

The Stoker



Stoke Golding Village Magazine

Including

Dadlington Matters

70p



Note from the Editors

We are very sad to report the loss of one of our team. Beth Ellis, of “Beth’s Corner” fame, passed peacefully in late October after a long illness. We will miss her. She was in the company of her daughter Amanda and Josh, her grandson, as “her spirit soared”.



It’s been an eventful month since we published the November edition of the Stoker. This miniscule, invisible to the naked eye, virus continues to disrupt so many of our plans. Now much of life is spent in ‘virtual events’, however Stoke Golding and Dadlington are both very real communities and it is heartening to witness the increasing focus on exploring ways where we can connect with each other. The Christmas Lights Switch On is a good example, with many seeking to co-ordinate this informally as we cannot celebrate this year in the Park House gardens as we normally do.

All of us at the Stoker wish all of you a very happy Christmas and hope you get to celebrate it happily and safely !

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 **Feb** issue of The Stoker **by 15th Jan** 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).

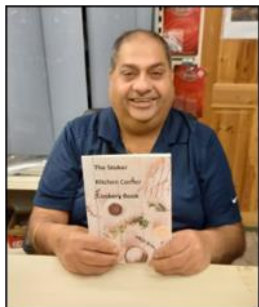
All correspondence, including e-mails, must include your full name, home address and home telephone number.

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: St Margaret’s children getting into the Christmas spirit with their commemorative baubles from the Charity of Thomas Barton.

Stoker Cookery Books Selling Like Hot Cakes!



Paul, at Sembhi Stores, is doing a roaring trade in selling the Stoker Kitchen Corner Cookery Books.

The Stoker Team set themselves a challenge of baking chocolate brownies from the book and all agreed they were delicious.

They make an ideal present from the village, written by our very own Avis Raynor, and, at only £5,

won't break the bank. Fifty percent of profits will go to The Little Princess Charity to support children with cancer.



As well as Sembhi Stores, books are available to buy from the George & Dragon, The White Swan and by ringing Avis on **07425164833**

Please support us and buy a book or two - we would love to sell them all. Thank you so much to everyone who has already bought one.

Festive Lights Switch On



Despite COVID restrictions preventing the usual Park House festivities, we can still enjoy a special lights switch on together.

Stoke Golding residents are invited to switch on their own Christmas lights on 3rd December at 6.30pm and maybe stand outside their houses with a glass of mulled wine or hot chocolate.

The Parish Council will switch on the Christmas Tree lights and the Charity of Thomas Barton will arrange for the village centre lights to be switched on at the same time.

Hark While Shepherds

For some weeks now, the sounds of Christmas have been ringing out in every shopping mall you visit. Amongst the chestnuts roasting, the looking to the future and snowman bringing the snow, it's possible to catch the occasional traditional carol. But where did they come from and how is it that these songs became associated with Christmas?

The word carol is derived from the French carole which means a circle dance and first appears in the English language around 1300. The first dictionary definition in 1502 defines it as a 'song or hymn of joy sung at Christmas in celebration of the Nativity.' Their origins, like many of our Christmas traditions are pagan. Songs and dances would have been performed to celebrate the winter solstice and, as Christianity spread, the old customs were appropriated by those celebrating Christmas. Now, let's all have a rousing chorus of 'Jesus Resulfit Omnium.' No? Not sure of the words? This is one of the oldest carols, written in the fourth century by St Hilary of Poitiers. The oldest surviving carol we sing today, "Of the Father's Love Begotten", was written by the Roman poet Aurelius Prudentius a few years later, although it has changed over time.

The celebration of Christmas was fairly low key during the middle ages and under Oliver Cromwell and the Puritans festivities were banned altogether with churches closed on Christmas Day unless it happened to fall on a Sunday. Carols continued to be sung by wandering minstrels but they'd be performed in people's houses or hostelries. Some folk songs were adapted to bring a Christmas element into them, such as "I Saw Three Ships", which, as a description of the nativity story makes no sense whatsoever. The great explosion of Christmas music came in the nineteenth century. Two Victorian gentlemen, Davies Gilbert and William Sandys, collected twenty carols and published them in 1822. Of these, just three are still sung regularly today: While Shepherds Watched, The First Nowel and Hark! All Round the Welkin Rings. Many Victorian hymn writers also turned their hand to writing carols, men such as John Mason Neale who penned such classics as "O Come, O Come Emmanuel", "Good Christian Men, Rejoice" and "Good King Wenceslas."

If you're wondering about "Hark! All Round the Welkin Rings", that's because Charles Wesley's original words were rewritten at a later date to become the more familiar "Hark the Herald Angels Sing." They needed a tune for it and discovered some music that fitted. The German composer Felix Mendelssohn had written it to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the invention of the printing press but then decided, once the anniversary had passed, nobody would want to sing about printing presses. He offered it up to anyone who could put new words to it. He died soon after and so was unable to object when it was used to accompany a carol because his one stipulation was that it wasn't to be used for anything religious!

Michael Dix

Kate Joins the Stoker Team

Kate is the newest member to join The Stoker Team and has already taken the lead for ensuring the subscriptions for the magazine have all been distributed and collected. She has done a fantastic job.

Kate, originally from a mill and mining village in Lancashire near Saddleworth Moor (relevance later), moved with her dad's job to North Manchester when she was 7 years old and experienced city life.



Kate's original degree was in archaeology at Newcastle and she loved living in the North with the accessibility to the sea. She has always enjoyed coastal walks and swimming in the sea even from a young age. She briefly moved home and volunteered at the Royal Exchange Theatre, where she got involved with costumes and hence her interest in curating and then went back to Newcastle to do a Masters in Museum studies.

She met her husband Alan who was an engineer in Newcastle and, after a long courtship, they got married on the banks of Loch Lomond in a traditional "Sack" dress which was specially made for her and had a train as well and looks stunning.

Her husband's job took her up to the outskirts of Glasgow where she worked in a regeneration agency work with youth teams and worked for the Scottish prison service, which she describes as the "most inspirational job" as well at times scary, she had ever had.

So an interest in the prison service, a quest to find out why people do what they do and the history of the Moors murders helped to develop her next vocation and OU course in Forensic Psychology which she is 6 years in and in her final year with only a dissertation to do!

Not only does she specialise in working freelance in the field of admin and research, but she also helped to set up the annual Charity day at the George & Dragon and supports the Stoker magazine.

She plays the French Horn and sang, as a tenor dressed up as a man with moustache and wadding at her university Gilbert and Sullivan society.

