



V.E Day Souvenir Issue



The Stoker



June 2020

No. 192

Stoke Golding Village Magazine

Including

Dadlington Matters

70p



Note from the Editors

Life in Lockdown continued throughout May, but that didn't stop Stoke Golding and Dadlington residents enjoying VE Day celebrations (socially distancing, of course).

The sunny weather helped our lovely community to show it's true colours, dusting off their union jacks and digging out their picnic tables. It was a wonderful atmosphere

and we really enjoyed taking your happy photographs which are now displayed throughout the magazine. We would love to know how many veterans of WWII we have living in our villages, so if you know of anyone please let us know.

Thank you for all your lovely photos and articles. We are really pleased that Tony Cole, the photographer who took the picture on this month's cover, is willing to send us regular photos to enjoy. Another new contributor, fondly known as Colli Bob, will be providing a monthly nature page inspired by his walks around the village. This month he takes us down memory lane.

Congratulations to the village volunteers who have received a "Together We Care" Award from Leicestershire Cares. You are all amazing people. A special well done to seven year old volunteer Emily, who has been keeping our pavements clean and tidy during lockdown.

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 **July/August** issue of The Stoker **by 15th June** 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 taken by Tony Cole



Dear Stoke Golding Village Volunteers,

We are delighted to share with you that you have been nominated for a #TogetherWeCare award for the outstanding support you are giving to your local community during the coronavirus crisis.



Councillor Jonathan Collett nominated you for **rising to the occasion to help isolated and vulnerable people in the village in need of assistance** and our panel thought your tremendous efforts should be recognised and celebrated.

Please find attached a #TogetherWeCare certificate from all of the team at Leicestershire Cares. This is to thank you for all that you have done and are continuing to do in supporting your local community during these unprecedented and challenging times. You really are making a difference.

Simran Basi YES Project Support Officer

Councillor Jonathan Collett:



"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. 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."



The community of Stoke Golding always raises to the occasion, and it is no surprise to me that the Parish should be so well organised into volunteers that have won this award. Stay safe everyone,

Ivan Ould OBE



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

A follow up report by Doreen Rose

As promised last month, here is the follow up report to document the progress of the Face Shield production team at St. Martin's Academy School.

I am pleased to report that we have been successful in supporting our local community and beyond with the Face Shields that have been produced within St Martin's Design and Technology Department. In the month since my first report in the May Stoker, we have delivered over 250 Face Shields to 2 Care Homes, 2 Community Centres, a Doctors surgery, a children's nursery, Home Carers and even, by post, to a small care home in Scotland.

The Design and Technology Department teacher, Tony Del Busso, has said that we will carry on production until we run out of our stock of 0.75mm thick Polypropylene sheets. Until now, the school has donated their entire stock of this material. In addition, a local resident donated a decent supply of 250-micron A4 Acetate sheets.

We hope that the Government can soon supply all such PPE equipment as needed to keep our front-line workers as safe as possible. Until then we will do our best to carry on with our local production. We would appeal for any local company or resident to donate to us some more Polypropylene and/or Acetate supplies. Please contact us through the Stoker magazine if you are in a position to help.



**Westfield
Nursery**



**Bosworth
Court
Care Home**



**Westfield
Community Centre**



**Dorothy
Goodman
School**

The photographs above show a few of the places we have delivered to in the past month. The recipients were happy to share these photographs with you.



Emily's Lockdown Litter Pick

Emily, aged 7, pupil at St Margaret's school has been busy during lockdown! Emily has been picking up litter in the area as had noticed on her daily walks such a huge volume of litter was on the roads, so she asked her parents to get some litter pickers and start collecting. In one day she walked up Higham Fields Lane and back and collected 2 huge full black bin bags full of cans, bottles and plastics.

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council have supported her and posted her successes on their website and facebook page.

She hopes that everyone can use their time to help clean up the local area and most of all to be kind to the environment and take your litter home with you!



Emily in action....



Thank you for taking time to read this,

Rachel Drury (Emily's Mum)

Extract of letter from HBBC to Stoke Golding Parish Council



Big shout out to Emily, aged 7, from Stoke Golding who with her family during their daily walk have been collecting rubbish along the way. Fly tipping is a crime and just because the recycling centre is closed is no excuse for dumping. To report a fly tip visit: www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/flytipping

To find out how you could get involved why not join the @KeepBritainTidy #lovewhereyoulivechallenge! www.keepbritaintidy.org

Clare Maddison, Communications & PR Officer



The Daily Exercise

At the start of the year, a friend told us about the 1000 mile walk challenge (www.walk1000miles.co.uk), the premise being to cover that distance over the course of this year. As we had seen in the new year with friends in North Wales and had gone for long walks every day along the Wales Coastal Path, I believed that this was an attainable target that would help me to keep fit. Sadly, on my return to Dadlington, other things got in the way of my planned exercise regime and although I clocked up a good four miles every time I walked to and from Leicester City games, and taking a couple of groups around Bosworth Battlefield added another five miles, by the start of March, my total miles count was falling far short of where it should have been. Thank heavens for lockdown!

