

April 2013

No. 120



The Stoker

Stoke Golding Village Magazine

including

Dadlington Matters

50p

Ruth



Jane



Note from the Editors

Spring has arrived and we hope, by the time you are reading this, that the weather might have realised it is April and not December! Spring heralds new growth as well as warmer weather and the wedding season starts in earnest. It

might be wise for any gentleman considering popping the question to read the Fool on the Hill's amusing article on page 9 before going ahead.

Thank you for all your letters this month; they really show the issues that are important in our community and the differing opinions you may have about them. We always look forward to your news and views, so please keep sending them in, as well as any articles and photos you may have. We have letters this month about dog fouling, the Solar Farm, the 20's Plenty Campaign, as well as an article about high speed broadband. The magazine also has news of diverse events and activities - all going to show what a vibrant and interesting village we live in.

Jane & Ruth

The Stoker Team

Editors: Ruth Fisher (01455 212489) and Jane White (01455 212416)

Production Team: Rosemary Collier, Beth Ellis, Jan Pettyfer, Simon Rees-Jones, Alan Taylor (01455 212605), Rachel Terheege, Jill Webster.

Please send articles for the **May 2013** issue of The Stoker to:
The Editors, c/o 21, Hinckley Road, Stoke Golding by **15th April**.
If you can submit articles on a memory stick (Microsoft Word) or by e-mail it makes our job much easier, (**500 words maximum** please).

If you send photos by e-mail, please keep the file size small - no larger than 150 Kb.

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

e-mails to ***ruthsg21@btinternet.com***

'What's On' inserts and all advertising enquiries should be sent to Jane White - email: janewhitesg@googlemail.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.

Cover picture - Spring blossom in Hinckley Road Cemetery.

The Hut People at Stoke Golding Village Hall



The unusual combination of Sam Pirt on accordion and Gary Hammond on percussion entertained a capacity audience at the latest Village Hall Centre Stage Event in March. A wide variety of tunes from around the world, starting with France and including Sweden and South America, had everyone tapping their feet and even waving hankies and other items throughout the evening. Gary, a self confessed percussion geek, admitted owning 800 different percussion instruments! He managed to demonstrate a fair number of interesting specimens at the concert including a cuboid tambourine (supposedly Irish), a water drum, a

thunder drum and a lagerphone.

Sam, absolutely brilliant on the accordion, also showed off his skills in foot percussion – a strange variety of dance involving sitting on a chair and tapping energetically in time to the music. It's harder than you think.

The shouts for 'more' at the end showed how much everyone had enjoyed the evening and the Hut People obliged with a beautiful tune called Napoleon Crossing the Rhine, accompanied by the audience trying to sound like seagulls, to end the concert.

Jane White



Correspondence



Dog Fouling in Stoke Golding - again...

A message from Luke Clements, Clean Neighbourhoods Officer, Street Scene Services, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

I am running an awareness campaign to help reduce the incidences of dog owners not clearing up after their dogs, and leaving the mess on the pavements and parks of our Borough.

St Margaret's Primary School has had a particular problem with this on the streets close to the school, with many parents raising concerns with the school directly.

Clean Neighbourhood Officers at HBBC have agreed that CCTV is not the best way to go to deter dog fouling. The cameras we have are fixed position ones that will record a fixed space in front of them and they do not record well in the dark. We have learnt from other councils that the problem is moved onto the next street where there is no camera and the offenders know they are out of the camera's line of sight.

It has been shown that community based efforts (similar to Neighbourhood Watch) where eyes could be on you from anyone, anywhere are more effective in sowing the seed of thought into the offending dog owners' minds, that they could be reported and fined.

Dogs apparently cannot hold nature back for long, so mess on the streets usually means that the dog owner lives close by. Therefore targeting the streets where most dog fouling is found and distributing 'Report It' cards or letters to those streets, means you are delivering the message directly to the offenders doorstep.

This is what the officers plan to do in the coming months.

Luke Clements



Dear Editors

Am I alone in wondering how we may listen to the silent majority if they are silent?

Name and address also supplied

Stoke Golding website
www.stokegolding.co.uk

Correspondence



In the March issue of *The Stoker*, an anonymous letter referred to 'various action groups' and suggested that the views of the 'silent majority' were not being heard. On behalf of the Stoke Golding Streets4All campaign I would like to assure readers that a robust and professional survey of residents was carried out – this was endorsed by the Parish Council prior to it being actioned. The survey covered 20% of randomly selected households in the village. A questionnaire was delivered asking respondents to consider 4 short statements and to indicate their view on a scale of 'strongly disagree' to 'strongly agree'.

