

May 2021

No. 201

The Stoker



Stoke Golding Village Magazine

Including

Dadlington Matters

70p



Note from the Editors

Welcome to the May edition of the Stoker.

At last, it feels like we are properly emerging from the cold winter and also with *fingers crossed and social distancing rules observed*, coming out from the long months of lockdown.

With our village schools, hairdressers and pubs re-opening and the sun shining (at the time of writing anyway!), life feels like it is once again beginning to flourish.

The pandemic has left no-one untouched. Some in our two villages have endured losses; a few sadly losing family members, others struggling with finances and/or loneliness. We are once again touched by the community spirit that has been a constant in our villages, with more charitable initiatives documented this month – and these are only a small selection of what has been happening. Long may this continue...

Please do let us know of any contributions you are aware of, by sending us more articles and photographs.

Stay safe, Jane and Steve

The Stoker Team

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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: Ethan raising money for charity.



Baby Congratulations



Ella Isabelle Smith, from Crown Hill Close, was born on 15/03/21 at 11.58 weighing 8 pounds. Isaac is a very proud big brother.

Easter Doors and Windows

Well done for all the lovely Easter decorations we have enjoyed in our villages during March and April.



Ethan Makes Cakes for Charity



Six year old Ethan, from Hinckley Road, has raised an amazing £62 by making and selling cup cakes, cornflake cakes and sweets. This will go to help the World Land Trust - an international charity that protects the world's most biologically significant and threatened habitats. He says a big thank you to everyone who supported him.

Well done Ethan - Eds

Sunflower Seeds Bring Joy

James and Harry, from Station Road, have planted their sunflower seeds in their greenhouse after being excited to receive them.

Thank you to the Fenn Lane churches for organising this little treat for everyone. It will be interesting to hear and see how strong and tall everyone's sunflower grows in future editions - please send us your photos.

Eds



St Margarets - Church Restoration, Update Blog 2



The keen eyed amongst you may have noticed that some scaffolding went up last week at the foot of the St Margaret's spire to the side of the entrance.....after a few weeks of frustrating delays the restoration works are finally underway.

In the last week the builders have set about pulling up the wooden floor along the South Aisle and also lifting the pews

that lined the North Aisle/Nave. The South Aisle floor proving particularly unstable with dry rot throughout, although more recent restorations to the floor in the North Aisle (30 or so years ago) do appear to have held up quite well. As expected lifting the floors has revealed compacted dirt no modern foundations and concrete in the 13th century when the Church was first built!!

Lifting the floor throughout the church will allow the new underfloor heating system to be installed. A considerable part of this will be the lifting of the central section of large pews. The pews date back to 1834 and are a bit of a 'muddle' construction wise being of differing sized panels and little evidence of carpentry joints. Current thinking is that they are probably screwed together or maybe even glued in places and there are worries that parts of the pews may split as they are lifted and taken down. There's no way of telling until the lifting is underway and the intention is to be as careful as possible.



Finally the scaffolding on the outside is allowing access to the roof over the South West Window. Here coping stones need repairing or even replacing to stop the water ingress and damp that is creeping down the window.

So much work remains to be completed but at last it has started in earnest.

Ian Baines - Stoke Golding Photography & Walking

St Margarets - Church Restoration, Update Blog 3

The restoration of St Margarets continues at pace and things have been moving along nicely since the last update. The lifting of the pews has taken place and they are all now freestanding and tightly packed against the North Aisle/Nave or back of the church. As feared, the lifting of the pews has revealed further dry rot in some of the base woodwork and pews themselves. It will need cutting out and repairs undertaken before the pews can be reinstated.



Scaffolding has been erected in the middle of the church - this has been put up in order to take down the early 20th century plumbing that runs hot water across the church ceiling. Indeed the removal of this pipe and all the old plumbing (except the large cast radiators) is the next significant piece of work to be undertaken. This will then allow the installation of the underfloor heating system.

Progress has also been made on the floors - sympathetic restoration being paramount. As mentioned previously, where possible, original floor tiles will be used. However it has been decided that the pews will be re-sited on Ancaster

Weatherbed Oolitic Stone - a light coloured hard limestone quarried from Ancaster village in Lincolnshire. Discussions are ongoing with the architect about how this stone will be integrated into the new floor plan and original 'checkerboard' tiled aisles.

From the last blog a number of people have asked about the stone arch in the South Aisle underneath the windows, one theory being a stonemason's 'teaching' for others to follow on the main windows. It is in fact a tomb but that has been hidden by the raising of the floor in 1835 to avoid flooding and also the old wooden floorboards and the large heating pipe that ran directly across it. Taking the floor up has revealed the tomb better and when the plumbing is removed it will be clearly visible.

The original tombstone has a broadsword carved into it and this can now be seen clearly and it must be said is quite beautiful. The stone has been identified as being of Attleborough stone and the incised sword carving is 1.36 m long, with a trefoil shaped pommel and a long, broad, acutely pointed blade. Thinking is now underway as to how this unique feature is integrated into the restoration so that it can be seen better by all. How old is the tomb and whose tomb is it? The recess has been dated to the 14th and possibly late 13th century and the most



likely burial would be Nicholas de Campania who died circa 1272-4. The family de Campania originally came to England with William the Conqueror and it is thought that the tomb was built as the South Aisle of the church was constructed. A commemorative plaque to Nicholas de Campania can be seen on the North Wall. In March 1931 the tomb slab was unearthed some 10 inches below the current floor level and subsequently a skeleton was found buried about 2 feet below the slab but there was no sign of a coffin. Current thinking is that the skeleton was not reburied under the tomb stone.

