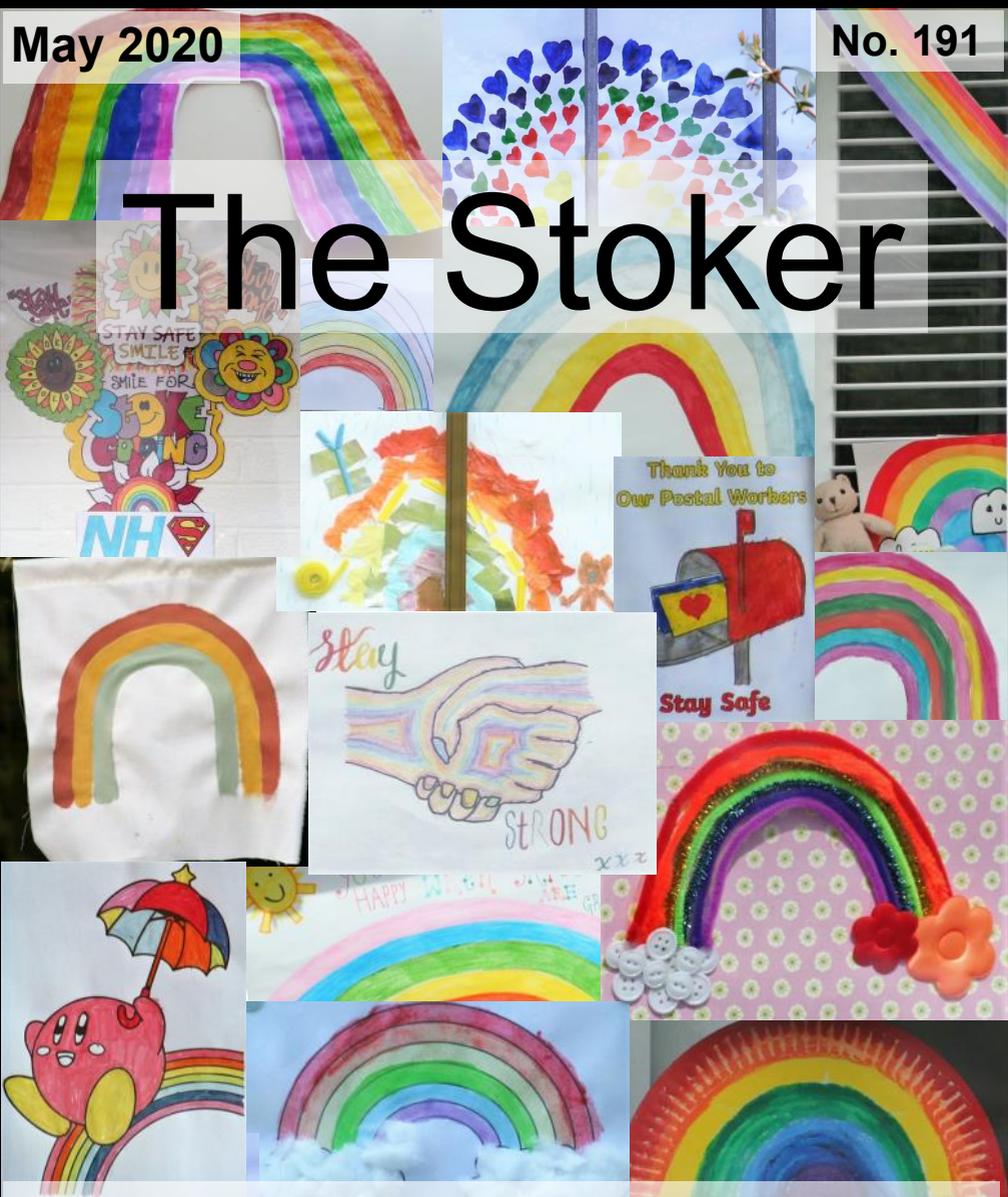


May 2020

No. 191

The Stoker



Stoke Golding Village Magazine

Including

Dadlington Matters



70p



Note from the Editors

Living in a friendly, caring community has never been so important in our lifetime. Some of us are 'shielding' due to health problems, some are in lockdown to protect our NHS, some of us are working from home as efficiently as possible (even while looking after young children) and some of us are key workers. We salute all our key workers,



whether you teach our children, keep our shops running, deliver our orders, empty our bins or do any other jobs that keep the country going. We are so grateful for our frontline NHS workers for putting their lives at risk everyday to keep us alive. The applause that has been echoing around Dadlington and Stoke Golding on Thursday nights shows how much we appreciate you all.

We have an army of volunteers helping to deliver medicines and shopping to our residents who are unable to get out. Congratulations on your Certificate of Recognition from Leicestershire Cares - see facing page.

Rainbows are decorating windows throughout our two villages and we hope you like our front cover - maybe you will find your rainbow there, or dotted around the magazine.

Stay Home, Stay Safe

Jane and Steve

The Stoker Team

Editors: Jane White (01455 212416), Steve Smithers (01455 213798)
Production Team: Rosemary Collier, Richard & Ella Orr,
Jan Pettyfer, Jill Webster, Jennifer Michie, Michael Dix, Jan Zelenczuk.

Please send articles for the **June** issue of The Stoker **by 15th May** 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: Rainbows from some Stoke Golding windows

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

Awarded to

STOKE GOLDING VILLAGE VOLUNTEERS

for outstanding contribution to the local community
during the coronavirus pandemic



Chief Executive, Leicestershire Cares



#TogetherWeCare

Councillor Jonathan Collett nominated the village for the Leicestershire Cares Certificate of Recognition. He said: "I am absolutely delighted with the amazing response we have seen across our community. Liam Grady has gathered a wonderful team in Stoke Golding who have leafletted every single household. Volunteers cover roads across the village. Every time I have asked for any help or for their assistance they have all been absolute stars. I was pleased to nominate them for rising to the occasion to help isolated and vulnerable people in Stoke Golding. All the Stoke Golding Village Volunteers thoroughly deserve their #TogetherWeCare award from Leicestershire Cares for their outstanding work."