After analysis, the results were published; these showed that there is clear and widespread concern about traffic in the village and that 67% of the village were in support of a 20 mph speed limit. This figure is consistent with other national surveys. The 20% sample is statistically valid as being representative of the whole village and gives a confidence level of 90% in the results.

The issues raised in the survey are now being progressed with the Parish Council, in conjunction with considering the impact of the Barwell SUE. Should this result in firm proposals to change speed limits, there would be full consultation with the whole village. I consider that this is democracy in action.

Brian Ninness



I would like to assure readers, following the letter in last month's *Stoker* that the Stoke Golding Concerned Residents Action Group (SGCRAG) is speaking for the majority of the village in its actions against the proposed development of a solar panel farm. The group formed because the development was being rushed through with no public consultation and we felt this was wrong. After persuading Freetricity to put on a public information day, we then started a petition to gauge public opinion. From this we discovered that 75% of the village are against the solar panel farm and so we have been fighting, on behalf of the majority of the residents to stop the development. We know some of you agree with the development and some of you may not have strong feelings one way or another. We respect this and do acknowledge the right of everyone to have their own opinions.

On behalf of SGCRAG

COPY DEADLINE FOR MAY 2013 ISSUE: 15th APRIL

Correspondence

Have a say



I was interested to read in the March edition of The Stoker that someone was concerned that various Action Groups in the village were overshadowing the "Silent Majority", and expressed concern that the loudest voice might not actually be that of the village.

I don't see it as the action groups having "put their views across to the village" but rather that they have made sure everyone is aware of what is happening locally, which people might then want to voice an opinion on - whether in support or against whatever the campaign is about. In respect to something as important as a significant planning application involving over 7,000 solar panels, it might be said that it should not fall to an action group to inform residents, but that this is the role of a Parish Council.

The main purpose of any action group is to first highlight something which they feel strongly about, and in doing so bring it to the attention of others who then have the chance to support or oppose that view.

In respect to things happening locally, such as the campaign for a 20 mile per hour speed limit through Stoke Golding, or the efforts of the Stoke Golding Concerned Residents Action Group (SGCRAG) to prevent a large Solar Panel Farm being built in the heart of the village, as far as I am aware, residents have had every opportunity to either agree or disagree with both campaigns. With particular regard to the Solar Panel Farm, which by any standards is a significant development, as far as I know, were it not for SGCRAG, most residents would have been totally unaware of the application UNTIL it was too late to either agree or disagree with it.

I fully appreciate that many people remain silent or sit by and take no notice of what is going on, but strangely are often vociferous afterwards if they don't like what has happened, and might even be heard to say "It shouldn't be allowed" or "Why didn't somebody do something". The fact is that everyone in the village has had the same opportunity to make their point of view known in respect to all campaigns as far as I can tell.

Whether or not any action group represents the majority is hard to say. Likewise, it cannot be assumed that those who choose to remain silent are opposed to what an action group is campaigning for.

There will always be people in any community, who have opposing views, but they have every opportunity to make their views known, and as regards having the resources, it needn't cost anything to "have a say".

Name and address supplied

Cheap High Speed Fibre Optic Broadband in Stoke and Dadlington



As many of you may be aware, the internet connection speed, for us, the residents of Stoke Golding and Dadlington, is poor at the best of times and we are often excluded from the cheaper, special offers of internet service providers (ISPs), such as Sky, due to the area we live in. This is due to the cable we have running from the cabinet to our homes. The maximum recorded speed for this cable in our area is approximately eight Megabits per second (Mbps) for any internet usage; this puts strain on the computers we use, and means we end up paying more for a slower connection.

Currently, the general area of Stoke Golding has not been added to the plans to rollout Fibre Optic cable to the majority of England, despite the fact that the cable is already in our neighbouring town, Hinckley. I have done extensive research into the possibility of, and procedure for installing Fibre Optic cabling to Stoke Golding. It seems that both the ADSL (Our current infrastructure) and the Fibre Optic infrastructure in Hinckley share the same provider: BT.

I decided to follow the trail and came across a website from BT, where you can register your interest in gaining a place on the Fibre Optic rollout roster for our villages. If enough people from the same place sign up, BT will be unable to ignore our need. They will hopefully take action, at least making a plan to rollout Fibre Optic cabling to Stoke Golding and Dadlington.

All that needs to be done is to go to the website listed at the bottom of this article and fill out the form to register your interest. I have checked online to see if our village is on the roster for Fibre Optic rollout and can confirm that we are not yet on the roster.

This will only come to fruition if the vast majority of our community takes part and registers their interest. So, if you want to enjoy the higher connection speeds and lower broadband tariff prices of Fibre Optic cabling please take a moment of your time to register.

