

June 2021

No. 202

# The Stoker

**Stoke Golding Village Magazine**

*Including*

**Dadlington Matters**

**70p**





## Note from the Editors

We hope you have a few minutes to make a cuppa and enjoy reading your June Stoker which is full of interesting articles, great photos and actual EVENTS!



You can look forward to a Cream Tea at Hall Farm, Dadlington, a Charity

Night at Stoke Golding Club, an Open Garden at 8 Hinckley Road and the Scarecrow Festival - all taking place in July and August - and we are sure there will be many more outings to enjoy. Our pubs, village halls and churches have now opened (apart from St Margaret's Church, which is undergoing restoration) and life is slowly returning to normal.

Well done Sarah (opposite page) for walking in aid of Kidney Research. The Stoker team wishes you all the very best and we hope you don't get too many blisters!

We love receiving your articles and photographs so please keep sending them in.

*Stay safe, Jane and Steve*

## The Stoker Team

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

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

Please send articles for the **July/Aug** issue of The Stoker by **15th June** to:

**The Editors, 45 Station Road, Stoke Golding.**

**Email [thestoker@gmx.co.uk](mailto:thestoker@gmx.co.uk)**

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

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

***N.B. All advertising enquiries to Ella Orr - [ella42@sky.com](mailto:ella42@sky.com)***

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

*Cover picture:* Rainbow over St Margaret's Church captured by Vicki Roberts

## Sarah's SWC2C 100km Ultra Challenge



On 24th and 25th July 2021, Sarah Gunn, from Stoke Golding, will be undertaking the South West Coast 2 Coast Ultra Challenge.

The challenge involves walking a total of 100km over two days, starting in Minehead, Somerset and finishing in Dawlish, Devon.

Sarah is completing this walk in aid of Kidney Research UK, in memory of her Dad who had Chronic Kidney Disease and was a dialysis patient up until he passed away from COVID-19 in April 2020.



Kidney disease is a silent killer. There are over 3 million people in the UK with it right now and there is no cure. Kidney Research UK is the leading UK charity committed to funding life-saving treatments for those with kidney diseases.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/sarahs-swc2c-100km-challenge>

Thank you for taking the time to read about my challenge and this worthy cause. All donations are very gratefully received.

## Welcome Packs

The Stoker provides a Welcome Pack, which includes local information, for anyone who moves into Stoke Golding or Dadlington and this is delivered personally by Jan Pettyfer, a member of the Stoker Production Team. During lockdown it has been more difficult to deliver the packs, so if you are new to either village and have missed out please get in touch with us.

We would be very grateful if you could let us know of any new residents moving in near to you, so we can provide them with a Pack and welcome them to the village.

## STOP PRESS

Despite many hours spent by village residents fighting the threatened development in Wykin Lane, we have just heard that the appeal by the developers has been successful and this has now been given permission to go ahead.



## Bob's Focus

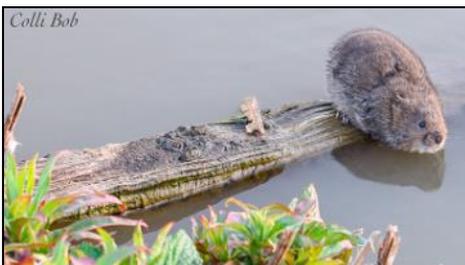
I have to say that I am getting a little bit excited about all this re wilding malarkey that seems to be kicking off all over the place right now, and I'm not talking about those lockdown haircuts, I have seen some corkers sported by my mates!(OK I'm jealous, being follically challenged I felt a little left out but as my Grandad used to say "Lad you can't grow grass in a

desert") No, of course I am talking about the various Stewardship schemes and local government initiatives to help the wildlife. The Shenton estate continue to provide an amazing amount of diverse habitats with their careful management of their woods and land, near Sutton Cheney Wharf a field has been turned over to wild flowers, Dadlington's gravel pit is being re wilded for nesting fowl plus Stoke Golding and Dadlington are transforming some of their verges into miniature wildlife reserves. Great work by all.



Those of you that walk along the canal will have noticed an abundance of water vole burrows, their little lawns and will have either seen the little fury fellows or heard numerous plops as the dive for cover. As I have previously stated, we have a fantastic colony, whereas the SSSI from Carlton to Shackerstone shows no evidence of their presence. Some villagers including myself have been concerned re the Canal and River Trusts management of the towpaths, cutting down vital wildflowers before they have chance to attract the wildlife with apparent disregard for the voles.

Last year I managed o get them to leave the vegetation alone through the summer, whereas a few weeks ago they mowed hard again. I have also been frustrated that the CRT had failed to acknowledge the presence of the voles.



Now the good news! Yesterday I spoke to a lovely lady called Penny Foster who is the senior ecologist, and guess what? She is a Water Vole nut. It seems my last two emails did get through and she walked the section from Stoke Golding to Sutton Wharf, she was

astounded at how many burrows there were, in fact she said she had never seen so many along any section of canal, she even spotted one or two.

Penny also confirmed that she had found Otter Spraint under some of the bridges and that this was probably the reason the water voles were thriving, Otters will take a vole but can't get down the hole, a Mink can, and a female mink will wipe out a colony to feed her young. Otters won't tolerate Mink, so the Mink clear off. I asked her if she could help by monitoring the mowing of the towpath, she agreed that they need to re appraise their schedule to help the voles.

Basically their schedule is:

Prior to March a Hedgerow to bank cut (They did it in April this year), this ensures woody growth does not encroach on the path. In total, 6 cuts are carried out throughout the year with only the centre 1.6m being mown. This will be going down to 4 cuts save money anyway.

I will be monitoring this and will keep in contact with Penny should anyone with a strimmer get carried away, hopefully we will see plenty of butterflies, dragon flies and damsel flies along the Ashby this year for us all to enjoy.

*Collie Bob*

### **Home from Home Childcare....about Sam**

I live at home with my husband Mark & daughter Gia (born October 2005) we also have a dog called Veva who is 8 years old.

Before starting as a childminder, I worked in the Motor Trade as a Group Administration Manager for 21 Years. I decided I needed a change. Childminding was something I have thought about for a long time & due to lockdown (COVID-19) I decided to do an online Level 3 Early Years Foundation Course.