She enjoys crafts and has 2 dogs a "scottie dog" called Rory and a border collie dog Breagha which is gaelic for lovely/fine.

Kate, who has lived in Stoke Golding for four years, loves it here although she does miss the seaside.

I enjoyed our chat on Zoom and getting to know Kate more and I am sure Kate will be a major asset to the Stoker Team. I wish her good luck with her dissertation and completing her degree.

Jennifer

CASAG report for The Stoker

This is a brief summary of a CASAG meeting held virtually on 11/11/20.

There have been several reports of patients' positive experience at the Castle Mead surgery whilst having their flu jab and feeling safe.

There is a vacancy at the Stoke Golding surgery for a receptionist. They are advertising for a receptionist with dispensary experience.

A doctor is in attendance in the surgery on a Monday and Friday.

However be aware that a normal appointment takes the Doctor approximately 30 mins by the time the patient has been triaged, the Dr has put on his/ her PPE, patient has had temperature taken, examined and then afterwards the doctor has to clean the appropriate clinical areas.

A Hot Hub now at the Maples practice where patients after being triaged by a GP a patient can be referred there if they have symptoms of Covid 19 to be assessed.

Blood tests are now being done on a Friday at the Football Ground on the Leicester Road. You need to ring the surgery and they will give you a telephone number to ring to arrange an appointment.

The surgeries are still waiting for supplies of flu vaccinations for the 50-64 years old age group.

With regard to the new Covid 19 vaccine the Government haven't released details yet. It will be a challenge logistically with the storage of the vaccine, it needs to be 2 doses 28 days apart, patients will have to have somewhere to wait 15 mins after receiving their vaccine and it isn't a pre filled syringe either. So lots of issues to resolve. Watch this space.

The Doctors are still triaging patients and will see patients Face 2Face if necessary. It does take longer to telephone triage people and there are facilities to video call if patient has a SMART phone and they can also send photos in as well.

The staffing levels at both surgeries to keep both staff safe and provide cover if someone is off sick or self isolating is an ongoing problem.

There are infection control procedures in both surgeries to minimise the risk to staff and patients.

If anyone still has concerns over the service offered by the surgeries, please contact the practice manager Alison Ellis.

The CASAG group thanked the doctors and staff for all their hard work and dedication during these unprecedented times.

Jennifer.



Kitchen Corner

STUFFED CHICKEN BREASTS WRAPPED IN BACON

INGREDIENTS

2 Chicken Breasts
Sun-Dried Tomatoes
2tsps. Dijon Mustard
6-8 Rashers of Streaky Bacon
Salt & Pepper

METHOD

Heat the oven to 180C, 350F or Gas mark 5.

Make a 'pocket' in each chicken breast with a sharp knife. Chop 6-8 sun-dried tomatoes and stuff into each chicken breast.

With the back of a knife, stretch each rasher of bacon. Pat the chicken breasts dry with a paper towel. Lay each chicken breast onto 3 or 4 rashers of bacon, spread a teaspoon of Dijon mustard over the chicken, now wrap up the chicken, rolling them over and over and place in a heat-proof shallow dish making sure the ends are underneath. Season with salt and pepper.

Bake for 30 minutes. Serve with your favourite sauce or make the Mushroom Sauce.



MUSHROOM SAUCE

INGREDIENTS

1oz. (25gms.) Butter
1tblsp. Olive Oil
1 Shallot, finely chopped
1tblsp. Plain Flour
7fl.ozs. (200ml.) Chicken Stock
3fl.ozs (90mls.) Vermouth
or White Wine
4ozs. (125gms) Chopped
Mushrooms

METHOD

Melt the butter and oil in a small pan and add the chopped shallot,, fry gently until softened. Now add the flour and stir for 1 minute. Now gradually pour in the stock followed by the Vermouth or Wine. Take your time when adding the wet ingredients and you will end up with a smooth sauce. Add the chopped mushrooms and simmer for 15 minutes. Add seasoning for taste.

HANDY HINT

Left over Christmas Pudding can be chopped into small pieces and stirred into Vanilla Ice Cream. Re-freeze and enjoy.

I do hope that you can buy a copy of the Stoker Cookery Book, ideal for a stocking filler. Merry Christmas to all, keep safe.

Avis Raynor

Stoke Golding Charity Sleigh

This has been written during the second lockdown, which we will hopefully be coming out of in early December.

Our intention is to carry on and bring the sleigh around on our two usual nights. We do intend to knock doors, but understand if you do not wish to answer. If you are able to give, then it would be gratefully received. This would allow us to support all the local organisations within our village.

Thanks for your support.

Tuesday 22nd Dec. 4.30pm start

Bottom of High St.
Dadlington
Bosworth Manor
Convent Drive
Hinckley Road
Sherwood Road
Hinckley Road
Station Road
Crown Hill
Andrew Close
Top of High Street

Wednesday 23rd Dec. 4.30pm start

Roseway
Whitemoors
Main Street
Goldings
Wykin Lane
Little Wykin



Sleigh Committee

Ten of a Kind – December '20

Christmas is a time when presents are given and received. Here are ten questions on the subject of gifts.

1. Which iconic statue was given to the United States by France, being dedicated in 1886?
2. Which literary character receives, amongst many other things, a furry brown wallet with fangs, a bag of dungballs and an invisibility cloak?
3. In the song 'The 12 Days of Christmas', what did my true love receive, along with yet more of those from previous days, on the seventh day?
4. In Star Wars, who gave Luke Skywalker his father's lightsaber?
5. What is the name of the foodstuff that God gave to the escaping Israelites in stories that appear in the Old Testament and the Quran?
6. Which author of children's books gave 4,000 acres of land in the Lake District to the National Trust?
7. Which football team gifted Nottingham Forest a goal, standing aside as the game kicked off, to bring the rearranged match back to the score it was when the original match was abandoned?
8. Which Spanish artist, born 1599, painted the Adoration of the Maji which shows the wise men presenting gifts to the baby Jesus?
9. Which band's new album was given to purchasers of the new iPhone 6 as a gift from Apple?
10. A shortage of which toy in the run up to Christmas 1992 prompted the children's TV programme Blue Peter to show people how they could make their own?

Answers on page 30

Scout Group Carry on Regardless



The Cubs have been working on their Home Help Badge which has involved a virtual teaching session on ironing and sewing on buttons. The Cubs and Scouts attended a talk, virtually, on WWI by a scout leader who is a serving policeman and also heavily involved in tours of the WWI battlefields in Belgium. He gave a fascinating talk on uniforms, guns, chlorine and mustard gas and of the playing football in No man's land during the first Christmas of the war. His description of gas attacks and how to prevent chlorine gas inhalation by urinating on a hanky and holding it over your mouth was enlightening. He described the role of

the Scouts during the war as well.

