

September 2020

No. 194

The Stoker



Stoke Golding Village Magazine

Including

Dadlington Matters

70p



Note from the Editors

Once again you, our Stoker readers, have done yourselves proud sending in articles, photos and information. We always start off an edition wondering how we are going to fill it and then copy comes pouring in and we end up with such an interesting mix of current and historical stories.



We loved hearing about Mia and her special haircut - what an inspirational little girl. Bob's focus on page 4 tells us about another inspirational person, Geoff Grewcock, from the Warwickshire Wildlife Sanctuary.

Whatever your feelings are about housing development in the village, make sure you know what is going on so that you can comment and make your views known. We have recently heard about plans for the field at the end of Roseway (p.21) and for an enormous building in the field South of Station Road.

Annual Stoker Subscriptions (£7) due by 1st October

*We hope you will want to continue reading your Stoker for another year. Members of the community, who have volunteered to collect subscriptions, will be leaving you a note during the first two weeks of September explaining how and when to pay. Don't forget this also includes free delivery (again by our wonderful volunteers). **Stay Safe, Jane and Steve***

The Stoker Team

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

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Please send articles for the **October** issue of The Stoker **by 15th Sept.** 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: photo taken by Tony Cole: "one of my favourite butterflies"
For framed prints of any of Tony's photos, email: tonycustom@gmail.com

No Ordinary Haircut



Mia, who is eight years old, recently had her haircut professionally, on the 20th July, but it wasn't just the usual pampering session. Mia had her beautiful locks cut into a short bob to donate her hair, which she had been growing since January 2018, to charity. The Little Princess Trust is an organisation that provides free, real hair wigs to children and young people who have lost their hair through cancer treatment or other conditions.

When I asked Mia why she had had her hair cut, she replied that it was to help poorly kids, as there are a lot of kids in the world without hair.

The minimum length of hair that can be accepted for donation is 7 inches (17cm) and Mia was able to donate four, 12 inch (30cm) long ponytails.

Mia explained to me that it took her a long time to grow her hair and that she felt like Rapunzel before the big cut. She said it felt good to have short hair, as it is easier to brush and wash and it is nice to help others. Only a few of her friends had seen her new hair style before going back to school so it was a big surprise for most of them, but they all liked it.



This is the second time Mia has donated her cut hair as the last time was in January 2018.

The family has set up a Just Giving page to raise funds which they are keeping open until mid-September, because it is not just the donation of hair that is invaluable but also the financial donation as well, as it costs £550.00 to make the wigs.

This is an incredible example of a young person's desire to help others. So if you are out there, male or female, with long tresses and you want to follow Mia's example, contact the Little Princess Trust or donate to her just giving page. www.justgiving.com/fundraising/marta-reszewska

Jennifer

Bob's Focus

Now I love animals but I would like to introduce you to a man who has truly devoted his life to their welfare, Geoff Grewcock from the Warwickshire Wildlife Sanctuary based in Nuneaton.

Geoff used to work for Securicor on the cash in transit vans until his van was involved in a hit and he was gassed, causing permanent damage to his lungs. After recuperating for a couple of years, Geoff realised his lifelong dream and used his compensation money to start the sanctuary in 2001. To date, the sanctuary has helped nurse in excess of 65,000 sick animals back to good health and the dedication of Geoff, his daughter Emma and his team of volunteers deserves recognition at the highest level.

When I went to see Geoff to gain some information for this article the heat in his back yard was hovering around 30C. Although busy there was a strange air of tranquillity about the place. As I sat chatting to Geoff, ducks, geese, chickens, a dog and several deer were wandering around in complete harmony, a head rested on my knee and I instinctively reached out to make a fuss and scratch the ears of Pip, a young deer that had suffered injuries after being hit by a car, now so trusting of her human friends.



I was shown an unusual visitor who was about to be released having been checked over, a long eared bat, certainly a first for me.

On the day I visited, Geoff had no fewer than 14 foxes in his care, such beautiful animals and as soft as a kitten to the touch.

Of course I had to say hello to Minty the over-sized Humbug who insisted on playing with my boot laces, again such a beautiful playful animal. (Minty- Humbug-Badger)

But not everything is straight forward, the animals are the easy part, it's the humans that cause the problems. Geoff is keeping notes and will be writing a book in due course about some of the funny things the humans do and I have his permission to share one or two incidents with you: — One night, at 01:15 Geoff's doorbell rang. He could see on camera that the gentlemen was holding a box, another animal in need of help he thought.

When Geoff opened the door the man thrust the box towards Geoff who opened it.

"It's a pigeon" said Geoff....."Yes I know"...."It's a dead pigeon" said Geoff."Yes I know it's (bleeping) dead, I've had that pigeon in my garden for 15 years, surely in this day and age you can bring it back"! (They walk amongst us, they really do)

On another occasion a phone call was received from a very well spoken lady. "You need to come here right now and help me, I have all sorts of

animals coming into my garden, birds squirrels, all sorts of things. You should come here now, trap them all and take them all away!"

"But why?" said Geoff

"Because they are shi***** all over my patio!"

Another lady insisted that Geoff go to her house, climb onto her roof and catch the crow that was calling down her chimney and keeping the children awake! Request politely declined.

But one of the best was when a man called to say that he had a very angry pigeon that was injured but didn't know how to catch hold of it. The gentleman was encouraged to be brave, pick it up, bring it in and they would look after it. When the man arrived with arms outstretched holding a very angry and very large seagull they understood why he was somewhat reluctant to pick it up! (Don't try this at home folks)

Although Geoff is Warwickshire based he is more than happy to take in animals in need from our area, in fact he releases quite a few over our neck of the woods - ever wondered why we are so well blessed with owls?

Although this year has been excellent for our wildlife, the sanctuary has been busier than ever and they are always pleased to receive any type of donations including towels, blankets, pillows etc for bedding which can be dropped off in bins by the side gates to the sanctuary in Oaston Road, Nuneaton although I am always happy to take a bulk load in my van.



Locally I think I can confidently say wildlife wise we have had a bumper year so far, a lot of animals have taken advantage of the lockdown. We still have otter activity along the canal, although *Lutra* seems to have moved on down towards the Triumph factory. I did place cameras in various locations (thanks Eddie Fisher) but no footage to

date although we did have some positive sightings and spraint under most bridges.

Whilst on Otter watch with Sam White, a young ecologist from the village, we were blessed when a Barn Owl circled us several times whilst we stood on a local canal bridge. Hares have been abundant along with rabbits, badgers and foxes, I even caught footage of a Little Owl having a paddle in the River Tweed. I would just like to thank all the local farmers who have been kind enough to grant me permission to respectfully site cameras on their land and in their barns.

