

April '14

No. 130



The Stoker

Stoke Golding Village Magazine

including

Dadlington Matters

50p

Ruth



Jane



Note from Ruth

This is the last Stoker that I shall be editing as, after 13 years, I'm handing over the reins to Jane White. She has been my 'deputy' since the first issue

back in May 2001 and I couldn't have done the job without her – thanks Jane – I know the magazine will be in very good hands. My thanks also go to the Production Team, past and present, for your invaluable support – you've been such a lovely team to work with; and to the band of deliverers, (which has barely changed since we started), who go out in all weathers to deliver your magazine.

Lastly thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Stoker with your articles, stories, poems, photos etc. Just keep sending them in – to Jane (see below).

I'm sure I'll miss working on the magazine but I'm looking forward to having more spare time to enjoy my 'retirement'.

*Best wishes,
Ruth*

The Stoker Team

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

Production Team: Rosemary Collier, Beth Ellis, Richard & Ella Orr, Jan Pettyfer, Simon Rees-Jones, Alan Taylor, Rachel Terheege, Jill Webster.

Please send articles for the **May 2014** issue of The Stoker to:

The Editor, 45 Station Road, Stoke Golding by 15th April.

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).

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.

janewhitesg@googlemail.com.

N.B. All advertising enquiries to Ella Orr - ella42@sky.com

Cover picture: Small copper butterfly (Photo by Martyn Fisher)

Beth's Corner - Ruth Fisher

My front door buzzer sounds and there in the hall is Ruth, punctual to the second, bright and enthusiastic as she always is. 'Ready for some coffee, Ruth?' I'm determined to find out more about this breezy woman with her seemingly endless supply of energy. She was one of the founders and editors of 'The Stoker' magazine, since its inception thirteen years ago, as well as being on the Parish Council and Management Committee for the village hall. 'Ruth where on earth do you find the time?' She also casually mentions that she has the joy of taking care of their six year old grandson Riley a couple of times a week. This month, however she's made the difficult decision to 'let go' and stand down from her beloved 'Stoker', and will be sorely missed.

Ruth was born in Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, and she breaks into laughter: 'Famous as the birthplace of Tesco, and Sir Cliff Richard's childhood home.' Many of her holiday jobs were with Tesco - packing cheese and in the accounts office, amongst others. 'That was a definite mistake. Accounts and I just don't go together.' Again there's that broad grin. She went to teacher training college in Portsmouth, where she met and married Robert, her first husband and father to her two sons. David, 34, is living in Putney, working for IBM. Richard 31, lives in Manchester, married to Anna. He was in the police, but is now much happier employed as 'house-husband' looking after their two small children. Joe 2, and Lauren, 5. Anna teaches English at a local 6th form college.

Having finished at college the newly weds made their first home in Newbold Verdon. Ruth was teaching at Anstey Latimer Primary School for the next four years. They then moved to the tiny hamlet of Upton, but soon Ruth found herself alone. Her marriage was over, Robert had left. In 1984, with a group of friends, she started the Robin Hood Playschool, which is still going strong today. In 1986, with two small boys, she moved to Stoke Golding, bought a house that needed a fair deal of restoration, sent the two boys to St. Margarets School and has been here ever since. In 1989, Martyn came into her life and became husband number two, *13 years later – we didn't want to rush into it.* She was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 1994, and thankfully her surgical treatment at the George Eliot Hospital was completely successful.

Eventually I'm able to ask: "When and why did you decide to found the Stoker, Ruth?" WHY, is because the last village magazine had just folded. WHEN was in 2001. Ruth called a meeting at the White Swan and with a group of willing helpers and a generous donation from the Charity of Thomas Barton Trust was able to print the first edition of 20 pages in May 2001, selling for the princely price of 35p. (The first issue was delivered free to every household in the village). Now it's closer to 28 pages, for 50p, still with a brilliant, supportive Production Team. Their vision was to open the scope of the magazine. Formerly, it was primarily involved with Church and Parish matters, and now it tries to involve every corner of Stoke Golding *and* Dadlington's interests.