Millie and her LEAPover Challenge



Here is Millie doing her Guide LEAPover challenge.

Leicestershire Girlguiding organised a LEAPover challenge to complete over the Easter weekend. One of the tasks was to sleep somewhere other than your own bed for a night! Her Guide unit, 12th Hinckley Methodist, also held a campfire over Zoom!

CASAG and Stoke Golding Surgery News

An update from the surgery is that there are new systems in place to keep the patients and staff safe.



Observe the signs and instructions which say :

1. Do not enter the surgery
2. The surgery no longer offers walk in appointments
3. Go home or ring the surgery from the car park to obtain access to the surgery.

- ◆ There are systems in place to have a telephone appointment by a GP and for prescription delivery as necessary.
- ◆ If asked to attend the surgery, please observe social distancing to protect you and the reception staff.
- ◆ CASAG meetings are cancelled. The health promotion for March was national eating disorder month. There will be no further health promotion posters for the next couple of months.
- ◆ However, to finish on a positive note , the staff have managed to put up a couple of the Cubs' spring pictures to inspire them.

The staff also want to say thank you to the patients for their words of kindness.

Doctor's Surgery Update

Patients will not be seen at Stoke Golding Surgery while lockdown restrictions are in place, although prescriptions can be collected. Telephone appointments can be organised and anyone needing to be seen by a doctor can go to the Hinckley surgery. This is to protect staff and patients.
(from Practice Manager at castle mead, Alison Ellis)

Home Heroes Wanted for 2.6 Challenge

The 2.6 challenge is calling all home heroes to help save the UK's charities. Set up by Britain's mass participation event organisers, the challenge aims to bring the nation together on April 26th which would have been the day of the London Marathon, but the date has been extended. The 2.6 challenge can be any activity you like from skipping 26 times to running 2.6 miles. The dogs at Leicester Animal Aid have been coming up with ideas for your four-legged friends including catching a ball 26 times and trying not to be tempted by 26 treats in temptation alley!

For more info and ideas visit twopointsixchallenge.co.uk and to donate go to Justgiving.com and search for the charity you'd like to support.

Jane Waters

The Great Escape

I'd always wanted to visit the Southern Hemisphere. When friends suggested that we join them on a two week holiday on the island of Mauritius, I was delighted. The 24 hours travelling would be worth it when we touched down on the tropical island, lapped by the warm waters of the Indian Ocean. And then the small matter of a global pandemic popped onto our radar. Whilst we were busy packing our shorts, t-shirts, and sun-cream, the odds of us actually getting away diminished and we spent the final few days before our departure bouncing between guarded optimism and resigned pessimism. However, with the latest Foreign Office advice saying we were safe to go, we set off. We had to pass through health checks on arrival, but everything else seemed normal.

We booked some trips and then, with cocktails in hand, we lounged around the pool and cheered our good fortune. However, things began to change on day three. First a catamaran trip was cancelled, then reinstated, then cancelled again. We did get to visit the botanic gardens but on our return, we discovered that Mauritius had had their first three cases. One of them was a Mauritian who'd returned from England where, "They've not done anything to stop it," the restaurant manager informed us. It felt like we were personally responsible! By now we were regularly scanning the news amid reports of airlines stopping some flights and we began to worry about our planned return.

When the manager informed us that the island had gone into lockdown and that the hotel would close at 10am on Sunday, concern turned to rising panic. No foreign nationals were being allowed to enter the island and Mauritians had three days to get back before the airport apparently shut down. By Friday morning we'd received first a letter from the hotel telling us we'd be moved to a sister hotel in two days time and then another one telling us we'd be staying put. We were also told we couldn't leave the hotel complex although with sand, sea and a continuous supply of food and drink, that wasn't too much of a hardship. But things began to become surreal. The hotel took on the appearance of the Marie Celeste as more and more guests moved out. No longer was there a struggle to find sun loungers by the pool: we had the place more or less to ourselves. The staff diminished in numbers as did the menu choices.

Finally we received word that we could fly out on the Sunday evening. The hour-long taxi ride to the airport was unnerving: the roads were deserted. As we neared the airport we watched three buses with police escort taking returning islanders off for two weeks in quarantine and then, after three police road blocks and a temperature check, we were through security, on the plane and heading home. Although the sight of England's green and pleasant land was reassuring, we were unsure what awaited us. Still, we'd had a few lovely relaxing days away, we'd escaped from the island and I'd been to the Southern Hemisphere.



Leicestershire County Council

Communities Fund



Leicestershire County Council has established a £1m fund to support the local voluntary and community sector, during the current Coronavirus pandemic.

Supporting communities has never been more important and we want to enable the sector to continue and step up its vital work.

Charities, constituted voluntary and community organisations and social enterprises can apply for a maximum of £25,000 for support with the following activities:

Support for core running costs - for organisations who have experienced a loss of income due to services closing or operating at a reduced level and where this may lead to the permanent closure of the organisation

Extra staffing - capacity required to meet existing/current or increased demand for services, to support vulnerable people during the crisis

Adapting services - the need to rapidly adapt current service delivery models to maintain contact with service users

Equipment - funding for essential ICT, safety (such as PPE) or other essential equipment

Transport - funding for use of vehicles, transport, fuel etc. to enable visits to service users

Expenses - funding for increased expenses costs such as reimbursing travel costs for staff/volunteers who need to visit service users, if it safe to do so, in their home or in other locations.

