

November 2020

No. 196

# The Stoker



**Stoke Golding Village Magazine**

*Including*

**Dadlington Matters**

**70p**



### **Note from the Editors**

*We hope you are all managing to stay healthy and positive during these uncertain times. The decisions being made by our Government to try to keep us safe from Covid 19, whilst protecting the economy, are challenging and life changing for many of us.*



*One thing we can all do is try to support each other the best we can, maybe a phone call for a chat or check on an elderly neighbour. We feel lucky to be part of such a wonderful community that respects and cares for others and a smile and a kind word really can make a difference.*

*Despite the cancellation of many events, it is heart-warming to read about the Macmillan fund-raising that still went ahead with a bit of imagination and hard work (Page 12).*

*We are excited to announce we now have a Stoker Cookery Book - see page opposite - please help us to sell as many as possible.*

*Don't forget to send us your articles and photos for the December/January combined issue.*

**Stay safe, Jane and Steve**

### **The Stoker Team**

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

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

Please send articles for the **Dec/Jan** issue of The Stoker **by 15th Nov** 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: from Tony Cole*

# The Stoker Kitchen Corner Cookery Book



## **The Stoker Kitchen Corner Cookery Book Has Arrived!**

All the recipes you need in one book.

**Perfect for Christmas presents - only £5 each.**

Please contact Avis to order your book. We can arrange to deliver it to you, or you can collect it from her house in Stoke Golding, from the White Swan or from Paul's shop.

Telephone: **07425164833** Email: **avisraynor@yahoo.com**

50% of profits will go to the Little Princess Charity to help children with cancer.

## **Parish Council Remembrance Day Service**

Unfortunately, due to Coronavirus restriction there will be no public Remembrance Day Service at Hinckley Road Cemetery this year. A short private service and laying of the village wreath will be conducted by Rev Linda Blay and the Chair of the Parish Council, Rachel Terhegge.

Residents are requested not to attend the cemetery between 10.30 and 11.30 am on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November, as admittance will not be possible. The Parish Council will try to live stream the service to Stoke Golding Parish Council Facebook page for those residents who would like to view. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

*Theresa Case*  
Clerk to Stoke Golding Parish Council



## Did you know .....???

Did you know that on alternate Saturdays there is a take away M&S van in the Car Park at the club. Having spotted it on my way back from Hinckley and contemplating a day of packing for an early departure to Scotland , I decided to buy a couple of pizzas. The chap on the photo is very jovial but professional. He is there 9-1pm



with genuine M&S Food. When I asked him if I could take his photo and do a write up for the village magazine he spontaneously gave me a M & S Belgian chocolate flap jack and said thank you. It was very nice by the way and shared and devoured the same day.

Only one problem was I forgot to ask him his name ..... maybe next time.

*Jennifer*

## Re-wilding our Gardens and Open Spaces



During the last Parish Council meeting they discussed letting an area behind the pavilion remain unmowed to see how it would develop. We do already have other wildflower areas in our village but during the discussion the Blue Campaign was mentioned which I'd not come across. This campaign was set up in 2014 and promotes letting public open spaces and gardens go wild in parts to

encourage wildflowers and wild life back into them. A lot of organisations are promoting this as a way of restoring nature to Britain, helping restore bio-diversity and providing a natural solution to climate change. The Blue Campaign suggest that you display a blue heart to show the world that though your lawn may be uncut and full of wildflowers or you have piles of leaves and clippings in piled up in dark corners, you are prepared to let your space become a little less tidy for a good cause. If you fancy having a go then you can find out more at [www.bluecampaignhub.com](http://www.bluecampaignhub.com). Let's see those blue hearts on display around the village!

*Jan Zelenczuk*



## Stoke Golding Scout Group



Well the scout group have been inventive. In view of the current increasing Covid 19 situation the scout group at present is still on zoom.

The cubs have been doing their IT digital badge and learning about safety on the net. They even sent in photos of themselves in disguise to highlight the fact that you may not know who you are talking to.

They are also doing a home help badge and had an informative web cam demonstration on how to sort out washing and how to load the dishwasher as well. The cubs will have to send in evidence that they did it too.

The cubs and beavers joined in a very entertaining session by Ranger Ron and went on a dinosaur hunt. He certainly knew a lot about dinosaurs and the graphics were amazing. He was joined by over 7,000 cubs and beavers within the UK and abroad.

The scouts have been doing their Chefs badge by planning and cooking 2 courses for their parents. I did hear about a particularly delicious chocolate trifle.

The scouts and beavers have started their Global challenge badge. The beavers went on a virtual tour of a Fire-station in South Yorkshire with Andrew who, as well as being a Scout Leader, is a fire fighter as well. The beavers had a tour of the inside of the fire engine, saw the gym where they keep fit, the fire tower and a chopped up car used for training sessions.

So all in all, despite these challenging times, the scout group and others in the wider Scouting community have demonstrated that although they have to do virtual meetings that they can be creative and do fun activities and badges!!!!

*Jennifer*



Owners of Bernie's Ices, Kerry and Marie got in touch following the letter in last month's Stoker about noise pollution.

They were upset that it referred to their ice cream van's chimes, which they assure us have been measured by the council at 80decibels.