The rest is history & **Home from Home Childcare** was formed. My aim is to create a home setting for all children that come into my care. I want it to be a natural secure home setting, where every child feels at ease whilst helping them develop & become ready for the big wide world. I have a wide range of books, games, puzzles & activities for the children to explore. I will also encourage the outdoors, whether it is sunny or raining. I hope to go on picnics round the park to woodlands walks. I will look after children from 12 months plus and can do before & after school care plus cover some holidays.

If you have any questions please get in touch.

Email: [mantabentley1970@gmail.com](mailto:mantabentley1970@gmail.com)

Or Tel: 07970 076 474

*Sam*

## Loosen up! Top tips for treating arthritis. By Jess the Vet

As a village of animal lovers it's always lovely to see so many dogs enjoying their walks, but what do you do if your pet seems to be getting more stiff when they walk and possibly limping?

Recent studies suggest that 1 in 4 of our pets have arthritis and your vet is here to help! There are many ways you can support your pet's joints and keep them comfortable

before having to resort to long term medication. There are four ways in which you could help your pet– weight control, pain relief, joint supplements, and regular controlled exercise.

### Weight Control and Regular Exercise

Sadly, a lot of the nation's pets have struggled with their waistline during lockdown and this has had a knock-on effect on their joints. Regular walks of the same length can really help pets keep more mobile and stave off arthritis as they get older. If they already have signs of arthritis don't stop their exercise but change the intensity or length of their walks to suit them. Remember, as dogs age, their energy levels and exercise needs change and there are specific diets for geriatric dogs that are better tailored to their energy levels to help them maintain a healthy weight.

### Joint Supplements

There are a wide range of joint supplements available both from your vet and online pharmacies. These work to help support joint health, reduce stiffness and maintain mobility. My top two online supplements are Yumove and Dasuquin. Starting joint supplements early has been shown to help your pet in later life but if you are unsure always call your vet for advice.

### Pain Relief

For some pets, pain relief is necessary to enable them to enjoy a pain free quality of life. There is a lot of bad press about pain relief options for our pets and yes with any drug there can be side effects but your vet can advise you about the safest options. The pain relief available to our canine and feline patients is constantly evolving and there are many different types of drug now available. If your pet is worse in cold weather, stiff in the mornings or less keen to walk, contact your vet for an appointment and trial some pain relief. In most cases I deal with, owners notice a big difference in the happiness of their pet and wish to continue the medication long term. Your vet will recommend 6 monthly blood tests to check kidney function as this is the main organ that can be affected by long-term medication.



As well as pain relief there are adjunctive therapies that can aid your pet's mobility and help with their discomfort. Acupuncture, physiotherapy and hydrotherapy are becoming much more common choices for treatment of arthritic animals with really good responses. So, as with people, age need not be a barrier to your pet enjoying the pleasures of life!

## Ask the Vet

If you have any questions about the animals in your life, Jess has offered to have a monthly column in the Stoker. Just email us at: [thestoker@gmx.co.uk](mailto:thestoker@gmx.co.uk)

### A Sports Quiz: Test your memory

#### Which British Olympian won the following events?

1. **ATHLETICS:** 100 Metres for Men in 1980
2. **SWIMMING:** 200 Metres for Women in 1960
3. **PENTATHLON:** For women in 1972
4. **ATHLETICS:** 1500 Metres for Men in 1984
5. **BOXING:** Super Heavyweight Champion in 1988
6. **ROWING:** Coxless Pairs in 1988
7. **EQUESTRIAN:** 3 Day Event in 1972
8. **CYCLING:** 4000 Metres Pursuit in 1992
9. **TENNIS:** Singles Championship for Men in 2012
10. **SWIMMING:** 800 Metres Freestyle for Women in Beijing

**Answers on page 29**

### Stoke Golding Parish Council Update on Vehicle Activated Signs

Stoke Golding Parish Council owns two Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) in the village. These signs are operated by a rechargeable battery. The Parish Council is looking for a volunteer to regularly change and recharge the battery in the VAS on Hinckley Road. If you think you can help please get in touch with the Clerk.

Email: [clerk.stokegoldinpc@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.stokegoldinpc@gmail.com)

## Scout Group Back in Action



We have been back 3 weeks and what a busy time we have had. The Scout Group are back in action having completed detail risk assessments which were approved at County level and above at the Village Hall.

Fortunately the weather for the first couple of weeks was very good so both the Beavers and Cubs did their Gardener's badge, all socially distanced

even outside. They planted sunflower seeds, learnt about garden tools, seasons to plant and mini beasts and the Cubs made bug huts out of old tins for their habitat.

The Beavers have had their first investment outside (first investment for over 14 months) which involved the parent doing the honours with the necker. The Beavers have been playing games, learning about St George, renewing their promise and making kites then flying them on a particularly windy night.

The Cubs had a trip out to Bosworth Water Park and learned how to paddle in a katacanoe and had a great time out on the water despite the storm that came and went, with heavy rain and darkening skies.



The Scouts have been hiking, making fires and burning marshmallows. They have been learning about trangia cooking and, at the time of writing this article, are planning a trip to the Water Park too, as well as planning an Expedition! A big thank you to Neil and David for organising and leading the water activities, including all the setting up and deep cleaning of the equipment too.

At the Scout executive meeting on 11th May, the parent representatives thanked the leaders for all their hard work to get the risk assessments approved and run the 3 sections with an exciting programme and get the group up and running again alongside all the regulations. The Scout Group are under the regulations set down by the National Youth Council. At the time of writing these regulations are still present and there is no change in these as yet.

So as I wrote at the start a busy 3 weeks back !!!!

*Jennifer Michie*

## Changing Names

I recently heard the Bath Piece being called the Duck Bend. The Bath Piece is the tight bend in the canal as it nears the Stoke Golding to Dadlington Road. Fields on the Dadlington side of the road here and on up the hill are named Bath Meadow, First Bath Piece Meadow and Second Bath Piece Meadow. As there is a distinct bend in the canal here and as it usually has many ducks and other water fowl swimming and foraging for sustenance it would seem to be a remarkably apt new name.



Some field names, too, have changed from the ones that were recorded on the 1845 Tythe Map. When the railway came to Stoke Golding in 1873 one field near the track became known as Signal Box field and when electricity came to the village in the 1920's another field acquired the name of Pylon field. Little Close changed to Old Hens field in the mid 1900's and the Old Hop Yards field is now known as Elbow field.



Perhaps the most well known field in Stoke Golding is Crown Hill, once known more than 500 years ago as Mountain Hyghe, consisting of a nodule of volcanic rock, now grassed over. It also included Hollow Meadow. Hollow is a corruption of "Holloa" from the shout given when Henry was crowned here after the Battle of Bosworth. Names in the villages do change over a period of time.