Other - anything else deemed acceptable in relation to the criteria for the fund

Groups can apply for a grant online, on www.leicestershirecommunities.org.uk/leicestershire-communities-fund.html

Members are invited to bring forward and promote ideas from voluntary and community groups in their local area. The Leader is keen to hear from elected members by email at leader@leics.gov.uk

Please note the funding can only be offered to voluntary and community sector organisations to help them to support vulnerable people in Leicestershire, due to the impacts of the current coronavirus pandemic. The maximum amount you can apply for is £25,000.



If you have any queries regarding the Leicestershire Communities Fund, please email: LeicestershireCommunities@leics.gov.uk

Fool on the Hill

Strange times.....

If, at Christmastime, you had experienced a degree of confusion between Marzipan and Tamazepam in the construction of your festive cake, then you will be waking up about now and wondering what sort of parallel world you now inhabit.

Everything looks pretty much the same. The trees are bursting forth as they should, birds are on the wing, but there is a strange quiet. It will dawn on you that traffic is much, much lighter. The skies do not resonate with the far away hum of jet engines and the distant clatter of a train is now seldom heard. This is a world at war with an invisible enemy about which we know little. The only effective weapon we have at this stage is to do everything that we can to avoid meeting it. This means that we must isolate ourselves from many whilst remaining in almost constant contact with a few. This is obviously not a good state for the human animal that thrives on herd gatherings whether with family, friends or sharing some activity with like-minded folk. However we are very adaptable creatures and we will adjust to a new reality. Already it has become almost instinctive behaviour to deviate our walking trajectories so as to maintain a safe distance from our fellow man. Actually when I think about that, I recall many occasions when people would cross the street to avoid contact but perhaps that's just me. The "just popping down to Morrisons" thing has now become a half day job as social distancing measures are observed. This involves a lot of queueing but it is a well irrefutable fact that the Brits are never happier than when forming a queue. Samuel Johnson once observed that the Englishman left alone will form an orderly queue of one.

How long does this go on? Nobody knows. The thing is though, to make some use of this time of inactivity so when we do come out of it, we might have some ideas on how to make our post Virus world a better place. Certainly we should all be better at picking up a phone and talking to someone who might be lonely. We should have learnt the value of food and what a crime it is to waste it. We should remember what a tranquil place our world seems when aircraft are not whizzing about on journeys of spurious worth which equally applies to cars and trains. We should all be grateful for the simple pleasure of being with family and friends.

Mostly though, we should appreciate the incredible worth of our army in this very different conflict. In this strange war our army is the people of the care professions, the NHS, the social care and nursing home providers, the charities and the volunteers. In future we need to live better, healthier lives so that this army is able to give the best of care to those who need it most.

Take care and stay safe.

F.O.T.H



The Battle of Bosworth - 2020 version by Eddie Smallwood

In view of the current crisis and previous incidents, here is my take on what Bosworth could have been like.

It is the summer of 1485 and Henry Tudor attacks England to secure the crown of England from Richard. However, he had not taken into account problems he would encounter.

1. Henry set sail from France in a small fleet of ships, but was intercepted by the UK border force who sent him back to France as an illegal migrant.
2. Having got permission to land in Wales, Henry was forced to quarantine his forces at Dale castle for seven days and all dogs brought with him were impounded for six months to ensure they did not have rabies.
3. All of the prisoners he had brought with him from the French jails were not allowed to fight at the battle because they didn't have a work permit and were required to wear a Home Office tag which meant they were not allowed to march at night.
4. All of the mercenaries he brought with him could only fight after they had registered with HM Inland revenue as self employed.
5. The arrows he brought with him were confiscated as a precaution due to the fact that as Goose feathers were used as fletchings they may have been exposed to the 'Bird Flu' virus.
6. All the arrows were checked by the environment agency to ensure the shafts of wood came from sustainable forestry sources.
7. As Henry marched towards Bosworth he was only allowed to march for 8 hours a day due to the working time directive which meant his troops were entitled to a meal break after four and a half hours marching
8. Every one in his army had to be issued with PPE which had to include helmet, steel toe cap boots and safety specs and the person leading the army had to wear a high visibility jacket.
9. English Archers were not allowed to shoot their arrows as they did not conform to standard lengths as used in Europe.
10. As RIII moved his army toward Henry, he was required to do a risk assessment regarding the dangers of being ran over by horses, injuries caused by weapons, as well as ensuring all his staff had access to water and protection from heat stroke.
11. As the armies approached each other, they were not allowed to tell people where they were or who was with them in case they breached the GDPR act.
12. As the armies formed up they were not allowed to get within two metres of each other (sorry six and a half feet) in case they passed the corona virus onto each other.

13. As the cannon balls contained lead, a warning had to be issued to all those firing them to sanitise their hands after handling.

14. All those killed in the battle could not be buried until at least two barber surgeons had signed the death certificate.

St. Martin's Academy School, step up to help the NHS

Report by Doreen Rose

I read on Facebook about St. Martin's Science department donating their supply of protective gloves and glasses to the NHS and it gave me an idea!

Having worked at St. Martin's, I knew they had the machinery and skills to produce Face Shields. I got in touch with my good friend Tony Del Busso who runs the Design Department and asked if he would consider having a go at producing Face Shields for the NHS to help protect them from Covid19. We hear on the news, everyday about the short supply of PPE and I thought this could be a very practical way to help.

When I spoke to Tony; he was excited, exclaiming that by coincidence he was just thinking the same thing! He began searching online, looking for an approved Pattern. The following day, Tony came back to me and said he had the information and materials to make about 50 Face Shields, plus the approval from St Martin's Principle, Mr C Wright, who was only too happy for us proceed and donate the face shields.

Well, Tony recruited a small team of volunteers in the form of Mr and Mrs Smallwood who both support the school from time to time. They rolled up their sleeves and soon managed to produce 50 Face Shields, with a view to produce more as soon as possible.



My small part now is to place them in the necessary areas of need such as hospitals, local care homes, doctors surgeries and any other sectors that require them.