They really enjoy providing ice cream in the village after buying their van in 2019 as a new venture including for the recent Scarecrow Festival and wanted to pass on to the village that they "love you guys to bits".

## Unlocked Talent Part II



Following the article in the July edition of the Stoker, I am happy to report something positive from lockdown restrictions.

For the last fifteen years I have helped organise our village Flower and Snowman Festivals but sadly not this year. When we needed it most to help boost the repair fund for our Church things went pear-shaped due to Covid but hopefully that will not last.

With extra time on my hands and being furloughed from employment for seven months, I had the opportunity to do new things and as my

artistic husband refused to do a portrait of our handsome cat Alfie, I started to explore and adventure into pen and ink drawing.

I have continued to do this and thanks to my art teacher (husband - long suffering! ) and have started to explore watercolours in combination with pen and ink. I love drawing pets and local wildlife and I keep getting commissions for pet portraits and animal works.

So here is my idea: If anyone would be interested in having their favourite pet, past or present, framed in pen and ink portrait with some colour, perhaps as a Birthday or Christmas present, then get in touch with me. Any commissions I receive will benefit St Margaret's Repair fund.

The most popular sizes are 8 x 6 inch picture in a frame 10.5 x 12.5 inches although other sizes are available. Prices start from £45.00

Best Wishes  
Corinne Wilson  
gwcwilson1@btinternet.com  
mobile 07890 654125  
Tel 01455 213598





## Kitchen Corner

### **BANANAS IN ORANGE BUTTER CREAM**

#### **INGREDIENTS**

4 Ripe Bananas  
Juice of ½ Orange  
Grated Zest of ½ Orange  
Juice of ½ Lemon  
Grated Zest of ½ Lemon  
½ tsp. Brown Sugar  
¼ Cup of Orange Liqueur  
½ Cup Water  
4 Scoops of Vanilla Ice-Cream

#### **METHOD**

Peel the Bananas and slice lengthways.

In a large Frying pan, melt the butter and add the bananas,

orange juice and zest, lemon juice and zest and slowly simmer over a medium heat for 2 minutes.

Add the brown sugar, orange liqueur and water. Simmer over a low heat for 5 minutes

Remove from the heat, serving 2 slices of banana per plate, add one scoop of ice-cream, then top with the remaining sauce.

You don't have to buy a whole bottle of Liqueur, Miniature bottles of either Cointreau or Curacao can be found on the Internet.

This dessert is really simple, but so delicious. *Avis Raynor*

### **Art Exhibition – 29th November**

We are sorry to say that we have cancelled the Art Exhibition which we had hoped to hold in the Village Hall on 29th November. We just felt that it was getting too complicated with contact details needed and suitable spacing –and by the time we got the artists in we wouldn't have had much space for visitors! We shall re-schedule for the Spring if possible.

However a few of us are going to take part in a 'pop-up' website to show our work – and possibly sell some as well! The cost will be £10 per artist so if anyone would like to join in please get in touch with me – Pauline Goodsell on 212955, or email – millburn5@hotmail.co.uk – if you would like further information.

Hopefully we will be able to include details of the website address in the December issue of The Stoker.

***Pauline***

### **Next Litter Pick - January 2021**



A message from Stephen Canessa - There will be no litter pick in November and December and the next one will be on Saturday 9th January at 11am.

## Staffroom Memories 26: Testing Times

Three months ago, the government got ever so slightly in a mess over exam results, so I thought now might be an opportune time for me to weigh in on my experiences of tests and testing. One of the features of the A level debacle was the difference between teacher assessments and historic exam results. Either teachers were incredibly inept at judging their pupils' abilities or the exams weren't an accurate reflection of what a child could do. You can probably guess which of these possibilities I believe to be closer to the truth. During my nineteen years as a class teacher, I gave my pupils tests every week, so I am definitely not against testing. It provides a useful indicator of what a child knows at a particular time and supports an overall assessment. It can also motivate pupils and identify where they need extra support. But tests are also fallible; children can get lucky, they can go to pieces, they can be crammed with stuff they don't fully understand, they can be taught techniques to maximise their scores. So when the SAT tests for ten and eleven year olds became the principle way in which schools were judged, I grew to despise them.

However, in the early days before they became high stakes tests, I discovered that becoming a marker for maths SATs would pay for my Leicester City season ticket and so I signed up. The first year was a doddle with most children failing miserably to complete their papers. By year two, that had all changed as teachers got wise and taught their children exam techniques. The corresponding rise in overall scores was hailed as a miracle when it was merely children getting better at taking exams. In fairness to the companies that produced the tests, they put in a huge amount of work to make the tests and their marking as fair as possible, but it did get rather silly. They became obsessed with keeping the tests secret. As a marker, when I attended the moderation day before marking began, I had to show my passport to get into the venue lest I be an undercover agent and then the blinds in our meeting room had to be drawn in case we were under the gaze of a tele-photo lens from a press photographer in an adjoining building. Our meeting room had no bins as the cleaners might be in the pay of a national newspaper and we were forbidden, on pain of being sent to the Tower, from displaying any test details in public - but this was after the children had already taken the test.