Does anyone now call Hinckley Road Carpet Lane or Station Road Atherstone Road? And could you arrange to meet a friend in the Bull Ring?

*Jill Webster*

*Thank you everyone who posted photographs of The Bath Piece on Facebook - Eds*

**Member Anne Fullagar tells of her trip around South America**

Anne's trip was based on a beautiful Cruise Liner Queen Victoria.

The first 7 days crossing the Atlantic were a bit rough on the way to Bermuda, Anne showed us some lovely photos of the island. She explained that the roofs of the houses were painted white to deflect some of the sunlight, and they all have important rain conservation methods as it is extremely important to conserve as much rainwater as possible. Saw a lovely photo of a beach taken on the way to St George in the north of the island. There was a replica of a very old ship in the harbour.

The ship then moved on to Florida and onto the Amazon River starting with an outing to see the Opera House in Manaus, a beautiful building. Then some shots of the market, very colourful.

This was followed by a walk in the rainforest near Santarem.

The ship came out of the Amazon and turned down the coast to Salvador old town which is a UNESCO world heritage site. We saw the beautiful church of St Francis built in 16<sup>th</sup> Century. Salvador was once the premier slave port of Brazil and the African culture is kept alive here.

Moving on to Rio and there was a cable car ride up to Sugar Loaf Mountain and a train up to Corcovado and the Christ the Redeemer Statue covered in mist.

In Montevideo Anne met up with Ciaran McGrath, who has been working in Uruguay and who is the son of fellow member Mary.

The following day Anne's ship crossed the estuary and docked at Buenos Aires. En route to a tasting of Argentinian wines they passed the Casa Rosada, where Eva Peron stood on the balcony to speak to the people.

Heading south to Patagonia, Anne went to a wildlife area with seals, sea lions and penguins.

There followed a rough passage down to Cape Horn, but it was quite calm when they got there.

After circling the island, the ship visited Ushuaia in the Beagle Channel and Punta Arenas on the Magellan Strait before emerging into the Pacific Ocean. Heading northwards along the coast of Chile the ship made several stops and Anne was able to visit Santiago and its beautiful cathedral.

The talk finished there as we had run out of time, but hopefully we can hear more at another time.

## Village News and Events From Facebook Posts

 **Kate Walker**  
Friday at 18:40 · 📍

🍰🍰 SAVE THE DATE 🍰🍰

[Caroline Fielden](#), famous for her incredible meringues and organisational skills, will be hosting the annual Cream Tea on the lawn at Hall Farm Dadlington

Sunday 8th August 2021 from 3pm to 5pm

All proceeds to St James' Church Dadlington. Everyone welcome.

🍰🍰 More details to follow 🍰🍰



The Stoke Golding and Dadlington Facebook Community Pages provide lots of local information, but we realise that not everyone can access Facebook, so we will try and update you with some relevant posts each month.

The Stoke Golding 'War on Waste' page on Facebook has been an amazing success with hundreds of unwanted items going to new homes to be enjoyed instead of ended up in landfill.

### Book Swap on Station Road

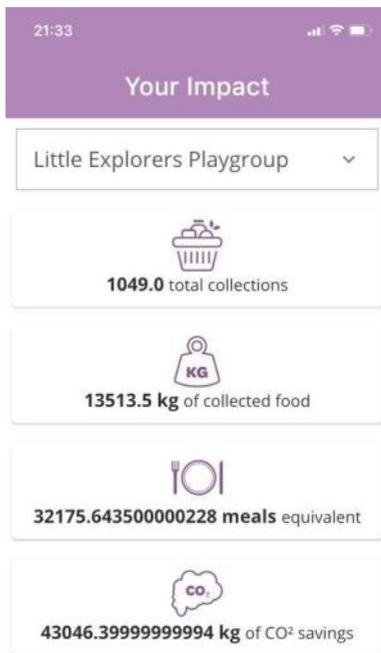
Vicki Palmer reports that the book swap is going well. She has counted nearly 100 books being swapped out since we started in January!

That's good going for a few months.



### Helping to Save the Planet

Alison Bates has posted these impressive results from her waste food table - many thanks and congratulations from us at the Stoker.



## Staffroom Memories 26: Radio

In contrast to my television appearances, I loved the opportunities I had to be on the radio. My second headteacher was very keen to promote the school and when I wrote a series of songs to celebrate Easter for the school choir to sing, he was on the phone to Radio Leicester in a flash. As a result, a few days later we were off to the old Radio Leicester studios near Lee Circle. We were to perform live on the John Florance morning show and then he was going to come and talk to us between songs. It was all very exciting. We were shown into a studio where we could hear the show being broadcast. I had a chance to play a half decent grand piano and after a few sound checks we were ready to go. All went very smoothly and it was strange, as we packed up to leave, to hear listeners calling in to say how much they'd enjoyed listening to us. We made return appearances for the next two Christmases and then I moved school and took my new school choir off to perform as well. After that, they changed the format of the morning show and my budding career as pianist composer came to an abrupt end.

A few years later, I saw an advert for schools to get involved with what was then called BBC7 (Now Radio 4 extra). There wanted three children to take part in their daily tea-time slot, The Big Toe Radio Show. I duly applied and was invited to bring three children down to Broadcasting House in London to take part in the programme that would be going out live. For three years running, we journeyed down by train, took the tube to Oxford Circus and entered the hallowed world of the BBC. Once the programme began, the children were in a child-friendly studio (all big sofas and cushions) with the two presenters, whilst I was in the next room with the research staff, listening to the broadcast and hoping the children would be appear knowledgeable and interesting: they had been hand-picked. However, on the third occasion, the hand-picking went badly wrong.

I'd picked Harry because he was a vivacious, entertaining, talkative 11-year-old. On the journey down he was certainly that. However, once in the studio, all three children became a bit overcome by the whole occasion and were really quiet and restrained. That all changed the moment we set off back for Leicester on the train. Harry managed to get the other two children in fits of giggles for the whole journey. This is fine if you are in a carriage on your own. We were in an otherwise silent carriage, full of tired and increasingly irritated businessmen on their way home from work. Neither they nor I appreciated Harry's non-stop round of jokes, silly comments, and bizarre gestures. My constant barrage of whispered threats had no effect whatsoever. He knew I was fairly powerless to halt his virtuoso performance. I could hardly send him out of the carriage on his own or leave the others whilst I read the riot act in the connecting .

corridor. It was the most stressful train journey I have ever taken and I decided, there and then, we wouldn't be appearing on the radio again.