Doreen Rose

Note: I will follow up this article and report again in the June Stoker

Captain Tom



Don't we just love a quiet hero?

This lovely man has captured the hearts of millions and succeeded in uniting us in a common endeavour.

At the time of writing £25 million has been raised in his name, and all because he decided to go for a walk. Not just any walk, but 100 laps of his garden before his 100th birthday.

It takes dozens of “celebrities”, hours of TV time and months of publicity for Comic or Sport Relief to raise that sort of money; but Tom Moore, a true gentleman, has done it his way.

His quiet determination has earned our collective respect. He's done that by showing his respect for the NHS staff who treated him when he needed them. He also demonstrates enormous respect for the rest of us. No histrionics, no flag waving or berating. He simply dons a collar and tie, smiles gently and says **“For all those finding it difficult: the sun will shine on you again and the clouds will go away”**.

Simon Rees-Jones

Cold Comfort Farm – an addendum

One of the great outcomes of having a local magazine is that sometimes local people add their knowledge to articles we print. This is the case today. Last month, we published an interesting item documenting Cold Comfort Farm, based in Stoke Golding. The piece started by explaining that the bestselling novel by Stella Gibbons (1931) took its name from this farm. The article suggested that Cold Comfort Farm exists no more. We have been informed that it does actually... apologies for that.

50 Ways to Sort out Your Hair!

A few weeks ago before lockdown and the unheard of (or should it be unprecedented?) decision that all of my department were going to work from home, a colleague started a discussion with the realisation that all the hairdressers were now shut. Now those amongst you who are not naturally blessed with silken blonde tresses or auburn locks will appreciate that her dilemma was a serious one because her natural colour, grey in this case, was starting to show and it wasn't the look she wanted to go for!

This led to a discussion about the various ways that the grey could be covered up. Scarves of various styles and sizes were considered and thought to be stylish on some people, but not everyone, and potentially more of a nuisance. As a group we thought we were too old for hair bands or baseball caps (possibly we were being a bit ageist on ourselves). Hats would be an obvious solution but again not always a comfortable one.

Now we are into our fourth week of staying at home and suddenly, it seems, male and female alike are coming up with interesting ways of tackling the hairdressing issue, Men are shaving their heads (don't forget the sunscreen chaps in this sunny weather!) growing their hair long back to that look they had in their youth (well nearly, the colour might be different now) or in some cases growing bushy beards to complete their new look. You Tube is being scoured for tutorials on how to cut fringes and do light trims with the outcomes ranging from not bad to don't worry it'll grow out soon.

Teenagers free from the burden of school conformity are dying their hair bright blue, pink, red, well anything they can get away with really! I, like many others, have decide to give up and let my hair grow out to my natural colour and now I see my lovely mum looking back at me in the mirror.

You might ask what happened to my colleague and her grey roots. She took a bold decision - she bought a pack of hair dye and presented it to her husband. On her birthday, he very nervously dyed her hair for her and she was thrilled with the results, although judging by the photos he found it a terrifying experience!

All I can say is that we will welcome our local hairdressers back with open arms, we need you more than we realised!

Jan Zelenczuk

Good News - Services Resuming

We are reliably informed that the Mango Tree is now open for takeaways and the George & Dragon has an off-licence operating everyday from 1-5pm.

Dadlington Matters

Our Virtual Village

About this time of the month, my fellow stringers (that's the word to describe people who write articles about their village - amazing what words you learn when you're wife's an ex-Leicester Mercury sub-editor) begin submitting their copy (there's another one.) Unfortunately, as Britain has gone into lock-down, there is little local news to report on, so I thought I'd see what might have happened in the virtual world of Stoke Golding and Dadlington.

Wine Tasting Evening at Dadlington Village Hall

The evening was greatly appreciated by all those who attended. John and Jill Whitehead had prepared a variety of wines for the assembled tasters to sample, beginning with a perky little Blue Nun. The wines came from right across the globe and ranged from red to white. The pièce de résistance was a rather fetching 1992 Screaming Eagle Cabernet which went down rather nicely. It was unfortunate that the evening descended into chaos when the audience discovered they were only getting miniscule samples, resulting in a raid on the Village Hall stocks and many complaints from the neighbours about the drunken revels that ensued.

StokeFest Update

Tickets for the July event sold out within minutes after it was announced that Adele would be the headline act this summer. The organisers would like to point out that Adele will sadly not be singing. She will however be taking some yoga classes, so plenty to look forward to.

The Famous Dadlington Quiz Evening

Now into its 75th year, the quiz was once again a sell out and attendees not only sampled some of the best quiz questions around but also enjoyed a slap up tasting menu of 20 dishes. It wasn't all plain sailing for the beleaguered quiz-master after several challenges from local farmers during the round on British pig varieties. The evening was slightly marred by the disqualification of the winning team whose 100% score aroused suspicion. They were duly dumped from the rankings when a live video feed was discovered. We won't mention the name of the team - you know who you are.

Cubs and Scouts

The Cubs and Scouts went on their annual hike, this year choosing the foothills of the Himalayas as a bit of a break from the norm. Thanks to all the mums and dads who've been saving up the tin foil for the trip. The leaders are sure the children will be grateful for the added insulation as temperatures drop at high altitude.

Imagination supplied by Michael Dix

Battlefield Journeys 1

We were heading down the M5, en route to a short break in the Cotswolds, when the desire for a coffee became a desperate need and, forgoing the delights of the wonderful Gloucester Services, I pulled off on the slip road to Tewksbury to find a suitable cafe. It was at the moment that a seed of an idea entered my head and by the time my wife Sue and I had parked up, it had become my next project. Regular readers will know that I like collecting places: Eleanor Crosses, Edward I's Welsh castles, that sort of thing. Tewksbury was the scene in 1471 of a decisive battle in the Wars of the Roses, a 32 year long civil war, albeit with only about 13 weeks worth of maneuvering and fighting, that saw a succession of kings take and lose control of Medieval England. As a new recruit at Bosworth Battlefield, the thought of visiting the other battlefields of suddenly became a thing I had to do so our first stop was at a tourist information shop to collect a map showing a battle trail - I was off on another quest.

