Dadlington write to request permission to raise money for a chantry chapel to pray for the dead from the Battle of Bosworth?

*Answers on page 33*

### 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 **30th April 2021**.

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



## Kitchen Corner

### Chocolate Tart

#### INGREDIENTS

1 x 20cm./8 inch Pastry Flan case,  
(baked blind)  
115gm/4oz. Plain Chocolate  
25gm/1oz. Butter  
2 Eggs  
85gm/3ozs. Caster Sugar  
2tblsp. Plain Flour  
4tblsp. Double Cream  
Whipped Cream to decorate

#### METHOD

Heat oven to 180C/350F or Gas  
Mark 4.

Melt the chocolate with the butter  
over a gentle heat and leave to  
cool slightly. Meanwhile, whisk the  
eggs with the sugar until thick and

pale in colour. Gently stir in the  
chocolate mixture, followed by the  
sifted flour and then the double  
cream. Pour into the pastry case  
and bake for 30 minutes or until  
the filling is slightly set. (It should  
wobble slightly).

Leave to cool overnight, then  
decorate with whipped cream.  
It is always good to have chocolate  
at Easter time. This dessert is easy  
and ideal if you are busy as it is  
made the day before when you  
may have a little more time.

If anyone has any queries about  
any recipe, please contact the  
Stoker and I will do my best to  
answer them. Avis

## Unsung Heroes

Stoke Golding and Dadlington are both friendly, thriving villages, but why is that? It is because, working quietly in the background, we have a huge number of 'unsung heroes' helping to make our communities supportive and united. We know this is not a full list, but we would like to mention Alison Bates, who goes out of her way to collect bread and other perishable goods for the stall in Hinckley Road, Stephen Canessa and his team for organising litter picks, John & Fionna Shilladay and all the Scout Group helpers, Jackie Jones, for running the Facebook Community Page, Sally Halstead for running the Facebook 'War on Waste' Page, Leila Hind and Ruth Fisher for planting out all the village tubs, Steve Martin and all the 'Friends of the Community, Parish Councillors, coffee morning volunteers, the Stoker team and deliverers, The Baxter Hall Charity Committee, Church volunteers, Stoke Golding and Dadlington Village Hall volunteers, Sports Club volunteers, everyone who has helped their neighbours during lockdown, community events and activities volunteers ....

The list is endless and we would love you to send us details of your unsung heroes for a future issue of the Stoker.

## Staffroom Memories 28: Closing the School

After I'd retired, I couldn't wait for it to snow. I enjoyed nearly all the roles I had to play as a headteacher: motivator, visionary, arbitrator, judge and jury; but there was one job I hated - deciding whether we stayed open or closed when there was heavy snowfall. I was in a no-win situation whatever I decided. If we stayed open, I was putting the safety of the staff at risk: if we closed, I was causing considerable disruption to parents. My first ever management decision as deputy headteacher had been to close the school because of snow. Most of the children travelled on school buses that had to negotiate narrow untreated country roads, so it was a justified decision. It was just that by the time parents arrived to collect their children, a thaw had set in and there was a distinct absence of snow. I was always very reluctant to close, but if sufficient snow had fallen, I had to make a call. For some reason, there was no coordination between schools. I would decide to close and then torture myself by listening to Radio Leicester announcing all the schools around us were open. Or I'd decide we were opening, only to discover the neighbouring schools were closed. Often, I'd dither for a bit. I remember sitting in my car after failing to make any headway up Stockwell Head in Hinckley after three attempts, thinking, perhaps I might need to close the school after all.

I once closed my school for four days, but it wasn't snow that was the problem, it was rain. Or rather it was the recently installed roof's inability to keep the rain out. I suspect the architect who designed the building had other things on his or her mind when it came roof design because it clearly wasn't their best work which is why it needed replacing after just twenty years. My local authority building advisor, Navid, sorted out the tenders for the job and, after much consideration, chose the most incompetent, idle set of workmen you could wish for. A project that was to be completed over the summer holidays, overran to the following spring, and when it was finally finished, the roof leaked even more than its predecessor. Navid and I had regular meetings, with the contractors called back to plug the gaps, but the rain, it kept a-coming, discovering new points of entry as fast as they closed off the previous ones. I put in complaints about both the contractors and Navid and eventually the local authority's top building man came out to inspect the debacle. Unfortunately, he fell off the roof and injured himself so it wasn't an altogether successful visit.

After three years of water dripping into the buckets we had scattered across the school, there was a very heavy storm. This time, the rain came pouring in over the main fuse box for half the school. We gathered all the children in the hall and, before turning off all the electricity, I wrote a letter to parents informing them the school would be closed until the

local authority had sorted things out. At this point, the local authority sprang into action - four days later a whole host of repairs had been carried out and regular monitoring visits set up.

Apart from snow and rain, there were only two other occasions when I had to turn children away. The first was due to a gas leak and second was on the advice of the police. Overnight, they had discovered a body in the field next to the school and the whole area became a potential crime scene. At the local authority, the story doing the rounds was that our roofing problems had finally got to us and that the unidentified body was that of David!

**Michael Dix**



## Obituaries



### **Amanda Ward (Paddy)**

Amanda Ward (Paddy) of Stoke Golding, passed away peacefully on 3rd February, 2021, aged 85 years. Much loved mother to Stirling, Vernon and Jason, mother in law to Janine, Ann and Penny and grandmother to Philippa, Harry, Holly and Maisie. Donations in memory of Paddy to Hinckley Mencap, c/o G. Seller, Funeral Directors, Upper Bond Street, Hinckley.

### **Linda Smith**

Linda Smith, of Stoke Golding, known to many as Looby, passed away on 28th February, 2021, aged 70 years. Beloved wife of the late Julian and much loved sister to Brian and Sandra. Looby loved her cats and any donations in memory of Looby may be made to Leicester Animal Aid c/o G.Seller, Funeral Directors, Upper Bond Street, Hinckley.

*We offer our condolences to the family and friends of Amanda and Linda from all of the Stoker team.*

### **Answers to Ten of a Kind**

1. The spire of St Margaret's church, 2. Ambien Ward, 3. Blessed Martin in the Fields, a school for girls, now St Martin's Catholic Academy, 4. Water birds (as opposed to people feeding them or admiring the view) 5. A quarry, 6. The Nuneaton and Ashby Joint Railway, 7. 16 - Dog & Hedgehog (8), White Swan (2), George & Dragon (6) 8. Wykin Lane, 9. The Ashby Boat Company's base on Station Road, Stoke - Mole is a day trip boat, as is Badger, although the latter can be hired for longer periods, 10. Henry VIII - and he replied.





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## **CASAG - Vaccination Update**

We are getting many calls regarding people wanting to know when they will get their Covid vaccinations. Please be advised that we write to patients with the information and consent form just before we telephone to offer an appointment usually within 2 weeks of the letter. On average we vaccinated between 200-400 patients.

Another question is why is one person having the vaccine and not a person of the same age. We are working off a government generated search that identifies the people that they identify as needing to be vaccinated looking at historical data as well as more recent clinical factors, it is extremely complicated and not in our expertise to generate ourselves.

If patients haven't heard from us and get a letter from the government offering the mass vaccination clinic we suggest they accept it, but please don't ring us for information as we just don't have the capacity to answer all the calls and it blocks the phones for those urgently wanting help. To date 3,782 out of our 10,400 patients, 1/3, have had their 1st vaccination which is an incredibly large proportion in such a short space of time. Please be patient with us we are doing our very best. Thank you.

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