*Michael Dix*

### Update from Pine Close Surgery

Dear Patients

Please be aware that the surgery cannot supply you with a COVID passport to go abroad, patients will need to contact <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/demonstrating-your-covid-19-vaccination-status-when-travelling-abroad> for further information. Proof of your vaccination status will be available on the NHSapp, The NHSapp can be downloaded from <https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/nhs-app/id1388411277> for iPhone or <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.nhs.online.nhsonline> for android.

Alternatively you can call the NHS helpline on 119 (from 17 May) and ask for a letter to be posted to you. This must be at least 5 days after you've completed your course of the vaccine, the letter may take up to 5 days to reach you.

Please be aware that by early in June we will have finished vaccinating all 2nd dose COVID 19 vaccines for all the patients Over 50 and above who had their first vaccines with us. If you are waiting for your 2nd vaccine please be assured you will receive an invitation.

If you have not had a first vaccine yet, and you are 50 and over, please contact 119 as we are not vaccinating any first doses, if you are under 50 The Maples Family Practice are taking over vaccinating our patients and will contact you via text, for enquires and booking if you have not a smartphone please contact them on 03309127411 phone line is open from 10 – 3 Mon – Friday it's a Freephone

Although we will have nearly finished vaccinating the surgery is overwhelmed with a unprecedented back log of work. The dispensary is still understaffed (which we are trying to address) but doing a valiant job, referrals sent to consultants are taking a very long time before appointments come through to patients which is out of our control, so please bare us.

Thank you again for your support and patience

Alison Ellis

## St. Margaret's School Become 'Plastic-Free'

Year 6 at St. Margaret's have been campaigning for our school to become 'plastic-free' over the last few months. The whole school got on board and we have recently been awarded the 'plastic free schools award'. Our children are keen to be positive global citizens at St. Margaret's. We hope you enjoy reading the attachments from the children as to what they've been doing. We have also sent the children's instructions for how to make beeswax wrapping which the children were keen to share with residents of Stoke Golding so they can hopefully have an impact upon the village's use of single use plastic. **Hayley Warwick**

*Sorry, we couldn't include all of the children's wonderful work...eds*

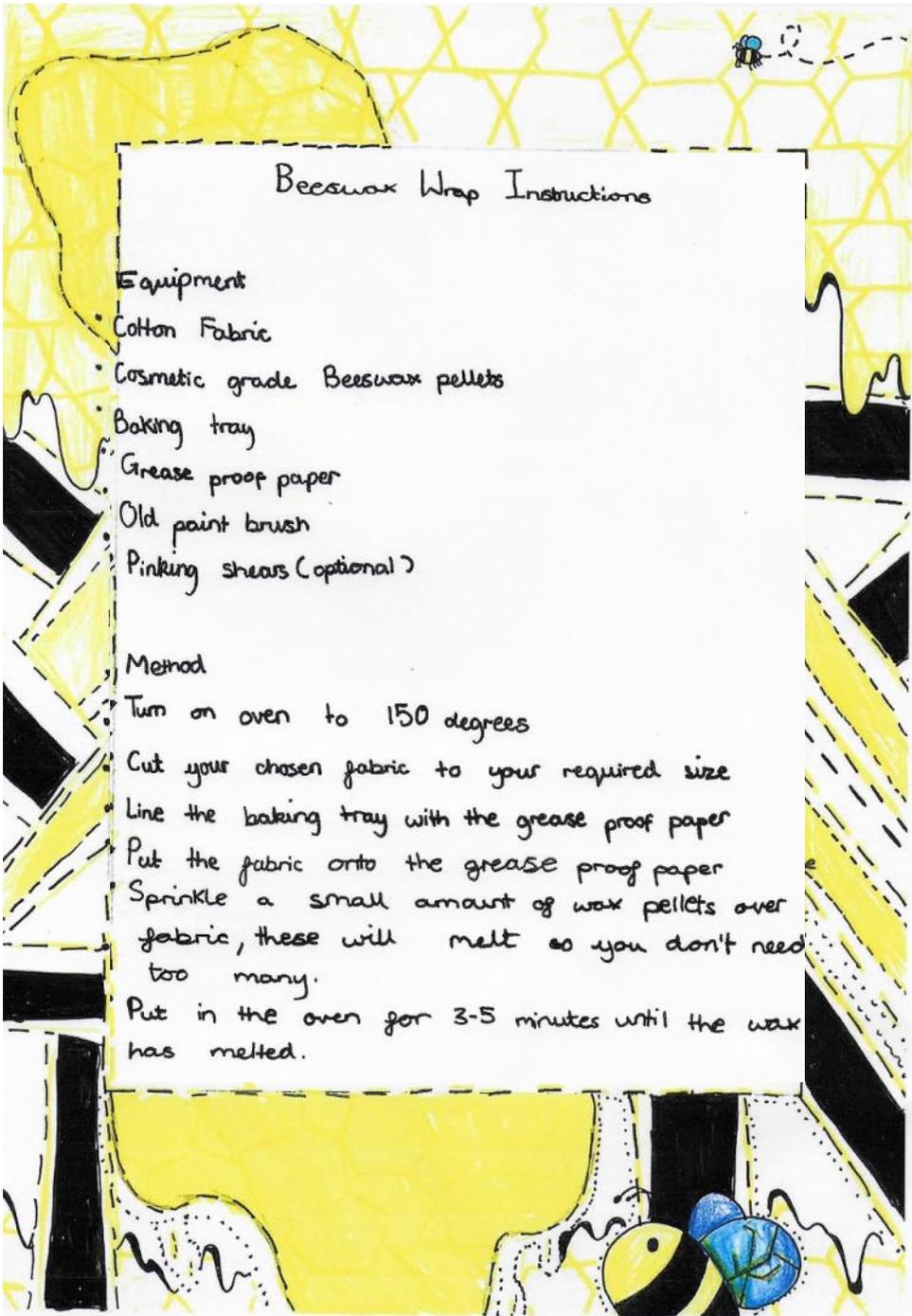
In the past few months, we have been doing **LOADS** of stuggs to achieve being a plastic free school.