SATs week was always stressful for everyone in school. I had children in tears, children storming out the room unable to cope, one ill child who should have been at home, being sick all over my office carpet the moment she had finished, another who did the test in his pyjamas at home with his mum whilst I supervised. When they relaxed the rules so that absent children could take the test at a later date, I had to ensure that the child didn't receive any information about the test. Other than



cutting the family's electricity and telephone connections and confiscating their mobile phones, there was little I could do to follow this rather ridiculous instruction.

The most stressful part for me was to be a reader for a child who needed extra support during the test. I'd watch hopelessly as they misinterpreted a question where I knew they could do the maths, or worst of all, when they went back "to check their work," rubbed out a correct answer and replaced it with some bizarre figure. I'd try to tot up their scores in my head and I'd convince myself that everyone was going to fail. Then I'd mark schools where everyone was a genius and become even more depressed. Finally, our results would arrive and, with a huge surge of relief, I'd find out the children had done pretty well.

*Michael Dix*

### **Ten of a Kind – November 20**

In November 1843, Nelson was installed on top of his column in Trafalgar Square. Here are ten questions about statues and monuments.

1. What name was given to the 12 monuments erected by Edward I in the places where his wife's body spent the night on its journey to Westminster Abbey, of which only three remain?
2. Which American mountain has a national monument with the faces of four presidents carved into the granite face?
3. In which London religious building will you find the tomb of the unknown soldier?
4. What is the name of the 2014 film about a World War II platoon sent to Nazi Germany to try to recover looted art treasures?
5. The Great Sphinx at Giza is a mythical creature formed from the body of what and the head of what?
6. Dedicated in 1886, the Statue of Liberty was a gift to the United States from which other nation?
7. On a map of the London Underground, Monument station is on both the lines coloured yellow and green. What are the lines' names?
8. Which biblical character is the subject of a 17 foot high marble statue by Michelangelo that is in the Galleria del'Accademia in Florence?
9. How many of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World feature statues of Greek Gods?
10. Rapa Nui is a Chilean island in the Pacific, famous for its statues of giant heads. By what name is it more commonly known?

*Answers on page 26*

## Organ Works

I'm not sure when I first got to play the current church organ at St James', Dadlington. It was probably shortly after its arrival from Weddington, the organ having been acquired by Rev Chris Gash. With the help of Gordon Webster, they had painstakingly taken it apart, pipe by pipe, key by key, and then reassembled it in St James, and mighty good it sounded back then. My first encounter with the organ followed the christening of our eldest son. We had invited those attending the ceremony back to our house for light refreshments. Amongst the guests were the vicar, Father Bardlsey, who hadn't actually been invited but turned up anyway and his three ravenous children, and the redoubtable Lucy Aucott, churchwarden and general organiser for the parish. It took all of thirty seconds from Lucy spotting my piano to me appearing on the church organ playing rota, and I've been on it ever since.

The old girl (the organ, not Lucy) is, for those who know about these things, a single manual organ with two octaves of pedals and five stops. It was a far cry from the magnificent organ I learned on in my home village, where practising involved letting myself into the church in the evening, playing with all the stops pulled out (yes, that's where the expression comes from) to keep the ghosts and ghouls at bay, and then racing out as fast as I could to avoid the things that lurked in the surrounding graveyard. For several years, Dadlington organ and I got on famously well. I'd play at services and the occasional wedding, the pinnacle of my playing being a spirited performance of Widor's toccata, a performance the organist of Westminster Abbey tried to emulate at William and Kate's wedding. But then old age began to creep up on it.

The first note to go was bottom C. At one particular service, I played the note, but when I lifted my finger, the note kept playing. On and on it droned so I had to turn the organ off and then try and ignore the rogue note when I switched it back on again to play the hymns. The organ repairer fixed the problem by gluing the key firmly in the up position, and in so doing, removed the first of what were to become a host of notes no longer at my disposal. Next came the lower F sharp on the pedals. This is a particularly interesting note because sometimes it sticks and sometimes it doesn't. There is no logic to it. Upon sticking, it can be freed with a carefully aimed kick on the side, but as my feet are involved in playing other notes, it can be several bars before my left foot is available to carry out the task. Finally, there are now a group of notes that do absolutely nothing at all. The most irritating is the pedal D because it occurs every 5 or 6 notes in most hymns and I have to compensate for a sudden lack of bass note by playing a similar note with my left hand. This means my left hand can't play the notes they are supposed to play, so I have to play those with my right hand. Avoiding bottom C, kicking pedal

F sharp and having to play completely different notes to the ones written in front of me means I am often a nervous wreck at the end of a hymn. And you thought I just sat down and played.

*Michael Dix*



I was very interested to read Roy's article about the old Vicarage and the iron railings. I was only recently thinking about them when walking by one day. I lived next to the Vicarage with my parents, Robert and Peggy Holmes from 1961 until 1977. In the earlier days prior to having a fence erected, we had lovely views of the woodland and the vicarage grounds.