I hope this blog gives you an insight into the current works and we'll collectively make every effort to keep you updated on progress.

Ian Baines, Stoke Golding Photography & Walking

Photographs also by - Coli Bob & Suzanne Brookes Palmer

Tony Collett in his book 'St Margaret's Church, Stoke Golding' provides much of the detail regarding the history of the Church. This will be on sale again at £5 as soon as the Church reopens.

Money Raised for LOROS

Maggie Caswell at Stoke Golding Club raised £160 for LOROS by making and selling delicious Easter goodies including chocolate and lemon cheesecake eggs and chocolate cakes.



This is to support a fundraising campaign organised because her granddaughter's friend's Mum, Mrs Fletcher, is having treatment at LOROS and her son, Robbie, wanted to raise money for the charity by running 100 miles in March. St Margaret's School pupil, Robbie, has raised an amazing nine thousand pounds for the charity so far!

They sound yummy and we sadly missed out - maybe next year? Eds



Collin's Superfry

We will be returning to the Stoke Golding Social Club every Saturday between 16:00 and 20:00 from the 1st of May 2021, serving

the village's most favourite Fish and Chips and much more from our mobile van which has a 5 star hygiene rating.

You are welcome to enjoy your meal at the Social Club's outdoor tables if buying a drink. For PRE-ORDERS, text your order, name and time of collection to 07568244933 !!!

www.facebook.com/Collinsuperfry/

Hall Farm – The Tractor Shed



If you are a Dadlington resident with children, you will probably be familiar with the Ballis Hole, the former gravel pit that provides an excellent run for sledging on those rare winter days when we have snow. Perched on the edge is a building that many will have been in when Caroline Fielden hosted her St James' summer garden parties. Now Caroline's daughter Kate, along with husband Mark and children Serena and Henry, are welcoming their first guests in what

was an old tractor barn and hen house but is now a deluxe holiday home for four. The conversion, carried out by Paul Harley, provides guests with their own access and privacy away from their hosts. A real plus is the wood fired hot tub on the patio with wonderful views across the fields to Ambion Woods with its crown of fluttering Battlefield Centre flags.

Hall Farm and its outbuildings are one of only two listed buildings in the village, the other being the church, so getting planning permission to convert has been quite a journey for Kate and Mark: fortunately, Hinckley and Bosworth have been very amenable. Kate's background in



interior design has been put to full use in creating the décor inside, whilst the rest of the family have experience in hospitality which will be important in making their guests' stays as enjoyable as possible. Paul has managed to keep the original beams visible whilst making sure the building is well insulated, and guests will be able to enjoy underfloor heating, two televisions, Sonos and Wi-Fi. Kate and Mark have put together a 'bible' of local places for guests to visit, of which there are many.



After their first week advertising on Airbnb, they already had 50 days booked, including three honeymoon couples and a 2022 bride, and they are confident, especially with the Covid stay in this country message, that they will be busy throughout the summer and beyond, bringing another excellent facility to our local area.

Michael Dix

Battlefields 6 Losecoat , Hedgerley Moor, Hexham and Stoke

I have previously written about my visits to most of the 1455 to 1487 Wars of the Roses battlefields. One of the remaining four was the short encounter at Losecote field. We had been staying in a wonderful holiday home not far from Stanford with friends. On one of the few occasions we left the spacious grounds with its lakes and woods, we ambled to nearby Fotheringhay. Very little remains of the castle where Richard III was born and where, later, Mary Queen of Scots was executed, other than earthworks. Disappointingly, the magnificent church was closed for renovation but, as we approached the barriers barring our way, a friendly face appeared at the door to the church. He was a guide there and informed us that provided we kept away from one small area, we were welcome to come in and look around. He then proceeded to give us a free guided tour, pointing out the memorials to Richard, Duke of York and his second son Edmund, both killed at the Battle of Wakefield and later reinterred at Fotheringhay, and showing us the Yorkist symbols in the church, especially in the stained glass windows. The following morning, I was up early to travel a few miles to the site of the Battle of Losecoat Field.

There was nothing to indicate there had ever been a battle here other than a crossed swords symbol on my map: then again, it hardly warranted the name 'battle'. Edward IV had travelled up the Great North Road to Lincolnshire to put down a local rebellion. As the two sides faced each other, Edward brought out the rebel leader's father and had him executed in plain sight of his son. Then he ordered a fusillade of canon shot with the result that the Lancastrian soldiers lost their nerve and fled. Allegedly, the retreating men turned their coats inside out to avoid being identified by the pursuing Yorkists, hence the name. In reality the word 'Losecoat' probably has far more mundane origins - still its a good story.

Two other smallish encounters took place in the far north of England. After the Battle of Towton in 1461, Edward IV was now in charge, but his predecessor, the Lancastrian Henry VI was still at large, and his wife, Margaret of Anjou, was up in Scotland, causing as much trouble as she could. In addition to the mind boggling number of sieges and counter sieges that the castles of Alnwick, Dunstanburgh and Bamburgh endured during this time, there were also battles at Hedgerley Moor and Hexham. Hedgerley Moor provided me with some rare information boards detailing the course of the battle. There was also a small enclosure called Percy's Leap, named after Sir Ralph Percy, the Lancastrian commander whose horse leapt between two ancient stones that remain to this day: no mean feat as they are nine metres apart!