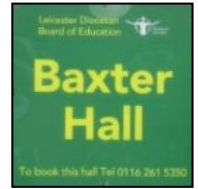
What a wonderful and diverse area we live in. Beautiful sunsets and the lockdown does seemed to have fuelled people's passion for nature and, as time marches on towards the end of the summer and the onset of autumn, the landscape will again change and colours will vibrantly paint out new scenes, just waiting for all those budding photographers to share their joys on social media.

Until next time, enjoy the rest of the summer, *Colli Bob*

Robert Baxter Promoter of education in Stoke Golding



Robert Baxter was born in Stoke Golding at "The Old Hall" and baptised in St Margaret's Church in 1802. He became a lawyer and had a brilliant career in Doncaster and London.



He returned to the area on many occasions maintaining an interest in education. He built a Workmen's Reading Room - the Baxter Hall - with grounds which were open to the villagers on the site of the Old Hall after it was knocked down.



'On the 11th and 12th June 1867 the peaceful and sequestered village of Stoke Golding was the scene of unusual excitement. Robert Baxter Esq., of London, who pays his annual visit at Whitsuntide, was welcomed with no ordinary degree of pleasure by the villagers, as he came to

open the Working Men's Hall, which has, by his noble liberality, been erected on the site of the Old Hall'

'This event will long be remembered by the villagers of Stoke Golding.'

In 1896 the Baxter family established a trust for the children in Stoke Golding, Dadlington and the surrounding parishes, in accordance with Church of England teaching. In Church Walks opposite the Church a school was built together with a playground.



For many years, the Baxter Trusts served the community well. Government policy transformed the school into a C of E Voluntary Aided School, with the Trustees contributing towards the financial responsibility. However, in 1992, against some local opposition the Baxter Trusts were closed.

The Baxter Hall continues to be used for many educational and recreational events. The Church Snowman Festival uses the venue for stalls and refreshments. 'Big and Small Church' for children meets monthly in the Hall. It is a place for village memorabilia to be displayed. It is used for an after-school club, a nursery school, meetings, keep fit classes, and art exhibitions.



David Goodsell

The Baxter Hall



Following the article and correspondence in the last Stoker, some of you may be wondering why members of our community are concerned by the news of the potential sale of the hall by the Diocesan Board of Education. To help explain this, it is interesting to look at the past history of the hall, why it was built for the education of the people of Stoke Golding and how it has been

affected in the past with changes to the associated Baxter Hall Trusts.

The Baxter Hall was originally built as a Workmen's Reading Room on the site of the Old Hall (which had been demolished in 1850) by Robert Baxter, who was born in 1802 and whose family had lived at the Old Hall at the time of his birth. He had a brilliant career as a lawyer but he returned to the village from his home in London every year. He was interested in furthering education in the village, so he built the Workmen's Reading Room and it was opened by him during his annual visit in June 1867.

The Baxter Hall Trusts

In 1896 members of the Baxter family, including Robert, and the Rev. William Disney, established two trusts to provide education for children in Stoke Golding, with the purpose of one being "land settled upon a trust to permit some part to be used as a reading room for working men and for other educational or benevolent purposes for the benefit of the inhabitants of Stoke Golding, Dadlington and adjoining parishes". The other trust was for a Church of England school and Sunday School.

There was no activity of any significance in the Trusts for 90 years until the 1980's when the Diocese expressed its intention to acquire the old schoolroom, under a Section 2 Order (of the 1973 Education Act). In the end the Trustees agreed in 1989 to the sale of the old schoolroom and playground and £30,000 passed back to the Diocese and the remaining £60,000 came under the control of the trust for the school and Baxter Hall.

However, because of the terms of the trust, the money could not be spent on anything other than the purchase of new land or buildings for the school and £49,000 was passed to the Diocesan Board of Education towards the new extension of the school which was opened in July 1991. The trustees tried to change the terms of the trust with the Charity Commission so that the money could be spent on the upkeep of the Hall and school but in 1992 the Diocesan Board of Education again applied for a Section 2 order. The Trustees were persuaded that by agreeing to this order it would free up money to maintain the Baxter Hall and school and under some pressure they voted by a majority to allow the Diocesan authorities to take over the Trust's assets.

Against much local opposition the Section 2 order was granted by the Minister for Education but under this the Stoke Golding School fund was

consolidated into the Leicester Diocesan Board of Education Trust Fund with the remaining £26,000 in the trust with 11/14 going generally to Diocesan schools and 3/14 to a local religious fund.

Now it seems that the Diocesan Board of Education wishes to sell the Baxter Hall, which was built for the promotion of education and benefit of the inhabitants of Stoke Golding, not the rest of the Diocese. The hall is still well used and we should fight to save it, not allow a historic building to go the way of so many before it.

Baxter Hall Working Party

A working party of interested parties, including representatives from the Parish Council, School, Hester Hodges Charity, Thomas Barton Trust and the Parochial Church Council has been formed and they are communicating with the Diocesan Board of Education. However, it seems to be a rapidly changing scenario and although the Asset of Community Value moratorium, that is the period when the Diocese cannot sell the Hall, ends on 28 December 2020, the Diocese have asked for a business plan by the end of October from the Working Party. There are many questions to ask and issues to be resolved before then.

Jan Zelenczuk

New Village Playschool



Following the recent closure of Robin Hood Playschool, Alison Bates is setting up a new playgroup, which will hopefully be ready to start at the beginning of the school term.

This will be the fourth Little Explorer's Playgroup that she has set up, as she already manages three others in Hinckley, Burbage, and Forest School. Two of these have recently been rated as 'outstanding' by Ofsted and the other is awaiting inspection.

The new playgroup will open its doors, initially at Stoke Golding Club, for three mornings a week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8.30am - 1.30pm. These sessions will be able to cater for up to thirty children and Alison hopes they will eventually be increased to every weekday, but it will depend on demand. The Club has been very kind and supportive in providing essential space for the playgroup while the future of the Baxter Hall is in question.

Alison originally decided to open a playgroup in the village, when she heard about Robin Hood closing, because she believes children should have access to early years provision where they will eventually go to school. She wants to provide a quality provision for the village with an excellent relationship with the school. The staff who will be working at the playgroup are all highly trained.



Alison is highly experienced and not only works as a lecturer at the University of Coventry but works, when needed, for the Local Authority on their Early Years Team. She is passionate about learning and is currently studying for a Master's in Education.

She moved to the village with her family thirteen years ago and loves it here. Her three daughters attended Robin Hood Playschool and St Margaret's School and her son attends Dorothy Goodman School. She is also known as 'the bread lady' in the village and her stall full of goodies has been gratefully appreciated, especially during lockdown.