Before coffee we visited Tewksbury Abbey, somewhere I had been to when collecting cathedrals, not that it ever was one. It was here that some of the defeated Lancastrians sought sanctuary after the battle before being turned out by the victorious Yorkist King, Edward IV, the leaders being strung up in the Main Street, an occupational hazard for anyone of noble birth who ended up on the losing side. The main street was also the location of the cosy cafe that Sue sought refuge in whilst I braved the icy winds to explore the battlefield. And here I encountered what was to be a perennial problem: unlike visiting castles or cathedrals, on a 500 year old battlefield there is absolutely nothing to see. To be honest, at most of the places I was to visit, historians weren't even sure where the action happened. Even with today's 24 hour news coverage of warfare, conflicting reports arise. Medieval historians have to contend with accounts written well after the event by people who weren't there at the time. No matter, I followed a footpath across a field and tried to imagine the poor exhausted Lancastrian troops, desperately trying to cross the River Severn to meet up with reinforcements in Wales, yet denied a crossing at Gloucester as the city closed its gates to them.

I have to admit that I didn't fully complete the map's suggested round tour due to the bitter weather and the thought of a warm cafe waiting for me. On our return to Dadlington, I informed one of the other Bosworth guides what I was going to do and he was highly amused at the thought of me rowing out into the English Channel to visit the site of the Battle of Sandwich. Now that would be silly, and anyway, I'd been to Sandwich when 'collecting' the Cinq Ports. I also wouldn't be making a trip to the Battle of Mansfield, location totally unknown, or the Northumbrian castles of Alnwick, Dunstanburgh and Bamburgh which I'd already visited. That still left quite a few to go and I began planning a visit to St Albans where it had all kicked off in 1461

Michael Dix

Stoke Golding 'Virtual' Scout Group

When Boris Johnson announced an advisory restriction on activity, on Monday, 16th March 2020, we were at Cubs. So, finishing off our Mothers' Day activities was the last formal meeting for the Scout Group. However, as Fionna Shilladay explains, there are more creative and ingenious ways of delivering the programme.

Be prepared- we certainly weren't.



From putting the 'OUT' into Scouting, we had 12 hours notice to start finding the 'IN'! Deciding to modify the existing programme, we hastily recruited 90 additional potential leaders (aka parents).

So far the Beavers have iced biscuits, made obstacle courses and designed adventure parks.

Cubs have designed, made and played their own musical instrument. They have videoed the results, which will be put together to form an orchestra. They have completed the great egg challenge and the broken eggs

have been attributed to the adults.

Scouts and Explorers have finished off their Navigation badge by completing a 5km walk using both traditional and modern technology. Using What3Words and 8 point grid references, they can now pinpoint exactly where they are on the planet. They have entered our annual cooking competition and the results appear to be of a higher standard than normal, and the washing up was done without the normal mayhem! This week they are undertaking an engineering challenge: they need to build a vehicle powered by an elastic band capable of carrying an egg. The race will take place when we return to normal Scouts.



We have joined in with an international Jamboree online, as well as joining in discussions we were able to play minecraft with Scouts all over the world. We were challenged to a 'Neckieflip' – much fun was had all.

We have two camps in the planning, both in a bedroom near you. One is county camp, with numbers larger than Charnwood (and hopefully a lot less mud...). The other will be a national Jamboree with a record breaking attempt.

Well done to all the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers for embracing the new programme and a huge thank you to our 'new leaders' who have delivered the programme and hopefully have enjoyed it as well.

Jennifer and Fionna

Bella's Rainbows

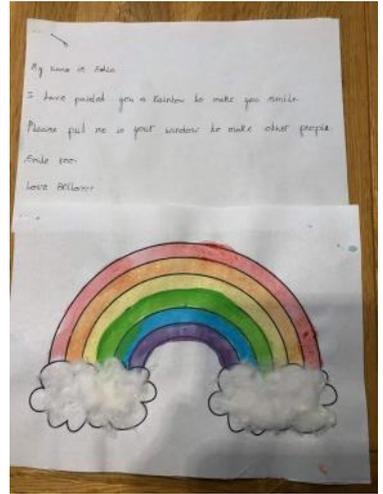
Seven year old Bella, from Stoke Golding, has been spreading happiness to residents by painting and delivering her rainbows. She still has more rainbows ready to deliver so please get in touch with the Stoker if you would like one for your window. Bella's handwritten note reads:

My name is Bella

I have painted you a rainbow to make you smile.

Please put me on your window to make other people smile too.

Love Bella xxx



Well done Bella, we think you have made a lot of people smile by your kind gesture.



Keeping Busy in Lockdown

Nicky Jones has sent us photos of a few of her clever crafts. She makes something nearly every afternoon to keep occupied while on lockdown.

Included are a couple of photos of bears which Nicky made to put in the window for children to find on their bear hunts.



We would love more photos from you, our readers, showing what you have been doing.

Thank You Beth



Last month Beth penned her final 'Beth's Corner' for the Stoker, after more than eight years and numerous interviews with local 'celebrities'. It was fitting that her final 'victim' was Jan Zelenczuk who has just joined the Stoker Production Team.

Beth has been a real asset and added human interest to our local magazine, always managing to find an engaging angle by putting her interviewees at ease and teasing out information in her indomitable fashion. She has also written a number of 'Stage Whispers' telling us fascinating stories of her life as a professional actress.

For those of you who don't know Beth, we are sure she won't mind us telling you that she is now in her nineties and not enjoying good health and so has decided to finish writing for us.