It was the time of the Reverend and Mrs Moncur, and I was of similar age to their four children. Their cousins used to visit each summer and we became friends, and I remember climbing over those railings to see them. Each summer there were garden fetes held in the grounds, and Mum and I always had a stall, and the sun always seemed to shine. Once, I remember members of the Clergy coming to visit and Mrs Moncur asking me if I would help her to serve them all breakfast, which I did, and I got to know that kitchen very well! I can still picture all those downstairs rooms, and the big wide staircase.

There was great sadness when it was demolished, as it was so much a part of Wykin Lane and the village.

*Christabelle McCarthy*

**Editor's Note:** *Due to a printing error in last month's Stoker most of Christabelle's letter was not printed so we have printed it again this month.*



### **Family Tree - can you help? - Update**

*Following Peter's request for help in September's Stoker, Peter contacted us with news...*

Please accept and pass on my sincere thanks for your and the magazine teams help in finding people to help with my family tree research.

I was contacted by Paul Jordan who lived in Stoke Golding, his father and my grandfather were cousins, we are in touch with each other and have been able to share stories and fill in 'gaps' in the family history. Your help is very much appreciated. Best regards, Peter

*Good that our village magazine was able to help in this way, Eds*

# Dadlington Matters

## Macmillan Coffee Morning on The Green

On Friday 11 September we held a socially distanced coffee morning on the Green in Dadlington. Several hardy villagers turned up carrying their



own chairs and tables together with refreshments, some of which were obviously stronger than coffee! This was a totally different coffee morning than the monthly Thursday ones we are used to in the village hall.

We are grateful for all the support and were amazed to have raised £255 from the collection which was made.

*Glenis and Phil Kiteley*

## Carlotta's Cakes for Macmillan

Carlotta, from Stoke Golding, decided to raise money for Macmillan after seeing their adverts on television. Obviously it would be difficult to run an actual coffee morning, so Carlotta decided to organise a cake delivery service and promote it through the Facebook Community Page. Initially she only had a couple of responses, but then it snowballed and she



ended up baking and delivering 120 cakes!

Carlotta said "It was great fun, though a bit more demanding than planned. My husband David helped with the cleaning up and drove me around the following morning to make the deliveries. It's my dream to have a cake shop but, at the end of the day, I said that dream can wait a bit longer now because I was cream-crackered! "

Altogether she raised a brilliant £163 for Macmillan - a fantastic achievement.

## Fool on the Hill

Past pastimes.....

Many years ago, my dear mother was under the impression that my path through life might stand more of a chance of remaining straightish if I attended Sunday School. A kindly thought but erroneous. I do however, recall some snippets from the good book which struck a bit of a chord with my latest means of doing nothing whilst appearing to do something. The exact text escapes me but it was something along the lines of being a child and speaking and thinking like a child. It goes on to explain that as time goes on, childish things are put away and you speak and think as a man. What it failed to explain was that after a few more years, childish thoughts and ideas tend to creep back in and, if the adverts of Mr Tena's products on afternoon telly are to be believed, so does the use of nappies. But I digress. The thing is though my childhood love of canal fishing has started to creep back into my consciousness and frankly, there is no finer definition of appearing to do something whilst doing nothing than that.

Having done a little research, it would appear that the process of trying to outwit a diminutive Roach with the mental capacity of a door handle, has taken on a considerable degree of complexity. In my youth fishing tackle consisted of a split cane rod with a centre pin reel, a few porcupine quill floats and a rather fetching wicker basket which doubled as a tackle storage box and a seat. On a reconnaissance trip to the Ashby Canal the other day I observed an angler surrounded by today's essentials which was effectively blocking the towpath. I have seen people move house with less stuff than he had around him. The rod has been replaced by a giant snooker cue which reaches all the way across the canal and rather begs the question as to why it would not be more practical to just go and sit on the opposite bank and fish from there. It is my intention to enter into the spirit of the fishing of my youth and go for the minimalist approach to equipment. Firstly because I am pretty sure that I would have no idea what to do with all these extra gizmos and secondly I am a fully paid up, wash proof and non- refundable skinflint. Cheap and cheerful does it for me.

The point of fishing is to enjoy the peace and quiet of the countryside whilst waiting for some passing interest from a member of the piscine community. It does seem rather pointless to expend too much money and effort to remove a fish which is not really edible from its environment. Particularly as the rules seem to compel you to return it to the murk from whence it came. And please don't tell me that it's about catching the big one because, as any fule kno, all fishermen are liars.

**F.O.T.H**







## Bob's Focus

Well it happened so quickly didn't it? One minute we are in shorts and T shirts enjoying a lovely Indian summer then bish bash bosh it's all cold and wet with, it seems like, much less of the day to play with.

Over the last few weeks whilst taking Winnie for her evening walk I have been teased by the smell of log burners that have lain dormant over the summer months, even the George had both fires lit the other night when Winnie dragged me in for a biscuit from the bar!

This year has seen a bumper harvest of chestnuts, acorns, hawthorn berries, sloes, blackberries etc which hopefully will see some of our wild friends nicely through the harshest of months yet to come. Conditions were just right some say, others will warn that it is a sign of a hard winter that we are destined to endure. Well, even with all the modern technology in the world, we can only accurately predict the weather a few days in advance, so we will have to wait and see won't we?