Now whilst this surreal time has had plenty of negatives, a few bright spots have emerged, one of which is that my walking challenge is back on course. Apart from Easter Sunday where most of the day seemed to be spent Zooming, FaceTiming or WhatsApping, my wife and I have done a walk every day, and what's more, a different walk every day. We are so lucky to live out in the countryside with a plethora of footpaths available to strike out on. Armed with hand sanitiser for those inevitable encounters with stiles and gate handles, we have discovered routes we never knew existed, but then we've only been living in Dadlington for 32 years. I downloaded an app onto my phone which records the route and informs you now only how far you've walked but also your average speed. The latter, however, is considerably compromised by the number of social distanced conversations we have as we pass through the village. Yesterday, we spent more time talking than walking. An ordinance survey app helps when we've missed a signpost and have wandered astray and two excellent farm shops have provide us with useful top ups to our infrequent visits to Morrison's. When it's rained, we've still persevered, taking one of the shorter, round the block routes, but on the many sunny days we've been fortunate to have, we have covered a fair distance. We share pictures of the flora and fauna with our friends and I am recording wild plants I find on another app I've downloaded and these are being recorded on a national database: best find so far - a giant puffball fungus. The only problem I now have is maintaining the 'new walk every day' mantra. Allowing short car journeys for exercise has enabled us to venture a couple of miles out of the village to explore new ground but I shouldn't worry really. I've calculated that the walk from Shenton Lane, down past the canal, through Stoke and back can be done 28 different ways - and that's only going anti-clockwise - plenty of walks to do in the new normal. **Michael Dix**



Fool on the Hill

Lies, damned lies and statistics...

School children, if they could go to school, might be considering their university options, if they could go to university, and would be currently well advised to pursue a career in the field of statistics. The current crisis has seen a mass of statistical information that we have closely followed to try and get some understanding of what has happened to our world. Statistics can be a source of comfort or distress depending how we interpret them but the only real certainty is that they will be selectively highlighted by the media to maximise their chances of getting us to buy newspapers or, Grandad, click on some form of electronic media. This, invariably, means that you will also find yourself looking at some advertisement for the latest "must have" gizmo. Go ahead, buy it. You have got to have something to put in the drawers that you have been assiduously clearing out for the last six weeks.

During the outbreak of Covid 19, I confess that I have been following the progress of the epidemic globally on a web site called WorldoMeter. This gives you a running total of infections and, sadly, deaths, on a country by country basis. Many would argue that, because of variations in reporting methodology, the statistics are invalid except in the case of China where they are simply made up. This website also has a very interesting section of real time world statistics which I guarantee will leave you wondering what on earth we are doing as a species. At the moment we all have a much heightened sense of health matters and most people are going to great lengths to ensure the wellbeing of our selves and each other. If an entity from another universe were to peruse our global statistics it is very hard to see how he could arrive at the conclusion that we are remotely concerned with our self-preservation. Overweight people outnumber the undernourished by a ratio of 2:1. If you add in the obese, the number rises to 3:1. Amazingly and despite a mass of medical evidence about the harmful effects of smoking, our world population still gets through 15 billion or so cigarettes a day. Almost 1 million people have died this year so far from alcohol related illness. We are not yet at the end of May and the human race has already spent over \$140 billion on illegal drugs. We spend around \$5 billion a day on our various military forces but we have 800 million people who have no access to drinking water. In spite of this self-harm the world population still increases by around 200,000 people a day. I really recommend that you have a look at this site and I think you will be as shocked as I was.

Threats create opportunities and it would be wonderful to think that from the ashes of this awful crisis we may create a fairer, safer and healthier society.



F.O.T.H



Staffroom Memories 24 – A Student Life

For most of my early years, I wanted to become a teacher. Then at about age 16, I had delusions of grandeur, deciding I'd become a famous musician instead. Three years studying for a degree in music disavowed me of that idea and, struggling to plot a future career, I visited the university careers officer who suggested I might want to teach! When Sue and I started our teacher training, we discovered that there was another married couple and, in a gesture of friendship, they invited us round to their flat one evening for drinks. We caught the bus to Fosse Road North and it was as we set off for their dwelling that I found I'd lost the piece of paper with their address on. Having no way of contacting them, we spent about an hour trudging up and down the wretched street in the forlorn hope they might spot us out of their window - they didn't and despite our abject apologies and a perfectly reasonable excuse, they never spoke to us again. My first teaching practice teacher was called Mr Onions (the teacher on my second practice was Mrs Pickles!) Pretty soon, he discovered my musical background so when the school's Parent Teacher Association decided to hold an Old Time Music Hall, I was commandeered to accompany one of the acts. where two of the dads would dress up in women's clothing, tell a couple of jokes and then launch into a striptease with me accompanying them with a rendition of The Stripper. The night was proceeding well until the act before ours went horribly wrong. A lady PTA member attempted to perform a comic monologue about a Victorian family going to bed and trying to blow out a candle. Each member of the family had a different deformity of the mouth so no matter how hard they tried, they couldn't blow the candle out. No matter how hard she tried, lady PTA member couldn't stop blowing the candle out. and with all the candle relighting and flustered retakes, the act overran considerably. The two dads filled this time by getting drunk.