Thank you Beth, for all you have done and for keeping us in touch with people in our community. We will miss you on our team.

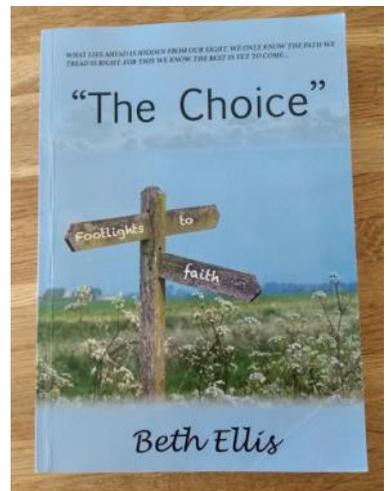


A few of the many faces of Beth

Left: Launching her book 'The Choice', Footlights to Faith, published in 2016

Middle: Pantomime princess.

Right: Receiving a signed copy of the book "Tutor to the Tsarovich" from George Gibbes.



Read, Learn, Relax and Breathe... Library Services are Still Available!

I'm sure the bibliophiles amongst you are missing your regular library fix. I work for Warwickshire Libraries, currently from home as all our buildings are closed. However, Warwickshire Libraries are offering a wide range of **FREE** digital services to those with online access and a Warwickshire library card.

If you don't have a Warwickshire library card, FEAR NOT, you can still join online as membership is always open to those who live in neighbouring Counties. The gateway to all the online services on offer is www.warwickshire.gov.uk/libraries

Here you will find a 'Join your library' option so you can join online NOW. Your library card number will be emailed to you within a few days and your physical card will follow in the post once libraries re-open. You will also be informed of your PIN number which you will need to access a variety of resources including our e-book and e-audio service BorrowBox which offers titles for all ages.

From the options available, choose our e-book & e-audio service, BorrowBox; our e-magazine & e-newspaper services PressReader & RBDigital and don't miss our 'Information & Learning' option; there's lots of resources to choose from here so take a look & simply explore.

This page links to 2 new pages offering free access to resources from a wide range of organisations just for a limited period. Try '*Home Learning*' to help meet the challenges of home schooling with links to sites offering ideas on a wide range of subjects for all year groups. Then there's *#Libraries from Home Plus* currently offering free access to BBC History Extra; Medici TV classical music videos, Crafts Magazine, Bloomsbury Digital Reference covering a range of humanity & social science subjects; Project Muse for scholarly books & journal and UP Teaching & Learning English. Stop press: just added is uLibrary, a collection of 500 e-audio titles from Ulverscroft who publish many titles which appear in library Large Print collections.

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If you usually use Hinckley library, Leicestershire Libraries are offering similar e-reading access through BorrowBox & also Reference services, explore their website here: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries>

You can join online here: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries/join-the-library> and if you're thinking of researching your family tree they are offering access to Ancestry Library Edition from home free to Leicestershire library members, check it out here: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries/reference-library/local-and-family-history> There's also a facebook page to keep you up to date: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/yourlibrary/about/?tab=overview>

For anyone who currently has library books at home from any of our local library services; please hang on to them & keep them safe. All loans have been extended until early July and no fines will be charged for any items due back during the lockdown period.

Happy reading, Gill Robinson

Redmoor Academy - Message from the Principal

Welcome to our latest update from Redmoor Academy. I am sitting writing this in my garden during these unprecedented and worrying times for all and would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our community the very best - please stay safe and look after each other. I hope that by the time this is published, we are starting to see the green shoots of recovery in all aspects of life.

Redmoor Academy continues to operate for students of key workers and other student groups etc but on a very skeleton staff consisting of our leadership team. This protects our students and our staff as best we can. We have systems in place to maintain social distancing guidelines for those in school, they can access necessary facilities and also allow them to have some fun! This has included a lengthy debate on the best lockdown haircut for myself!!

However, our responsibilities do not simply end with the students who need to be in school. We are working hard to communicate regularly with all of our students, families and staff to ensure they remain well and kept updated. Our Year 11 students especially, like every student in this year group nationally, were devastated by the announcement to cancel exams and this remains a period of uncertainty for them. Our Year 11 students remain a priority focus for us; ensuring they are not disadvantaged in their exam results by the current situation, can prepare for life in Post 16 education, employment or training. This is in addition to also providing high quality and accessible work for all other students to complete at home and ensuring the well being of all our students and staff. We want our students, families and staff to continue to feel part of our Redmoor family and are sharing pictures of what our staff team are upto whilst at home - this includes a great deal of DIY, exercise and baking!



We have also been trying to support the local effort to combat Covid-19 and have donated protective equipment to both Leicester Royal Infirmary and Castle Mead Hospitals and also mini-whiteboards to the LRI to aid communication for intensive care staff in protective clothing.



As we move into the summer term, our thoughts will turn more to the future and those activities that are essential to the running of a school that still need to happen, albeit in very different ways. This includes the transition of students into Year 6 from our Primary Schools, setting up the timetable for 2020-21 and ensuring our plans to improve what we offer are in place. This year however, we will be making sure that when we are able to re-open, we have plans in place to be able to look after our students and staff and help

them all readjust to returning to full time education. We know this will not be easy but will be essential and return to school arrangements may look very different to normal.

I would like to finish by thanking my entire staff who have been outstanding during this period and have shown that our values of compassion, care and equality that run through our school every day are also present during the most challenging of circumstances. When schools reopen I anticipate that these values will become far more important to all schools, to Government, to Ofsted and to everyone. And that can only be a good thing.

Please take care of yourselves and your families.

Matt Nicolle

Ten of a Kind

The Mayflower was the English ship that transported the pilgrims to America in 1620. Here are ten ship questions to sail through.