Jane White

SUPPORT JOHN WHITEHEAD TO SUPPORT WOMEN'S REFUGE

John and four other "Old Guys" plan to raise funds for the local Women's Refuge by cycling just over 300 Kilometres each, that's roughly Land's End to John O'Groats in total. They've set a target of £3,000 to buy new furnishings, to help the Women's Aid refuge to become a little bit more like home for desperate families. The refuge provides safe, temporary accommodation for women and children fleeing domestic abuse; they often arrive in dire circumstances

To donate to help John to support Women's Refuge

Gofundme: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/the-cycle-for-womens-refuge>

or

Bank transfer: Sort Code 40-32-03, Account 31094742, Ref."JW Cycle")

or

Cheque made out to The Rotary Club of Market Bosworth to Brian Cox, 5 Sycamore Way, Market Bosworth, CV13 0LU (Enter on back "JW Cycle")

Thank you

Mistress Hester Hodges Exhibition Foundation

At their November meeting, the Trustees make awards of small amounts of money to students.

To be eligible, the following conditions must be met:

- ◆ Two years attendance at St Margaret's C of E Aided Primary School, Stoke Golding
- ◆ Resident in Stoke Golding
- ◆ Attained the age of 18 years or more and be undertaking further education in the academic year September/October 2020/2021

Application forms are available from September at 85 Hinckley Road or by emailing hstrhodges@gmail.com

All Application forms must be returned to:

85 Hinckley Road, Stoke Golding by 28th October 2020.

Stoke Golding Vicarage – Wykin Lane

Many of the newer residents of the village will not be aware that the original church vicarage stood in Wykin Lane. Built in 1882, and probably paid for, by the then incumbent the Rev H J Lomax for the princely sum of £2000.

According to a research paper, house prices have risen by approximately 400% since 1890. So today the property would have cost about £800,000. The builders were Messrs Fox Bros of Atherstone, and it was designed by the Architect Mr Wm Bassett-Smith. It stood on part of the field described in the local 1845 Tithe Map as “Brickiln Close”. At the same time, the Rev Lomax paid for the rebuilding of the church chancel which was in “a terrible state of decay”.

The house was built of red bricks covered with Staffordshire tiles. It contained a drawing room, dining room, study, good entrance hall, small parish room, kitchen and offices and ten bed and dressing rooms. Adjacent was a small Stable and Coach House. Access to the new vicarage was off Wykin Lane with egress past the Stables and Coach House back onto Wykin Lane via a roundabout. This allowed easier manoeuvring of the horses and coaches



This print from “The Builder” December 1883, incorporates some artistic license as it is unlikely that the church could be seen from that viewpoint. Also note the “Mini roundabout”. The photo to the right, circa 1970 (thanks to Anne Fullagar) shows the area before the development of Tithe Close and Arnold Road. The stables for the coach house can be seen off centre adjacent to Tithe Farm buildings. The mini roundabout appears to be much larger than the print.

In 1983 the Church authorities sold the vicarage and land to a Burbage builder, Ivon Pearson, who submitted an outline planning permission proposal for the demolition of the vicarage and the construction of five buildings with the stables and coach house being retained. Local residents wanted to retain this historic building and opposed the application. They lost. The land was divided into five plots with each plot being sold separately and the new landowners arranged for individual designs of their new dwellings on their plot, with Pearson’s being the builder. The five new properties were built between 1984 and 1986. The Stables and Coach House were converted to a dwelling in 1995. Other than the much modified stables with coach house and the wall on that side of the property, the only remaining feature of the

vicarage site is the original iron fence which delineated the property from the land adjacent to the side of the property (now 36 Wykin Lane) and the rural unmetalled road that was Wykin Lane. Many of the trees which were planted on the edge of the property have become diseased and have had to be felled. The oak tree adjacent to the Coach House, still surviving, has obviously been there for much longer.

The publicly visible section of the original fence, along Wykin Lane, was in need of renovation and repair and some of it was missing. During the remedial work, another part of the original fence was found which is now about a foot below the current ground level indicating how much has changed in the nearly 140 years since the original installation.

The team, from Ironcraft of Earl Shilton, who installed the new section believe that their work will last as long as the original. If you pass by, see if you can spot the join. This will not feature on the Repair Shop!! They will also be returning to renovate other parts of the fence adjacent to no 36.



Before



After

For nearly 100 years the vicarage played an important role in the social life of the village Church Community. Perhaps some of the Stoker readers can provide stories and memories that will help bring it back to life. *Roy Mitchell*

Luddites: an addendum

After my piece on the Luddites appeared in last month's Stoker, I was intrigued to receive a note from Andy Tomsett regarding the identity of Ned Ludd. I'd not come across the generally accepted story that Ned Ludd was from Anstey and that his name was adopted by the rebels as a symbol to their cause. This set me off looking to discover more about the young man who smashed up a stocking frame in Leicester 22 years before the Luddite rebellion began. The story first appeared in the Nottingham Review in 1811, but the writer offers no evidence to support the claim. It reappears in George Pellew's 'Life of Lord Sidmouth', written in 1847, but again he cites no other sources. After a trawl through various encyclopedias and dictionaries, I came to the conclusion that Ned Ludd may well have been a dissatisfied worker from Anstey, and then again, he may be entirely mythical. He certainly didn't lead the Luddites despite them signing letters, allegedly from him, with the address 'Ned Ludd's office, Sherwood Forest'. *M Dix*

Dadlington Matters

Dadlington Village Hall Management Committee CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Following an Extra-ordinary Meeting of Dadlington Village Hall Management Committee on Saturday July 4th 2020, it was unanimously agreed that the hall cannot safely reopen at present. The committee is saddened that this exceptional village asset cannot be used at the current time but is sure that villagers will understand the decision made. In the meantime, the committee is continuing to investigate how the hall will ultimately be reopened safely. A review meeting will be held in early September.

Rachel Rees-Jones (Secretary)

email: dvhmc2015@gmail.com

Leicester Animal Aid say Thank You

A local rescue Centre wants to say a massive thank you to kind-hearted shoppers who have been donating essential items for the animals.

Leicester Animal Aid, based in Huncote, has donation bins in supermarkets in different locations including the Tesco Superstore in Hinckley. Shoppers can drop in food and toys for the cats and dogs as well as cleaning products such as bleach and washing up liquid.

Fundraising Manager, Helen Wilber, said; "Even though shopping has become very different in the past months we've been overwhelmed by the generosity and kindness shown by the community during these uncertain and challenging times.

We want to thank everyone who thinks of us when doing their shopping, it really does make a huge difference."

If you're interested in adopting a dog or cat or need to rehome your pet then you can contact Leicester Animal Aid on 01455 888257 or for more information. visit www.leicesteranimalaid.org.uk

Jane Walters



The two greyhounds - Percy and Albi - inspect the goodies.

Ten of a Kind – September 20

Most month's quizzes relate in some way to the month: this one doesn't. Here are ten questions that are connected with the various types of road crossings that exist now or have existed in the past.