Halloween and bonfire night approach and a couple of weeks ago I heard fireworks. "What is wrong with these people", I asked myself. "Its the middle of September, we haven't even had trick or treat yet!" Winnie was so upset she knocked the Christmas tree over!!

Joking aside, some of our little spikey friends have only recently had their second brood. The little hoglets will just about be independent when its time (November-March) for them to

hibernate. With this in mind, please be careful when burning that pile of garden rubbish. If you have hog activity in your garden, light a fire a few feet away and gradually add the rubbish off the old pile to the fire.

This year has also been a good one for the finches, in particular Goldfinches and Greenfinches (we have had a pair of Greenfinches nesting in one of our old conifers every year since we moved in) Having said that I have also seen a couple of sad cases. Have you ever walked into the garden and a little finch seems to be unperturbed by your presence?



Maybe it will hop right up to you, even let you stroke it. The chances are you are looking at a poorly bird, Trichomoniasis or pigeon canker is a nasty parasitic condition that can affect pigeons, birds of prey, parrots, turkeys, chickens, doves. This condition was noted to be connected with the decline of the Greenfinch which started in 2006.



Without going into gory detail it affects the birds throat and digestive functions, the birds may have puffed up plumage, be lethargic, have wet feathers around their beak or regurgitated food that they cannot swallow, they can be treated but the smaller the bird it seems the less successful treatment will be.

The disease can be spread through dirty water (bird baths) or dirty feeders where the food has gone bad. It's important that we clean out feeders and bird baths on a regular basis to try and protect our feathered friends so hopefully we can enjoy their presence and song in our gardens.

Have great (socially distanced) Halloween and bonfire night and I'll catch you all next month.



### **Baxter Hall Future Still Uncertain**

The recently formed Baxter Hall Committee has been working hard preparing a business plan and writing a constitution so that it is ready to take over the management of the Baxter Hall to provide facilities for the community. This includes room for a playgroup and for a 'before and after' school club, essential for working parents.

We held a meeting over Zoom with the Leicester Diocesan Board of Education (LDBE) and they have asked us to strengthen the business plan but are still very doubtful about us taking on the Hall.

We would urge everyone who wants to save the Baxter Hall to join The Baxter Hall group on Facebook and complete a few questions about why the Hall is important. We are running out of time as it could be legally put back on the market after 23rd December.

*Jane White*

## Memories of a Broken Empire – Part 6

This, I think, is my last Kazakhstan reminiscence for The Stoker. I knew nothing about the country, its history, or its people when I was first invited but five years later, such was the welcome I received, regarded it almost as a second home, complete with surrogate family.

My initial brief involved working mainly with retail businesses, adult educational establishments; “Technicoms,” Institutes plus one University and, on completion of our major project, I obtained funding to undertake a further two-year assignment based entirely at the Karaganda University.

Education throughout the Soviet Union was highly valued as an end in itself whereas training was either unrecognised or simply not valued and whenever I asked a question about training the answers I received were invariably expressed in terms of full-time, residential, vocational education rather than what we would call “on the job training.” For example, the manageress of a small store would have spent three years at an Institute before graduating with a Diploma in the Economics of Trade and a book-keeper or baker would have spent two years at a Technicom. Perhaps that’s why Kazakh bread was so much better than ours.

Bread apart, I saw very little evidence of any link between the prolonged and thorough training received and the quality of the service rendered or the product manufactured. In an economy where competition, unemployment and redundancy were unknown, where the relationship between cost and effectiveness was irrelevant, to be “qualified” was an end in itself, but having said that, there was much about the Soviet education system that I admired. Whatever its defects, and there were many, the “old life” (provided you toed the line!) had a predictability and security lacking in the competitive environment of a market economy.

The lessons of the free-market were not easily taught and I soon discovered that much more was achieved by bringing groups of managers and teachers over to England to see for themselves how our economy worked. I remember asking one group, at the end of their visit, what had impressed them most and their answer was unequivocal: “The sense of order everywhere!” That was before Covid 19 of course.

I sometimes ask myself what I remember best of Kazakhstan. I remember the utter desolation and ice-laden winds sweeping the steppe in winter, the weekend summer picnics in the cool Verbascum-covered hills, the seven hours long banquets, the caviar, smoked sturgeon, sheep’s heads and bowls of Kumis (fermented mares’ milk.) I remember looking out of my bedroom window and watching the gigantic displays of pyrotechnics as the thunderstorms played hide-and-seek amongst the mountain-tops but most of all I remember the warmth and kindness of the Kazakh people.

Nomadic people place little value on material possessions but they have a tradition of generous hospitality which had lived on in spite of 150 years of Russian domination during which even their own language was banned.

As my work at the Karaganda Economic University drew to an end I was invited by the Rector, Ekera Aimagambetov, to attend a meeting of the Senate where a motion was tabled, and unanimously approved, to award me an Honorary Life Professorship which I accepted with overwhelming gratitude. It was followed by a concert produced by the students and, in the evening, a spectacular banquet, complete with music, speeches, endless toasts, the mandatory sheep's head and a bottomless supply of the remedy for all Soviet ills - and the cause of its seriously declining life expectancy!