Their couple of jokes became a stream of leery anecdotes that became more and more inappropriate as they went along. The audience's polite laughter turned to an embarrassed silence and Mr O, in the wings, started to get very agitated. He signalled for me to start playing The Stripper, hoping the dads would get the hint and begin disrobing, although how far they would go was anyone's guess. But the dads were having none of it and told me in no uncertain terms to stop playing. I wasn't going to argue - they were big men. They continued with their jokes as I looked despairingly into the wings. An apoplectic Mr O. signalled for me to give it another shot and so off I went again, only to be shouted down by the would-be drag queens. It wasn't until the fourth attempt that they finally began taking off their beads and wraps and, despite the fact that the music still had several bars to go, when they got down to their vest and pants, I played a final flourish, closed the piano lid and left the stage. Perhaps choosing teaching over the life as a musician had been the right one.

Michael Dix



Church Matters

From St Margaret's Church



As the government has started to ease the Lockdown measures in England, despite the confusion and controversy, last week the Church of England also began the long journey out of lockdown by allowing ministers to go into Church buildings to pray for the community and the tolling of bells (where they are ring-able from the ground floor). You may have heard me ringing the bell in St Margaret's on VE Day.

The buildings are still closed to the public for the time being, by the Coronavirus legislation, but eventually that restriction will be lifted by the government, such that the buildings can be open for individual prayer. I'm guessing the reality is that it will be sometime before we can all return for worship together.

In the meantime, we continue to have our **online services, livestreaming on our Facebook page "Fenn Lanes Group of Churches"**, which have been supported by several of you. Thank you to everyone who has joined in at some point, and for the many who, like myself have conquered new technology, overcome problems and learnt new skills so that we can be together.

I do realise that it is hard, and some of you are not able to access the internet. So for those of you who can't, the Church of England has launched a free phone line called Daily Hope, which offers hymns, reflections and prayers through the telephone. The number to ring is 0800 804 8044. If you know someone without internet access, please let them know about Daily Hope.

I have come to appreciate in these last few months, just how much of a wonderful community spirit there is in our villages and communities - in those who are looking after one another and helping one another; in the keyworkers and those who are ensuring that food and provisions are available to all; in the kindly "Hello, how are you?" as we pass each other by. Thank you to all for making our part of Leicestershire such a welcoming and friendly place to be.

Whatever kind of 'normal' we return to, may we know that the God who loves us while we are apart, will love us just as deeply when we are together again. And I hope all the things we are learning from him at this time of difficulty will go on being valuable to us when we love and serve him in times of joy.

Wishing you God's blessings Linda

Online services are being screened on the Fenn Lanes Group of Churches Facebook page.



Stokers Rainbow



Ray Tunks, from Station Road, has been asked for copies of his lovely pen and ink watercolour picture 'Stokers Rainbow' and has managed to find a local fine art printer to produce them. It will be a Giclee quality print created using top quality fine art materials and will cost £30 for A3 size. Blank greetings cards, 129x180mm, featuring the picture on the front will cost £3.50 each or 3 for £10.

Please contact Ray on 07432 514202 if you would like to order a copy.

Missing You

When she found out that May 18th was national 'Visit Your Relatives' day my niece, Bronia Sawyer, who is missing seeing her family, drew one of her lockdown hare pictures and wrote a lovely poem to go with it

I wish I could sit on your sofa
and half chat while we watch the TV.
I wish we could sit and play scrabble
or have cake and a nice cup of tea.
I wish we could sit in your garden
and talk about plants and the weeds,
watching the flowers all blooming
visited by sweet honey bees.
I wish I could come for a visit
and hug when we meet at the door.
I wish I could sit on your sofa
the way that we used to before.



Jane White

Bronia has drawn a lockdown hare picture everyday since lockdown started.



Kitchen Corner

Baigan Masala

In India and Sri Lanka, Aubergines are called Brinjals, in America they are called Egg-Plants. Whatever you call them this vegetable is extremely versatile. This recipe can be served as a side dish with rice and curry or as an added interest to a plain meal such as a grilled steak.

BAIGAN MASALA INGREDIENTS

2 Large Aubergines

1tblsp. Ghee or Clarified Butter

1 Small Onion, Peeled and chopped

2tsps. Ground Coriander

1tsp. Turmeric

½ tsp. Ground Cumin

1 small piece of Fresh Ginger,
peeled and finely chopped

¼ tsp. Cayenne Pepper

½ tsp. Salt

METHOD

Bring a large saucepan of water to the boil, place the whole aubergines carefully into the water and simmer

for 5 minutes. Take them out and leave to cool a little. Cut off the stem, and slice the aubergines in half and then chop into chunk sized pieces. In a large frying pan or wok, melt the butter or ghee over a medium heat and fry the onions for 3-4 minutes. Add the coriander, cumin, ginger, cayenne pepper and salt and stir-fry for another 2 minutes.

Add the aubergines and fry until beginning to brown. Turn the heat down to low, cover the pan and simmer for 6-7 minutes.

The Baigan Masala is now ready to serve.

Avis

CASAG and Stoke Golding Surgery News



We are still operating at one site and consulting remotely where possible. Reception desks at Stoke Golding Surgery will be modified in the next couple of weeks with Perspex covering to protect the staff from COVID-19 and also for more confidentiality. We appreciate Stoke Golding patients' help and understanding in these difficult times.