1. The latest kind of crossing has sensors to detect pedestrians and shares its name with a seabird with a brightly coloured beak found around our shores, especially on the Welsh island of Skomer. What is it?
2. What name is given to the flashing orange lights either side of a zebra crossing, named after the Minister of Transport who introduced them?
3. What is both a mythical Greek horse with wings and a road crossing for pedestrians and horses?
4. A toucan crossing is where 'two can' cross (pedestrians and cyclists). Which manufacturer of alcoholic beverages used the bird in its adverts in the 1930s?
5. At which road junction in London would you find a diagonal crossing where pedestrians can cross not only from side to side but across the diagonals as well?
6. Wearing a white suit, which Beatle on the zebra crossing is at the front on their Abbey Road album cover?
7. In which decade was the Green Cross Code introduced, giving children clear instructions as to how to cross the road?
8. Until recently, there were more Pelican crossings than any others. Who wrote the book that became a 1993 film, The Pelican Brief?
9. Arriving at London Zoo in 1958, Chi Chi became a star attraction. What kind of animal was she, the name being given to road crossings of black and white triangles in the 1960s?
10. Which member of the cat family gave its name to a crossing for cyclists reintroduced in 2015 which originally had black and orange stripes on the road?

Answers on page 25

Save the date!

You may remember the successful Art Exhibitions held at the Baxter Hall in the last two years. The group are planning to hold one this year at the **VILLAGE HALL** on **SUNDAY 29TH NOVEMBER**. Outline plans include a one way system through the Hall with suitable social distancing etc. As usual there would be no obligation to buy – although of course we love to sell. There will be original works of art, prints and cards on display.

As we are using the Village Hall we will have a bit more space and would be pleased to welcome one or two more artists to exhibit with us. The only real criterion is that you live in Stoke Golding (or Dadlington). We know there are many talented crafters in the village – but please don't apply!

For further details please contact:

Pauline Goodsell 01455 212955 or email: millburn5@hotmail.co.uk

The curfew tolls the knell of parting day

So wrote Thomas Gray in his 'Elegy written in a Country Churchyard'. It is hard to imagine what life was like before clocks and watches allowed us to accurately determine the time of day: the oldest working clock in the world, to be found in Salisbury cathedral, only dates from 1386. Medieval villagers in Stoke and Dadlington would have used the position of the sun in the sky to organise their lives, with sunrise, midday and sunset being key moments in the day. There would, however, have been another marker of the passage of time - the 8 o'clock curfew bell.

Nowadays, the word curfew brings to mind people being confined to their homes at times of civil unrest or maybe teenagers being told the time they are expected back home, but when curfews were originally introduced, they were simply an instruction for citizens to deaden their fires. The word 'curfew' comes from the old French for 'cover fire', a sensible precaution in the days when dwellings were predominantly made of wood and somewhat inclined to burst into flames if care wasn't taken. We've all heard of the Great Fire of London in 1666, but what we don't read about so often is the Great Fire of 1113 or the Great Fire of 1212, let alone the 'Fairly Major' fires of 1130, 1132, 1220, 1227, 1299 or 1613, all of which devastated large areas of the capital. So a bell instructing people to make good their fires for the night was a useful fire prevention strategy.

On hearing the bell, the villager would remove any logs from the fire and rake the embers for the back and sides of the hearth, covering them with cold ashes. This allowed the fire to smoulder through the night so that when the logs were put back on in the morning and air vents opened, the fire would spring back into life. The curfew was made a legal requirement for 33 years by William the Conqueror who used it to discourage malcontents from organising secret meetings at night to plot against him and his Norman lords. The bell later became the time, by now dusk or 9 o'clock in the summer, when towns and cities would close their gates for the night and the association with confinement began. After the medieval period, the ringing of the curfew bell became more of a tradition than a call for action. It could prove useful even then. At nearby Sibson, one lost traveller found his way back to the village through hearing the familiar bell and gave over the proceeds from one of his fields every year to pay for its continued ringing.

Michael Dix



CASAG and Stoke Golding Surgery News

If you have been down to the surgery you will notice that they have installed a new intercom system. The surgery door is locked, so you ring the intercom and wait for assistance. The surgery staff asked me to remind us to wear a face covering. The exceptions are: young children. (especially less than 3 years of age), anyone with severe breathing problems and anyone with developmental problems.



Come and discover The Story of St Margaret's Church, Stoke Golding (from the Outside!)

Saturday September 11th is your first chance to follow a trail around the outside of the Church. Look for signs which tell what happened to the Church in centuries past right up to modern times.

No need to book –just come along and pick up a free leaflet which will tell you and your family what to look for as you explore the trail around the Church.

Find out about what has the **WWII Wellington Bomber** to do with St Margaret's? and What is a **Mass Dial**?

Discover many other interesting parts of the story of St. Margaret's

The Trail starts just inside the entrance gates to the Churchyard.

This event is entirely outside but please practise safe distancing and take care when the ground is uneven.

This event is being promoted by St Margaret's Church and the National Trust.



Family Tree - can you help?

I am trying to trace my family tree.

From some records I have I know my Great Grandfather, Alfred Brooks, moved with his parents from Sussex to Stoke Golding, probably around 1885. Alfred lived at Stoke Golding Lodge. He married Louise Towers in 1902 and moved to Anstey sometime later. I believe there is a working connection to the Quilter family and that there is a family link to Edwin and Betsy Lillian Jordan - Edwin was a chemist who may have practiced in Stoke Golding, their son Paul is an Egyptologist and author who went to school in Stoke Golding.

If you have any information or can help in anyway, please call me on 07718 134491 or email p4jbrooks@gmail.com **Peter Brooks**

Wykin Lane tree works



You may have noticed that a tree was removed in Wykin Lane in early July. The tree in the property next door was also removed in August. Both trees suffered from a fungal disease and had become unsafe. The trees will be replaced with ones that should be more suited to the dry conditions those positions have faced latterly.

Memories of a Broken Empire - Part 4

Looking through some old documents a week or two ago I found my second "Newsletter," sent from Kazakhstan in July 1994. This is an abridged version. I'm here with three other consultants, two English and one French. Each of us has a different specialism, we share the same office in Almaty, live in separate apartments but meet frequently and join the office staff at weekends for visits to places of interest and picnics high up in the foothills to avoid the heat.

We have two English speaking Kazakh advisers, Azhar and Guilmira, both of whom have masters business degrees from an English university; four interpreters, Tania, Bella, Alla and Olga; a secretary, Galina; three chauffeurs, on call seven days a week, and each of us has a part-time housekeeper/cook.

The country is in a terrible state and our objective, in a nutshell, is to help struggling businesses, previously state-owned, to take the massive step from a command economy (what Kazakhs call their "previous life") to a mixed one. Inflation is running at 2,000% and the Kazakh tenge almost worthless but the stash of mint US dollars I was advised to bring with me will buy anything. The white linen suit and Panama hat have also proved indispensable and my envious colleagues now refer to me as "our man in Havana!" The infrastructure is falling to pieces and services such as water, electricity and transport are, at best, random.