With my odyssey almost complete, the world was engulfed by the coronavirus pandemic and the weeks of lockdown brought my

explorations to an abrupt halt. Nevertheless, once there was an easing of travel restrictions, I suggested that one of our now routine daily walks could take place just outside Newark along a trail round the battlefield of Stoke Field. I first learned about this battle, where the army of Henry Tudor, now King Henry VII, destroyed a rebellion to install a Yorkist pretender on the throne, when I was at school. I would often travel through the village of East Stoke with my mother, who was the headteacher of an infant school in Newark, and not once did I miss the opportunity to tell her about the battle. I'm sure her spirits flagged every time we approached the village and she had to hear, yet again, about a young boy called Lambert Simnel who was said to have been, or might actually have been, a nephew of Edward IV and Richard III. The walk was well signposted and ran for some distance alongside the River Trent whose treacherous currents killed so many of the Simnel's fleeing army. The battle came two years after Bosworth and brought to an end the Wars of the Roses so it was a fitting place to end my battlefield journeys.

Michael Dix

Sehmbi Store Samosas

It seems that residents of Stoke Golding and Dadlington can't get enough samosas and spring rolls and Saturday orders for them are now running into over a thousand! Pinder even had to bring in his daughters, Anya and Avneet to help him out.

Pinder says that, following the success of samosa Saturdays he will be looking to add more items to the menu including lamb and chicken kebabs and croissants. He asks you to please join his Sehmbi Stores Facebook Page for updates on what's new in store and to place your samosa orders.

He says a massive thank you to everyone for their support.





Bob's Focus

First off, I thought the idea of a spell checker was to check your spelling? No, the spell checker is there to make a monkey out of you when you fail to check up that the spell checker has got it right!

So I guess one or two of you had a little titter last month at the very mathematically astute flock of finches that were so great in numbers they were able to perform their own 'numeration', how about we try 'murmuration'?

Well, this morning (Sunday) I sat up in bed with a nice cup of Earl Grey pondering what to write in this month's Stoker as to be honest, despite my best efforts, the local wildlife has done its best to elude me the last few weeks.

So I gazed out of the bedroom window at my neighbour's beautiful white cherry blossom tree that is in full bloom, wondering how long the blossom would last after last night's frost. The sun was shining brightly but the sky beyond was dark and fit to burst. I noted maybe half a dozen bumble bees busily visiting flower after flower. Not the right weather for you, I thought, and then it started to snow. Small flakes at first then turning to flakes the same size as the bees who were determined to carry on regardless. How much of a bashing does a bee get from a snowflake the same size as itself? It was like watching an episode of "It's a Knockout" with contestants trying to get their hands on the big coloured ball whilst being pelted with giant snowballs!

Just then 3 ducks landed in next doors garden, two Drakes and a Hen. It's a regular drop in for ducks this time of year, always the same configuration. Two of the ducks landed on the lower lawn with one of the Drakes landing further back on the top lawn. This little duck, not wanting to be left out, decided to negotiate the sleeper steps. Now the steps are about 8" high, whereas the ducks little legs are about 4".

I couldn't contain the giggles when the poor little chap fell down each step and bill planted the one below, I wonder if ducks get embarrassed?

A walk across the fields, crossing the Tweed River, produced a little bit of excitement when I spotted what I thought may be a Roman ridge tile that had been exposed by the winter's higher water levels. It was a good 3 feet below ground level and was in perfect condition. A later search of Google identified it as an old land drain - one day I'll find something.



The water Vole population is booming along the canal, we spotted more than a dozen the other night between Basin Bridge lane and Station Road, most quite happy to pose for the camera.

Last week near Dadlington we did have quite a surprise sighting of a Storm Petrel and yesterday near Shenton we disturbed a Jack Snipe ourselves which flew along the hedgerow out of sight.

Not spotted a Hare yet this year, only tracks in the snow, but despite the recent cold snap Spring really is here and we can look forward to everywhere greening up over the next month and wild flowers starting to pop their heads out of the warming soil.

Until next time folks.

Collie Bob



Ten of a Kind – May 21 (*answers on page 26*)

May to December was a BAFTA nominated sitcom that ran for 39 episodes. Here are 10 questions relating to situation comedies.

1. Which character's catchphrase was, "I don't believe it."?
2. How many episodes of Fawlty Towers were made?
3. In which American sitcom is the part of neuroscientist Amy Farrow Fowler played by real life neuroscientist Mayim Bialik?
4. At what number did the Kumars live in the sitcom starring Meera Syal and Sanjeev Bhaskar?
5. Dad's Army was written by Jimmy Perry and David Croft. How many other sitcoms did they write together?
6. Where is the setting for the sitcom Plebs?
7. Who writes and stars in Not Going Out?
8. Which former Friends actor played himself alongside Tamsin Greig and Stephen Mangan in Episodes?
9. Which sitcom, starring Jamie Demetriou, won the 2020 BAFTA for best scripted comedy?
10. What is the name of the vicar played by Dawn French in The Vicar of Dibley?