Dadlington Matters

Dadlington Village Hall Lockdown Quiz

If you fancy a challenge, Michael has devised a quiz that is a mixture of questions where every answer is the name of a place in Leicestershire. The clues are a mixture of general knowledge, cryptic questions and the odd anagram or two.

You can find the full quiz on the website: dadlingtonvillagehall.co.uk

There is a prize for the winning entry - or just have a go for fun!

Dadlington Celebrates VE Day

Photographs by John Walliker



For more Dadlington photos you can take a look at John's slide show by following the link: <https://youtu.be/OwHltiphoPk>





Ten of a Kind – June 2020 - Answers on page 24

One of the two birthstones for June is pearl. Here are ten pearl-related questions for you to have a go at.

1. In which American state is Pearl Harbour, the scene of a Japanese raid which sunk many American ships and brought them into World War II?
2. Pearls are small hard objects found in the soft tissue of shelled molluscs such as oysters. Where do you find 'mother of pearl'?
3. Who had a 1977 hit record with the song 'Pearl's a Singer'?
4. If you celebrate your pearl wedding anniversary, how many years have you been married?
5. What is the company Pearl and Dean known for?
6. Which children's television programme features Pearl Krabs, a sixteen year old sperm whale?
7. The Pearl River is the third longest river after the Yangtze and the Yellow rivers in which Asian country?
8. Which event in 2012, broadcast to millions around the world, featured a parade of Pearly Kings and Queens?
9. Which composer wrote the opera 'The Pearl Fishers'?
10. Which Irish poet and playwright, the author of *The Importance of Being Earnest*, is quoted as saying, "I am thoroughly sick of pearls. They make one look so plain, so good and so intellectual."?

Kill This COVID Dead

(to the tune of Land of Hope and Glory)

Land of soap and water,
Wash your hands and face,
Kill this dangerous virus
And praise the National Health.

Wider still and wider,
Does this virus spread,
Until the hand of glory,
Kills this COVID dead.

By John M Frisby



Memories of a Broken Empire

To enable comparisons I have enlarged my remit to include Russia and the Baltic States.

My first journey to Kazakhstan took over 12 hours, plus another two hours to get through Almaty airport. It was like negotiating a formidable obstacle course specifically designed to make it as difficult as possible for visitors to enter the country. The main purpose of my visit was to find out what kind of business education and training was taking place in colleges and universities. I was greeted at the airport by Azhar, a Kazakh member of our team and, not feeling my best, asked her whether there were colleges in Kazakhstan offering courses for airport staff on how to harass visitors.



In the Foothills of the Tien Shan

I asked a similar question of my interpreter, Tania, when looking around Almaty's largest department store. "Why is it that the staff never smile, or even try to look pleasant?" to which she replied, "can you think of anything they have to smile or be pleasant about?" I couldn't.

It was difficult at first for me to envisage what it meant to the inhabitants of a country colonised by the Russian Tsars, used by Stalin as a site for his *katorga* (hard-labour camps), by Khrushchev for an agricultural experiment to "cultivate the steppe" (resulting in tens of thousand deaths), abandoned with a wrecked economy, an almost worthless currency, a decaying infrastructure, and then, after 150 years, to be set free. Tania summed it up very astutely when I asked her how people were coping. "The young people like me are coping quite well but I feel very sorry for the older people. **You see, they have no one to tell them what to do anymore.**"

As I found my feet in Kazakhstan, and later in Russia, I came to the conclusion that two things were imperative if either country was to take their place in the modern world. First, the decline and eventual extinction of the hard-line, irredeemable communists, and second the tenfold increase in the price of Vodka, or the decrease in its alcoholic content by 100%!

What I didn't anticipate was that our efforts to assist in the development of an effectively functioning market economy would result in the rise of a small group of people, euphemistically called "oligarchs," who understood very well the workings of free-market capitalism, replacing the parasites the post-communist uprising was meant to eliminate, and certainly not that some of them would choose, and be allowed to live amongst the elite in London's West End. During my travels I visited several vacant sites in Siberia which would have been much more appropriate.



Kazakhstan has, I'm told, made progress, but sadly Russia first fell foul of Yeltsin, who liked a drink or two, and then of Putin, a hard-line KGB communist. I first became aware of the influence of the (disbanded) KGB when talking to a group of final-year university students in Karaganda, Kazakhstan's second largest city. I asked what they hoped to do when they graduated, knowing that jobs of any kind



Visit to Kazakh Yurt

were very scarce, and one young lady said "I'm not sure yet but my father will get me a job, and he's going to buy me a car." The monthly salary of a university lecturer at that time was 800 tenge (roughly 20 US dollars) a month and I knew of none who owned a car. Intrigued, I asked her what her father did. Blushing, she replied, "**He used to be the head of the KGB in Karaganda!**"

I was tempted to say, "please give him my regards" but, having the previous day visited

the site of a *katonga* which was once home to Alexander Solzhenitsyn, plus 59,999 others, and not liked the look of it, made a mental note instead to keep on the right side of this one.

Bob Quinney. To be continued.