1. The Carpathia was a ship that rescued a number of survivors after a disaster that happened on 15th April 1912. What was the disaster?
2. Who or what is a 'Ship of the Desert'?
3. Which of Gilbert and Sullivan's operetta features a ship in its title?
4. Who circumnavigated the world single handed in 1967 in the ketch Gypsy Moth IV?
5. Who wrote 'Three Men in a Boat'?
6. Which side of a ship is the starboard side?
7. The world's first nuclear powered aircraft carrier shares its name with a fictional 'ship' seen on television and film. What is it called?
8. Who sang about the sloop John B?
9. Which organisation has had three ships called Rainbow Warrior?
10. What kind of ships are Britannia, Symphony of the Seas and Majestic Princess?

Answers on page 21



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

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Church Matters

From St Margaret's Church



“Jesus’ disciples were huddled together behind locked doors.” This was the scene pictured in John’s gospel following the Resurrection of Jesus, and I couldn’t help but compare it to the situation we find ourselves in at the moment. They weren’t social distancing themselves, but they were locked in because of anxiety and fear. Two emotions which I’m sure many of us are familiar with.

Despite knowing that the tomb was empty and that Mary Magdalene had told them she had seen the risen Lord, the disciples’ first reaction was to lock themselves away in fear.

But in the midst of their fear, Jesus appeared to them. Nothing – not locked doors, not even fear itself, could keep Jesus away.

“Peace be with you” said Jesus.

We all have our locked in moments - locked in to help stop the spread of disease; locked in as the disciples were, through fear, grief, loss, circumstances; locked in through illness, overshadowed by death – everything that robs us of life and hope.

But God in his infinite mercy and grace comes to meet us. For him no door is shut, no entrance is barred. And he comes - not barging his way into our lives, not riding roughshod over our struggles, not castigating us for our lack of faith. Jesus appears to us gently, and speaks words of peace and stillness. In the midst of our doubts and struggles he comes. He knows what wounds and pains we bear – his body bears those scars too.

There is no area of our life that is too remote, no challenge we face that is too difficult, for the peace of Christ to penetrate, enlighten, and redeem.

Our Risen Saviour is God’s loving light, shining through our darkness and into our hearts.

This is the gift of peace Jesus breathes on us today.

Wishing you all God’s blessings

Linda

Life in Lockdown Photos



Gymnastics practice and a Scout's cooking challenge



Answers to 10 of a Kind

1. Sinking of the Titanic
2. A camel
3. HMS Pinafore
4. Sir Francis Chichester
5. Jerome K Jerome
6. The right hand side
7. USS Enterprise
8. The Beach Boys
9. Greenpeace
10. Cruise ships



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Kitchen Corner

Bakewell Tart

This recipe makes 1 large Tart or a dozen or so small ones. If making the small tartlets, you do not need to bake the pastry 'blind'.

INGREDIENTS

*1 Baked Flan Case of Shortcrust Pastry
2ozs. (50gms.) Soft Margarine
6ozs. (175gms.) Ground Almonds
4ozs. (100gms.) Caster Sugar
3 Eggs
1tsp. Almond Essence
Raspberry or Cherry Jam
1tblsp. Flaked Almonds*

METHOD

Pre-heat the oven to 200C/400F or Gas Mark 6.

Put the margarine, sugar, almonds, almond essence and beaten eggs into a large bowl and mix until smooth, alternatively put into a food processor and 'whiz'.

Warm the jam in a small saucepan until 'runny'. Spread the jam over the base of the baked flan case and top with the almond filling. Spread evenly. Sprinkle the flaked almonds on top. Bake in the oven for 30 minutes.

This can be eaten hot or cold. The small Bakewell Tartlets are ideal for afternoon tea and should be baked for 20 minutes.

Avis

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, Works. CV13 6HB by **Sunday 17th May 2020**

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

Obituaries

Margaret Hazel Spence

Margaret, formerly of Stoke Golding, passed away peacefully on 20th March 2020, aged 89 years. Beloved wife of John and loving mother of Gary and Kim. The funeral took place at the Nuneaton Crematorium. Donations may be made to Alzheimer's Research via Co-operative Funeralcare, Lower Bond Street, Hinckley - 01455 233974.

Hubert Leslie 'Les' Bailey, formerly of Stoke Golding, passed away peacefully at home on 17th March 2020, aged 87 years. Beloved husband of Elizabeth. Loving dad of Deborah and Rachel and much-loved grandad to Jason, Josh, Gemma and James. Donations may be made to Age UK via A.J.Murray, Lower Bond Street, Hinckley - 01455 233974

Patrick O'Brien

Patrick, of Stoke Golding, sadly passed away on 16th March, 2020 aged 81 years. Beloved husband of Sandra. Loving dad to Sarah and James and beloved grandad to George and Phyllis.

Ivan Haines

Ivan, of Dadlington and Stoke Golding, sadly passed away on 11th April, 2020, aged 76 years. Beloved husband of Jennifer. Loving dad to Judith and Sally and grandad to Sean and Greig.