Five years previously I had been the first "western" visitor to enter this University, now I was leaving it as a member of a family and, as I left the steppes of Kazakhstan behind and flew over the vast Russian landscape my thoughts turned to my next assignment, to which I was already committed. It was to be based in Russia.



*Bob Quinney*

### **Stoke Golding Surgery Update**

'From 12th October a doctor will be working out of Stoke Golding surgery on a Monday and Friday morning, these are the days we have most capacity to send over a GP.

IF a patient needs to be seen face to face, and does not have a temperature (which will be checked on arrival) and isn't a shielding patient or pregnant, they will also be seen at Stoke Golding in the nurses room on those 2 days. All other days Stoke Golding patients will be consulted with and seen if necessary seen face to face at Hinckley.

IF a patient is shielding they will still need to go to Hinckley to be seen where they have a dedicated room called a Green room for such purposes as per the national guidance for their own protection'.

*Alison Ellis*

Well, what a year this has been so far. We have had to come to terms with unprecedented restrictions and rules to try and contain the Corona Virus, whilst efforts are made to find a vaccine.

As with many groups Stoke Golding W.I. has not been able to meet in their usual way. In fact, for several months, we could not meet at all. However, due to the stalwart efforts of our president Jean and aided by the committee, we have been enjoying a feeling of togetherness while being isolated.

Just to give you a few of the efforts made :-

- ◆ We have continued to receive our newsletter, but we have had more than our usual monthly update. Altogether Jean has sent us 40 newsletters !!! These have updated us on people's birthdays, W.I. information and numerous quizzes cleverly crafted so that we could not just google the answers and had to think about it!! We have had picture quizzes, dingbats, numerous jokes to keep us smiling and useful comments from members.
- ◆ We had a virtual open garden event with photos sent in by members of their gardens which were very impressive. It was good to see how members have been spending their time.
- ◆ We made scrubs for the LRI and Leicester General Hospital.
- ◆ Members have been sewing masks.
- ◆ We have followed intrepid walkers from Stoke Golding and Dadlington with photographic records of their trips, some ladies have walked miles !!!!!!!
- ◆ As things began to ease up a bit, in July we had a picnic at the recreation ground, with everyone bringing a chair and their own food. We were well spaced out and had an enjoyable time, having much missed chats and being able to see friends again.
- ◆ We had a similar meeting in August, at the recreation ground, this time with a fish and chip supper.
- ◆ A small group of members (due to Covid restrictions) made 3 scarecrows for the festival in the village and they were looked after by Sue Payne in her front garden.
- ◆ Finally, we had our September meeting in the village hall, with all Covid restrictions in place. It was lovely to get together and we were entertained with memories from members who brought an item to illustrate the memory. Sadly, even as this was taking place,



we knew that the restrictions were coming back, so we do not know when “we will meet again”.

Due to great efforts on behalf of the Club, we have managed to keep in touch, keep smiling and keep positive (as much as possible) and we will be here and raring to go as soon as restrictions are lifted.

*Lesley Gent*

## **Welcome to Bradshaw Farm Shop**

Bradshaw Farm Shop is a lovely local gem of a farm shop which you could easily miss as you drive along Dadlington Lane to Stapleton. You may have seen it advertised as Wendy House Farm Shop as it is Wendy who is on hand to greet you and advise on the varied range that's on offer in the shop.

Open every day from 10am till 6pm, there are free range eggs on sale as well as fresh milk from the farm's herd, cheeses, a good range of fruit and vegetables, homemade cakes, Love Our Earth range of dried foods, frozen meats and a variety of ice creams. Veg and fruit boxes can be made to order from £10.00. There is also a coffee machine on site if you want to spend a bit of time browsing.

With a new canopy extension, Wendy and Richard are planning some exciting events. Keep an eye out for a psychic evening – the date will be announced soon.

They are also creating an animal enclosure so your children and grandchildren can say hello to the hens and ducks, and a donkey and pygmy goats will also be arriving in the new year.

The big news is that Santa is also coming to Bradshaw Farm for a 'socially distanced' festive visit to a safely adapted Santa's grotto – starting on the first weekend in December throughout the run up to Christmas.

Call Wendy on 0788 5768703 for more details.

**You can find Bradshaw Farm Shop on Dadlington Lane, Stapleton, LE9 8JL**

*Ella Orr*



## **St. Margaret's Church Renovation and Repair**

The Parochial Church Council wish to thank everyone in the community who has helped in any way with preparing for the major repair and renovation which 'our' church needs. In particular we would like to say a grateful thank you to the community for the funds raised at the Scarecrow Festival – a magnificent £3021.15!

Perhaps we can take this opportunity to tell you about the progress being made with the fund raising for this work. The cost of the repairs and renovations to the inside of the Church is £168,122. This includes all of the work, architect's fees, and an amount for 'contingencies' – which is important for unexpected problems uncounted in such an old building! So far £155,706 has been raised! In addition to donations and community fund raising we have applied for and received some grants. In total the grants are £153,148. A highly significant grant, £94,148, was provided from the Developing Communities Fund of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council for which we are extremely grateful. St. Margaret's Church has contributed £43,000 from its own reserves which have been carefully built up over the years.