Website to register your interest:

<http://www.superfast-openreach.co.uk/expression-gen.aspx>

Shortened link: <http://goo.gl/eYojR>

Scott Wakefield

Avril, the hairdresser, retires after 48 years

Having left school in 1965, I started work at the hair salon in Church Walk, serving a five year apprenticeship. After that I left briefly to work at la Croix in Hinckley. I was pleased to return to Stoke Golding in 1972, and in 1984 I took over the business and ran Avril Hair Design until 1995. I then decided to go mobile, which I have done for the past eighteen years.

I would like to thank all my clients in Stoke Golding and Dadlington for their custom over the years. Many have become good friends and I hope to keep in touch.

Avril Moore

Stoke Golding W I - March Meeting

Crafty Goings On In Stoke Golding

Who would have thought that there would be such a surprising array of talent on display at the March meeting of the Stoke Golding W.I. It wasn't just the very clever members who were demonstrating the different crafts, but also the ladies who stepped up to have a go at flower arranging, card making, crochet, paper flowers, tassel making and acrylic painting. I think they amazed themselves by producing some wonderful displays that they were then able to take home. It was obvious from the laughter and in some cases the intense looks of concentration that all participants had a great time. We congratulate them all.

With all the fervent activity there was hardly time to sign up for the other activities and trips that are due to take place but everyone agreed that it was a highly successful evening and one that, hopefully, will be repeated. Next month a special event takes place when we celebrate the 100th birthday of Stoke Golding W.I and it is planned to hold a buffet followed by entertainment. This will be another evening for us to look forward to.

Val Hartwell



Stoke Golding Under 5s' Group

Thanks to everyone who sponsored our roly-poly. It was a great success - we're still collecting the money in but we raised over £100 to share between Comic Relief and our group. It was a lot of fun and the tots worked really hard rolling across the village hall floor. They earned loads of red nose stickers and ate dozens of sausage rolls too!

As always we'd love to see you and your little ones at 10am every Thursday in Stoke Golding village hall. We are running through the Easter holidays and older siblings are welcome.

Kate Warner



Award for Rachel

Every year the Trent Valley Budgerigar Society has a 'Member of the Year' award - voted for by members of the committee, and this year it was presented to Rachel Terheege of Shenton Close, by club president, Arnold Dixon.

Congratulations, Rachel, from The Stoker Production Team

With this ring...

The male of the species has a brain which consists of two hemispheres. The left hemisphere concerns itself with sport, food and beer whilst the right hemisphere is occupied by the business of procreation, more specifically the mechanics of same.

After the initial energy of the right hemisphere has abated somewhat, an errant thought occurs that by selecting a suitable female, the needs of the right hemisphere will be accommodated albeit with less variety than previously experienced. This is deemed acceptable as it will enable the left hemisphere to assume dominance and have the additional benefit of taking care of some of the tedium of living which has, till now, been the prerogative of the maternal side of his upbringing and of which she is rapidly tiring. As with most male thinking, this view is simplistic, idealistic and fatally flawed.

Undeterred he proceeds with the proposal of marriage in the certain knowledge of its acceptance. The euphoria of the acceptance blinds him to the maelstrom that he has released and which is now locked onto a collision course. Deep in the recesses of the female brain is an area known as the Detailus Minutus (DM) which has been storing and rehearsing information since, as a spindly little girl, she stepped into her mother's high heels, attached a net curtain to her head, and strode purposefully down the hallway. The DM is activated by a metal band placed around a specific digit and rapidly expands to dominate all thinking. In the male mind, he is aware that a proposal will involve some legal formalities and, of course, a Stag weekend, but he is utterly unprepared for the decisions that must now be made to ensure the perfect Wedding Day. He is unaware that a simple white dress is available in infinite variants, few of which are suitable, and those that are in the running cost more than the GDP of Namibia. He was previously unaware of the complexities in the interactions of family members which assigns to the creation of a seating plan, the same level of difficulty as planning the D Day landings. He has no idea what a Wedding favour is. He cannot comprehend why amongst her "friends" the selection of bridesmaids may engender lifelong enmity. He also fails to see the necessity to clothe the chosen ones in a matching fabric when they are as physically disparate as a Meer Kat and a Sperm Whale. Why, when the male participants are required to dress uniformly in the style of a day out at Ascot, must the two maternal combatants not have one scintilla of clothing that in any way clashes? How many wedding venues are there for pity's sake and why are none of them suitable?

His lack of understanding and disinterest is taken as a rebuff by his intended as she heads in a flood of tears to the happiest day of her life after which the happy couple retreat for a long weekend in Mablethorpe which is all they can now afford. Then PND sets in (post nuptial depression).