Last week I flew with Alex, Azhar and Guilmira to Karaganda and we were warned our flight would take off only if there were enough passengers to justify it and sufficient fuel available to get there. Luckily, there was.

"Westerners" are charged roughly ten times as much for everything, including flights and hotels. Alex and I paid \$30 a night for our rooms while Azhar and Guilmira paid \$3. Not unreasonable considering our salaries here are about 450 times higher than those of our hosts and all our expenses claimable!

We visited a Co-operative Educational Institute, co-operatives of various kinds, throughout the old Soviet Union, being second only to State-run enterprises and their survival is of paramount importance. Before we left Karaganda the Institute put on a Kazakh feast which lasted over three hours, the main dish (of many) being a whole sheep, slaughtered for us that morning, and accompanied by round flat pieces of dough, like ironed dumplings. The dish is called "bish-parmak" which means five fingers because it must be eaten with bare hands. To end the proceedings the "most

honoured guest” was presented with the sheep’s head which had been boiled and then blackened on a spit, the more blackened the more honoured the guest. It was very black! I had to carve it and present a piece to everyone round the table. I chose an ear for myself but, getting my own back for the “man in Havana” affront, gave Alex an eye which, to his credit, he ate. Well, most of it anyway.

To drink there were the ubiquitous lashings of Vodka together with Shubut and Kumis (fermented camel and horse milk) with Champanski (a very good Kazakh champagne) for the ladies. Many toasts were called for.

I was relieved when it was over, and we set out for the airport about three hours before the flight was due. On the way our hosts drove us out into the steppe, opened the boots of their cars and produced the remains of our feast, together with the drink, assuring us that it was a Kazakh custom to “breathe the fresh air of the Yellow Steppe,” to eat, drink and propose a few more toasts before departing.

The Kazakhs have lost just about everything and their country is broken but we were looked after with great kindness and boundless hospitality. What little, by our standards, they have, they take genuine pleasure in sharing. Perhaps, in part, because after waiting 150 years they have their country back at last.

Bob Quinney

Wildflower Success



Well done to the Parish Council and those involved for resurrecting the wildflower meadow between Bennett Close and Hinckley Road. In these times where we are all connecting with nature it is a joy to walk past and see the butterflies and bees buzzing around. I did not appreciate the fact that there are over 17 varieties of wild flowers in the meadow to enjoy. So thank you again to all for this little haven of wild flowers and wild life.

Jennifer

Stoke Golding Scout Group

At the end of term the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers have been busy doing fun things online.

The Beavers and Cubs had The Skittleman who was a magician and entertainer. Entertain he certainly did with his infectious, massive levels of energy which had the pack totally engrossed. His energy and passion to entertain made a Duracell battery look flat, complete with his vibrant set and costume as well.

They then had a poet from Yorkshire who was called Conrad Burdekin who had the children shouting out ideas for his poem that they wrote about the space cafe.

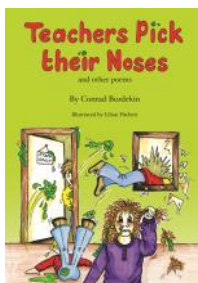
The Stoke Golding Cubs

Welcome to the Stoke Golding Cubs'
Awesome Cafe in Space
It's the finest ever known
It's absolutely ace
Comet Custard, Chocolate Burgers
Blood Soup, Rabbit Cake
Meteor Mash Potatoes too
How my tummy aches
Slimy Burgers, Space Worms on Toast
Moon Meatballs and Moon Cheese
Do I want some Alien Cheesy Toes?
Yes! A hundred please!
Welcome to the Stoke Golding Cubs
Awesome Cafe in Space!
It's the finest ever known
It's absolutely ace!

Written by Conrad Burdekin with Stoke Golding Cubs

Conrad Burdekin can be contacted via his email www.conradburdekin.com

He has also written numerous poetry books which are designed as you can see to appeal to kids.



The Scouts played Battleships, Scavenger Hunt and had a quiz on zoom. The Explorers took part in virtual sailing, Battleships and joined the Scouts for a quiz.

For the first time ever the Scout Group AGM was held virtually and included a presentation of all sections of the group through the year including the unforgettable, rather wet, Charnwood Camp last summer which was abandoned in the end! It also included a section about the virtual activities the group have been doing.

The presentation was dedicated to Allan Baker, Scout Leader, who sadly died in November 2019. Allan had been involved with the 1st Stoke Golding Scout Group for 30 years.

It is still unclear at this stage as to whether the Group will be resuming in September under the stringent “ new Norm” regulations.

Thank you to John and Fionna Shilladay and all the other leaders for all their hard work and dedication to the Group, to make it such a success and importantly giving the Explorers, Scouts, Cubs and Beavers a fun time.

Jennifer

Hinckley & Burbage Lions Club Success

Hinckley & Burbage Lions Club, in common with many other charities, has suffered during the pandemic with fund raising. One of our members volunteers at the Hinckley area foodbank and suggested we might be able to organise a collection on its behalf. We posted some 600 leaflets through Stoke Golding doors and two days later returned to collect whatever donations were left outside. We were amazed at the generosity we saw from the villagers and departed with three cars heavily laden.

The foodbank was somewhat taken aback in a very pleased way with the amount donated which weighed in at 355.5kg. In monetary terms it was valued at £622.13 which is an amazing amount for one night's work.

Lions President, Peter Fisher, remarked “This is the first time we have made such a collection and are really grateful to the villagers of Stoke Golding for their fantastic generosity. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to this incredible figure which will help to make a difference to a lot of people”.

Peter Fisher, President of Hinckley & Burbage Lions Club



Wykin Lane Planning Refusal - Cllr J Collett

July's edition of The Stoker reported on my motion to reject the Wykin Lane planning application which was passed by 8 votes to 7 at Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council Planning Committee.

Since that meeting, we have now learned that Davidson Homes plan to appeal against this decision. I would urge all those who opposed the application to contact the Inquiry at the relevant time. It is particularly important that the views of villagers are heard and respected.

Below is my speech which I made at the Planning Meeting to propose the motion to reject the application.

I have to say that one of the saddest aspects of this application is that Stoke Golding as a village has been diligently preparing, working on and proposing a Neighbourhood Plan. They have put forward brownfield sites to meet the housing requirement and held a public consultation. They are frustrated in their efforts to move to a Referendum on their proposals because of the present Covid 19 situation.

Yet here we have an unwanted and inappropriate speculative application from a developer proceeding at pace.

You will have seen the weight of public opposition to the plan. Over 250 responses against this proposal and only 1 in favour. The village is absolutely united against this proposal.

Stoke Golding is defined as sustainable, but we know from the local education authority that there are no places available and we know that the local GP surgery is already full with long waiting lists.

The previous Chairman of this planning committee says development in Stoke Golding is not sustainable.

I urge my fellow Councillors tonight to please look at this application objectively. I hope that you have taken a site visit to see how unsuitable the location is.