Food and Drink Services

Don't forget the **Mango Tree** is now open for takeaways and the **George & Dragon** has an off-licence operating everyday from 1-5pm. Let's support our local businesses



We love this photograph of Sally Halstead's youngest son, who obviously loves Stoke Golding, even though his Mum admitted his tee-shirt had actually been bought in an American thrift store!



Outline planning application for houses on Wykin lane

This application was put before the Planning Committee on 19 May 2020 when the meeting was held on Zoom because of the current Covid 19 restrictions.

As the whole of the meeting was also available to view live on You Tube, I was able to watch the proceedings at home. With the Wykin development being last of four applications to be discussed at the committee meeting it turned out to be a rather long-winded affair to watch. However, it was interesting for highlighting how an application on Sketchley Lane was refused as Burbage Parish Council had just had their Neighbourhood Plan accepted, showing how important a Neighbourhood plan can be in carrying weight against development. The committee felt that generally with many applications LCC Highways didn't find any reason to refuse most applications which was surprising and frustrating.

Filled with optimism then we waited (109 You Tube watchers) for our spot. The Planning Officer read out her report which was shown on the screen. Unfortunately, she kept referring to Arnold Road as Arnolds Crescent, which I believe is in Newbold Verdon, which didn't fill you with much confidence.

Steve Martin, the Chair of the Stoke Golding Friends of the Community, the action group against the planning application, was allowed to speak against the proposed development as an objector, with the Parish Council fully supporting his groups position on the application. (See the Parish Council Annual report)

He gave his three minute speech which was very eloquent and highlighted the unsustainable growth of the population in the village and how it was out of step with the current amenities that we have. He also highlighted the parking issues on Wykin Lane and the dangerous nature of the road for all users, which include horses and cyclists. He said that the application was believed to be just the first stage in a planned larger development in the future by the developers.

The representative for the developers gave his speech which was the usual predictable line of affordable housing, open spaces and biodiversity that all developers tend to roll out.

Next came the questions for Steve Martin from the councillors and this proved to be more interesting.

Councillor Collett, our borough councillor, asked if the large number of objections on the planning report were an accurate representation of those made and did the photographs shown clearly represent the sites location. As Steve had already sent videos and photos he had taken showing more detail of Wykin Lane and the proposed entrance location to the planning committee members before the meeting, this question seemed to bring it to the members attention again. One member asked if there was an alternative route that could be used by traffic.

The question of why it was believed that this was just the first phase of a larger development was raised. It was pointed out that the developers had previously



shown the other proposed phase on a plan of the whole site and they were stating that the number of affordable homes they were proposing to build would be 70, which was greater than this planning application for 55 houses. Therefore, it was reasonable to assume that these could only come from both phases.

The question of whether Stoke Golding had a Neighbourhood Plan was raised and when the answer was that it was in progress, when would it be ready for examination. Steve said that the Neighbourhood Plan Team had identified a brownfield site that could be used for future housing in the village.

At this point the You Tube video link disappeared with a message saying it had been removed for violating You Tube's terms of service.

Very frustrating for everyone who had sat through the whole meeting but the council apologised profusely and the application has been deferred to the next meeting on 23 June 2020.

If you are interested in supporting the Stoke Golding Friends of the Community email: stokegoldingaad@gmail.com

Jan Zelenczuk

Virtual Scouts

The Scout Group have been out and about in a virtual capacity.

The Beavers had their first get together on "Zoom" and were excited to see everyone, to the extent that they all wanted to tell us everything at the same time.

The Scouts had their first meeting and a quiz. The Explorers, who were ahead of everyone, were having their second virtual meeting in the form of a Harry Potter escape room.

The Cubs are doing a creative challenge on The Jungle Book.

So, as you can see, despite not being able to get together in person, they are able to in the virtual environment.

The 1st Stoke Golding Scout Group had their first virtual Executive meeting and planning for an AGM in July, to be delivered virtually as well.

As to when the Group is able to meet up again, this will depend on the Scout Association advice.

So as I have said in the past- watch this space !!

Jennifer



George Eliot and the Local Canal.



For most of us in the local community the Ashby canal has a special place in our hearts, as shown by the numerous posts on Facebook and the responses to them. In Chilvers Coton Heritage Centre, where we hold the George Eliot Fellowship council meetings, there is a painting of bridge 31, painted by a local artist. One morning, while walking the dogs, I decided to take a photo of the bridge for my fellow members. A narrowboat came into view as I stood there, imagine my surprise when I saw the name, "The Floss". A brief conversation with the owner confirmed that it was named for "The Mill on the Floss", probably the most famous and widely read of George Eliot's novels and presumed to be semi-autobiographical.

Born November 1819, Mary Ann Evans, later to become known as George Eliot, grew up at Griff House, Nuneaton, now the Premier Inn, and was well acquainted with the local landscape, including the local canal network. A few hundred yards away from her home was the Griff arm of the Coventry canal. Here, as a child, she spent time with her beloved brother Isaac. This arm was used by the canal traffic to collect coal from the open cast pits around where she lived. This is reflected in her "Brother and Sister" sonnet and shows how important a part it played in her childhood:

....."Our brown canal was endless to my thought/And on its bank I sat in dreamy peace,/ Unknowing how the good I loved was wrought/ Untroubled by the fear that it would cease.