Fool on the Hill



From Our Curate at St Margaret's Church

This month, as we notice the days lengthening and spring getting well underway, I having been thinking about Sacred Spaces.

There are so many places that draw us in to experience creation, and through it enter more deeply into a relationship with our creator. The God that created the earth, with its amazingly rich and diverse ecosystems, who created the plants and animals that surround us and stun us with their breathtaking beauty, is the same creator that lovingly made us.

When we experience the blessing of a sunrise across a misty field or examine a dewy cushion of lime green moss, glistening with dew, these microcosms of nature can remind us of the vibrancy and richness of our environment and of their creator.

The Easter holidays and the upcoming Bank Holidays are a great time to work as a family on planting seeds, plant plugs and bulbs and watching as fresh shoots emerge, signalling fresh hope for the coming months. Whilst some people have a special spot in their home or Prayer Chair where they especially like to have quiet times and pray, I wonder if we could be on the look out to develop more outdoor Sacred Space where we have the added dimension of enjoying God's creation. Whether visiting places or working on our own garden this springtime, I hope we will all begin to think more deeply about the sacred potential of outdoor space.

A contemplative space need not cost a lot of money. It may simply be a tree stump, repositioning an existing bench or finding a spot in the countryside. As individuals, different things accord with us spiritually, a bit like the way we have different tastes in décor and fashion. It may be the trickling of water from a fountain, with the water throwing off rainbow glistening explosions as it catches the sunlight, or the hum of insects attracted to a rustic, yet vibrant assortment of wild flowers in a patch we have specially designated for wildlife. Whether in your garden, patio, yard, farm or place you visit, can you find somewhere where you can take time to contemplate something of the mystery of God and find refreshment and renewal amongst His creation?

In the Celtic tradition, certain places are identified as *Thin Places* – where the interface between heaven and earth seems particularly thin. You may have experienced this in Churches, Abbeys, Cathedrals or places like Lindisfarne, for example or indeed anywhere that is rooted in prayer. My experience is that any place can become a thin place if enough prayer goes on there.

It is up to us to make the time and the space and to have the courage to believe that the world will not stop spinning if we take some time out and spend it with our creator, listening and giving thanks for our blessings and experience the resurrection love of a Jesus that sacrificed everything for us, because of the love that he has for each one of us.

I hope you enjoy this springtime and all it has to offer.

Blessings,

Hilary

Church Matters

The Methodist Church April Services

7th	10.30am	Mr Charles Davies
14th	10.30am	Mr Malcolm Lapper
21st	10.30am	Mrs Judith Cooke
28th	10.30am	Deacon Philip Osborne

Zion Chapel April Services starting at 6pm

7th April	Richard Cotton
14th April	John Needham
21st April	John Todd
28th April	Martyn Owens

Sunday School at 11am

Church of England Services

St Margaret's Church

7 th April	10.30am	All Age Service
14 th April	10.30am	Benefice Service Fenny Drayton
21 st April	10.30am	Holy Communion
28 th April	10.30am	Morning Worship

Holy Communion every Tuesday at 6.30pm

St James' Church

7 th April	9.00am	BCP Morning Prayer
14 th April	10.30am	Benefice Service Fenny Drayton
21 st April	9.00am	BCP Holy Communion
28 th April	9.00am	BCP Holy Communion

Methodist Church

Spring Fair

Saturday 20th April

10am - 2pm

Coffee & Light Lunches

Cakes, Preserves, Handmade cards,
Bric-a-brac, Raffle & Tombola

Flower Festival

Friday May 24th 12 noon - 5pm

Saturday May 25th 10am - 6pm

Sunday 26th 12 noon - 5.30pm

Monday May 27th 10am - 6pm

More details in next month's Stoker

What's On

Village Hall Centre Stage Event Richard Durrant

'The Number 26 Bus to Paraguay'

Saturday 20th April

The inspiring tale of how a young boy on the number 26 bus to his first guitar lesson, ended up in Paraguay as an honoured guest. Richard shares tales and music from his own musical journey and the inspiration he found in Paraguayan composer Barrios, in a show featuring film and animation.



Tickets £8 - Tel Alan 212416

Stoke Golding Heritage Group

"Cherish the past, protect the future"

Farm Walk

Tuesday April 9th, 1.30 – 3.30pm

Why not join the farm walk organised by the Stoke Golding Heritage Group on Tuesday April 9th? It will be an enjoyable and interesting walk with our expert and knowledgeable guide, Ros Smith, at her farm in Shenton. Ros will be showing us the birds, animals and plants that can be seen in the countryside around the farm. Come prepared with strong shoes or boots - and binoculars are always useful.