In case we think the magazine has been the only commitment in Ruth's life, I discover that for three days a week she was employed by Leicester County Council as a Peripatetic Special Needs Teacher. She took early retirement in 2010. 'I love Leicestershire and I love Stoke Golding. I'm so glad I'm a 'Midlander' now.'

This has been a great morning - thank you Ruth. I love your purple and yellow bicycle – you are very special to us all in the village. Enjoy your new free time with Martyn.

Beth

Annabelle Trains for GB

At just 14 years old Annabelle Blurton's passion for waterpolo has gained her a place in the GB Talent Squad. She has been playing waterpolo with Hinckley Waterpolo Club for 2 years and attending the Regional Training Centre in Nottingham once a week for a year. In February, along with over 100 others, Annabelle was invited to the GB trials in Cardiff and managed to gain one of only 40 places. She will now attend monthly training weekends at Cardiff International Pool which entails 4 or 5 gruelling 2 hour training sessions with land training in between. She is also going to Hungary for a 5 day training camp at Easter.



Annabelle really loves playing waterpolo, which is a great team sport, and you never know you may see her playing in the Under 17 European Championships in 2017.

Emma Blurton

We send our congratulations to Annabelle and wish her the very best of luck for the future.

Dadlington Matters

Dadlington Village Hall
A Bit of a Do!
Saturday April 26th 7.30pm
A bit of a quiz... A bit of a ploughman's...
A bit of a dance... A bit of a bar...
A bit of a quiz... A bit of fun and games!
£7.50 organised by The Diamond Belles
Jacqui 213214 Anne 212309
Fiona 212252 Entry by ticket only

John Etheridge and Chris Garrick – Men on Wire

It is very difficult to describe the musical evenings in Stoke Golding without drifting off into a morass of superlatives and clichés. However, even by the exacting standards of the acts that we have been privileged to witness so far, Chris and John were somehow in a different class. If I could use an alcohol analogy then if you set the Spice Girls as a sort of Aldi own brand Lambrusco then by comparison John and Chris would be somewhere around Chateau Lafite Rothschild 1982 (£32k a bottle if you were wondering). These are the sort of musicians



who are revered within their industry, the sort who were spoken about in soft tones by the likes of John Peel and Bob Harris on late night radio shows. John has played with the great Stéphane Grappelli and was a founder member of Soft Machine along with Ric Sanders who still plays with Fairport Convention. Chris is one of the most highly qualified violinists in the country both as a player and a teacher. His qualifications start with a first class honours degree from the Royal Academy of music.

Together they gave us an evening of sublime musical artistry which included a rendering of “The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face” which would have made Ewan McColl cry, and he wrote it. Conversely, with the aid of a bit of electronic wizardry, we had a version of Blue Moon as sung by Donald Duck which I like to think would have made Rodgers and Hart smile. For me though, and I am sure many others, the performance of Sweet Georgia Brown in full-on Grappelli style was the musical highlight of the year, never mind the evening. The show had a most appreciative audience on its feet and calling for more. Alan will have a hard job to come up with something to top this but I suppose a return visit from Richard Durrant, this time on a bike, is not a bad place to start.

It is impossible to fully convey the excellence of a musical evening in words, so if I may just finish with one little cliché for the benefit of those who could not attend, ‘You had to be there.’

Graham Grimley

This concert was dedicated to Chris Taylor, who died in January, and all profits from the evening have been donated to Amnesty International in her memory.

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.



Stoke Golding W I - February Meeting

Sausages were definitely on the menu for the WI at the March meeting. We tasted four types of sausage that Mr Pallet makes and sells on a Saturday from his place between Desford and Newbold Verdon. The Old English or Warwickshire sausage, the most popular, is made from shoulder of pork which has been minced twice before combining with rusk and seasoning, which includes salt, black pepper, sage, thyme and nutmeg. Water is added to lubricate the mixture. Mr Pallet aims for 85% meat content, the legal minimum being 65%. He has to have his sausages sent away and analysed to determine the meat content.