Slowly the barges floated into view/Rounding a grassy hill to me sublime/With some Unknown beyond it, wither flew/The parting cuckoo toward a fresh spring time....." Oh to hear the cuckoo now!

By the time GE wrote these lines and TMOTF, she and Isaac had become estranged, due to her unconventional relationship with George Henry Lewes. In TMOTF GE uses this location as Red Deeps, where Maggie Tulliver, the heroine, walks with Philip Wakeham. Tom Tulliver hates Philip, and the friendship between Maggie and Philip causes a rift between the brother and sister.





A mile or so from the Lady Bridge, where the Griff arm joined the Coventry canal, is the junction with the Ashby canal at Marston junction. Half a mile or so along the tow path from there lies the small hamlet of Marston Jabbet, another location dear to GE's heart. Maggie Tulliver has 3 aunts, all sisters of her mother and these aunts are based on her own mother's sisters. Aunt Sophy is based Aunt Elizabeth Pearson Johnson who lived and farmed at Marston Hall with her husband. The young Mary Ann would have visited often and have been driven along Marston Lane, parallel to the Ashby canal to get there.

Also in the hamlet was Poole Cottage. Its close proximity to the clay pits used for the extraction of

clay for brick making, has led some to speculate that this is the setting for Silas Marner's cottage.

Mary Ann moved from Griff to Coventry in 1841 and to London, after her father's death, in 1849. Her ties with the Midlands were severed after 1854 but her understanding of the Midland's landscape, its people, the communities and all of its levels of society, including the animals, are forever immortalised in her novels. It is her portrayal of these rounded communities, her acknowledgement that there is also a darker side to them and to the landscape that renders her writing so believable to me.

Linda Mayne

Acknowledgments: John Burton, Chairman George Eliot Fellowship, Peter Lee, www.nuneatonhistory.com for allowing me to lift photographs of the Griff arm of the Coventry Canal, the cottages at the Marston Jabbet Junction and the map of Marston Jabbet. There are many images on the site and a wealth of information. Please remember to obtain permission prior to lifting them.

Lockdown Art



Lockdown has given Trevor Terheege, from Shenton Close, more time for his new hobby of painting. He started attending an art class last summer, run by local artist Diane Sinclair, after never having painted before. Trevor says he is quite pleased with the painting, but could not have achieved it without Diane's help.



We are delighted that we have been given permission to print the following reminiscence, written by a Stoke Golding resident and originally posted on Facebook.

Down Memory Lane

So its turned a little colder for a while - I don't think we can complain about the weather as we have been blessed thus far with a lovely spring. The weekend's celebrations fuelling us with a little light relief from the predicament we all find ourselves in, but the 75th years celebrations of VE Day serve to remind us that things have been much, much worse for our little country and, if not for the sacrifices of our forebears, well who knows?

This post isn't going to be about me pretending to be Dr Doolittle, Jonny Morris or Benedict Cumberbatch though. A couple of days ago, whilst on our walk we sat on a bench (Yes we did, rebels I know!) to rest for a few minutes and ponder the past in light of my imminent final farewell to mum, who was cruelly snatched away from us by the, as Boris puts it, "Invisible mugger"

There is a point to this post, I think a very important one, which I would like to make for you to consider and hopefully to pass on, I'll try and keep it as short as I can, but I need to paint a picture first. So please, if you will join me for a short walk, I wont keep you long. You will be back after a cup of tea or coffee, I know my way well so we wont get lost and when we have concluded our walk my point will be made clear, very very clear. Where are we going? Oh its nowhere that special really - we all know the place. It's quaint, full of memories, joy and sadness. Yes it's Memory Lane.

So here we are in Bennetts Road North, Corley (well just off Memory Lane). Come on lets go and visit my Grandma and Grandad's place. Look we are here already.

The year is 1970. This place has not moved on one inch from 1945, I assure you. Change never visited this, or the house next door! The rickety double gates near the road were doing their best to keep in my Grandads old green Moggy Minor van, we wont open those they are a bugger to shut again, only my Grandad knows how, we will take the side gate. It's Spring and the front cottage garden is a sea of cottage flowers, outnumbered and outshone only by the clouds of butterflies and bees that enjoyed their sweet scent and hospitality.

What's that smell? Its paint, Grandad has painted the doors, windows and the side gate into the yard again, because that's what they did before wood



preservative became the fashion, along with UPVC doors and Windows. Oh the latch is a bit tight again, sorry, let me get that fir you. Into the back yard of the 1800's semi which is paved with bricks, yes house bricks in a herringbone pattern. Coal house and outside loo stand next to each other facing the kitchen window. The loo, with its' soft bleached ash seat, never seemed cold, even in winter. White painted walls and a little round paraffin heater tucked neatly away under the U bend with Izal toilet paper hanging off the wall (something I would rather forget about).

We walk past the wash house where Gran would wash with soft water collected in a huge tank from the tin wash house roof. Inside the washhouse was a Dolly and Tub, some strange ribbed board that my Gran used to torture my Grandads dirty shirt collars with and a Mangle. Ah, now the Mangle was my job. I was fascinated by the way it menacingly squeezed all that water out. Well I'm a boy and this is what boys do. I had to do it, it was my job, my 5 second destiny, how could I resist? So I put my fingers in and turned GRAN!!!!