Please contact David Goodsell, 3, Hinckley Road, Stoke Golding, 01455 212955, or millburn5@hotmail.co.uk if you are interested.

LIVE MUSIC

at

The George and Dragon

Friday 19th April

from 8pm

All Welcome

St Margaret's Church Coffee and Chat

Free coffee, tea and a chat on Wednesdays

10.30am - 12noon in church

Everyone is welcome; we do hope you will join us.

What's On

Village Showcase: Adult Learners' Week in Stoke Golding!

In May we all have a fantastic opportunity to learn a new skill or try something new. During Adult Learners' Week, 18-24 May there will be a range of exciting things to try out. The programme will kick off with a Village Showcase on Sunday 19th May - an open event and exhibition at the village hall, where you can see what's coming up in the week ahead. Everyone's welcome.

Then, during the week we hope you will come along to sample one of the many village activities or classes which are already running or to try something completely new.

We hope the programme will include some of these –

IT for the Terrified!

A great chance for the less confident computer user to gently get to grips with the IT at home.

- Try Skype – a way of talking to the family and friends, no matter how far away.
- eBay – how to feel confident that you are selling or buying safely.
- Family Trees – how to research your ancestors online, from the comfort of your armchair.



Save a Life!

First Aid training which you can use at home (and hope you'll never have to).

Fix that Bike

With spring and summer coming, a great chance to maintain your bike and get it on the road. Advice from an expert on what you need to do.



Community Choir

A chance to just have fun and exercise your vocal chords – everyone can sing. The enjoyment is just as important as the performance.

All the events and classes will be free. So, look out for the posters which will be up around the village in April.

If you would like to get involved, we'd love to hear from you.

Please contact:

Chris on 213 798 email ms.chris.taylor@btinternet.com

Ruth on 212 489, email: ruthsg21@btinternet.com

Chris Taylor

An Obituary printed in the London Times

Interesting and sadly rather true.

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, **Common Sense**, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:

- Knowing when to come in out of the rain;
- Why the early bird gets the worm;
- Life isn't always fair;
- and Maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children.

It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realise that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death, by his parents, Truth and Trust, by his wife, Discretion, by his daughter, Responsibility, and by his son, Reason.

He is survived by his 4 stepbrothers:

I Know My Rights

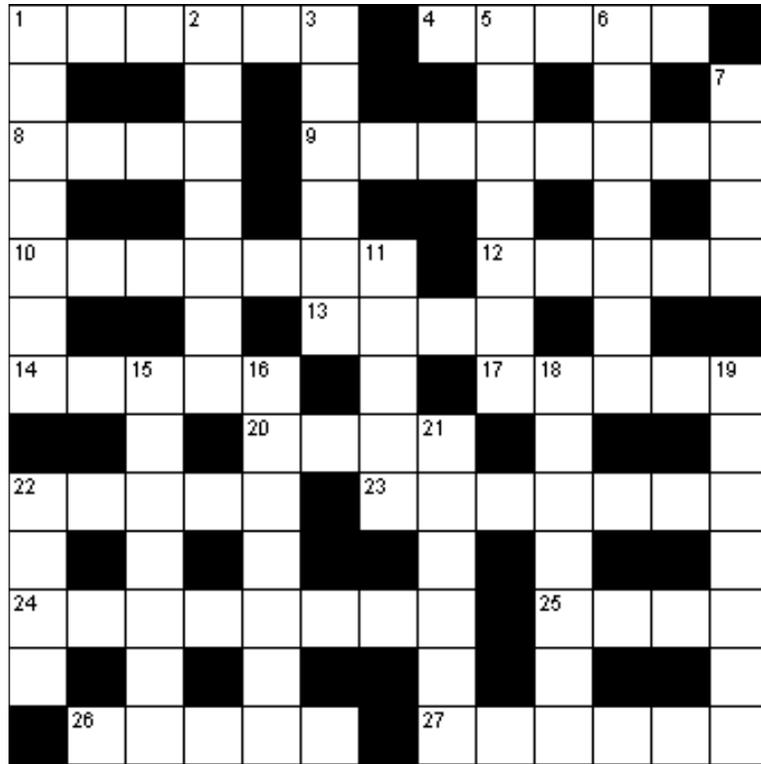
I Want It Now

Someone Else Is To Blame

I'm A Victim

Not many attended his funeral because so few realised he was gone.