We sampled another popular variety, pork and leek, which also contained ginger; pork with Red Leicester and chive and the Richard pork sausage, which contained apricot, date and quince. Commemorating the area's association with Richard III, Mr Pallet was looking to make a sausage that reflected the flavourings found in the mediaeval period. He tested it out on a neighbouring WI who gave him the thumbs up. He makes gluten free sausages, but they aren't a big seller.

Meanwhile he is trying to perfect a vegetarian sausage. He recommended grilling sausages and said that there was no need to prick them as there was less filler these days.

Besides consuming sausages, we still had room for tea and biscuits. Plans were made for the darts match against Sheepy WI, numerous events and the local group of WIs exhibition of crafts and individual competitions, at Congerstone Village Hall on Saturday, 12th April. These can be viewed between 2 and 4.30pm and refreshments are available. The next WI meeting, on Wednesday, 9th April, includes a presentation by Palmer's Nursery of Ullesthorpe. Visitors are always welcome.

Finally, thanks go to Ruth for starting up the Stoker with Jane, for editing it for so long and for all the reminders to get articles in on time.

Anne Fullagar

Late Winter Bird News



Despite the relatively mild winter there have been some sizeable flocks of Scandinavian thrushes around. I have noted fieldfare, and to a lesser extent redwing, in fields behind Gosling's farm and along Wykin Lane.

Linda Mayne came across a barn owl whilst walking her dog in Alf Oliver's fields and Pete Mayne encountered another on his land.

Andy and Sam Johnson of Dadlington noted an overwintering chiffchaff in their garden, albeit somewhat briefly. Together with sand martin and wheatear they usually constitute the first spring migrants to arrive in Britain though a significant number, now remain here all the year around.

David Abbott

(We spotted 4 overwintering chiff-chaffs at Draycote Water on 19th January – Ed).



JUNIOR SPOTLIGHT on...

The Willowman

On Monday, my teacher, Mrs Tomkins, and I travelled to Tom Hare's willow workshop to see what he was up to.

Tom is a willow artist, who has now become well known globally, for his amazing, sustainable and environmentally friendly art work.

He creates mesmerising willow sculptures for people far and wide to enjoy.

Tom is one of the only people in England to do this fantastic job, so that is why I decided to interview Tom for my second Junior Spotlight.

During my time at his wonderful workshop, I learnt and discovered new facts and skills about weaving which I will tell you about. Over the years Tom has worked on supreme projects around the world including Germany, Las Vegas, the Isles of Scilly and other equally exciting places!

In the future, Tom will be creating a sculpture for Hampton Court Palace. There he will be making a large dragon's nest out of willow. I'm sure many people will want to see that!

Moving on, Tom then introduced me to his fellow colleagues, Joe and Pete. They've been helping Tom for about 4 years. After that, Tom then showed me his surprisingly comfy workshop. With soothing music playing in the background and the gleaming red kettle brewing, watching the three men hard at work was inspiring. Then, my eyes adjusted to the back of the room where other various sculptures were kept. The sculpture I looked at was a spinning jenny. It was the size of a human and was woven with a very complicated technique.

After I'd looked at that sculpture, I then saw Tom's current sculpture. It's called 'The Bulb' and is a circular shape with a woven twirl at the very top. Tom told me that (when finished) it will be taken to the capital of Norway, Oslo. This technique of sculpturing is a new thing in Norway, so I'm sure they'll be amazed at Tom's work. I chuckled as he used the word "bonkers" to describe it.

It's amazing how such a small place like Stoke Golding can be placed on the global map by such an extraordinary thing. It was an amazing day that I'm sure I won't forget for many years to come.

I wish Tom and his helpers the very best of luck for the future.

Harry Taylor

St. Margaret's CE (A) Primary School

Year 5 are having such a busy term. In science, the children have been learning about changes of state, properties of materials and reversible and irreversible changes. What better way to do this than by holding, 'The Great Year 5 Bake Off'!

Mary Berry would have been impressed – we have 35 star bakers!

Year 5 were invited to Baxter Hall to vote on the design for the new willow sculpture which has been commissioned by Raglan Homes in Stoke Golding. Mr Hare explained the designs to the children as well as allowing them to get hands on



with some willow weaving. The children have also worked alongside Mr and Mrs Goodsell, grafting apple trees - see article on next page.