Now then, squeeze tight over to the right, for in this shed is a monster on a chain, evil, savage and hates me with a passion I have never understood. Meg the Jack Russell used to be our dog until my sister sent her to bite me when I was running up the drive one day. Meg surgically removed a small patch of my shorts, my under pants and a little bit of my left bum cheek! Mum and Dad banished her to Corley where she lived to a good old age. Meg is the only dog I have never been able to win over, she was my Nemesis. The long garden is mirrored by next door's (My Great Uncle Bill and Aunt Flo's house) containing veg patch, chickens, rabbits, ducks, a multitude of sheds and enough rhubarb to feed an army (In fact Grandad used to sell it to the local school where he was a care taker following on from him leaving the pit at Keresley Colliery (This is where that ruddy toilet paper came from I'm sure!)

In one of the sheds was a large framed photograph of Grandad in military uniform, shorts, and a Boer war helmet standing on a Tiger skin rug, I never understood why it was relegated to the shed.

I'll try to hurry up now, just got to pop inside to see if Gran is in. The old kitchen door was never locked - the front door was because it was never used, everyone around here uses their back doors.

Colli Bob - to be concluded in next month's issue.



STOKER QUIZ

The answer to each question is the name of a London Tube Station.
All will be revealed in next month's Stoker.

1. 007's buying lunch.
2. Home of the dark blue clown
3. A rooster in the amber nectar
4. Dirty Monks
5. A marmalade bear
6. 1760 yards to the finish
7. Their father will be broke after giving them all away
8. Where Cavaliers come from
9. The Vicar is seasick
10. Location of Jake's tramps (anagram)
11. She was not amused
12. Home of an un-trendy ranger
13. Spurs ensnared street
14. Thirteen makes a dozen here
15. Line up for botany
16. Abba's first
17. Jumbo and rook
18. Woof woof
19. A rabbit lives down this road
20. Definitely not a place to say a black Mass
21. Is it full of tulips?
22. Statue perhaps
23. Where two households debate
24. Children sang about it falling down
25. Where Eros is under the big top
26. Down by the riverside
27. Gabriel's station
28. Where Norwich City dock
29. Elliptical
30. Applaud 'em is the norm



Stoke Golding Parish Council Annual Parish Report

Stoke Golding Parish Council Annual Parish report was to have been presented at an informal meeting before the normal May parish council meeting, in an attempt to engage more villagers to take part and to meet the councillors, some of whom are new to the parish council.

However, as with so many things lately, this idea had to be dropped and the report has been published on the website www.stokegolding.co.uk/local-government and displayed on the Parish Council noticeboard.

The financial report details the income and expenditure for this financial year and budget for the next and it shows how much has to be spent on maintenance, including the recreation ground for example, which a lot of us do take for granted.

There are reports from the Cemetery administrator, the Village Hall Committee and the Neighbourhood Advisory committee, not to mention our own village charities who provide donations for events, equipment and grants for this village.

Thanks is given to the numerous volunteers and groups who organise the many events that take place during the year which, as the Parish Council Chairman says, shows a real Community spirit in the village.

There is an update on the Baxter Hall too, which we should all be interested in as part of our village fabric, it would be a shame to lose it.

So go and have a look at the report and you will see the amount of work that goes into running a parish. We should all be interested in ours!

Jan Zelenczuk

Response from PC regarding March PC minutes

Can I bring to the Stoker Team's attention, that the report in the Stoker on the minutes for the March PC meeting was misleading and this caused some confusion for residents and consequently additional work for the PC in clarifying the confusion. Jan stated that there was uncertainty about the name of Laburnum Close and that the PC would need to check this out before ordering Heritage Street Name signs. There was no uncertainty on behalf of the PC. One Cllr did ask for clarification on this and was clearly reminded of the facts. The PC did not need to check this matter, as the PC was involved in choosing the name and has been in regular discussions with the developer on a number of matters relating to this site.

Theresa Case, Parish Clerk



The Newsworthy Mr Moore

The British Newspaper Archive contains old newspapers from around the country. Our area was covered by three Leicestershire publications, The Mercury, The Chronicle and The Journal, and between 1846 and 1860, nine of the fourteen stories that featured Dadlington also featured a certain Mr Henry Moore. So, who was this Mr Moore and why did he appear in the press so often?

Henry Moore was born in Attleboro' in around 1825. By the time of the 1851 census, he has married a Coventry girl called Amelia and they are farming 50 acres of land in Dadlington. He has three children, Joseph (4), Amelia (3), and nine-month-old Henry Junior. They employed two 17 year olds: William Hudson was a farm labourer from Higham and Mary-Ann Aubrey a domestic servant from Banbury. Henry appears to have taken a full part in village life which partly explains some of the news stories, becoming a constable and then an overseer for the parish. The job of constable was an ancient one. Up until 1617, they were chosen by the other villagers but from that year the appointment became the responsibility of local magistrates. An 1842 law returned the elections to the villagers again. As constable, Henry would have been expected to detain anyone breaking the law in the parish and deliver them to the courts. He could also read the Riot Act. Among the many duties that Henry was expected to carry out were confining beggars and vagabonds to the stocks for three days before having them whipped out of the parish. He'd also have to punish poachers, drunks, hedge-damages, prostitutes, church-avoiders and the fathers of illegitimate children. Quite an arduous task, one would think, so it's perhaps surprising that his only reported action was in January 1848, when he brought four men from Stoke Golding to court for assault. Three were convicted and fined.