Please do not hide behind government legislation, the lack of a 5-year land supply, or Officers' advice. **As you know but it is worth reminding, you** are directly accountable for the decision you make as Councillors.

Stoke Golding should **not** pay the price for mistakes made by the Borough as whole **over the lack of housing allocations.**

The area proposed to be developed is an area of outstanding natural beauty **which should be afforded the highest protection.** It is an area valued by villagers and directly opposite the new Cemetery – a tranquil place where villagers pay their respects to very recently deceased loved ones.

Please do not destroy **this** wonderful countryside outside of the village boundary.

This is adjacent to a single-track road which I hope you have visited because

the pictures in the planning pack do not reflect how narrow it is. I'm afraid it is not good enough for the Highways Officer to **hide behind qualified comments such as** "should not". How many times have they said a development "**should not**" lead to congestion and that is exactly what happens? My personal knowledge, those of the Parish Council and County Councillor, and those who use the road regularly would disagree with the Highways Officer who clearly does not know the road well enough.

Chair, I propose that the officers' advice and this application is rejected for the following reasons and I propose there is a recorded vote as Councillors must be accountable for this decision:

1. The number of proposed homes (55) will result in an unacceptable increase in traffic movement (commuter and delivery vehicles) along Wykin Lane which is a single track road to the detriment of the safety of motorists, cyclists and pedestrians particularly during the evening. This is contrary to Spatial Objective 5, 6, 8 and 13 and Policy 14 of the Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy Adopted 2009 and Policy DM17 Highways and Development Management Policies DPD 2016.
2. It has not been demonstrated the housing can be provided elsewhere around less harmful settlement boundaries. Notwithstanding the lack of a 5-year housing land supply, the proposal would extend Stoke Golding Village further south at the expense of open countryside and the setting of this historic village. It will cause substantial and demonstrable harm to the intrinsic value, beauty and open character of this part of Stoke Golding. Overall, the benefit of providing 55 homes does not outweigh this harm and is therefore contrary to Policy DM4 of the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD 2016.

Councillor Jonathan Collett 07740896805

Residential Development in Roseway

A planning application has been made for up to 65 dwellings on land East of Roseway. Further information and plans are available to view online at www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk by entering 20/00779/OUT

Comments must be made to HBBC Planning Department by Tuesday 15th September.

A decision will be made by 2nd November

Fool on the Hill

Out with the old.....

One thing the world's scientists have, thus far, been unable to quantify is the optimum moment in the life cycle of a motor car when replacement is necessary. Having spent my working life as a beneficiary of the company car (b)racket, largely this decision was taken away from me as every three years a new one would appear. Now that the acquisition of a new car involves a significant dent in Fool Incorporated's dwindling resources, rather more thought is applied to the process. The perceived wisdom these days seems to run in favour of something called a PCP which involves a very large payment, lots of smaller payments and then you have to buy a very large balloon or they come and take the car away. As my mental resources are diminishing even faster than my fiscal ones this is somewhat beyond me. I rather like the idea of paying for something and actually owning it. I mean you would not want to have M&S banging on your door to repossess your underpants after two years because you didn't read the small print on the till receipt. Which raises another point because, when you return a car after 3 years on a PCP they expect it to be in the same condition as when you drove it from the showroom or they will charge you twice the original price of the car to restore it.

So the decision in the Fool household is to buy and own. Now as a lad, before company car days, I would go and visit Dodgy Fred's Automotive Emporium under the railway arches in search of something that was less than 50% rust. He was always most forthcoming when the preferred method of payment was actual folding cash feeling, as he did, that the taxman had better things to do with his time than bother about him. Now, however, if you wish to pay outright for your new steed you will be regarded with the utmost suspicion and in some cases, penalised, for not taking out one of their finance plans which are every bit as unfathomable as the aforementioned PCP.

Whilst the acquisition process is painful, it pales into insignificance when compared to the trauma of disposing of the old model. On purchasing this same vehicle from the same dealer you were assured that it was the absolute bees knees and a cast iron investment and that the world would beat a path to your door should you ever be foolish enough to part company with it. When the moment comes to part exchange it, a pained look comes across the face of the salesman as if you were trying to offer him a dose of Typhoid. Not a popular model now Sir, the colour is no longer on trend and of course there are one or two blemishes in the paintwork etc, etc.

At least a horse just dies so you're always sure when you need a new one.

F.O.T.H





POP-UP PLANT SALE



Sadly, St Margaret's Church will not be able to hold the annual Flower Festival this year, clearly the money raised normally helps towards the running expenses of the Church. Additionally, at present there is a need to raise money to put towards the repairs and renovations. So – very kindly the Scarecrow group have said they are happy for us to raise money on the Bank Holiday weekend and two stalls are planned, plants, and jams and books. Judy Buckell has kindly agreed to bring her plants to sell as she normally does during the Flower Festival.

SO – ROLL UP ROLL UP

TO THE POP UP PLANT SALE IN THE DRIVE OF 3 HINCKLEY ROAD!

WHERE: 3 HINCKLEY ROAD (DRIVE), STOKE GOLDING

WHEN: SATURDAY 29TH AND SUNDAY 30TH AUGUST

TIME: 10.00 AM TO 4.00 PM EACH DAY

ALL PLANTS £1 – SMALL 2 FOR A £1

**PLASTIC BAGS PROVIDED TO TAKE YOUR PLANTS HOME
ONE WAY SYSTEM INTO THE DRIVE – IN THROUGH THE
SMALL GATEWAY AND OUT OF THE BIG**

PLEASE OBSERVE SOCIAL DISTANCING

**WE WOULD PREFER NOT TO GIVE CHANGE SO PLEASE
SAVE UP YOUR £ COINS READY!**

And

TO THE JAMS AND BOOK STALL AT THE CHURCH!

WHERE: ST MARGARET'S CHURCHYARD, STOKE GOLDING

WHEN: SUNDAY 30TH AUGUST ONLY

TIME: 11.00 AM TO 4.00 P.M.

**SOCIAL DISTANCING WILL APPLY AND ALL CUSTOMERS
REQUIRED TO SANITIZE THEIR HANDS**

Please come along and give the Church your support
David and Pauline Goodsell and Jenny and Ian Hiron



We look forward to seeing you.



Lockdown: Serving Up

During the initial weeks of lockdown, everyone had their own strategies for coping with the situation. For us, it was setting up a fairly regular routine each day and part of that, for me, was cooking. I do find it incredibly enjoyable, therapeutic even. Not that my culinary career began well. On my first attempt at cooking, I mistakenly misread a teaspoon of salt for a tablespoon: nobody got past the first bite of those cheese scones. My creative flair was evident as a teenager when I decided to surprise my parents with a delicious cheese and vegetable pie. I studiously followed the recipe. Boil the potatoes it said so that's what I did. I put them in cold water, turned on the electric ring and when the water boiled, I presumed they were done. Mashing them wasn't altogether successful but, undaunted, I made a fairly decent cheese sauce and then searched for a tin of mixed vegetables. Here I learnt a valuable lesson: always check you have all the ingredients before you start cooking. There was, however, a tin of peaches so that had to suffice. The dish of peaches in a cheese sauce with raw potatoes on top went into the oven, and on my parents' return, it went straight into the bin.