The Beavers have been doing their "My World Challenge Award" where they learnt about festivals, including Remembrance Day, and small festivals around Britain, including bog snorkelling. The Beavers also had a Halloween history lesson, story and quiz.

All the Group were asked to take part in a virtual Remembrance Day parade by sending in photos of themselves, in uniform, observing the two minutes silence outside their own houses. The Scout wreath was laid by John and Fionna, separately, at the war memorial. A collage of all these photos has been cleverly put together by John to represent a poppy (see page 15).

The Scouts have been doing a virtual London monopoly-run with maps, clues and pictures. The feedback was that it was fun, hard and good team work. They found all the places but only 3/4 of the clues. The Beavers have been playing a bomb, shells and bullets game virtually and have plans for a virtual nativity play. So watch this creative space.

Jennifer

Children Presented with Christmas Baubles



Every child at St Margaret's School will receive a lovely commemorative Christmas bauble this year thanks to the Charity of Thomas Barton. The Charity usually funds and organises the village light switch on at Park House, which they have had to cancel this year. The baubles feature a rainbow and the NHS to mark 2020.

St Margaret' Church Renovation and Repair

The article by Ian Hirons in the November Stoker reminded me that the Rev Henry John Lomax who built the old vicarage in 1883 also paid for major repairs of St Margaret's at about the same time. It was reported in 1881 that "The Church at Stoke Golding is a very interesting fourteenth century building but is in a terrible state of decay. The chancel however has been entirely rebuilt at the sole expense of the present vicar, in accordance with the old design and every old stone that could be reused has been replaced in its former position."

I became interested in finding out about a man, not from this area, who became our Vicar, who renovated the Church, and built a new vicarage so, I turned to Google

He came from a family in Harwood, just outside Manchester, who lived in a property called Lomax Fold. He was the second son of a family of three children, two sons and a daughter. His father died in 1850 when he was 2. His father was a wealthy mill owner, probably cotton, when early industrialists became incredibly rich. The Church at Harwood was built in 1840 and paid for by his father to serve the communities of Harwood and Breightmet.

Both he and his brother attended university and then joined the Church of England, in minor roles. Henry became the curate at Sapcote before moving to Stoke Golding as the Vicar. His first two children were born at Sapcote Rectory, in November 1877 and November 1878. and his third in 1882, at Stoke Golding before the vicarage was built.

After retiring as our Vicar, he moved to Torquay where his wife died in November 1903. He moved again and his death occurred at Buxted, Sussex in August 1917.

I couldn't find any information on the wealth of the Rev Henry John Lomax but did find information about his unmarried sister Mary Elizabeth Lomax. She died in January 1926 at Babbacombe, Devon. The total value of her estate was just over £88,000. Today's value about £5.4million. Of this she left over £12000 to charities, split equally between Dr. Barnardo's Homes, the Shaftesbury Homes, and Arethusa Training Ship, the Missions to Seamen, the Salvation Army, the Church Missionary Society, and the Cancer Hospital, and also £200 to the Central Church Fund of the National Assembly.

According to Ian, to help fund the current renovation they need a further £12,500. It is most unlikely that a wealthy benefactor will suddenly appear, but perhaps collectively as a community we can make up the shortfall. If you can help please contact either David Goodsell 01455212955, millburn5@hotmail.co.uk or Ian Hirons On 01455 699734 ian@thehirons.com

Roy Mitchell



Stoke Golding Arts and Crafts website is up and running!

Please take a look at the fantastic items being made by our local artists and crafts people. Of course, there is no obligation to buy – but it will be great if you do! This is the ultimate in shopping locally for your Christmas presents - or to treat yourself. Most of the artists are happy to undertake commissions if you need something different.

<https://stokegoldingart.squarespace.com/>

PS. It's not too late if you want to join the website – please contact: Pauline Goodsell 212955 or millburn5@hotmail.co.uk

St Margaret' Church Renovation and Repair *** Update ***

Following our previous account of the progress that is being made to this work we would like to update you further. Thank you so much to all those people who expressed interest and also to those of you who made donations towards the cost of the work to the Interior of the Church. These responses show the great care and affection which this community has for its Parish Church. Thank you.

We have now received two further grants towards the work to the **Interior of the Church**. The All Churches Trust and Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust have both pledged £3000 each. Together with donations this means that the shortfall is £5,912.01 on a total cost of £168,122.01. This is a tremendous result and means it is highly likely that work can start in January.

The shortfall to work to the **Exterior of the building** has been reduced as a result of a generous grant of £4185 from The Charity of Thomas Barton which we anticipate will release another grant award. The shortfall on this work now stands at £27,851. We are waiting to hear whether we have been given a grant for this work from Historic England and The National Churches Trust and we should know by the end of November.

By the time you read your next Stoker, work to St. Margaret's may well have started - keep a look out for scaffolding and contractors at work! We will give an account of how the project is progressing in the Stoker February Edition and also using the Community Face Book.

If you have any questions please contact either David Goodsell, 3 Hinckley Road, Stoke Golding millburn5@hotmail.co.uk

or

Ian Hirons, 111 Sherwood Road, Stoke Golding. ian@thehirons.com

Dadlington Matters

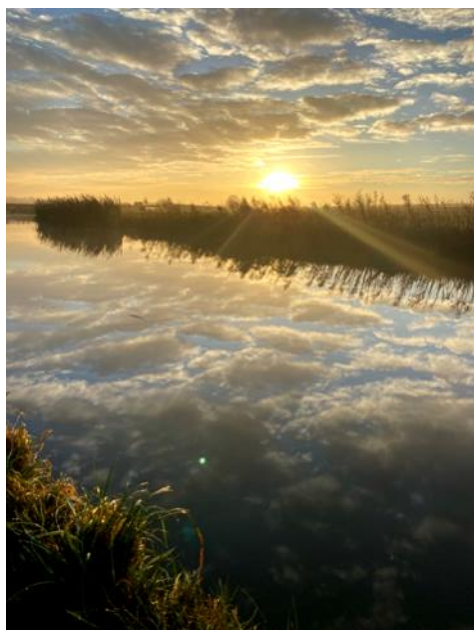
Dadlington Village Advent Calendar



Dadlington villagers have been invited to create Christmas displays in their front window, garden or wall. All participants will have a specific advent date and it will be fun to walk around the village looking for all of them. There has been a fantastic response, very typical of the usual Dadlington enthusiasm for community events.