There are some extremely talented young writers in Year 5 and this month they have all entered the 500 words story competition on Radio 2. The children wrote fabulous stories, which Mrs Tomkins thoroughly enjoyed reading. We hope Chris Evans enjoys them just as much! Here is one of the stories.

I'm going to tell you my story of wonder, horror and betrayal. Let me start my story at the very

beginning. One day I was in a very famous art gallery (the Tate Modern), gazing at the wondrous painting called Inland Australia. Suddenly, a giant black putty hand grabbed me. Soon I was inside the painting! "Aaaaaa!" I screamed horrendously.

It was like the Grand Canyon, but much, much more dreary and dangerous with gargantuan hills and mountains of earthy rock. Nothing could be as dangerous as this I thought while I was in the air falling elusively to the centre of a colossal enactive volcano in the Australian outback! It was one of the scariest experiences of my life. Finally, when the dreading, horrific journey of near death came to a halt, the hand was nowhere to be seen. I was really disorientated, with deep sense of anxiety, so I calmed myself down with freezing water from the spring that I landed in. but little did I know I was in great danger, life or death was unknown.

Suddenly, a tribal pack saw me; they tied me up with rope and a large wide spire. I was tied up and in a couple of seconds the evil tribe was sacrificing me. They set the spire ablaze - I was completely out of my comfort zone! In this oven of a spire, the king of the tribe laughed at me, all I could do was cry for help. Nothing ... my feet were nearly on fire... then help came for me. A colossal rock monster appeared to save me and it did save me - I was really thankful.

I would have been toast for the fat king of the unknown tribe! The rock monster looked after me for a month or so but he said, "When you are out of the painting, only

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(St Margaret's News continued from page 8)

a second will have passed in real time but inside 7 years will pass." I recognised the hand - it was black and blobby... It was the black hand that pulled me into this world in the first place! I didn't mention this though because if I did I would be dead by the second.

I thanked him, however, he betrayed me! In the night he poisoned me with a poison from the tribe. He dumped me in the giant prison of ember; I was trapped but I knew how to break out of a prison (I saw it on the TV at home). I sneaked out using a rope. There was a hole in the roof - I climbed it and escaped. After that I found a secret exit and got out.

Next I found an enchanted ladder, so I climbed it to the top of the ladder and I escaped the large painting. When I got out I found myself standing in the exact place I was in before I went inside!

Daniel Fielding - Year 5

Grafting Apple Trees at St Margaret's School

On Thursday 27th February Year 5 pupils learnt how to graft scions onto rootstocks to make new apple trees with the intention of copying varieties found in the village as well as some which are not found in Stoke Golding. The 'cutting' work was done by Nigel and Claire from Leicestershire Heritage Apples and then the pupils were able to bind the joins together and plant them in individual pots with, of course, the all important labels of the size of the root stock and the variety of apple.

Back in the classroom the pupils were engaged in a number of apple related activities - such as looking at different varieties, illustrating the apples, writing about them and completing word search.

The young people asked a number of probing questions about grafting and apple trees and were clearly very interested in the whole process. Their task now is to water and care for the young trees so that they - hopefully- begin to sprout leaves and grow.

Once again grateful thanks go to James Coles Nurseries Ltd of Leicester who kindly donated the rootstocks for the project.. The scions were donated by residents of Stoke Golding and Dadlington and Coles Nurseries. Our thanks go to residents who once again allowed us to take the shoots from the trees in their gardens.

Thank you very much to our grafting experts, Nigel and Claire, and to the six local residents who came along to help the pupils. Much support was shown by all for the idea of planting the trees in a Community Orchard and it is really good to have younger members of the community involved in the project. Thank you to Year 5 and their teacher Philippa Tomkins for their enthusiasm and hard work in making the afternoon a great success.