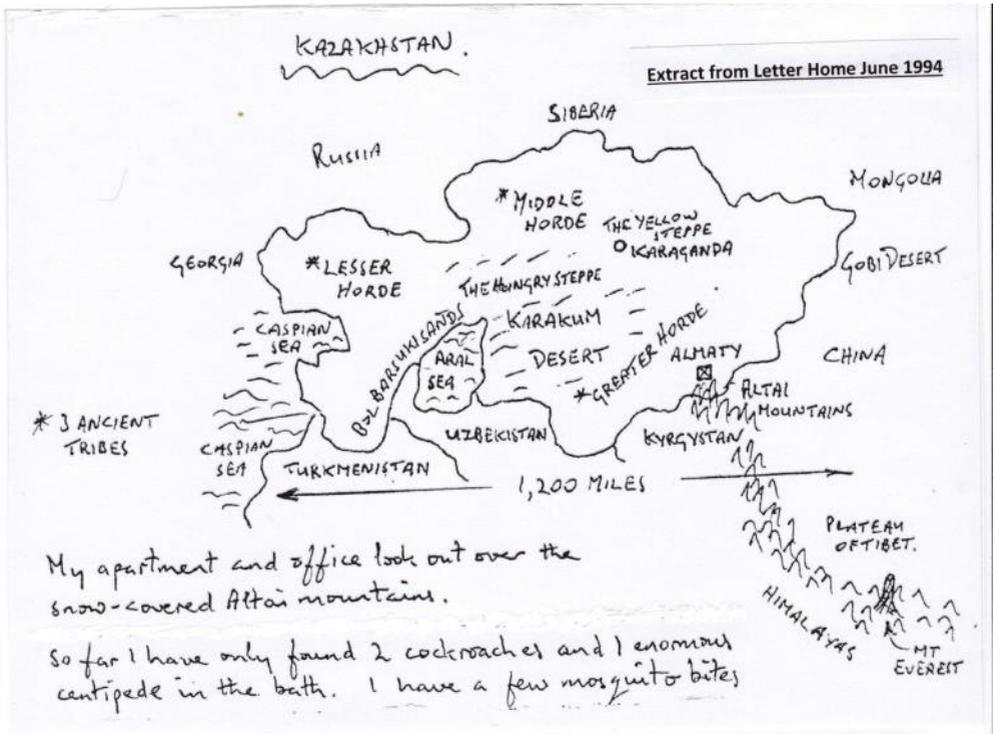
We send our sincere condolences to family and friends of the above.



Holly Tree Works

Station Road resident, Anne Lawson contacted us after reading the Parish Council minutes in the March Stoker. She was confused that the minutes stated their application to carry out a crown reduction and reshaping of their holly tree was under the heading 'declined to make' when, in fact, the work has already been carried out by a qualified tree surgeon following permission from HBBC.

Memories of Kazakhstan - Part 1



When, in 1994, I was asked if I was interested in working on a project in Kazakhstan, my first reaction was to consult a map of the world to find out where it was! I was surprised to discover that it was an enormous country, five times the size of France and the largest republic of the former Soviet Union after Russia itself.

Of the population of 17 million ethnic Kazakhs made up less than 50%, about a third was Russian and the remainder a mix of Uzbeks, Tartars, Uygurs and others. Sheep and horses outnumbered people many times over.

The project was funded by an EU programme, designed to provide technical assistance to the independent states of the former Soviet Union, the object being to help them to develop effectively functioning market economies. After giving the matter much thought I accepted the offer and for the next eight years found myself working in Kazakhstan, Russia and the Baltic States.

Kazakhstan, for the greater part, is a land of barren stone, salt and sand desert, rich in minerals of many kinds, and of endless steppe, stretching like a tamarisk-flecked grey ocean from the Gobi Desert to the Caspian Sea and from the Great Siberian Plain to the Altai mountain range. It also has highly fertile valleys, fed by fresh-water rivers, streams and lakes, run-offs from the Altai and Tien Shan ranges.

I was fortunate to occupy a newly renovated top floor apartment on the southern edge of the capital city, then Almaty, to which I returned every evening to a typical Kazakh meal prepared by my highly efficient housekeeper and cook. Often during the night I was woken by the distant thunder and jagged lightning rolling along the peaks of the Tien Shan.

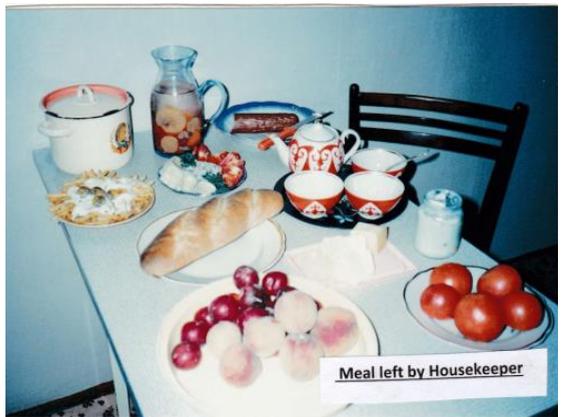
Three times a week, a courier from the British Embassy called at our office and asked if we had “anything for the diplomatic bag?” ensuring our business and domestic mail arrived safely and very quickly. A map I drew, together with a few notes, was enclosed with my first letter home, an extract from which is shown.

While eastern and western civilisations progressed through the bronze and iron ages, the steppes of Central Asia remained a mysterious isolated world of barbarian horse-nomads. They had no use for writing, trade or commerce; did not cultivate the soil because the steppe could not be broken and didn't build houses because houses couldn't be moved! They did, however, acquire a skill which was to change their destiny and wreak havoc on the civilised world. They learnt to use a bow and arrow from the saddle.

In the early 13th century, under the leadership of the Mongol outcast Genghis Khan, (Kazakh pronunciation “the Haan”) whom legend has it was born clutching a clot of blood in his hand, the steppe-dwelling “hordes” established, in only twenty-one years, an empire stretching 4,000 miles from the Pacific Ocean to the Volga. After his death the Khan's son Batu, leader of the Golden Horde, continued the relentless drive westward, destroying the armed forces of Poland, Hungary, Brandenburg, Saxony, Silesia, Bohemia and over-running Middle Europe.

A second army led by Orda, the grandson of the Khan, settled in the area now known as Kazakhstan and it is from this, the White Horde, that the Kazakhs are descended.

By the 17th century three distinct hordes had evolved, the Middle Horde in the north, the Great Horde in the South and the Lesser Horde in the west, around the Caspian Sea. At about this time the Romanov Tzars began to expand their empire south and eastward and by the mid-19th century the three Hordes had been suppressed. Kazakhstan was firmly under Russian rule and did not regain its independence until 1991.



To be continued

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More Life in Lockdown Photos



What a colourful window - it made us smile.