ANAGRAMS OF CAPITAL CITIES (*answers page 26*)

- | | | |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1. BARNCARE | 5. WELLGINO | 9. LEDBARGE |
| 2. LAPMORE | 6. BUSHTRACE | 10. LUBIND |
| 3. WHILEDEN | 7. DRAMASTEM | |
| 4. MAILDABAS | 8. ANTHER | |

What are the Chances of That?

Over the last year, we have been regularly assailed by statistics regarding the pandemic. Whilst the figures themselves have ranged from the fairly terrifying to the mildly encouraging, the way they have been presented has been of great interest to me: I have a real fascination with statistics and probability. If someone casually asks, "What are the chances of that?" I am compelled to spend the next few hours trying to calculate the probability. Not that it's always that straightforward. I am currently wondering how I can calculate the probability of two cars meeting on the summit of the hump backed canal bridge on Shenton Lane in Dadlington, because it seems to happen to me far too often!

Staying healthy has become a priority for us all recently. I found a YouTube video by a professor of health statistics who equated some of the good things we do like exercise, and some of the bad, like smoking, with the extra time it will, on average, add or take away from our allotted time on Earth. So, the first 20 minutes of exercise adds an hour to your life, but the next 20 minutes only adds 20 minutes, which replaces the 20 minutes you've just spent exercising! The first alcoholic drink of the day adds to your life expectancy - all subsequent glasses take away - not too keen on that one.

I'm particularly fascinated by probability that appears counterintuitive. It seems incredible that in a group of 23 people there is an even chance that two of them will share the same birthday. In a group of 70, it's almost certain. If we look at the 45 US presidents, two shared the same birthday with Truman and Ford both dying on the same day of the year, as did Fillmore and Taft, as did Jefferson, Monroe and John Adams, although the last group may be a statistical blip as they died on July 4th and may have been hanging on for Independence Day. The calculation is all to do with the probability of shared birthdays not happening. There is another interesting problem that some of you may be familiar with called the Monty Hall Problem, named after the host of an American TV show. Imagine you are the winning contestant in a quiz show. You can choose your prize by opening one of three doors. Behind one is a brand-new sports car, behind the other two are goats. You choose your door but before you open it, the host, who knows what's behind each door, opens a different door to reveal a goat. He then offers you the chance to swap the door you've chosen. Do you keep your original door, make the swap or won't it make any difference? I'll leave you to think about that with the answer and explanation in next month's Stoker. Of course, your answer may differ from mine because I've always yearned to own a goat! Now what were the chances of that?

Michael Dix

Stoke Golding Surgery Update

With the positive news that COVID infection rates are coming down we are keen to start tentatively restoring a more standard service and look forward to being able to provide this for our patients. We would like to thank you all for your understanding and adapting to the new ways of working until this point.

We are exceptionally grateful for our dispensary and reception team who have continued to work with sheer determination to ensure that all patients have continued to be able to access medications and appointments. They have been committed to serving the practice population with reduced on site clinical support and we feel they have done a fantastic job in extraordinarily challenging times.

Obviously remaining cautious with regards to COVID, starting in mid-May we will reinstate a doctor at Stoke Golding every day. They will offer telephone appointments, and assess whether the clinical problem can be managed over the phone, via a video consultation or if a face to face appointment is required. This for safety purposes for both patient and staff, and is following the Government's ongoing suggestion for remote consulting. If a face to face appointment is required the GP will organise this at Stoke Golding wherever possible.

Sadly we have no formal plans to reinstate the nursing appointments at Stoke Golding until the end of our commitment to the vaccination programme. We currently have a nurse on the team who is on sick leave and the remaining nursing team have to drop everything at short notice to provide COVID vaccination sessions. Each clinic at the Hinckley Leisure Centre requires 5 administrators and 5 clinical vaccinators.

Thank you for all of the positive comments and appreciation of the work going into the smooth running of the vaccine clinics. At the time of writing we have given 4415 COVID vaccines to our patients. We hope that the second vaccines for all of our >50 year old patients will be completed by the end of June.

The Doctors are working longer hours than ever and we have added more appointments to try and help improve access. Demand for appointments has risen dramatically in the last few months and this is being mirrored across the country. This is understandable as now the country starts to open up from lockdown many patients have accumulated medical problems and we are also helping to manage patients who are on protracted waiting lists at the hospitals. Please be assured we really are trying our best and will continue to do so in the months and years ahead as we recover from the effects of the COVID pandemic.

Let us keep our fingers firmly crossed that we are truly on the road to recovery.

Doctor Patterson & Alison Ellis

Dadlington Matters



Easter Service in the Sunshine

Our outdoor Easter service - the first at Dadlington for many months and a magical occasion, as the sun shone and the birds sang and we were all able to sing along to the uplifting Easter hymns.

M Dix

Village Unsung Hero



Following our request for nominations for people in your community who make a difference we have received a nomination for a Dadlington resident from Kate McCreight from Tithe Close. She writes on behalf of the W.I.

I would like to nominate Jean Buckby, President of Stoke Golding & Dadlington W.I., as a village unsung hero.

From Easter 2020 and every week since then, she has produced and emailed an uplifting Newsletter to all of our members. It was a huge challenge for her as, by her own admission, she felt she had limited IT skills, but the results have been incredible. It must be a huge task to produce something different each week. We have enjoyed lovely photographs of the villages over the changing seasons and suggestions for local walks. Lots of recipes, quizzes and good news items and best of all many cartoons giving us a chuckle, raising our spirits and brightening our day.