This leaves a shortfall in funding of £12,416 to finance this work. We have continued to apply for grants and hope to hear whether we have been successful by this November. If we do raise sufficient money we hope that the work will start in January 2021 and finish by April 2021. During this time the Church will not be able to be used and details will be circulated regarding arrangements for services and other events. In addition to the work inside the Church significant repairs are needed to the outside of the building to prevent further deterioration of the stonework, rainwater gutters and downpipes. The cost of this work is £47,036 - with some money being saved as a result of internal work to the Bell Frame being undertaken by Bell Ringers. So far the funds raised are £15,000. We have applied for grants to fund the remaining £32,036, and are hopeful that we shall be successful!

So we hope this has given you a clear account of the extraordinary, but vital work, which has been embarked upon so that 'our' church is here for present and future generations of people living in Stoke Golding. So many times we hear how this iconic building is appreciated by residents and visitors for so many different reasons.

We intend that once the work is completed, and perhaps during the work, there will be opportunities for you to come along to see and enjoy the results of this 'once in a lifetime' project! We will keep you up to date through the Stoker and on Stoke Golding Facebook.

If you have any questions please contact either David Goodsell 01455 212955 [millburn5@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:millburn5@hotmail.co.uk) or Ian Hirons 01455 699734 [ian@thehirons.com](mailto:ian@thehirons.com)



# Obituary



## Claire Parkyns Wood



Claire sadly passed away aged 52 on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 at LOROS Hospice after fighting cancer for the last year. Claire was born in London on 1<sup>st</sup> December 1967 and had lived in Italy and Oman, where she made many close friends and also met her husband Tony.

Having settled in Stoke Golding, Claire became a well-loved member of the St Margaret's School community which her daughters Imogen and Freya attended till July 2019. Claire's exceptional talent as a singer and her linguistic expertise were much appreciated and put to good use by the school. She helped the older children preparing them for the Young Voices concerts and teaching grammar to Year 6 in readiness for SATs, as well as being a valued member of the PTA and loved by all at the school.

Claire enjoyed life in Stoke Golding, helping in the community including as a member of the Village Hall committee. Her first love though was singing and music, and she was a much loved and valued member of the Leicestershire Chorale as well as singing soprano solo at local concerts and recitals.

Claire had many friends in the village and was unmistakeable with her dynamic personality and infectious laugh. She leaves us with such fantastic memories and will be very sadly missed.

As her memorial page says, 'Unforgettable Claire: loving mother, adored wife, affectionate sister, caring daughter, loyal friend, 'force of nature' and generally fabulous to know. She will be much missed by so many.'

Her funeral service took place on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October at St. Margaret's Church, officiated by Rev Linda Blay, followed by an interment at Wykin Lane Cemetery.

The service can be watched on this streaming website  
<https://www.cmtv.biz/Claire-Parkyns>

Donations may be made to LOROS in memory of Claire at <https://claireparkyns.muchloved.com>

*We offer our condolences to Claire's family and friends from the Stoker Team*

# Church Matters



## From St Margaret's Church

As we enter the month of November, the clocks have changed, the days are growing shorter and the colder nights are telling us that winter is on its way. The theme of this month is Remembrance – beginning as we mark All Saints Day, when saints through the ages are celebrated. We honour their memory and we look to

them for inspiration in living out our daily life.

This is immediately followed by All Soul's Day, when we remember those close to us who have died; those whom we've known and loved but see no longer; those who have been important in our lives, who have taught us, guided us, shaped us into the people we are today. This year is most certainly one that we will remember, being like no other, and our usual 'In Loving Memory' service is taking a different format. We are inviting all who have been bereaved to a time of quiet, as all of the churches in the Fenn Lanes Group (Stoke Golding, Dadlington, Higham, Fenny Drayton, Witherley) will be open from 2.00 – 4.00pm on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November for you to come, light a candle, and sit for as long or short a time as you wish. There will be some prayers said every half hour. We look forward to welcoming you.

Similarly, when, a week later, we have Remembrance Sunday, our services will be different this year.

Here in Stoke Golding, there will be an online service on the Fenn Lanes Group of Churches Facebook page at 9.30am, then a very small (limited numbers) Remembrance service with laying of the wreath at Hinckley Road Cemetery at 10.50am, which it is hoped will be live streamed onto the Stoke Golding Parish Council Facebook page for residents to view.

Remembrance Sunday is of course, when we recall the sacrifice of those who gave their lives for their country and the freedom of others, as we remember those from this area and across the nation who lost their lives in the major World Wars and other more recent conflicts.

The theme of remembering finds its culmination and climax in the Sunday before Advent; 22<sup>nd</sup> November, which is known as 'The Feast of Christ the King' when we hear again of Jesus' own sacrifice on the cross.

Remembering is part of what makes us human. Through it we trace our history, we know who we are and we learn from what has happened. So as we give thanks for those who have gone before us, may we also appreciate the communities we are a part of today – family, church, local community; and may our memories be full of joy.