As with the rest of the country, it is a long time since we have been able to hold any community events and, in a village which thrives on such events, we are missing them. So, this is a great opportunity to join together and share in the celebration of advent. Please contact dvhmc2015@gmail.com if you would like to join in. But be quick!

St James' PCC & Dadlington Village Hall Committee.



David Tait took this beautiful photo of the canal in Dadlington saying that the reflections of the clouds on the canal made reflect how lucky he is to live here.



Pen & ink and watercolours,
custom portraits of houses,
special places, buildings etc.

Personalised greetings cards undertaken

*I will hand draw your special place to
create bespoke pictures and greetings
cards.*

Ray Tunks (Mondo) Stoke Golding Artist

Find me on Etsy.com MondoArtShop

Tel: 07432 514202 email: Mondo1209@hotmail.com

Fool on the Hill Escape to a pointless place in the jungle....

As the days now end at lunchtime and the virus increases its stranglehold on our social lives, the Fool household finds itself unwillingly thrust into the arms of daytime television and the very curious selection of offerings featuring members of the public. I think it was Andy Warhol who said that everyone in the future would be famous for 15 minutes but it would appear that many people are not prepared to leave that to chance. A quick and easy way to get yourself on the telly is to volunteer to be a participant in one of the plethora of shows that abound these days. I can quite see the appeal of getting the BBC to cough up for a few days in the sun on the Costa Collapso whilst you pretend to be interested in purchasing some derelict stable. It might even be amusing to be treated to a trip to the countryside to have a nosy round someone else's house. What I find harder to understand is why people put themselves forward for one of the many quiz type shows. I mean, if it goes well you might come away with a few bob or a giant ceramic Giraffe, but there is a distinct possibility that you might just make yourself look like a right royal Charlie in front of an audience of millions. If you are anything like me, you will have at your fingertips a million and one useful facts about life, humanity and the universe which in relaxed company you can disseminate with ease. However in the glare of the spotlights and with the presence of strangers, there is a very real chance that you will not even be sure about your own name. Like the contestant recently who was presented with the question, what was Hitler's first name? The poor soul stood transfixed as the proverbial rabbit in the headlights until after a painful pause, he nervously blurted out, er.. er...Heil?

If you really want to go for the Gold standard, then put yourself up for the annual Karaoke competition run by the smug bloke with the trouser problem. If you survive the initial roasting that all entrants have to endure, you then have to endear yourself to the public as well as the judges. Later you might, just might, find yourself number one at Christmas with a career that is taking off like a rocket. All too often, sadly, the career that hurtles skywards tends to have the same downward trajectory as the expired firework. But no matter, because, by this time you will have become, to use a word that is currently monumentally overused, a celebrity. This means that you can now be transported to our former penal colony on the other side of the world, in the company of two chirpy Geordies, to endure a fortnight of camping hell whilst being force fed giant Australian maggots.

Be on a show? Be my guest.

F.O.T.H



A Very Different Remembrance Service



The remembrance service at Hinckley Road Cemetery took place on Sunday 8th November conducted by the Vicar, Rev'd Linda Blay and Chair of the Parish Council, Rachel Terheege.

It was requested that no members of the public should attend the service due to COVID restrictions, but the event was live-streamed to the Parish Council Facebook Page.

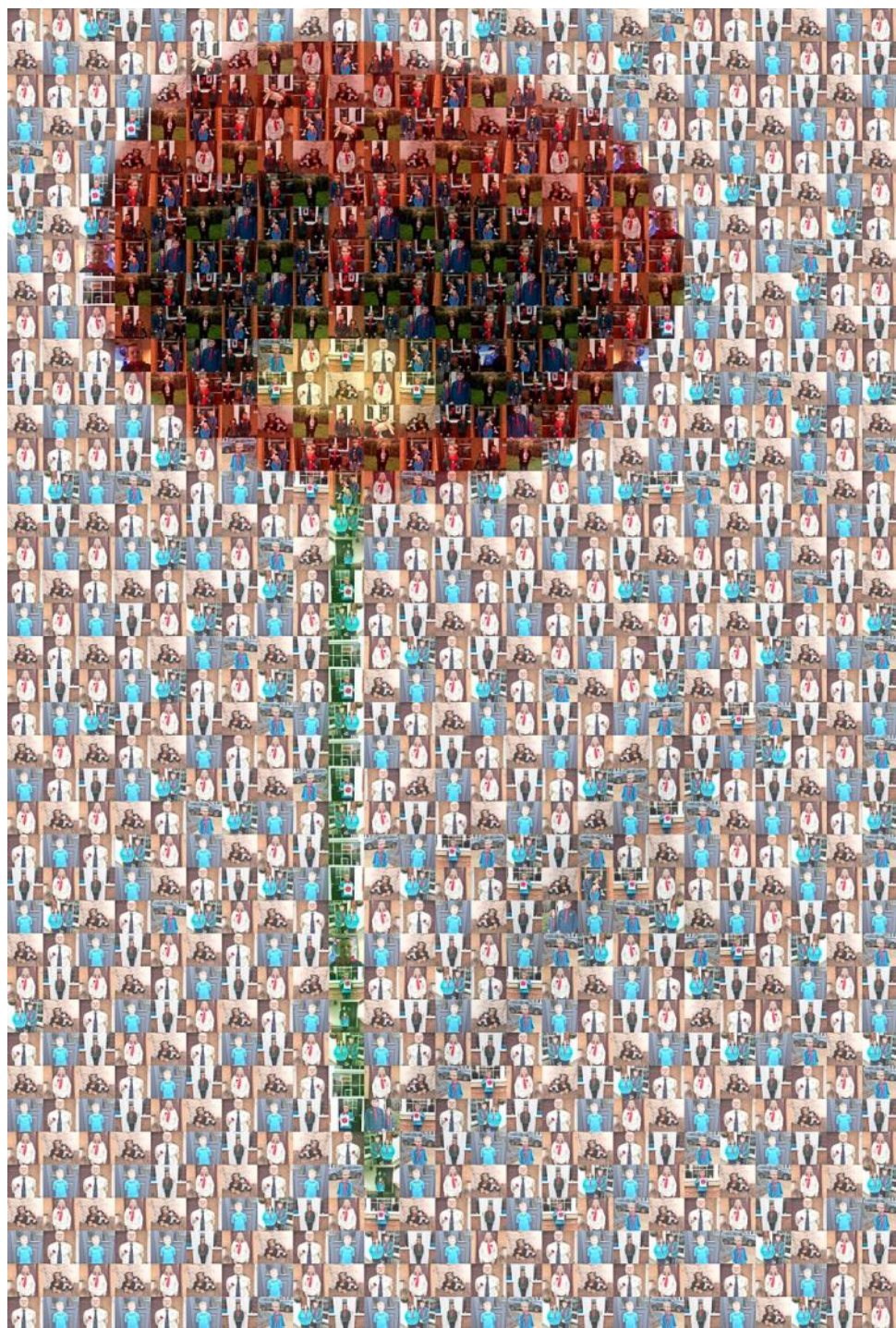
Up to 200 people usually attend the service in Stoke Golding, including representatives from the scouting movement, so it was a very different occasion this year.