It has been a joy for us all but especially for those of us who have been on our own during lockdown.

We're having our Meetings now on Zoom and weekly coffee and chats to keep in touch with each other.

As soon as we're allowed we will resume our monthly meetings at the Village Hall and look forward to welcoming and seeing old and new friends.

Thank you Jean.

Stoke Golding Scout Group

We are back

After a lengthy in-depth process (a big thank you to Fionna and John Shilladay) the Risk Assessments for returning the Scout Group to the hall have been passed. There are regulations which have to be adhered to and set down by the National youth Council and the Scout Association. All members of the Scout Group have to be 2 metres apart at all times and the Scouts, Explorers and leaders have to wear masks. There's hand sanitiser and a strict entry and exit system and collection of the younger members of the group.

On Tuesday night the Beaver leaders met at the hall and had a Zoom session to explain the system to the Beavers, hence the snowmen who hadn't gone on their holidays, but represented the 2 metre queue for the Beavers. There is a lot of paper work for the parents to complete to give permission for their child to attend.



The leaders are looking forward to seeing the members of the Scout group in person even with all the regulations.

Prior to Easter the group played an on line Scout " Millionaire " quiz and the Cubs won the virtual Jack pot. A Cub did get excited when he thought he had actually won it !!

The Scouts even did a Masterchef bake off where they had restricted time and a dish to create. There were some interesting dishes including dog biscuits. No one said it had to be created for humans. I suspect a Masterchef first.

So, from the week commencing 19th April we are back in the hall.....

Jennifer Michie

How to find new planning applications near you!

There's a handy tool on the Hinckley & Bosworth Borough website that you can use to find new planning applications.

Go to www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/info/200074/planning_and_building_control and select the icon 'planning applications near you', type in your post code and any new applications near your postcode will show up on a map.

Litter picking - Good for your Environment and for your Soul.



Stephen Canessa moved to Stoke Golding several years ago and in January 2019 he set up a community monthly litter pick. I wanted to learn what had motivated Stephen and what he's discovered through litter picking. Stephen told me the George and Dragon drew them to the village as it was dog friendly and people so welcoming. Stephen's love of the village and its environs is what led to the decision to litter pick after one day walking along Stoke Road and seeing an unbelievable amount of litter in the hedgerows. The first group he organised saw a wonderful 20 volunteers turn up, using equipment provided by the local council.

Stephen said the litter is mainly alcohol with the majority of what is found being vodka bottles,

cans of cider and lager, some of which are filled with urine. There are also lots of fast-food wrappers. Sadly, increasingly around the village, he's seeing a lot more drug paraphernalia and waste thrown from cars driving around. However, fly tipping is also a major problem and current waste charges and restrictions in lockdown has seen this escalate.

Most of the litter blown around collects in hedgerows and ditches. Stephen told me about the devastating effect this can have on the local wildlife, sadly often finding crisp packets containing dead mice, with streams blocked and stagnant because rubbish is blocking the drains. He says it's what you don't see from the road that's the most disturbing aspect, the sheer scale, often vintage and older brands showing decades of accumulated litter. Stephen would like to see more signposting saying where nearest bins are, and that this area has volunteers litter picking to encourage others to keep it tidy.

On a positive note, Stephen told me that there are many physical and mental health benefits he finds to litter picking. Just being out in the fresh air for an hour is very meditative, listening to the birds, being connected to the environment with time to yourself. When not in lockdown, the social element to the group is also very beneficial. The monthly meet up has a real mix of people all ages families and individuals. St. Margaret's school are involved as well, borrowing the equipment. As soon as restrictions allow any new volunteers will be warmly



welcomed, the group pick litter then enjoy a scotch egg and a welcome pint afterwards. In the meantime, anyone is welcome to borrow any equipment by messaging Stephen on Facebook. He advises if you are litter picking, don't pick up anything hazardous such as needles, just call the council and tell them what you've found and where and avoid investigating any bottles of orange liquid!

Stephen is often told he shouldn't have to pick up other people's litter, but he told me ,when you see the damage it does environmentally to local wildlife, it's we as humans who have caused it, so we should do something about it. Thankfully many share this belief and Stephen is really grateful to all those in the village who go litter picking and wants to say thank you for volunteering your time. Stephen believes that when you enjoy where you live and you appreciate it, you want to keep it really special and I for one agree. Thank you Stephen!

Kate Poyser Clark

Convent Open Space Area

Following a very long and protracted few years of dialogue with the now defunct developer of the Convent Drive development, Mar City, progress is now being made by the Parish Council on making this area into an asset for residents to enjoy. More background on how they acquired the land is available in the Stoke Golding Parish Council Annual Report 2021 (www.stokegolding.co.uk)

The committee set up to progress the work in the area is made up of residents and parish councillors and they will be working on the new play area, the orchard area and informal area as well as liaising with the Allotment Association. They will be updating us on the progress being made and the meeting dates and minutes are also available on the Parish Council website.

We look forward to hearing how they are progressing!

Jan Zelenczuk

The Rev. Linda Blay is to Retire

Linda has announced that she will be retiring at the end of June from her post as Rector of the Fenn Lane Benefice which she has held for 13 years. Amongst many others St. Margaret's Parochial Church Council will be sad to see Linda go and wish her a long and fulfilling retirement.