We have removed 3 single use plastic items such as milk cartons, water bottles and plastic cups. Year 6 (us) did a gull litter pick around the school in small groups and we found at least 5 bags full of rubbish! This upsets us because this was only around our school, just imagine how much rubbish would be outside of school. We had a Zoom meeting with our local MP (DR. Luke Evans) about how we as a country can become plastic free.

Some children had ideas about how could we change and he had an important response to each of our questions which all of us loved. Last but not least, we talked and wrote letters to big brands and discussed how we can make an impact on our world.

In our community, we could recycle, reuse and reduce to make a huge difference globally. I know people probably already do this 'but maybe we could use social media apps to give away unsold, useless or old stuggs instead of throwing them away which can damage the environment. We could also use these apps to spread awariness. We are currently writing some beeswax paper instructions which we hope to be put inside the stoker. We could all also help our world by doing at least one litter pick weekly or the whole of Stoke Golding could get involved which could be organized by a small group of people.

Aimee W -



## Beeswax Wrap Instructions

### Equipment

- Cotton Fabric
- Cosmetic grade Beeswax pellets
- Baking tray
- Grease proof paper
- Old paint brush
- Pinking shears (optional)

### Method

1. Turn on oven to 150 degrees
2. Cut your chosen fabric to your required size
3. Line the baking tray with the grease proof paper
4. Put the fabric onto the grease proof paper
5. Sprinkle a small amount of wax pellets over fabric, these will melt so you don't need too many.
6. Put in the oven for 3-5 minutes until the wax has melted.

# Dadlington Matters

## Dadlington Village Hall – an update

The hall reopened as a Covid-secure venue on May 17<sup>th</sup> for regular users who wished to restart their activities. The committee have installed hand sanitisers inside and outside the building plus protective sheeting at the kitchen hatch. It has also purchased a groundsheet for the marquee so that events such as the monthly coffee mornings can cater for more socially distanced groups. A deep clean was carried out prior to its first opening.

On Monday June 21<sup>st</sup>, we are hoping that the government will announce an end to all restrictions and to celebrate this, the committee is planning a get together for Dadlington residents at the village hall beginning at 6:30pm. As currently planned, it will take the form of families bringing their own food and drink, with hopefully some live music to accompany proceedings. A final decision on the event will take place at the next DVH meeting in early June with invites posted through doors if everything is to go ahead as planned

*M. Dix*

## Ten of a Kind – June '21

Look up words associated with June and you will find many references to June Bugs. They are related to the scarab beetles of Ancient Egypt. Here are ten questions on insects of all shapes and sizes.

1. How many body parts does an insect have?
2. Why do crickets rub their legs together?
3. Which members of the lepidoptera order share their name with a TV sitcom starring Wendy Craig and Geoffrey Palmer?
4. Used to describe a section of society, what do the initials WASP stand for?
5. What kind of insect holds the world record for being the longest, measuring 64cm?
6. What insect name did singer and actor Stuart Goddard adopt from the name of his band?
7. Which insects would be the main focus of an apiarist?
8. Which mosquitos bite – males, females or both?
9. How, in the kitchen, might you use scale insects called cochineal?
10. In the Old Testament book of Exodus, how many of the ten plagues were related to insects?

**Answers on page 28**



## Coffee Connect Launches across Leicestershire & Rutland

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April saw the successful launch of the Rural Coffee Connect project with a fantastic turnout at the Markfield

Community and Sports Centre. The Rural Community Council (RCC) team offered drinks to guests whilst sharing the exciting plans for the van during spring, summer and beyond. A resident of Markfield mentioned *"Shrugging-off the rather cold and windy weather, an invited group of Markfield residents enjoyed the excellent hospitality provided by the RCC's "Coffee Connect Van" when it visited the Markfield Community and Sports Centre on 21st April. I very much enjoyed my first proper Latte in many months and catching-up with friends and colleagues from across the village."*

The project offers complimentary, high quality coffee and hot drinks in an informal, friendly space with a simple 'coffee and chat' approach. Their pop-up visits bring people together and support individuals in building mutual connections with neighbours and existing local services. Through community capacity building, Coffee Connect staff aim to help identify and facilitate the set-up of long-term assets and services to support stronger, more connected communities.



**rural coffee connect**  
connecting people one cup at a time

Here at the RCC, Residents enjoying a cup of coffee socially distanced: Resident (Left), Amy Chambers - RCC Staff, Resident & Resident.

we recognise that anyone can feel lonely, and therefore anyone can take steps in their everyday life to reach out and help others in their local community suffering from loneliness. We offer FREE Zoom based training sessions which are designed to help act by explaining the common causes and effects of loneliness, talking through ways to reach out, connect and help others that may be experiencing loneliness and sharing useful links, tools, and resources to help tackle loneliness. More information regarding our work is available on our website: <https://www.ruralcc.org.uk/loneliness> To find out more about the van or enquire about a visit to your community call the Coffee Connect team on 01455 856330 or email [connect@ruralcc.org.uk](mailto:connect@ruralcc.org.uk).



## Meet your new Parish Councillors

Following two councillors stepping down from the Parish Council, a slightly lengthy process to find replacements began. The vacancies were initially advertised by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council. This drew three enquiries and (as conditions to warrant an election



were not met) the Parish Council was invited to co-opt Councillors. These vacancies were duly advertised and from that there was a total of six applicants for the two Parish Council vacancies.

All were invited to a Parish Council meeting (via zoom) to see the work of the Council and each one was sent an agreed list of questions. The current Councillors met (via zoom) and independently assessed the answers against a list of criteria. The scores of the three remaining interested candidates were totalled and the two with the highest points were invited to take up the posts.

The Chair of the Parish Council, Rachel Terheege told me that Councillors were pleased that there was such interest in the vacancies and thanked all the candidates for their applications. She says that they endeavoured to find a fair method of choosing people to fill those vacancies.

It was at the brief Parish Council AGM followed by the Parish Council meeting on 7 May 2021 that our two new parish councillors Vicki Palmer and Katie Elliot made their debut appearances. They are both well known to many in the village but they both agreed to a virtual interview to explain their motivation for taking on the role.

Vicki first came across Stoke Golding in 2010 when she interviewed for a teaching position at the village school. She got the job and very much fell in love with the village and its families, so much so, that when her own children started school, brought them with her to St Margaret's. She has now moved on from the school but is the Head of a school within the same trust so still manages to keep in touch. She's also part of their PTA. Nearly three years ago, she and her family moved to the village and they have all been involved in many village activities.