Wishing you God's blessing

Linda

## The Methodist Church November Services

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

1st	10.30am	Mr Michael Holt
8th	10.30am	<b>NO SERVICE</b>
15th	10.30am	Mr John Cooke
22nd	10.30am	T.B.A
29th	10.30am	Revd Patricia Mucorombindo



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## Obituaries



### Iris Adams

Iris Adams, of Hinckley, previously of Stoke Golding, passed away on 22nd September, 2020, aged 91 years. Beloved wife of Stanley, loving mum, grandma and great grandma. Will be sadly missed.

### James Mortiboys

James David Mortiboys of Stoke Golding passed away on 23rd July, 2020, aged 44 years. A much loved Son, Daddy, Brother, Uncle and friend to all. Donations in memory of James may be made to 'Turning Point' c/o/ G.Seller, Funeral Directors, Upper Bond Street, Hinckley.

### Stephen Jones

Stephen Jones, of Arnold Road, Stoke Golding, passed away suddenly on 29th August, 2020, aged 61 years. He has left his wife Bridget, daughter Sarah and son Craig and grandchildren Jenson and Ellie. He adored cricket and football. The family would like to thank everyone for the many cards and flowers received. The response was so large as Stephen was liked by so many.

*We offer our condolences to the family and friends of Iris, James and Stephen*



## **An update from the Parish Council responding to Government planning reforms.**

The Parish Council is concerned over the planning reforms the Government is wishing to implement and the impact this could have on our village and surrounding area.

We have written to Dr Luke Evans MP (copying in County Councillor Ivan Ould and Borough Councillor Jonathan Collett) asking him to raise our issues with The Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, Secretary of State for Housing.

Dr Luke Evans spoke in the House of Commons on 8th October. The Hansard transcript of his speech is detailed below.

---

Dr Luke Evans (Bosworth) (Con) I have three minutes, and I will be brief. I welcome the fact that the Government are looking at this area. I stand by the manifesto commitment to increase housing numbers by 300,000. That is the biggest change in 70 years, and we therefore need to get it right, which is why I also support today's motion to have further debate and a meaningful vote.

Even before Covid and the consultation, planning was the biggest issue in my inbox. Hinckley and Bosworth is a good example of where planning gets into difficulty and the current system fails. Since being elected, the current Lib Dem-led council has no local plan or five-year housing land supply, which has resulted in speculative, piecemeal development with no overall strategy. That causes community resentment and loss of trust in the aspects of planning.

Hinckley and Bosworth has a willingness to take its fair share of sustainable development across Leicester and Leicestershire, but the following must be considered: under the formula consultation, I am concerned that the affordability aspect is based on work-based median house prices, which appears to assume that residents live and work in the same place. That is demonstrably not true in a constituency such as mine.

I am also concerned that the formula does not take into account infrastructure, as has been mentioned, or future plans for generations. My working days in this House are spent trying to improve the infrastructure of the likes of the A5 and such schools as Hinckley Academy. We need to future-proof our communities, and of course our country, especially in areas such as mine that attract young people, as they will have families. That will only compound the issue of a low level of amenities and connectivity.

Finally, on the algorithm, the numbers produced by Lichfield analysis suggest that Bosworth increases its numbers by almost 100% of current levels; yet Leicester city, only 15 minutes away, is dropping by 30%. How can that be levelling up? How can that be building better? How can that be using brownfield sites and quality regeneration? One solution that I might offer is to turn the formula to use 0.75% of housing stock, not the 0.5% in the consultation.

We can consider the algorithm, but we must also consider the White Paper, of which I am broadly supportive. Zoning and the pattern books are a great asset. The key thing is to ensure that who makes the decisions in zoning and patterns

is transparent to local people. Without that, I fear that councils will be unable to bring residents with them.

The final thing to mention is Neighbourhood Plans, which need to be simplified and strengthened. The likes of Bagworth, Stoke Golding and Market Bosworth are all at various levels trying to do so, but they need to know that the Government are listening to what they are saying. Otherwise, what happened to localism?

### **Correction From Dr Luke Evans**

Since this speech Dr Luke Evans has spoken again to the House of Commons to make a correction to say that Hinckley and Bosworth does have a local plan.

### **Stoke Golding Parish Council on Facebook**

Since the current crisis hit us, local government has had to adapt to how it works and how it publicises what it is doing on our behalf. Our Parish Council has been having it's monthly meetings on Zoom (which anyone can attend by using the link at the bottom of the agenda for that meeting) . Now they have gone further by setting up a Facebook page, called unsurprisingly Stoke Golding Parish Council, where they will publish information that is of general interest such as forthcoming Community events. It will also be a good platform to get information out to the village in the event of any emergency. It already has 168 members.

The Facebook page doesn't allow comments as it is for information only, not a forum for discussion!

If you are not a Facebook user, then there is the Parish Council noticeboard n Church Walk that you can read while you are socially distancing in the queue for the shop or on your daily walk!

*Jan Zeleczuk*



### **Festive Lights Switch On** **in the Grounds of Park House**

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2. Mount Rushmore
3. Westminster Abbey
4. The Monuments Men
5. Body of a lion and a human head
6. France
7. District (green) and Circle (yellow)
8. David
9. Two - The statue of Zeus and The Colossus of Rhodes (Sun god Helios)
10. Easter Island

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