David Goodsell

For King and Country

Wilfred George Joy

Wilfred Joy was born about 1921, the son of Frederick Thomas and Bessie Maud Joy, and he was married at the time of his death aged 30 years to Ivy Ellen Joy of Stoke Golding. He had joined the RAF a number of years before the outbreak of war and on 1st October 1939 the London Gazette announced that he had been



promoted to the rank of Flying Officer. He was awarded the Air Force Cross and promoted to Wing Commander by 1st January 1943 and almost immediately to Squadron Leader. He was also awarded the War Medal 1939 - 1945 and the 1939 - 1945 Star. He served with 141 Squadron and it was on 26th March 1943 that he was flying on an intercept mission over Bordeaux that his Beaufighter 1FX7846 was lost with both crews.

As well as being remembered on the village war memorial Squadron Leader Joy is mentioned on the War Memorial

at Leamington Spa and also on the Arleux En Gohelle, Pas de Calais Cemetery in France.



Denis Cash

Dadlington War Memorial Mysteries

Since my investigations into the lads whose names are recorded on the Dadlington War Memorial and the publication of 'For King and Country', I have continued to gather information regarding the memorial and have found that at least one person who died during the war failed to make it onto the plaque. He was Edward Harry McDonagh of Dadlington, husband of Adelaide (Addy) Busby, who was living in the village and latterly lived on Hinckley Road, Stoke Golding. Edward enlisted as an Able Seaman RN and was a gunner travelling with the S.S. Newbury, carrying coal from Cardiff to Buenos Aires on September 15th 1941. His ship was attacked by a German U Boat and was sunk by torpedoes and all hands were lost.

I have recently been contacted by a Suffolk lady who is investigating the family tree of William Walker (born 1870) and Elizabeth Walker, his wife, They originated from Thistleton, Rutland and it would appear that they were in Dadlington in the period 1911 to 1917 (or later). It is recorded that three of their sons were killed in the First World War: William in 1915, Edgar in 1915 and Herbert in 1917. The Commonwealth War Graves records show that they were the 'Sons of William and Elizabeth Walker of Dadlington Lodge, Dadlington, Nuneaton, Warwickshire'. Could they also be three young men missing from the Church Memorial? Can you help with information? If so please contact me on 212480.

Denis Cash

World War Three started in Accrington...

One of the village elders has an unfathomable, and some may say unhealthy, interest in the fortunes of Accrington Stanley Football Club. This may be as a direct result of a period of residence in the county of the red rose, whilst some may regard it as the same sort of morbid fascination that compels one to look across the central reservation at the car crash on the opposite carriageway. In any event, whenever the quest for glory in Football League 2 brings Accrington into the general orbit of Dadlington, he feels compelled to attend. What is even more curious is that he succeeds in convincing a few of the other elders that this is in some way a good idea. Thus it was with the promise of pies and ales to compliment the footballing master class, we sallied forth to the hallowed turf of Burton Albion.

It is a testament to the loyal football fan that he will support his chosen team even when this involves travelling some distance. Seventy or so loyal followers of the Stanley had headed south to Burton on Trent where, sadly, disappointment was the order of the day as their heroes failed to match the scoring endeavours of Burton by a factor of 50%. The travelling faithful may well have taken this manfully on the chin were it not for the fact that the winning goal came as a direct result of an unfortunate error of judgement on the part of the linesman who awarded a corner kick whilst all the evidence pointed to the fact that a goal kick should have been the rightful outcome. This incensed one of the sons of Lancashire to the point that he advanced in the general direction of the linesman berating him volubly and seeming intent on inserting his brightly coloured flag in a place from which it could have been retrieved only with a great deal of medical dexterity. This failed to endear him to the stewards who saw fit to compound his misery and eject him from the stadium.

My point, and there is one, is that the raw emotion that drove the fan to the point of violence is, in many ways, the same force that has caused ordinary people to rebel in the Ukraine resulting in many deaths and giving rise to the potential for a wider conflict as muscles are flexed. It is the basic flaw in humanity that wherever conflict arises, and for whatever reason, the instinct tends not to be for reasoned debate to reach a peaceful solution. What should be the last resort is very often the first whether it is the drunken haymaker aimed in the general direction of someone who has given offence or the use of some piece of military hardware to make a political point.

In the future I hope that we will evolve to the point where violence is consigned to the dustbin of history. This will probably be about the same year that Accrington beat Barcelona 6 – 0 in the European Cup Final.