St. Margaret's Parochial Church Council

Our speaker at our March Zoom Meeting was Anne Bufton-McCoy. She gave us a talk on a book that she has been writing for a while and is near to publishing.

Anne was a head teacher at an inner city school in Birmingham. On her first day she realised that a lot of the children did not have a chair to sit on, mainly because they had broken them. Dealing with the local authority to get new chairs was a challenge and was forecast to take around a year to get them, as they had to wait for the next budget to be issued.

Luckily, Anne contacted a friend who was the head of a state funded school which was just replacing equipment and managed to get as many chairs as she wanted.

Many of the parents were single young mothers, with no extended family to help them with bringing up their children, so the children were a challenge in school. Anne discovered that the school cook was buying breakfast out of her own pocket for the children, who arrived at school having not eaten since the previous lunchtime. Anne decided to help her with that.

She was having to deal with aggressive parents coming into school to challenge teachers and parents asking for her help with difficult children. Some of the children explained that they did not like reading stories, as there was no such thing as anyone living happily ever after.

The school had to do SATs just after Anne took over and their results were dreadful, so the inspector came into the school to review how they were doing. She took him round the school showing him what they were doing to improve the figures. At the end of the visit, the inspector asked for some proof of improvement. She took him into the car park and showed him a sign in the corner. Every week the children wrote graffiti on the sign, usually "f... off" spelt with one "f". Anne explained that the graffiti was now spelt with two "fs" so spelling was improving!!!!!! In the report the Inspector analysed the results from the school and did not give them the worst possible report, but gave them "In need of Improvement". When Anne left the school, it was rated Good to Outstanding.

She is hoping to call her book "there are 2 fs in f.... off"

Lesley Gent

The present Mrs Fool has devoted much of the lockdown period to the honing of her internet shopping skills. As I am male and therefore by definition, shallow and inattentive, the whole business of on line shopping is something that I regard with pathological abhorrence. She will point out, of course, that the retail trade has been experiencing some considerable difficulties of late and ergo, have been offering deals and discounts at commercially suicidal levels. Much of her on line activity has been directed towards the expansion of the clothing stock of our assemblage of grandchildren. The heady combination of the desire to lavish gifts upon the offspring of our offspring and a seemingly bottomless pit of bargains and offers has made the call of the internet as irresistible as the siren muses of Greek mythology.

In one sense though, shopping for the little ones is quite straightforward. It works on the bald assumption that all children aged 18 months to 2 years are much of a muchness size wise. To the male mind if the child in question stands up to use the toilet then blue is the choice of colour but if the seated option of toileting is preferred then go for pink. If the parents are vegetarians or live in Stoke Newington then you may have to venture into the realms of gender neutral (me neither) colours which I am reliably informed, includes Yellow and Grey. Sadly such basic rules do not seem to apply to the selection of clothing for gentlemen of a certain age. It would be extremely helpful if M&S applied the same age related sizing structure to our clothing so we could simply look at the age 70 to 75 sections for example. Colour is not a problem as Beige and Navy Blue covers just about everything. Somewhere between childhood and decrepitude however, things get complicated and the correlation between waist size and leg length takes on a considerable amount of variation. Just for good measure they chuck in variables such as slim fit, taper fit, regular fit and comfort fit. Like anyone ever asked for uncomfortable fit. If you do decide to chance your arm at online shopping and save yourself a trip to one of the out of town retail temples, then you had better factor in a trip to the Post Office. This will be necessary to return the pair of trousers that you purchased in the closest approximation of your current dimensions, only to discover that they were stitched together in some far distant sweat shop by a myopic tailoring apprentice with an elastic tape measure.

Ponder on this as you stand dribbling your life away in a Post Office queue which is moving at a pace best described as glacial. For it will invariably be the case that the people in front of you have either had a bumper weekend selling on e-bay or are trying to send a giant ceramic rhinoceros to Ulan Batur. **F.O.T.H**



No Fleas Please, by Jess the Vet

As the weather starts to warm up, your pet is more at risk of collecting friends on their walks. No owner wants to have to deal with fleas so I thought I'd give some helpful tips on how to spot them early and treat them quickly.

These pesky little critters pack a bite and can really irritate your pet and your family if you aren't careful. Fleas can live for between 14 days to one year and a female flea will lay 50 eggs in one day, which means prevention is easier than treatment. Live adult fleas can be spotted in the fur of your pet but you're much more likely to see 'flea dirt' in their coat. This is because the adult flea lives in the environment and not on your animal. Actually, 95% of the flea eggs, larvae, pupae and adults all live in the environment so if your pet does have fleas remember to treat your house too! Flea dirt looks like black specs in the fur and if you were to put some onto a wet piece of kitchen roll, it will turn red.

Signs your pet has fleas can include:

Scratching, hair loss, scabs on their skin (usually on their back towards their tail), redness and irritation, bites on your own skin.

So how do you successfully treat fleas?

It is really important to use a good quality flea treatment product. Now I know vets have a reputation for being expensive and you possibly think that the prescription flea treatments are just my profession being 'money grabbing' but I assure you this is not the case. I often see cases where owners have been routinely using over the counter flea treatments and their pets still have fleas. Unfortunately, these flea treatments are often products that used to be sold by vets but have been superseded by newer drugs that are much more effective and safer. The same goes for flea collars and flea shampoos. Flea shampoos actually make spot on treatments less effective as these rely on the oils in your pet's coat to work effectively and shampooing your pet removes these oils.