The position of overseer was created by a 1597 act of Parliament which was followed four years later with The Poor Law Act. The responsibility for looking after the poor, the widowed and the infirm rested with the officials in each parish and the wealthier residents were required to pay their poor law rates accordingly. The overseer was the person who made sure this happened and in March 1849, one Thomas Coley, a poor labourer from Stapleton but living in Dadlington, was brought before the courts by Henry for non-payment of the rates. Thomas' counsel argued that if Thomas had to pay the rate, it would result in him becoming a pauper himself. The bench were inclined to be lenient but Henry would not be moved. After stating that a meeting of parish officials, a vestry meeting, had agreed there were several larger families in worse circumstances in the village, Thomas' counsel opined that perhaps none of them should have to pay the rate. The court found against Thomas but during the case it transpired that there were many outsiders living in Dadlington who could not find homes in their own parishes because the landowners refused to build any new ones. Villages that took in these displaced workers were insisting on high rates in an effort to get rid of the interlopers.

Despite being a pillar of village life, Henry Moore seems to have had another side to him. The first time he appears in print is in April 1846. He is described by a young farmer of very respectable appearance and good connections. He'd been charged with breaking and damaging a lock belonging to Joshua Grundy, Lord of the Manor. The lock was hanging in blacksmith Thomas Wright's shop and Thomas alleged that Henry had told him to, "Say nothing until you are dead, and then tell all you know." The case was dismissed so maybe Henry wasn't so bad after all. And then... Thomas Mellor of Stoke Golding was standing at Hinckley Statutes (an annual fair for hiring servants) near the Bell Inn at 5:30pm when Henry got out of his gig and knocked him down three times, giving him two black eyes without any provocation. "It's an old grudge, gentlemen," Henry told the magistrates who promptly fined him £9 and £1 8s costs. (30 Sep 1848 Leicester Mercury) John Baggaly of Dadlington charged Henry with using language calculated to provoke a breach of the peace. Some of Henry's cattle had strayed over the fence. Magistrates tried to get them to resolve their differences amicably but eventually ordered HM to pay costs. (12 April 1851 Leicester Mercury) In April 1854, John Cross accused Henry of assault. According to The Leicester Journal, this took place in the house of another farmer, Mr Freeman during an annual meeting to determine who should have the right to graze their animals on the sides of the lanes (Ratcliffe Culey have continued this tradition to this day.) Apparently the decision was made by the collected farmers sticking pins in a candle and Henry, obviously objecting to something or other was accused first of using provoking language and then of assault. The Leicester Chronicle 22nd April, reporting the same case, has the assault happening at Dog and Hedgehog after both parties had made free with the juice of Sir John Barleycorn, a euphemism for alcoholic beverages. The case was dismissed as nobody there witnessed any assault.

Henry's final appearance in court occurs in April 1859 when Sarah Towers claims 15s due for wages and clothes owed her by The Moores. She'd been hired for 16 weeks to look after their youngest child but left after just 3 months complaining that their little boy was horrible to her, throwing a stick and kicking her whilst Mrs Moore took his side. Henry said the parish has provided her with clothes so they belonged to the parish and he was hanging onto them. He said that girl frequently swore in front of children, to which His Honour replied, "You should have turned her away immediately. " Henry Moore merits one final mention in 1860 when parishioners decided to build a bridge over the brook between Dadlington and Sutton Cheney. In White's 1863 trade directory he is listed as a farmer but five years later, the burial is recorded of a 44-year-old Henry Moore, now residing in Birmingham. Of course, a few newspaper cuttings can never give you the whole picture. Henry was obviously someone who took a full part in village life, probably spoke his mind, did what he saw as his duty and wasn't averse to a bit of fisticuffs to hit his message home. He seems to have been quite a colourful character and he certainly kept the magistrates and the reporters busy during his short adult life.

Michael Dix



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1. Hawaii
2. On the inside of the shell
3. Elkie Brooks
4. Thirty
5. Cinema advertising
6. SpongeBob SquarePants
7. China
8. London Olympic Games opening ceremony
9. Bizet
10. Oscar Wilde

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Obituaries



Donald William Bristow

Don sadly passed away on 19th April 2020. Dearly loved husband of Diana, brother of Robert and David and brother in law of Keith, Arthur and Oliver. A private cremation will be held and a memorial service will be arranged at St Margaret's Church, Stoke Golding, at a later date. All enquiries to G. Seller, Upper Bond Street, Hinckley.

Richard Quinney

Richard died at his home, in Menai Bridge, Anglesey, on 26th April 2020, aged 51 years. Formerly from Stoke Golding, Richard was the much loved husband of Jo, loving father to Jack and Ben, beloved son of Doreen and Alan and much loved brother of Luisa. A private funeral was held on 15th May and donations may be made in memory of Richard to the Samaritans.

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



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