Crossword



Across

1. King Richard had a pronounced one (6&5)
4. See 1A
8. What Kings and Queens do (4)
9. Set of bones (8)
10. Gets to destination (7)
12. Barrels (5)
13. Scottish Island (4)
14. Richard and Henry, were both these (5)
17. Strike or slap with hand (5)
20. Story (4)
22. Slim and athletic (5)
23. Company washing clothes (7)
24. Metal bits from bomb explosion (8)
25. Perform task again (4)
26. More ancient (5)
27. Plot or plan(6)

Down

1. Place where King Richard was found (7)
2. Looking at (7)
3. Rushes about (6)
5. King Richard's homes (7)
6. First name of Miss Kaplinski (7)
7. Pubs (4)
11. Injury to this killed King Richard (5)
15. Normal or usual (7)
16. Part of church (7)
18. King Richard was this (7)
19. Lock entrance (7)
21. Large birds of prey (6)
22. King Richard was this Plantagenet (4)

Answers on page 22

Dadlington Matters

Richard III at Dadlington

Flower Festival at St James' Church

Sat/Sun/Mon 4th 5th 6th May

Everyone is invited to the Flower Festival at Dadlington which, this year, following the discovery of the remains of the King in Leicester, has the theme 'Richard III.

The church, built before 1283, is situated on a hill overlooking Bosworth Battlefield where Richard was killed in 1485. Many of the soldiers who died in the battle were buried in the churchyard here. In 1511 Henry VIII gave approval for the church to become a Chantry Chapel for a priest to say Mass for the souls of those killed in the battle.

The flower arrangements will, once again, be interpreted by the members of Earl Shilton Flower Club, some of whom are national demonstrators and exhibit at prestigious events.

The church will be open from 12 noon to 5pm each day, with refreshments available in the village hall. Soup and rolls will be served 12 - 2pm and tea, coffee, cakes and cream teas will be served all day.

There will also be a variety of stalls including cakes, books, plants and tombola. Proceeds to the church restoration fund.

Late Winter Bird Notes



I've continued to occupy myself with monthly wildfowl and wader counts both at Whitemoor Haye in Staffordshire and Brascote Pits near Newbold Verdon. Of particular note at the former was a large grouping of waders comprising 425 lapwing and 340 golden plover. Whilst on my way to this location, in the darkness of early morning, I noted a barn owl between Upton and Sibson. More recently Eric Taylor has seen one at close quarters not so far from the canal bridge down the hill from the Dog and Hedgehog in Dadlington.

Brascote has produced a lovely assortment of wildfowl including greylag geese, shelduck, tufted duck, gadwall, wigeon and teal. Most have tended to be on the pool viewed from the bend in the road, though a flock of at least twenty teal have spent most of the time nearer the reed beds in the gravel pit proper. They fly around rather like a group of starlings at speed, twisting and turning in lovely formation.

Andy Johnson has noted a peregrine falcon creating havoc among jackdaws and starlings at the Stoke Golding end of Dadlington.

Of particular note to me has been the number of small flocks of bullfinch, as well as other species that can be encountered in the wonderful hedgerow habitats between the railway bridge near Shenton and Market Bosworth.

David Abbott

Celebrity Corner - Barbara Hill

This month's 'Celebrity' was supposed to be a secret, but the receptionists managed to persuade a reluctant Barbara, our Pine Close Doctors' practice nurse, to be interviewed. They had whispered to me that Barbara was finally retiring after 23 years, and wouldn't it be grand to give her this month's column as a special thank you and best wishes for the future.

I was waiting in the surgery where I'm sure many of you and your children, and so many of us oldies have been in for our 'flu jabs. This time instead of sitting in that big chair for my blood pressure or any other procedures, I was at the office end by the printer and computer. We had just started talking when Julie appeared with an urgent request for a patient. I waited while this was attended to, thinking how strange it would be not to have Barbara here looking after us.

It was on April 1st 1990 that Pine Close surgery benefited from the experience and efficiency of Barbara's nursing background. So, where did it all start? A young girl of eighteen arrived on the boat train from Co. Derry to start her training at Walsgrave Hospital. She rose fairly rapidly to becoming Sister within the next three years. Here she met and married her husband John, and soon after they travelled to South Africa for John's career, living in the Transvaal not far from Johannesburg. She had travelled over with their first baby, aged just two and a half. While there she was full-time mum with three small children under five, thankfully with an Ayah to help her and a gardener for their lovely garden.

The children had an idyllic childhood growing up there, but after eleven years the family travelled back to the UK. After some time in Scotland, where Barbara's parents were living, the family finally settled back in Warwickshire in the village of Wolvey. They found an old property, The Old Millers Lodge, that they wanted to renovate, and Barbara added, smiling: "*we still are.*" During this time, a strange coincidence, eventually led to Barbara coming to Pine Close. Looking for someone who 'stripped' pine doors they came across a certain Mrs. Wilmott. She mentioned that her husband was a G.P. in Hinckley, and learning that Barbara was a nurse, promised to keep in touch about a new surgery in Stoke Golding. One day, while back at Walsgrave catching up on her nursing, a letter arrives asking Barbara to come for an interview - and that was that.