You may be concerned that in order to get prescription flea treatment from your vet you will have to pay for a consultation, but this is not the case. Under prescription law, if a vet has seen an animal in the last 12 months (and most are seen yearly for their vaccinations) they can prescribe parasite prevention without seeing your pet. If your vet has not seen your pet in the last 12 months then some practices will offer nurse appointments, which are often cheaper than a vet consult to allow them to prescribe medication.

So remember, groom your pet regularly to catch fleas early and if you find them call your vet for advice. We are here to keep your pets healthy and we are more than happy to help! Your pet will thank you.

An update on Stoke Golding's Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you to everyone for your comments on the draft Neighbourhood Plan in the 'Regulation 14 Consultation'. Other consultees, such as statutory bodies, were also engaged in the exercise and the responses (together with our replies) run to over 150 pages. The main changes to the Plan are:

- Housing requirements – this was the main change and is explained below

- Area of separation from Dadlington – the policy to be strengthened following the Roseway approval

- Locally important views – reduced from 13 to 7 to concentrate on the main views

- Local green spaces – a formal 'Local Green Space' (LGS) designation will be sought for the allotments at the Zion Baptist chapel (this will provide strong protection against development)

- Village centre - policy to be reworded to protect the current commercial uses.

Housing Requirement

The draft Plan proposed a main site at Mulberry Farm of around 25 homes, plus a reserve site (on Hinckley Road) of around the same number, the reserve being to provide flexibility if required.

However, in December, a few days before the commencement of the Regulation 14 Consultation, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council (HBBC) approved the planning application for 65 homes on land east of Roseway. There was strong opposition from the Parish Council, Friends of the Community and residents but, despite this, HBBC granted permission. The Plan's housing proposals have now been reworked to incorporate this.

Regulation 16 Consultation

The revised Plan has been approved by the Parish Council and has now been submitted to HBBC for the next stage in the consultation process - the 'Regulation 16' phase. Following this, it will be referred to an Independent Examiner who will pass, refuse or require amendments to the Plan.

If passed, the Parish will need to hold a Referendum and if a majority of those voting approve the Plan, it will become part of the framework within which planning applications will be considered.

The Neighbourhood Plan Committee is also participating in the Appeal inquiry over the Wykin Lane planning application. This adds to the case against development by explaining what residents have said they want by way of further development.

Mervyn Ward

Church Matters



From St Margaret's and St James's Church

I wonder, through the months of lockdown, whether you have felt 'up' or 'down'? With winter behind us and spring on the way hopefully it's a time when many begin to feel a bit more 'up'. Maybe not yet 'on top of the world' or 'on cloud nine' but we feel our mood is lifting.

So much of our language about feelings has to do with location, and the place where we want to be with feelings is definitely 'up'. Days when we are 'down' or 'under the weather' or feeling 'low' are the ones we want to avoid. When it comes to emotions 'up' is good and 'down' is bad, just like thumbs.

The month of May with its beautiful blossom, flowers and lengthening light evenings 'lifts' our spirits. Maybe it's also connected with higher levels of vitamin D. For Christians, May also brings a festival which can make us look and feel 'up'. It's called the Ascension and falls on Thursday 13th May this year. It's always forty days after Easter Day and always a Thursday, and because of that it tends to be forgotten, tucked away with no commercial overtones and laden with pictorial language of Jesus being taken 'up' to heaven.

Jesus ascends vertically through the clouds, leaving the depths of earth, to enter the highest heaven. There's a lot of language about location in the story especially as the people of Jesus time believed in a triple-decker universe with heaven up above and the earth beneath. He's 'exalted' to a new 'raised' status in the presence of God. Jesus' Ascension marks the end of his earthly life and from then on Jesus is seated at the right hand of God in heaven. On earth Jesus was time and space limited. Now with God, Jesus can be everywhere - not just safe in church but out in the world where life is lived.

That should make his followers, feel a little bit 'up' as well. There are still moments when our life and our worship take us 'down'. We need to acknowledge our failings and lament the pain of the world. Following Jesus isn't a bed of roses, unless you remember that roses also have plenty of thorns. The Ascension says that Jesus has won. He's overcome all that drags us down and puts us low. He raises us from sin and death and pain. He's been exalted and wants us to share his exaltation. So when we celebrate Jesus' Ascension, whether on the Thursday or the Sunday after, may we let it raise our spirits and lift up our hearts.

Wishing you God's blessings

Linda

Church Matters

Zion Baptist Chapel - May Services

2nd May 6pm service led by Mr John Needham
16th May 6pm service led by Mr Martyn Owens

THE METHODIST CHURCH - MAY SERVICES

2nd 10.30 am Mr Colin Haddon
9th 10.30 am Mr John Cooke
16th 10.30 am Mr John Cooke
23rd 10.30 am T.B.A.
30th 10.30 am Revd Patricia Mukorombindo

St Margaret's and St James's Church Rogation Sunday 9th May

There will be a special outdoor service for Rogation Sunday on The Goslings' Farm in Dadlington beginning at 11am. Everyone is welcome.