I suppose I'd have been in my mid twenties when I caught the cooking bug. When we had friends round for meals, I'd spend hours preparing ever more adventurous concoctions to titillate their palates. I didn't usually cook during the week although a chance encounter with some spring onions one day when stopping off at a shop in Hinckley, gave me the burning desire to cook Peking Duck as a way of chilling out after a particularly stressful time at work. The problem was that I bought a frozen duck but only wanted to use half of it. An hour of trying to cleave the wretched duck in two, eventually achieved with the use of a saw, left me twice as stressed as I'd been before. Since retiring, I have cooked the majority of our evening meals with a set of regular recipes that I rotate round, throwing in the occasional exotic dish when the fancy takes me. But when the cooking slot became a key time, if not the highlight of my lockdown day, I started becoming more and more adventurous.

My journeys into the cuisines from around the world, from Vietnam to Peru, have had their challenges, the most notable being a lack of ingredients. I have been bemused by the empty supermarket shelves. I can understand the absence of flour, eggs and sugar as everyone began filling their weeks of containment with baking, but smoked haddock? Soy sauce? Our shopping bills rocketed as we stayed at home and ate more and there was a worrying increase in our alcohol purchases. I lay the blame for this on FaceTime and Zoom. In pre-virus days, I found it most pleasurable to accompany my peeling and chopping with regular sips from a glass of red wine. During lockdown, the sips became slurps and then halfway through my preparations, I'd be off for a video link with family and friends. On my return to the kitchen, I'd invariably discover my wine glass was alarmingly empty, and that was an unacceptable state of affairs that needed quickly remedying. You understand, I'm sure.

Michael Dix



Kitchen Corner

BEEF & PORK MEATBALLS (ALBONDIGAS)

This is truly a good stand-by dish. It freezes well and if you double the quantity and freeze what you do not need immediately, there is always something available when you are short of time. A food processor is a great help in the preparation, otherwise there is quite a lot of chopping to do.

INGREDIENTS

- 1lb (450gms.) Minced Beef
- 8ozs. (225gms.) Minced Pork
- 4tblsp. Breadcrumbs
- 1 Small Green Pepper, cored & chopped
- 1 Egg, beaten
- 1 Onion, peeled & chopped
- 1 Clove of Garlic, peeled & crushed
- 1tblsp. Chopped Parsley
- 1tblsp. Tomato Puree
- Salt & Pepper
- 2tblsp. Plain Flour
- 2tblsp. Olive Oil

SAUCE

- 4 Large Tomatoes, skinned, de-seeded & chopped
- 1 Small onion, peeled & chopped
- 1 Small Green Pepper, cored & chopped
- 1 Clove of Garlic, peeled & crushed
- 1tsp. Dried Basil
- ½ pint (300mls.) Stock

METHOD

Pre-heat the oven to 190C/375F or Gas Mark 5

Firstly, chop the pepper, onion, parsley and crush the garlic, or put into a food processor. Then add the

egg and tomato puree and mix again, place in a large bowl with the breadcrumbs and meat. Mix with your hands until well combined. Have a bowl of cold water at the ready and dip your hands into it, this makes rolling the meatballs easier. This recipe makes about 18.

Put the flour into a plastic bag, roll the mixture into balls and put 2 or 3 at a time into the bag and coat with flour, continue until they are all well covered.

Pour the oil into a large frying-pan, when hot add the meatballs a few at a time until brown all over. Remove from the pan into an ovenproof casserole dish.

Now make the sauce.

Chop the onion and pepper, fry gently in the same frying-pan, you may need a little more oil. When they are soft add the rest of the sauce ingredients and bring to the boil. Pour the sauce over the meatballs, cover the casserole and cook in the oven for 40 minutes. Take the lid off and cook for a further 10 minutes.

Albondigas is the Spanish word for meatballs, and truly delicious.

Answers to 10 of a Kind

1. Puffin, 2. Belisha beacons, 3. Pegasus, 4. Guinness, 5. Oxford Circus, 6. John Lennon, 7. 1970s, 8. John Grisham, 9. Panda, 10. Tiger

Church Matters

From St Margaret's Church



I will always associate September with that 'back to school' and 'a new start' feeling even though it's many years since I was there! When I see all the school uniforms and stationery in the shops, I think of the excitement of a new class with a new teacher, as a new academic year begins and normality is resumed. Except, of course, this year it's more of a 'new normal', because school life, like so many of our activities,

will be different, as we strive to keep everyone safe and well.

During these past months of lockdown, we have had to adjust to new ways of doing church. Although we couldn't meet in the church building, our ministry and mission continued. Sunday worship moved online, with orders of service e-mailed out. Members of our choir got together digitally to record hymns for people to join in at home, and it has been good to have people connect with us who wouldn't usually attend our Fenn Lanes Group of Churches.

It was with great joy, however, that, after five months, we were able to re-start our worship together in the church building recently, in line with government guidelines. There was plenty of social distancing and hand sanitiser although, sadly, no singing. Nevertheless, it was still so good to meet together and see people once again. I'm aware that it's still not possible for everybody to attend a service due to their particular circumstances. It's a very individual and personal decision. For those who cannot attend, we are continuing with our online services on our Facebook page "Fenn Lanes Group of Churches", on Sunday mornings at 10.30am and a Service of Night Prayer on weekday evenings at 6.30pm. You are very welcome to join us.

As we continue in these uncertain times, may we know God's constant presence with us. St Paul, in his letter to the Romans tells us that 'nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

And so we pray:

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us
from your love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Wishing you all God's blessings
Linda

Methodist Information update

At the end of July we said farewell to Revd Wes Hampton who has now moved to the Canterbury and East Kent Circuit and we will soon be welcoming Revd Patricia Mukorombindo who comes to us from the Black Country Circuit.

She will have pastoral care of Hinckley, Stoke Golding and Higham churches.

The Methodist Church September Services

At the moment we can only hold short services without hymn singing

6th	10.30am	Rev V Atter
13th	10.30am	Mr John Cooke
20th	10.30am	Mr John Cooke (Harvest Service)
27th	10.30am	Revd P. Mukorombindo



Obituaries



JOHN MILLS

John Mills, of Stoke Golding, passed away peacefully on 18th June, 2020, at Moat House, Burbage. Beloved husband of Betty and the late Ruth, much loved father of Dawn, stepfather to Elizabeth, Kevin, Patrick and the late Stephen. Donations may be made in memory of John to Barnardo's or Guide Dogs for the Blind.