I asked why she wants to leave now? Well, husband John retired eighteen months ago and they want to start on their travels together, along with the dog. Their new motorhome is waiting to take them on these next adventures. The children are all grown up and settled. Becky, 31 is getting married in May, Laura, 29 and Graham, 27 are happily living in Coventry.

Looking at the computer and printer, I think what an enormous change there has been over these 23 years. "*Yes, one day all our patients' notes were written in long-hand. The next day the machines took over.*" "*Did anyone teach you how to use them?*" "*No, we all helped each other. The NHS has had a complete transformation since I first started. But I've loved being here in a small practice really getting to know so many of the villagers.*"

Thank you Barbara. We feel the same. Love and many blessings for your future adventures.

Beth

Stoke Golding Parish Council - February 2013 Meeting

County Cllr Ivan Ould's reported on:

Local Issues:

Solar Farm – Cllr Ould has made a freedom of information request to read the planning file and will be making an appointment to visit HBBC Planning.

Salt Bins – complaint received reference lack of filling bins – Cllr Ould awaits further information.

20MPH speed survey – asked for Parish Council's views on this and is it supported by all the village?

Richard III – a request received for bones to be interred in Stoke Golding.

Letters to be sent to Leicester University, Leicester Cathedral, Leicester Diocese, Heritage Centre, David Tredinnick MP, Rural Affairs, Ricardian Society, that as a King it would seem most appropriate that he is interred in Leicester Cathedral, but to ask that Stoke Golding is given recognition as Richard III's place of death on any monument that is raised to commemorate him when he is reinterred and is represented at the Service.

General Issues:

County Council Cabinet meeting – ref a paper submitted from HBBC on Barwell SUE, the planning refused to endorse the SUE together with the Cabinet on the grounds of the mineral safeguarding issue, highway and transport impact and consequent requirements for mitigation – that work is still on-going and it would be inappropriate for the HBBC to issue on the application until final comments can be provided. Refer to LCC website on this report.

A5 Strategy Meeting – the MIRA development will be on the agenda.

Children's Play Area - spending costs and funding so far for gates and fencing discussed. New signs now required for area and quotation discussed for same.

Reports by Council Representatives

MIRA Technology Park Update

188 jobs have been created as of 5 November 2012 with visibility of a further 145.

A5 Update

- Work will be split into two main phases - Phase 1 – Red Gate to Wood Lane, Phase 2 – Wood Lane to Dodwell's Bridge.
- Phase 1- start on site (traffic control installation) date to be decided depending upon Highways Agency approvals, but will be between September and December 2013.
- Phase 2 start around July 2014.
- All works should be complete by March 2015.
- It was thought that the A5 would not impact on Barwell SUE.

327/6 Planning Application Matters

New applications – 1A, Tithe Close – change of use from detached residential garage to Beauty Salon (retrospective). 9, Hinckley Road – dropped kerb.

(Continued on page 19)

(Parish Council notes continued from page 18)

Refusals – 48, Roseway – Certificate of lawful existing use for land as residential curtilage.

Adult Learning Event 18-24 May

Chris Taylor, Programme Director of NIACE, outlined the promotion of Adults Learners' Week, an event that raises adult interest in learning, and it was hoped that Stoke Golding would be willing to be one of this year's centres. The Parish Council was asked if they would help to promote this event in advance, support the activity and engage a representative from the Parish Council on the Steering Group. The Parish Council confirmed its commitment. Chris Taylor to send updates on progress up to the event.

Barwell SUE

Barwell Developers' Traffic Assessment submitted to HBBC was discussed in detail but issues still not taken into account.

Traffic Assessment Consultant quotations received to be forwarded to Councillors and Parish Councils.

Raglan Homes

Pauline Goodsell updated the meeting regarding the Convent Site development

- The Clerk to ask Raglan Homes for their leaflet re the application process of being registered with HBBC to be given priority, and therefore, the need to be on the housing list.
- Clerk to send a letter to Mar City and Site Manager pointing out site staff's dangerous parking on Hinckley Road near the development.
- A meeting to be arranged with Allotment group to discuss their requirements for the allotment site for submission of grants.
- Convent Site informal play area - Ray Tunks to be approached to ask for ideas of developing this area and associated costs. Letter to Mar City to ask what will be put on the formal play area.