Obituaries



David Joseph Ward

David Joseph Ward of Kirkby Mallory, formerly of Stoke Golding, passed away peacefully on 10th March, 2021, aged 87 years. Much loved husband of Judy, father to Stirling, Vernon and Jason, step father to Ruth and Roger, father in law to Janine, Ann, Penny, Dan and Carrie. Grandfather to Philippa, Harry, Holly, Maisie, Talia, Francesca and Nico. Donations in memory of David may be made to British Heart Foundation c/o G.Seller, Funeral Directors, Upper Bond Street, Hinckley.

We offer our condolences to the family and friends of Linda (see page 24) and David from all of the Stoker team.



Linda Hilary Kipling

25th November 1955 - 14th December 2020

Andrew Close resident, Linda Kipling, has sadly died following a long illness.

She was born in Loughborough and attended St Botolphs CE Primary School in Shepshed and Mount Grace Grammar School in Hinckley. She was a superb swimmer and even represented Leicestershire on several occasions. She trained

and qualified as a radiographer and worked as a senior 2 radiographer until she had to retire due to ill health. She met her second husband Peter in 1981 when she was living in Hinckley and doing voluntary bar work at the Concordia Theatre and they moved together to Stoke Golding in 1986. Their wedding in 1990 was followed by a reception at the George & Dragon.

Linda loved her house in Andrew Close and especially loved her garden. Even from her hospital bed she was ordering plants for the tubs at the front and roses for the back.

Peter and Linda's very happy marriage included lots of travelling and they visited many parts of the world together.

She loved life and enjoyed going to the pub for a chat, she just loved people and would help and volunteer whenever she could. Over the years she touched many hearts and, even when ill in hospital, would help other patients by getting them drinks and making their beds.

She enjoyed baking and provided cakes for village events and especially loved going to St Margaret's Church coffee mornings. Through the church she met Carolyn Patullo and helped her with the Sunday School. She was a volunteer for several years at Age UK in Earl Shilton until her ill health prevented her.

She leaves behind her beloved husband, Peter and her children, partners and grandchildren: Rebecca (Becky), Shaun, Daniel, Harriot & Euan; Catherine (Kate), Paul, Thomas & George; Stepson Tristan, Danielle, Elliot, Samuel & Darcy.

Linda asked for donations to be made, rather than flowers, at her funeral and to date has raise £625 for Leicester Hospital Charity. If you would like to support this charity in memory of Linda you can pay online at <https://www.leicesterhospitalcharity.org.uk/donate> or ring 0116 258 8709.

All monies collected will go to wards 42 and 43 at the Leicester Royal Infirmary.

The above has been extracted from Peter's eulogy at Linda's funeral.



Kitchen Corner

Lamb Lasagne

Ingredients

6-8 Sheets of Green Lasagne
Salt
1tblsp. Oil
450gms./1lb. Minced Lamb
1 Large Onion, peeled and finely
chopped
2 Carrots, chopped or grated
1 tin Chopped Tomatoes
150ml./ ¼ pint Beef Stock
1tblsp. Tomato Puree
Ground Black Pepper
1tblsp. Chopped Fresh Mint or 1 ½
tsp. Dried Mint
6tblsp. Sour Cream
50gms./ 2ozs. Grated Cheddar
Cheese
1tblsp. Grated Parmesan Cheese

Method

Set the oven at 190C, 375F or Gas
Mark 5

Cook the lasagne according to the
instructions and when cooked
drain on paper towels. If you
cannot find the green lasagne the
plain will be okay.

Fry the lamb gently with no extra
fat until the meat is sealed. Add
the onion and carrots and cook for
a further 2 minutes. Add the
tomatoes, stock, tomato puree,
salt, pepper and mint and bring to
the boil. Simmer uncovered for 10
minutes.

Grease a shallow gratin dish, place
a layer of lasagne in the bottom,
cover with half of the meat mixture.
Repeat the layers of meat and
lasagne, finishing with a layer of
lasagne.

Spread the soured cream over the
lasagne and sprinkle with the
mixed cheeses. Cook in the pre-
heated oven for 45 minutes and
brown and bubbling.

Garnish with sliced tomatoes and
parsley.

Serve with a crisp green salad.

Handy Hint.

To sour plain cream, simply add a
tablespoon of lemon juice and stir
well.

Dear The Stoker Team,

Thank you for the 200th copy of The Stoker. It must have taken
a huge amount of work to put that together and to be able to
remember all of the things that have happened in our 2 villages over the
past number of years!

We both enjoyed looking at the photo collection and reminiscing about
events long gone and some not so long ago.

Well done everyone.

Best wishes,

Rachel and Simon Rees-Jones





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Answers to Ten of a Kind

1. Victor Meldrew
2. 12
3. The Big Bang Theory
4. 42
5. It Ain't Half Hot Mum, Hi-de-Hi! & You Rang, M'Lord?
6. Ancient Rome
7. Lee Mack
8. Matt LeBlanc
9. Stath Lets Flats
10. Geraldine Grainger

Answers to Quiz

1. CANBERRA (AUSTRALIA)
2. PALERMO (SICILY)
3. NEW DELHI (INDIA)
4. ISLAMABAD (PAKISTAN)
5. LILONGWE (MALAWI)
6. BUCHAREST (ROMANIA)
7. AMSTERDAM (HOLLAND)
8. TEHRAN (IRAN)
9. BELGRADE (SERBIA)
10. DUBLIN (IRELAND)

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