Her reason for standing as a parish councillor is that over the years she has got to know lots of families in the village and this, coupled with how welcome they have been made to feel, made her keen to try and give something back. She says that she would just like to be of some use to this lovely place and its inhabitants. She told me that she thrives on

challenge and learning new things too. So far, she's finding it all very interesting!

Katie will be well known to many through her connection with The George and Dragon and Church End Brewery. She lived and ran the George and Dragon for the first five years when it re-opened and lived in last year whilst covering Alex's maternity leave and whilst we were in lockdown.

She says it's hard to describe her role as she goes where she's needed, she helps with events, paperwork and covers management holidays across their three sites. ' I guess strictly speaking my role is Pub's manager ..... it's a small family business so one day I'll be cleaning or behind the bar and the next I'll be doing cellar work or in the office'

She decided that she wanted to become a parish councillor because she loves the village and the people in it and after the support they have received at The George and Dragon since they bought it and in particular just how kind positive everyone has been the past 18 months, she really felt that she wanted to see if she could find a way to positively contribute and give a little bit of her time back to the community as a whole.

They have taken on their roles with the knowledge that they will have a lot to learn as they go along but I'm sure they will be an asset to the Parish Council and our village.

*Jan Zelenczuk*

### **WARNING: The Scarecrows are coming ....**



Stoke Golding Scarecrows will be back over the August bank holiday weekend, with a little help from all of us!. Watch out for posters round the village or look on the new [stokegoldingscarecrowfestival](#) Facebook page for details coming very soon on this year's theme and how to enter.

Also please hold your own stalls on drives where possible. These proved so successful last year.

Let's all join in with the fun!



## St Margaret's Church Restoration

We continue with the weekly blogs taken from Ian's Facebook posts.

### Update Blog 4

If you have wandered up Church Walk, you will have noticed a rising pile of rubble and rotten wood underneath the restoration banner. This is because the restoration works have now reached the stage of completely lifting all the rotten flooring and started to expose the 'dirt' floor below. Stepping into St Margaret's now you can't help being struck by the open beauty of the interior and central columns/arches.

The large hot water pipe that ran across the ceiling has been removed, opening up the view of the south aisle vaulted ceiling. The lifting of the chequerboard



floor tiles continues and all the tiles that can be reused are stacked on the window ledges. The tiles appear to have had little or no mortar applied and can be lifted by hand. Indeed, the floor is now reaching the stage where it is thought that work can begin with the architect on designing the detailed floorplan for both the future relaying of the 'chequerboard' aisles and the Ancaster stone that the pews will be re-sited upon.

What's next? Probably quite a lot more digging to level the floor and the final lifting of the tiles.

### Update Blog 5

The digging has continued within St Margaret's church - with a further six



inches or so of dirt being removed. This is necessary to provide the levelling, space and insulation needed for the underfloor heating. Not unexpectedly, with a church of this age, a number of graves have been uncovered. There hasn't been any 'Richard III' under a car park revelations though, the graves now just being 'holes' in the ground, any remains long since gone. One of the graves is thought to be a 'victorian' brick vault - which while interesting to uncover is not again particularly unusual. A site visit and review by the appointed archaeologist subsequently

recommended that the graves be filled in as part of the continuing work. Disappointingly, the further digging has revealed quite a bit of damp at the base of the south wall. This will need correcting with external works -

a new soak away being necessary as well as a channel to run water away from the outside wall. The digging on the South aisle has, though, also revealed what is thought to be another 'tomb' next to the Lady Chapel - a slab of Yorkshire Stone is covered by mortar scree. Further works are needed to reveal it fully.

As mentioned previously, lifting the pews has revealed a lot of damage and rot within them. Whilst the plan remains to reuse the pews within the church, the ability to do this does need careful consideration of both the possibility of being able to restore them and the costs associated with doing so.

Finally for this week - the new boiler has been installed which will run the new underfloor heating system into the church.

## Update Blog 6

This week the builders have continued the digging and levelling of the floor with the North West corner of the church being the focus of their efforts. It's been tough going by all accounts - hard labour, pickaxes and shovels all needed to break and move the compacted earth. In digging the North West corner another grave has been found close to a slate memorial by the last isolated pillar - again the remains long since gone. Looking to Tony Collett's excellent book on the history of St. Margaret's church - could this grave have belonged to one of the Trymnell family? The Trymnells were a family of distinction that moved into the village manor house in the early 17th century. Ten members of the family are known to have been buried in the church under five commemorative slate grave slabs. The slate memorial near where the grave was found is dedicated to Trymnell Johnson and is inscribed.

"Here lies the body of Trymnell Johnson, only son of William Johnson, Merchant, and Anne, his wife (youngest daughter of Capt. William Trymnell of this town). He departed this life August 12th 1714 in the 20th year of his age".

Unfortunately, the slate was found to have been cracked in 2 places for some time. Consideration is now being given to the installation of the underfloor heating across the church and this includes the South West corner near the current door. The extent of the underfloor heating will depend on the amount

of work needed, the insulation requirements and cost. The revised floor plan for the whole church is, though, getting nearer with a digital scan of the floor having been taken. This is now being reviewed with the architect to look at the different options.



## **Church Restoration continued from previous page...**

Finally good progress has been made on the initial plumbing needed for the new heating system with pipework installed at various points in the church and the new boilers connected up underneath the South West window.

*Ian Baines, Stoke Golding Photography & Walking. Photographs also by - Jason Twist & Suzanne Brookes Palmer, Stoke Golding Photography & Walking and David Goodsell.*

### **Glass Panel Appeal**



Over the past weeks, since the work began in the Church, much interest has been shown in both the history and architecture of the building – and in the work that is being done to secure it for the future. Money raised for this work has come from many sources – grant bodies, the Church funds, The Charity of Thomas Barton – and not least from donations from local people and events such as the Scarecrow Festival.

An idea which has been proposed is to create a small transparent floor panel showing the original stone floor /foundation of one of the pillars. People would be able to see what otherwise will lie hidden from view for centuries when the new floor is laid. This work is extra to what had been planned – and would probably cost well over £3000. We can't give a precise figure until the work is designed and commissioned – which we can't start until the money is in hand!

So we are asking the community –are you able to contribute to this project? It's surprising how even small amounts add up. If you would like to, please donate in the following ways:

By BACS: St Margaret's PCC | Account number: 00034041 Sort code: 40-52-40

By Cheque: 'St Margaret's PCC |' - or cash – to 3 Hinckley Road, SG, (home of David Goodsell).