Waste Bin Collection:

Waste bins were not collected on the 23rd January in certain areas of the village due to bad weather, despite parishioner requests and promises of collection from HBBC. A week later bins were still not collected. Clerk to write to Waste Collection regarding this matter.

Communications received by the Chairman of the Council

Mar City development – the road will now be named Convent Drive.

Salt Bins - Clerk to report to LCC Highways re damaged salt bin in Sherwood Road.

Wykin Lane Cemetery – tree request.

A full copy of the minutes of meetings can be read/obtained at the Post Office or on the village website www.stokegolding.co.uk

Next Meeting - Wednesday 3rd April in the Committee Room at the Village Hall at 7pm.

Adverts and Slogans

I liked the old slogans of yesteryear
Advising us to eat this or try that
Some turned out to be quite good
While others were just old hat

“Your teeth are like ivory castles”
Defend them with Gibb’s dentifrice”
That slogan so intrigued me as a child
So I brushed with my might and it kept my teeth nice

“Preparing to be a beautiful lady”
Pears advert for gold, transparent tablets of soap
I used it but saw no visible improvement
So then I abandoned all hope!

“An apple a day keeps the doctor away!”
My friends apple orchard supplied us with plenty to eat
Happily munching away, at least one a day
The old doctor kept his distance - a treat!

“Sharps the word and Sharps the toffee” - I like best of all
Depicting the dapper little man with bowler, monocle and cane
I loved that little man just as I loved the sweets
No other creamy assorted caramels tasted quite the same

“Stop me and buy one” were the words
Emblazoned on the front of his cart
We’d wait in a queue for that delicious ice cream
Now who can lick and last longest - me for a start!

“Friday night is Amami night”
That special evening for washing one’s hair
Then on with the magic lotion and in with the curlers
But hardly a kink- I gave up in despair!

“Brooke Bond the tea you can really taste”
I enjoy my cuppa and have tried several brands
But B.B is not my favourite tea
Tho’ I loved the old chimp with the cup in his hand

In my late teens strap hanging on the bus
My eye caught the words “buy her a Bravington ring”
I hoped one day it would happen that way
And how my heart did sing

In these modern times there are many slick slogans
Through the medium of TV
Some noisy, some brash (I feel my head I could bash)
Not peacefully pleasant like they used to be.

Peggy Holmes



SPOTLIGHT on... Line Dancing

I popped my head around the door of the Club's function room on Tuesday evening (where Line-Dancing meets weekly) and could see that there was a party in full swing! A lot of people were obviously enjoying themselves. There were lots of colourful costumes and some comic red noses. The music was playing, people were dancing, chatting... and I didn't want to disturb them so I rang Glenis Kitely, (the organiser), the next day.

The group were having a social evening raising money for Comic Relief. They had a raffle and collected £80 to donate to the charity. Over the years the line-dancing group has raised over £20,000 for worthwhile causes, on social evenings such as this. Recipients have been Cancer Research, Marie Curie Foundation and Macmillan Nursing.

The group is well-supported with 40 to 50 members attending each week. Not only does this group provide social activity, exercise and fun for local people, but also it has a commitment to wider concerns. Congratulations!

Rosemary Collier

More Improvements on the Ashby Canal

You may have noticed some activity in the field at the bottom of Station Road on a recent Saturday. This was the latest volunteer work party by locals and members of the Ashby Canal Association to improve the towpath in the area, in conjunction with the Canal and River Trust. The work was actually on the opposite bank to the towpath and consisted of felling some of the trees and scrub on the edge of the canal, opening up the bank to encourage the voles currently nesting in the towpath bank to move across the canal. This now allows the Canal and River Trust contractors to start work installing visitor moorings along this length. This work should start in April and will further improve the towpath for walkers as well as allowing visiting boats to moor up to use local facilities.

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	Sherwood Road 10.50 - 11.10am
	The White Swan 11.15 - 11.40am
	Hinckley Road/Main Street 11.45 - 12.05pm



For further details contact: Coalville Library, 0116 305 3565
email: coalvillelibrary@leics.gov.uk

- Across 1 & 4. Curved spine
- 4. See 1 Across 8. Rule 9. Skeleton
- 10. Arrives 12. Casks 13. Skye
- 14. Kings 17. Smack 20. Tale 22. Lithe
- 23. Laundry 24. Shrapnel 25. Redo
- 26. Older 27. Scheme
- Down 1. Carpark 2. Viewing 3. Dash
- 5. Palaces 6. Natasha 7. Inns 11. Skull
- 15. Natural 16 Steeple 18. Monarch
- 19. Keyhole 21. Eagles 22. Last



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