Wearing Poppies With Pride

Poppies, knitted by a kind resident, have been turning up all over the village and have been found and proudly worn by all ages. Four year old Theo Blissett, eight year old Fred Anderton and ninety-eight year old Bob White were no exception and were delighted to receive theirs.



John Shilladay has very cleverly created the poppy picture opposite using photographs of the Stoke Golding Scout Group.



Bob's Focus



Well, this time last year who would have guessed what was in store for us in 2020, strange and unprecedented times for sure and in some way, big or small, we have all had to make sacrifices, some of which have turned our world upside down. It has, however, in some instances changed our lives in a positive

way; more people have spent time in the countryside getting to know nature better; some in the village, including myself, have found photography a rewarding pastime, taking snapshots of beauty that is all around us. Even if it is only putting out an extra feeder for the birds, people have been getting back to and appreciating nature.

So, with Halloween and Bonfire night consigned to history 2020, winter really is coming. The next thing we know Santa will be doing his rounds in the village. Hopefully we will be out of lockdown by the time you read this.

We can expect a few new faces in the garden around about now, in fact most of these I have seen already. Birdwise, Fieldfares and Redwings have already moved north to winter here and take advantage of this year's abundant supply of berries. Over the next few months they will move like feathered locusts through our hedgerows, gorging themselves.



We may see Siskins and lesser Redpolls and, take a close look at that Chaffinch, it could be a Brambling. Blackcaps could pay a visit to your bird table and flocks of Long Tailed Tits will give away their presence as they chatter endlessly, moving from garden to garden.

Around about now Tawny Owls will be searching out new territories and I am hopeful to again be privileged to watch a local Barn Owl from a respectable distance. Did you know that the twit twoo of the Tawny Owl is actually the call of two birds? The female calls twit (Keewheat) and the male calls back with the ho ho ho hoooo.

A little job in the garden for this time of year, if you don't already have one, is to make a bug hotel or pile up some logs, mix in some stones,

leaves straw etc, you will be surprised at the number of guests will take advantage of your hospitality.



We have had some lovely displays of fungi again this year that will continue for a little while longer. Some of you, like myself, have posted some cracking pictures on the village FB page. I'm sure some would make delicious meals, but I'm no expert and feel safer sampling their delights at the shutter end of a lens.

Our local Foxes will be growing thicker coats over the winter months to protect them from the cold, but some animals take our hospitality for granted. House mice will be on the lookout for somewhere warmer to spend the winter, some of you with older houses may have already had a visit! Last year they moved into my gardening shed, chewed holes in my fishing tackle, ate the rubber off the handles on my petrol trimmer and wrecked a foam back rest on a motorcycle top box I had stored in there for safe storage!

Anyway, that's enough from me for this year (I can hear you cheering!) As this is a double issue, I will wish you all a very safe and Merry Christmas and a happy and less restrictive New Year. Catch you in 2021.

Colli Bob



In 2017 Leicestershire County council confirmed the fourteen foot verge outside my and adjacent properties was a Highways controlled verge and Hinckley and Bosworth BC placed a Tree Protection Order on the majestic oak.

Delighted, I transferred primroses and ox-eye daisy plants onto the verge hoping to selectively re-wild (I'm a 'tidy' gardener at heart who also likes wild flowers providing they know their place).

Every summer for the past three years, whichever council mows the grass verges, flattens the daisies just as they are coming into flower and I had decided to give up and just keep the grass verge tidy. I note the reference to the blue campaign but if this project is to develop should the village also have internal and council agreement?

Karen Jones

Report on Stoke Golding W.I. A.G.M. On zoom

Well, we are all coming to terms with technology and had our November A.G.M. meeting on Zoom!!

20 ladies joined the meeting and we had a wonderful time catching up after such a long time.

Firstly, we thanked Sue Mottram for organising us.

We had all been sent the financial statement, relevant reports and an agenda, so we were all fully geared up to get involved.

Jean, our president, took the meeting.

There were no questions relating to any of the reports, Mary our Treasurer read the financial statement. There were no queries relating to the figures, and the financial report was adopted.

The committee Annual report was adopted and the president's report also.

Given the current situation our December meeting will also be a Zoom meeting as will January and February, we will be looking at further decisions re venue's next year. There are restrictions on our existing venue, and many other potential venues are fully booked. We will need to have discussions with members as to where we can meet up in the new year.

We finished the meeting with a lovely chat, catching up with what everyone has been doing, it was really good to see so many of us, and find out how everyone was coping.

We are looking forward to the future with a positive attitude. And look forward to be able to actually get together in person As Soon As Possible.

Lesley Gent

Litter Picking



No litter picks have been organised for the time being whilst we are under COVID restrictions.

Can you help spread a little joy this Christmas?

Although this year has been challenging, in amongst all the worry, there have been some truly uplifting moments here at Leicester Animal Aid in Huncote. We have been overwhelmed by the support given to us by our friends and supporters. We have continued to take in dogs and cats in need and care for them until forever homes can be found.

We know that sadly Christmas will be very different for everyone this year. However, we will make sure that all the cats and dogs that are with us over the festive period feel the warmth and love of Christmas.



He-Man, an ex-racing Greyhound, hoping for a new home.

Could you help to make this Christmas extra special for the cats and dogs at LAA? For just £6 you could buy a present for one of our residents at the Centre or help to keep an animal who is about to join us in 2021 safe, warm and well-fed until a forever home can be found.

Each and every animal at LAA receives a present and your gift will help all our friends to feel the joy of Christmas. Larger gifts, like sandpits and ball pools, to be shared between friends have also been known to appear under the tree! Any extra donations will be used to buy

the things our animals need throughout the year.

There are many ways to donate that are quick, easy and safe including visiting our website www.leicesteranimalaid.org.uk or donating via our Facebook page.