Gift Aid: If you pay tax and would like to add gift aid to your donation that gives the project an extra 25 % at no cost to yourself. Details from David Goodsell as above or email: [millburn5@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:millburn5@hotmail.co.uk)

Should donations exceed the amount needed for the panel, we would also like to raise the 13<sup>th</sup> century tomb slab - which at the moment lies below floor level. This is also an extra cost to the planned work but would enable it to be seen much more clearly and we would put the money towards that. If the money given towards the floor panel is insufficient we could divert it to the tomb project if people are happy for that to happen.

*David Goodsell and Ian Hiron – Church Wardens - on behalf of St Margaret's Parochial Church Council*

## Fool on the Hill

## What lies beneath.....

On a glorious summer evening have you ever cast your gaze over a body of water, be it lake, river or sea and imagined the unseen splendours that lie hidden below its surface? Strange rock formations perhaps or swirling beds of Kelp, unfathomable depths or boulder strewn shallows, all there to trap those who enter the water without caution. No? Well neither have I really, but just recently I have been applying the same level of thought to walls. I should explain that this is not some aberration that could be attributed to our recent long periods of incarceration during the Pandemic, although staring at a blank wall has been the preferable alternative to repeats on daytime television. My current interest in walls arises out of the need to affix various items of room furniture such as curtain poles to these seemingly innocuous flat surfaces. Yes, I am aware of You Tube and the many smug DIY experts who tell you what size drill to use and which rawplug type suits each application and then proceed to demonstrate how “simple” the whole procedure is. I am also aware that these people are pathological liars.

In theory a wall should be some sort of brick or breezeblock onto which is spread coarse plaster and a thin skim of finishing plaster. In theory your drill bit will eat into this with ease and leave a perfectly smooth hole into which the fixing plug will fit like a glove. In practice your drill bit will make contact with the unseen electrical cable carrying the British Standard 240 volts. As you will now form a bridge between this power source and a similar one in your electric drill, might I suggest that you rapidly divest yourself of the drill unless you want to spend the next few moments dancing around like a string puppet operated by an excitable two year old. Or you will puncture some critical water pipe giving you unenviable dilemma of staying put and stemming the flow with your thumb or searching for your phone to call your plumber who will, in all probability, be kite surfing on the Isle of Muck. Even if you do avoid these hazards I will absolutely guarantee that there will be something in the wall to block the progress of your drill bit and this obstruction will be in the one place that must be drilled if your curtains are not going to hang like those in a clown’s house. It may be a small piece of concrete or even the site of some construction malfunction that has been repaired using the metal lid from the lunch box of some long dead plasterer. Either you will destroy many drill bits before you get through it or your drill will go skidding off and instead of a neat hole you will have something that looks like a scale model of the Marianas Trench.

So you call in a plasterer. The game begins again.

**F.O.T.H**



## Who Used To Own The Land You Live On?

The current land ownership in Dadlington is a right mixture. Many householders own their own properties, some rent from landlords, whilst the church owns the churchyard and the land where the village hall is situated. Ownership of common space such as the green, roads and footpaths ostensibly belong to us, the public, with various councils responsible for their maintenance. It hasn't always been like this however. Documents show the earliest recorded owner of the village and its surrounding land was the Priory of St Michael in Coventry, founded by Leofric, Earl of Mercia and husband of Lady Godiva.

In 12<sup>th</sup> century, the land was transferred to Hugh De Hastings and as De Hastings family rose in stature, becoming Earls of Pembroke, the village became part and parcel of Pembroke lands. During the Middle Ages, governance and power was inextricably linked with land ownership. In theory, the king owned everything and he parcelled land out to the most powerful lords. They, in turn sublet their lands to tenants who would sublet again. This meant the nobles near the top of the feudal pyramid owned vast areas of land and they frequently fell out with each other. Occasionally, these disagreements led to fighting. The last battle between private armies, the Battle of Nibley Green, took place in 1470 in the Gloucestershire countryside.

The De Hastings family took their name from the town of Hastings. Hugh's great grandfather, Ralf de Venox, was William the Conqueror's Master of the Stable and his son, Robert became the Marshall of Hastings. Hugh was a steward to King Henry I, one of the great offices of state, and his grandson, William, who would inherit Dadlington in 1195, was the steward to Henry's grandson, Henry II. The records show the names of the tenants and the overlords whose land they held. For example, in 1375, "It was found that William De Ferrars of Groby held a quarter of a knight's fee in Dadlington... which the earl of Pembroke (John De Hastings) then held." The 'knight's fee' was the standard unit of measurement at this time, it being the amount of land considered large enough to support a knight and his household. The knight's fee was not a standard size, as it was based on the land's ability to support a number of people, so a knight's fee on rich soil would be far smaller than that on arid moorland.

The De Hastings held the land until the 1390s when a dynastic dispute resulted in their cousin, Reginald Grey, Lord of Ruthyn, taking control. He was the four times great grandfather of Lady Jane Grey. In 1444, ownership of the village had passed to new hands, William De Pole, the earl of Sussex and Pembroke. He was a close advisor to King Henry VI and negotiated the marriage between Henry and Margaret of Anjou. In doing so, he returned the English held provinces of Maine and Anjou

back to the French king. This made him very unpopular with his fellow nobles and eventually Henry was forced to send him to exile, a journey that didn't go too well for the errant earl: when he got to the boat that was to take him overseas, he was surrounded by a mob, subjected to a mock trial and beheaded. The title of Earl of Pembroke and ownership of Dadlington eventually passed to Henry VI's half brother, one Jasper Tudor, whose nephew, Henry Tudor, was to enjoy success on the battlefield within the parish of the village his uncle had once held.

*Michael Dix*



## Obituaries



### **Gill Cunningham**

Gill Cunningham sadly passed away in March, 2021, aged 75 years. Beloved wife of George and loving mum to Ian and the late Ruth. Donations in memory of Gill may be given to Dementia UK, c/o Devall and Son, Funeral Directors, The Green, Attleborough, CV11 4DFJ.

### **David Riddington**



David Riddington, the much beloved husband of Beryl and father of Robert, passed away on 5th May, 2021, aged 86 years.

Born in 1934, David was brought up in Leicester and joined the RAF, serving as an Aircraft Mechanic and Engineer in Cyprus, Egypt and Libya. After leaving the services he met and married Beryl Cleaver and moved to Stoke Golding in 1972. An avid classical music and history

aficionado, David was also a keen gardener and skilled in repurposing anything to give it a second life.