JUNE WAKEFIELD

June Wakefield, of Stoke Golding, passed away peacefully on 21st June, 2020, aged 84 years. Beloved wife of Ken and a much loved mum, grandma and great grandma. Donations may be made in memory of June to Dementia UK.

NICOLA DEL GESSO

Nicola (Nick) Del Gesso of Stoke Golding passed away peacefully at The Willows Care Home on 20th July, 2020, aged 80 years. Beloved husband of Geraldine. Much loved dad of Anna, Gian and Nicholas and grandad to Joel, Niall, Siena and Jim. Donations may be made in memory of Nick to Ataxia UK c/o G. Seller, Funeral Directors, Upper Bond Street, Hinckley.

RICHARD PALMER

Richard Palmer of Stoke Golding, formerly of Wykin, passed away peacefully on 9th August, 2020, aged 88 years. Will be sadly missed by all of his family and friends. Donations may be made in memory of Richard to LOROS, c/o G. Seller, Funeral Directors, Upper Bond Street, Hinckley.

We offer our condolences to the family and friends of John, June and Nicola and Richard.

An update on Stoke Golding's Neighbourhood Plan



An open day was held at the Baxter Hall in January this year. Following this, the priority was to ensure there were no issues with the proposed housing development sites.

While the Neighbourhood Plan considers a range of topics such as countryside, heritage, traffic and employment, for many in the village the proposals on housing development are the main area of interest. The introduction of Neighbourhood Plans in 2011 has given

local communities an opportunity to take more control over such development within their locality.

Based on the Household Survey in 2017, the Parish Council initially proposed around 25 new homes between now and 2036. Unfortunately, this was considered insufficient by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council (HBBC) which is responsible for approving our Plan. Therefore, we have proposed a main site of around 25 homes, plus a reserve site of around the same number of homes, the intention being to provide flexibility if required.

A meeting was held in March with HBBC's Planning and Conservation officers to discuss the proposed sites. No major issues were raised with the proposed main site, which is on developed land at Mulberry Farm.

However, HBBC raised serious issues about the reserve site, which is on undeveloped land at Mulberry Farm, because this land lies on Bosworth battlefield ground; therefore, an alternative reserve site was required. It is now proposed that this site should be on land south of Hinckley Road (opposite Greenmoor Road). Full details of what and why are provided on the village web site and also on the village notice board. It should be noted that a rigorous site selection process was used to evaluate all potential development sites. The land south of Hinckley Road was considered to be the next most appropriate site after the undeveloped land at Mulberry Farm.

With this change included, the draft Neighbourhood Plan has now been completed and has commenced its assessment process. This process is mandatory with a defined series of steps over the coming 9 to 12 months. The first of these steps is a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), which is an assessment of the broad impact of the Plan by various regulatory bodies and is expected to be completed this month.

When any points arising from the SEA have been addressed, the Neighbourhood Plan will move into the next assessment step, which is a six-week consultation with the village. This is being prepared at the moment and more details of this consultation process, together with a summary of the Plan, will be sent to each household prior to its commencement.

Mervyn Ward

Staffroom Memories 25: Displays

Our colleague gave a heavy sigh. My friend and I had just spent an enjoyable ten minutes adapting the Christmas displays in the corridor. When one class had removed their collage of The Carnival of the Animals in order to put up paintings of the baby Jesus, they had rather irresponsibly left a pile of painted animals on one of the windowsills. When we discovered them, we decided to use the last remaining minutes of lunchtime to add a little extra to the various pictures that now adorned the corridor celebrating Christmas. So, along with Mary, Joseph and the donkey on the dusty road to Bethlehem, we added a kangaroo. Jesus was watched over by an ox, an ass and a tortoise whilst the shepherds brought along an elephant. We thought we'd been rather amusing: our colleague sought to disagree!

One distinctive feature of primary school classrooms is the way teachers display both pictures and artefacts to stimulate discussion, pose questions and provide information, and also put up children's work to raise their self esteem and provide examples of good quality work. Unfortunately, displays were never my strong point. I once did a project on buildings and decided to bring in a variety of bricks to demonstrate the different materials that were used. As soon as other staff heard about my display, they arrived in droves to marvel at a table covered in a somewhat limited selection of house bricks. Then there was the display on medieval life where I brought in examples of the materials they would have used for clothing back then. I had no problem finding bits of wool and linen but couldn't find anywhere that sold hemp. I was such an innocent.

The first thing I ever did as a newly qualified teacher was to put up displays in the holidays using posters that I'd bought. The headteacher came over to see how I was getting on, but he was not impressed with my efforts. "We always back our posters with two contrasting colours," he explained and so off we went to the stock cupboard to get some backing paper. The extra effort of taking the posters all down again and then double mounting them would have been worth it if the headteacher hadn't been quite such a miser. The backing paper was the cheapest available and after a couple of weeks exposed to natural light, it faded away to a kind of insipid grey that actually distracts from the vibrant colours on my posters, but who was I to argue.

For a project on the countries in Europe, children brought in lots of foreign currency from their holidays. All around the room I'd pinned up pesetas and lira, francs and drachma, but one morning I arrived in my classroom to find them all gone. I took my prime suspect to one side and whilst he vigorously denied any involvement in the theft, I offered him an amnesty from any sanctions if he'd return the missing notes. Before school started the next morning, I popped out of my classroom for a cup of coffee. On my return, I discovered number one suspect carefully reattaching the notes to the wall.

Michael Dix



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Gardener Required



A small Garden in Hall Drive needs a bit of TLC – mainly weeding a patio and path. If you can help, please phone Annette to discuss on 07756308749.

Thank You

Seeking Descendants

Hello. My name is Geoffrey Barratt and I am a great, great grandson of Emanuel Barratt who came from Theddingworth, not far from Stoke Golding, and emigrated to Australia in about 1860, settling in Deepwater, the village in northern NSW where I still live.

I came across the 2010 edition of the Stoker Golding Village newsletter after reading Conn Iggulden's Ravenspur: Rise of the Tudors, and noting that the concluding battle at Bosworth Field was near the little village of Stoke Golding in Leicestershire, so close to where my forebears hail from. In that September 2010 edition is an article about the marriage of Nick Barratt. I am wondering if you could contact Nick, and let Nick know of my enquiry as to whether he may also be a descendant of Emanuel Barratt of Theddingworth.

Thank you, Geoffrey Barratt email: gbarratt68@gmail.com



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6:00 - 8:15pm, Sunday 12:00-3:00pm

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6:00 - 11:00pm, **Thursday** 12:00 - 2:30pm & 6:00 - 11:30pm,
Friday 12:00 - 2:30 pm - 6:00 - 11:30pm, **Saturday** 12:00 - 2:30 pm &
6:00 - 11:00pm, **Sunday** - 12:00 - 4:00pm & 6:00 - 11:30pm



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Alicia Poole

MOst, Dip. Ost, Dip. S.M.
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