We just want to say a massive thank you to everyone who has supported us during 2020, we hope that you and you loved ones stay safe and despite everything are able to enjoy Christmas.

Leicester Animal Aid

www.leicesteranimalaid.org.uk

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Stoke Golding Christmas Advent Windows and Life-Sized Nativity Scene

Look out for Christmas windows in the village, decorated for each day of Advent and a life-sized nativity scene at St Margaret's Church.

Changing Times With Water



I recently noticed that the canal road between Stoke and Dadlington was closed for repairs or updates by the water or power companies and initially thought about the inconvenience it would cause to those needing to access that road. Then I cast my mind back to the days when there was no water, water everywhere - that was an inconvenience. Prior to being connected to a mains water supply the villagers had to rely on wells, which were dependent on rainfall to keep them topped up and on the services of a 'nightman' to empty the bucket privies. This unenviable but necessary task of

emptying the buckets was arranged between the Rural Council and a contractor, otherwise known as a scavenger. In 1914 this was rewarded by the princely sum of £2. 12 shillings per month. The Council would provide an iron Tumbler cart, a lid for the bucket and disinfecting powder. Strict guidelines were adhered to as listed below.

1. No deposit of night soil or any other offensive matter to be made by a road side or within 300 yards of any road or house.
2. The work must be done between 10.30.p.m. and 6.30.a.m. and everything cleaned up and out of the village by 6.30.a.m.
3. All work to be carried out as quietly as is practicable.
4. Each bucket is to be drawn carefully from underneath the seat so that no overflow is caused, place the lid, supplied by the Council, over the bucket before carrying it to the Tumbler cart.
5. All privies to be emptied and cleansed as often as required and the contents carted right away and no deposits put upon the gardens.
6. The highways and privies to be well swept up. All buckets must be thoroughly cleansed out with disinfectant.

The content in the Tumbler cart was transported to the Sketchley Treatment Works, which had been established in 1875. Mains water supplies came to Dadlington in 1926, but 10 years later Stoke Golding still had 97 bucket privies. Relief was to come to most of the villagers when the water mains were finally connected in 1936.

Jill Webster



Obituaries



Eric Parry

Eric passed away on the 1st November 2020, aged 89 years. He had been living in Cornwall in recent years, but was resident in and around Stoke Golding for over 60 years. Much loved husband, father and grandfather. Donations in memory of Eric for the Alzheimer's Society may be sent to Pengelly Funeral Service, Fore Street, Saltash, PL12 6AB. Eric will be very sadly missed.

Connie Pegram



Constance Emily Pegram (Connie) of Stoke Golding passed away peacefully in hospital on 9th October 2020, aged 93 years. Beloved wife of the late Derek, much loved mum to Frances and the late Mark and John. Adored grandma and great grandma. She will be sadly missed by her family and friends. Donations in memory of Connie will be shared between Stoke

Golding Methodist Church and Alzheimer's Society, and may be made to G.Seller, Funeral Directors, Upper Bond Street, Hinckley.

Ronald Arthur Thomas

Ronald of 8, Whitemoors Close, Stoke Golding, passed away suddenly on 5th November, 2020, aged 84 years. Ron has left his wife Jean, children Paul, Jeanette and Diane, grand children and great grand children. Ron will be sadly missed.

Beth Ellis

Beth passed away peacefully on 23rd October, with her loving daughter Amanda and grandson Josh by her side. Her funeral service was held on 20th November at St. John's in Hinckley. The service was livestreamed due to COVID restrictions. To view open YouTube and search for St John's Hinckley.

We offer our condolences to the family and friends of Eric, Connie, Ronald and Beth from the Stoker.

Church Matters



From St Margaret's Church The Root of Cheers – 'Terroir'!?

As I write it looks as though a vaccine against Covid 19 has been discovered. **Cheers!** In December, students will come home from university and, of course, we celebrate the birth of Christ in a stable. **Cheers!**

In January we mark the end of this dreadful year and the start of 2021. **Cheers!**

For some of us 'cheers' will be accompanied by a small tipple. If that includes you, you will select your own drink of choice. For me it will be red wine. Because of my domestic situation (let readers understand) it will be a French wine!

Martyn Percy, Dean of Christ Church Oxford, has written about parish church congregations and he borrows a Gallic word from wine-making, 'terroir'.

Dean Percy might well be an expert in tasting wines – I'm not! He uses 'terroir' to dig into why church congregations differ from each other as wines are distinguishable from other named wines because of sunshine, temperature, drainage, rainfall, type of soil etc.

He writes, "...the ethos of one given rural church might be composed through all manner of stories, buildings, forms of organisation, ecclesial and theological accents; and in an adjacent church, in apparently similar context, turn out to be entirely different." (My emphasis)

This rang a bell with me in our Fenn Lanes benefice. I am one of those who argue that we should be able to worship in any of our five churches even though most people have 'their own' church. Martyn Percy would say that each church has its own feel, history, background, terroir! (I want both! - a single congregation to be part of and a benefice to be loyal to. After all I was a team rector for nine years of three very different church congregations.)

And so, in this weird time of Covid 19, heading for this wonderful season of Christmas – and then New Year, may I wish the people of Stoke Golding, Higham on the Hill, Dadlington, Fenny Drayton and Witherley – every blessing – and, **Cheers!**

Alan Davis

Church Matters

St Margaret's Church

At the time of going to press, we don't know what the situation will be as far as being able to have communal worship services in our church buildings during December and January.

However, we will be having services online every Sunday at 9.30am, and on Christmas Morning, live streaming on the Fenn Lanes Group of Churches Facebook page. There will also be a Zoom Carol Service on Sunday 20th December at 5pm. We will advertise any further services nearer the time.'

Blessings *Linda*

Methodist Church

Church services are not available at the time of going to press due to uncertainty regarding when the church is allowed to be open again.

Baptist Church

Wishing Everyone a Peaceful and Healthy Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Stoke Golding Zion Baptist Church. We hope to have services running as normal again in 2021.