As a Suez Veteran David took part in the reinternment of Richard III guarding the King whilst he lay in state in Leicester Cathedral.

A gentle, kind and cheerful man, he will be sorely missed by those who knew him and all his family including his grandchildren Eva, Ruby and Thomas.

Donations in memory of David to Rainbows Hospice for Children and the World Wildlife Fund, c/o McCartneys Funeral Service, Coventry Road, Hinckley

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

# Church Matters



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

### Farewell!

Just when the parish thinks they've got their Rector trained, she declares she's leaving! So



the time has arrived for me to sit down and write my farewells to you all, after thirteen years as Rector in the Fenn Lanes Group of Churches: Stoke Golding, Dadlington, Higham on the Hill, Fenny Drayton and Witherley. And what an amazing thirteen years it has been - such a wonderful place to live and a great community to be a part of. I have some very special memories, which will live on in my heart and mind.

It has been a privilege to serve all five of the churches, three schools, and be a part of the various communities that make up these parishes and villages. Thank you for allowing me to be part of the happy, as well as the sad and difficult times in life - something I haven't taken for granted. Thank you to our hardworking Church Wardens, and to those who have shared ministry leadership with me; to the many friends I have made and everybody who makes our churches and villages the loving communities that they are.

I encourage you to look to the future with expectation and anticipation. After a time of vacancy, the next person to arrive will come with new ideas; different gifts, personality and probably shoe size! I sense that God will do new and exciting things here and I know you will want to support and be a part of them. God has a plan for you, as a church and as individuals.

I have been asked the question: 'What are you hoping to do?' One of the things I'm looking forward to is that, when, on a Friday evening I watch Gardeners' World and Monty Don gives 'jobs for the weekend', to know that I will have time to do them!

As for the rest, I hope to take some time out as I settle into a new community, and find out what 'retirement' might mean for me. I know of a couple, who, when they retired, got a tattoo! You never know!! I anticipate being able to spend more time with my family (I think I'm already on the 'picking grandson up from school' rota) and I'm excited to learn what plans God has for me as I find a role as a member of my local church family – there's really no 'retirement' in God's Kingdom; as St Paul says: 'For we are partners working together for God.' 1 Corinthians 3.9

## Church Matters

So thank you all for your love and support - I feel privileged to have been a part of your lives and I will not forget you. I know how much you care for each other, and I pray that will continue as you journey onwards, supporting and holding each other in prayer. May the peace of Christ be with you. Every blessing to you all.



*Revd Linda*

### Church of England June Services

<b>6 June:</b>	9.00am Morning Prayer at Dadlington Church	
	9.30am Online;	11am at Fenny Drayton Church
<b>13 June:</b>	9.30am Online;	11 am at Witherley Church
<b>20 June:</b>	9.30am Online;	11am at Dadlington Church
<b>27 June:</b>	9.30am Online;	11am at Higham Church

### THE METHODIST CHURCH JUNE SERVICES

6 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	United at Higham Methodist church
13 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Mrs Sheila Grice
20 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	T.B.A.
27 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Mr Michael Haighton

### Zion Baptist Chapel

<b>6 June:</b>	6pm	Richard Cotton
<b>20 June:</b>	6pm	Malcolm Welch

### Save the Date

A Charity Night will be held at Stoke Golding Club on 10th July in memory of Linda Smith (Looby) who died recently.  
More details in next month's Stoker

## The National Garden Scheme

### 8 Hinckley Road, Stoke Golding

I am due to open my garden as part of the National Garden Scheme on Saturday 3rd (12-4pm) and Sunday 4th July (12-3pm).

There will be plants for sale & refreshments available. At present, admission is by pre-booked ticket only (via [ngs.org.uk](http://ngs.org.uk)) but this may be subject to change following guidance from the NGS. Their website will be updated with any changes nearer to the opening dates.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

John



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### Answers to 10 of a kind

1. Three – head, thorax and abdomen
2. To attract a mate
3. Butterflies
4. White Anglo-Saxon Protestant
5. Stick insect
6. Adam Ant
7. Bees. Apiarist is another name for a bee keeper.
8. Only female bite.
9. It's used for food colouring
10. Two – lice and locusts



## Kitchen Corner

### ALMOND & APRICOT MERINGUE

#### **Ingredients**

2ozs. (50gms) Blanched Almonds  
3 Egg Whites  
6ozs. (150gms) Caster Sugar  
4ozs. (100gms) No-soak Dried Apricots  
A strip of Lemon Peel  
2ozs. (50gms) Caster Sugar  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  Pint (425ml) Water  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  Pint (250ml) Double Cream

#### **Method**

Set oven to 150C/300F or Gas mark 2.

Cut a piece of non-stick baking paper to fit the baking tray. Mark 2 circles of 7 inches/18cms. onto the paper.

Put the almonds into a food processor and blitz until they are chopped finely.

Before whipping the egg whites, put 1 teaspoon of vinegar into the bowl and with a paper towel wipe the bowl, this ensures it is grease free. Now whip the egg whites until they are stiff. Now add the sugar 1 teaspoon at a time until it is incorporated. Add the almonds and fold in.

Put the meringue mixture into a piping bag. Put 4 'blobs' of meringue onto each corner of the

baking tray and place the baking paper marked side down onto the tray. This makes sure that the markings are not transferred to the meringue and that the paper does not move. Pipe the mixture within the circles. If you do not have a piping bag, spoon the meringue into the middle of the circles and level out with a palette knife.

Bake for 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  hours, then leave in the oven with the door closed until completely cold, preferably overnight.

Put the apricots, lemon peel and water into a saucepan and cook for 25-30 minutes until tender. Pour into a food processor and blitz until smooth. Leave to cool. All this can be done ahead of time.

To assemble: Whip the cream into soft peaks, take  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the cream and 2 tablespoons of the apricots and mix together. Place one of the meringues on a pretty plate and cover with the cream and apricots. Place the other meringue on top. Decorate with the remaining cream and grated chocolate. The rest of the apricot puree can be served separately.

**Avis**

### **ANSWERS to the Sports Quiz**

1. Alan Wells, 2. Anita Longsbrough, 3. Mary Peters, 4. Sebastian Coe, 5. Lennox Lewis, 6. Andrew Holmes & Steve Redgrave, 7. Richard Meade, 8. Chris Boardman, 9. Andy Murray, 10. Rebecca Adlington



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