CHRISTMAS QUIZ - Answers on page 30

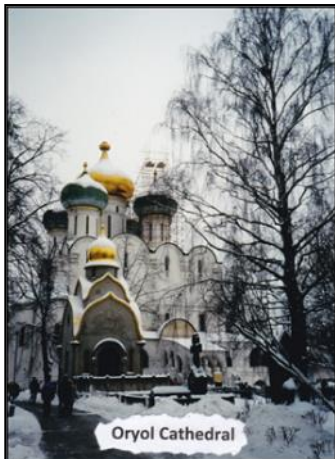
1. A Wonderful Life is a favourite film at Christmas time, but who was the male leading actor?
2. Apart from Rudolf, who were the other eight reindeer?
3. Who was the first Sovereign to broadcast a Christmas message?
4. In 1993 Mr. Blobby had a Christmas No. 1 hit, but who did he beat to reach that spot?
5. What was the homeland of Good King Wenceslas?
6. Who played Kris Kringle in the 1994 film Miracle on 34th Street?
7. Born in 1936, which Princess was born on Christmas Day?
8. Little Drummer Boy was a hit for David Bowie but who did he sing the duet with?
9. In which Pantomime will you find the character Dandini?
10. She sang Santa Baby and died on Christmas Day 2008?

To Russia with Apprehension - Introduction

On Saturday 17th January 1999 I dusted down my Kazakh shapka, stuffed a large wad of mint American dollars into my money-belt and set out for Russia, where I was to play a small part in *“providing technical assistance to the countries of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union in transforming themselves into market economies.”*

Unlike the EU-funded Kazakh project this one was funded by a UK “Know How Fund” and the title of the project was, *“Co-operative Corporate Governance – training development for Russian Co-operatives.”* The background to this was that *“Co-operatives in Russia represent a significant part of the national economy and are in a position to alleviate community deprivation but suffer from a lack of recognition of their potential role as part of a modern mixed economy.”* The purpose of the project was, *“To strengthen the training capabilities of partner co-operatives and Centrosoyuz through a pilot programme at Oryol Co-operative College to enable them to provide relevant training for senior co-operative managers and entrepreneurs setting up new co-operatives”.* Centrosoyuz was the governing body of all consumer co-operatives in Soviet Russia but the law was about to be changed, giving all co-operatives autonomy and reducing the role of Centrosoyuz to an advisory body.

The project appealed to me because Soviet law had prohibited the formation of Co-operatives in cities and large towns, and much of my preparatory work would take place where I liked it most, in the small towns and isolated villages where the true nature of the country and its people could be found and appreciated. After a few days in the Moscow Hotel (now demolished), a huge cathedral-like building erected on the edge of Red Square on the orders of Josef Stalin, during which I had meetings in the State Duma, Centrosoyuz and the Moscow Co-operative University, I was taken by car to the city of Oryol, 210 miles south of Moscow.



The city, almost totally destroyed by the German army en-route for Moscow, is the capital of Oryol Oblast (an administrative division or province) and home to the Oryol Region Co-operative Union. My first meeting was with the First Deputy Governor of the oblast, Kouchuev Alexuvich, who expressed a strong commitment to support the project, and my next with Raisa Saprichena, Chair of the Council of the Co-operative Union, and some of her subordinates of whose names I'll spare you!

Raisa, former Secretary of Oryol Oblast Communist Party, was totally committed to the project and proved to be my closest and most reliable ally. I tried several times to persuade her to come to Britain but she declined, her first priority being looking after her aged mother.

Much later in the year a civil servant connected with the Know How Fund came over to see how the project was developing (a holiday at taxpayers' expense?) and Raisa and I decided to take him for a trip to some of the co-ops in the province. On the morning in question two cars pulled up outside my hotel. Raisa was in the leading car and her deputy, Sergei Sokolov, who also became a very good friend, was in the rear.



The civil servant, whose name I can't remember, entered the leading car and I the other but he quickly disembarked, followed by Raisa's interpreter, who whispered in my ear, "Raisa said to him, '*Mr Quinney travels with me, you travel with my deputy!*'" She was not in the habit of making requests, just issuing orders and expecting them to be obeyed!

Bob Quinney

Calves Killed by Heartless Dog Owners



Eddie Fisher, from Ivy House Farm, High Street, is distraught to have lost yet another of his precious calves due to it eating a plastic bag full of dog poo which had been dumped at the edge of the field where they graze. This is the third calf his farm has lost this year and Eddie says they have all died an agonising death and there is nothing they can do to comfort them. All three have died due to bags left in the field adjoining the canal and he may have no

choice but to stop using this field.

Most dog owners are responsible and would not dream of causing such distress to another animal in this way. Please be vigilant and report anyone you see dumping their dog bags in the countryside and either pick the bags up if you can do so safely or let the farm know so they can dispose of them.

Jane White

Battlefield Journeys 4

With my tally of visits to Wars of the Roses battlefields rising, a trip to the Welsh border was next on my agenda where, in close proximity to the Yorkist castle at Ludlow, the warring parties had twice fought each other. I visited the battlefields in reverse chronological order, beginning at Mortimer's Cross where, in 1461, the future Edward IV won a decisive battle. His father and younger brother had both been killed by the Lancastrians at Wakefield a month earlier, leaving Edward not only the new Duke of York, but also heir to the English crown. His troops encountered a Lancastrian force led by Henry Tudor's Uncle Jasper, by a crossing of the River Lugg near Leominster. I was used to finding very few references to the actual battles at the battlefield sites, but all there was at Mortimer's Cross was a pub called 'Mortimer's Cross'. A short walk from the pub was the River Lugg, a meandering stream more than a river, and with little more to see, it was off to Ludlow with a brief stop at Croft Castle, a National Trust property, where I discovered the splendid tomb of Sir Richard Croft. Sir Richard provided valuable local knowledge to Edward at the battle and later, as governor of a Ludlow, took charge of Edward's sons, the 'Princes in the Tower' who complained about his 'odious rule and governance' to their father.



Ludlow perches high above the River Teme, the perfect stronghold for the Yorkist clan. It was here that Edward and his father, Richard Duke of York, assembled in 1459 as tensions rose between the Lancastrian King Henry VI's supporters and the Yorkists. With the Lancastrian army expected, the Yorkists left their castle to confront them and I made the same journey

from the castle, walking through the ancient gateway in the town walls, descending to the river and crossing the grade 1 listed bridge. On the far bank, the Yorkists dug trenches and installed their guns but morale amongst the troops was low, especially when they sighted Henry's royal standard. That meant the king was there in person and for fighting God's chosen representative the troops risked the future welfare of their souls. A few shots were fired before everyone retired for the evening. During the night, 600 troops, brought from Calais by the Yorkist supporter, the Earl of Warwick, changed sides and with defeat staring them in the face, the Yorkist leaders decided to abandon their troops and flee the country. I tried to imagine the desperate discussions that would have taken place in the castle's great hall, as I stood in its partial ruins. The castle contained a rare round church and also had a plaque on the wall informing visitors that here was where the future Edward V lived until he

was taken by his . uncle, Richard III to the Tower of London and murdered there. I took issue with this as there is no actual evidence to support the commonly held belief, but decided not to complain to the lady in the gift shop: she must get moaned out regularly by members of the Richard III Society.

Two further battlefields were crossed off on day trips to Edgecote near Banbury and Northampton. There was a battlefield walk at Edgecote which was impassable after about 50 metres, so I explored the area by road instead. Historians have struggled to place the precise location of the fighting. They do have a really detailed account, written at the time, but in order for it to have happened in the way described, the two armies would have had to agree to 'swap ends' before the fighting began. Northampton's site was easier to pin down, the fighting taking place between Delapre Abbey, now a museum, and a rather fine original Eleanor Cross (see my articles in 2015). Here it was that the Lancastrians set up their guns in advance but, as the Yorkist army advanced, a sudden downpour soaked the gunpowder charges, rendering the guns completely useless.

Michael Dix

Ambion Voices in Lockdown



Ladies from the Stoke Golding and Dadlington Community Choir have continued to meet on Zoom while COVID restrictions continue and have now recorded six songs whilst in 'lockdown'.

They have also produced their first video which you can access on YouTube if you would like to have a listen.

Here's the link:

<https://youtu.be/QPFuMV4VprM> or just type in YouTube Ambion Voices in your web browser.

Despite enjoying our virtual rehearsals together we are so looking forward to meeting and singing together properly again.

Rachel & Jane (choir leaders)

Following the sad news that Beth has died we thought we would print the lovely article Rachel Rees-Jones and Jacqui Morton wrote about her in 2014.

Spotlight on Beth - Writer of Beth's Corner



Do you know who is murdered in *The Mousetrap*? A classic Trivial Pursuit question but what you also may not know, is that this character was played in the West End by Beth Ellis, a resident of Stoke **Golding** and the author of our regular Beth's Corner.

If you were to take a look *through the keyhole* of Beth's apartment in The Courtyard you would see theatrical memorabilia, photos of five generations, a painting of a beautiful young actress and varied books all telling their own story. You too would want to know more.

Beth was born in Singapore in the late 20s but later moved to England. She aspired to be an actress as a 14 year old having watched the school's head girl perform *St Joan* by G.B. Shaw and immediately visited the local library to learn those passionate lines. She can still recite them now!

At Drama School, in the same group as Roger Moore and Lois Maxwell (Miss Moneybags) she felt she had dropped into a completely new world. Stories of actors, scripts, dialogue and escapades just tumbled out as she told of her developing career in the world of theatre. A London agent liked her elfin hairdo (and a lot more of her too!) so after an unwelcome proposition in a taxi she left London and went to Belfast where she met James Ellis (Jimmy).

Between Belfast and London, Jimmy and Beth started their own theatre company, had three children (Amanda, Adam, Hugo) and Jimmy eventually joined the cast of *Z Cars*. In the meantime Beth was a TV presenter for Ulster TV, a fashion show compere and was voted the 3rd best dressed woman in Northern Ireland!

Following her divorce from Jimmy in the mid-60s, Beth focused on her own acting career. The role she is most proud of was as the leading lady in *I am who I am* at Cambridge Arts Theatre; she had only 9 days to learn the lines and perfect the role. A standing ovation on the opening night is clearly a special memory for her. Many roles and performances followed with prominent names in the theatrical world; the stories just flowed on.

Her life in Notting Hill was abruptly shattered when her son Adam was murdered whilst fishing by a local canal. Adam had been a Christian and Beth found herself drawn to find out more about this vital side of his life. She visited his church and was overwhelmed by the beauty and wonder

of the young people there. So at the age of 63 she embarked on missionary work with *Youth with a Mission*. She travelled the world far and wide and talks of the Philippine jungles, the beautiful children of Mozambique, life in China... A key memory is the power of prayer in Mozambique for a colleague who was very ill.

After a return to the theatre starring in *The Mousetrap*, she asked herself "What now?" so ready for a fresh challenge she worked and lived at the King's Lodge, Watling Street. More tragedy struck Beth and her family when her second son Hugo committed suicide 3 years ago. Rather than damage Beth's faith it has made her stronger in her belief. Beth's motto is *Just Don't Quit*.

Beth moved to Stoke Golding 7 years ago and loves it here; she loves the village, her apartment, her friends and writing for The Stoker. Beth genuinely values people and loves getting to know the locals and telling their stories.

A writer, presenter, compere, actress, mother, grandmother – Beth it was a privilege to hear your story. Thank you.

In case you haven't googled it yet...Mrs Boyle is murdered at the end of Act1. But who dunnit?



Hello Stoke Golding! I was just catching up with some Stokers online and was very sad to see a couple of recent obituaries.

Firstly Keith Rowley. When we lived at The Old Grammar School (1977-1986) my sister Jill was best friends with his daughter Caroline (and still is) so the Rowleys were a big part of our life. His business Cedar Motors also did great hospitality at the Bosworth Show, I have many good memories of this!

Then Don Bristow. Don was a very devout attendee at St Margaret's in the days of Fr Antony Bardsley and Fr Chris Gash and often helped out with serving at the altar. He worked at MIRA and helped one of my then flatmates with an ergonomics project in the 1980's, which was very much appreciated at the time.

I send my sincere condolences to Keith and Don's families.

I really enjoy seeing The Stoker and names of people I knew when we lived there...the Patullos, Graham Wilson, Steve and Sandra Martin, Jill Webster, Garth Tomlinson to name a few. Steve Martin would come round to the Old Grammar School to get some holly with berries for his mum on Christmas Eve. I'd hang out of my bedroom window (top left as you face the house) with a desk lamp, and he would climb a ladder and cut off what he could reach. We both lived to tell the tale.

I will also track down Steve's petition re Wykin Lane; doing a paper round up and down there in the late 70's and early 80's I can confirm that there was barely room for one bike and one car even in those days, and this will not have improved since then.

Very best wishes to you all David (David Warren)



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Christmas Quiz Answers

1. James Stewart.
2. Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen.
3. King George V.
4. Take That
5. Czechia.
6. Richard Attenborough.
7. Princess Alexandra.
8. Bing Crosby.
9. Cinderella.
10. Eartha Kitt

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Answers to 10 of a Kind

1. Statue of Liberty,
2. Harry Potter,
3. Seven swans a-swimming,
4. Obi-Wan Kenobi,
5. Manna,
6. Beatrix Potter,
7. Leicester City in 2007 - a Leicester player had a heart attack during half time during the first game,
8. Velázquez,
9. U2,
10. Thunderbirds' Tracy Island (and the quiz compiler made one for his children)

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