The Fool on the Hill

What's On

Methodist Church Spring Fair

Saturday April 5th
10.00am - 2.00pm

Cakes &
Preserves

Raffle & Tombola



Coffee &
Light Lunches

Books &
Bric-a-brac

Stanley Opera Presents

Rossini's Comic Masterpiece

The Barber of Seville

at Hinckley Concordia Theatre
(Free parking opposite theatre)

4th, 8th, 10th & 12th April
Tickets £12

Company Box Office 01455 848194

Or call in to theatre Box Office on
Saturday mornings
10am - 12 noon.



Stoke Golding Heritage Group

"Cherish the past, protect the future"



April Meeting

Stoke Golding's historical claim to fame is that is the location of the crowning of Henry VII after the Battle of Bosworth in 1485. The English Civil War started in 1642 and concluded in 1651. Throughout this period the two factions, Parliamentarians and Royalists, fought in some large pitched battles such as Naseby, but in addition there were minor engagements including one near Stoke Golding. On April 17th Trevor Parr, a local historian, will be giving an illustrated talk on some of the events that occurred in our area. Starting at 7.30pm in the Baxter Hall, non-members are welcome to attend for a nominal charge of £2.50.

Dates for your diary

Adult Learner's Week 14th - 20th June

Following on from the success of last year's Adult Learners' Week, it is happening again this year. A programme of activities is currently being organised but if there is anything you would like to see in that programme, or can offer help in some way, please contact Steve Smithers 213798.

Richard Durrant - Cycling Music

Richard Durrant, a brilliant guitarist, is touring the country on his bike and will be performing at Stoke Golding Village Hall on Friday 23rd May.

Contact Alan White for tickets (£8.00 each) and more information: 01455 212416, alanwhitesg@gmail.com

What's On



Stoke Fest is being held this year on **SUNDAY 24th AUGUST**, with a reserve date of Saturday 30th August, (which we won't need because we've booked the sunshine!)

As usual we need a lot of help to run the event, and if you feel that you would like to get involved then please email us on contact@stoke-fest.co.uk, or phone 01455 212132.

We are still in the early stages of organising so if you have any ideas as to what you would like to see on the field, or any bands that you would like to see on the stage, then please let us know.

We'll keep you updated in The Stoker of our progress, or you can check our website www.stoke-fest.co.uk.

Thanks ...

The Stoke Fest committee would like to thank the Trustees of the Charity of Thomas Barton for their generous donation which has been used to help fund the purchase of 2 large marquees for the event.

Stoke Fest is happy to lend the marquees out to any club, society, church or charity within the village who needs to use them - and if you could pay us back by volunteering at the event that would be really appreciated!

If you would like to use them, then please email us at: contact@stoke-fest.co.uk or phone Malc on 07831 691 291



St Margaret's Church Coffee, Chat & Book Swap

Free coffee, tea and a chat on Wednesdays

10.30am - 12 noon in Church

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

Stoke Golding website: www.stokegolding.co.uk



From the Curate at St Margaret's Church

What's the matter? When someone is obviously upset and struggling, this is a question we would naturally ask. So often, though, we have struggles, doubts and pain that we manage to hide, often quite successfully and so the question rarely gets asked of us as we make a good job of ensuring that everybody thinks we are totally fine. Perhaps this month, during Lent, we could gently ask the question, 'What's the matter?' of ourselves. Self-reflection is challenging, but great strides can be made towards healing and wholeness when we invest time in reflection and look for ways to move forward. Looking towards Easter when we celebrate Jesus' resurrection and the freedom that it brings us, Lent is a good time to reflect more deeply on our spiritual selves.

Our self-reflection may sound a solitary activity but when we ask for God's guidance through prayer, it transforms into a dynamic, exciting journey, full of potential and full of surprises. Things we may have been fearful of become possible, even joyful, when God is behind it. I sometimes find people telling me that they think that God has enough on and no time to listen to their concerns, 'just look at the state of the world', they might say. Sometimes we mistakenly limit God to our own understanding.

Of course God wants to hear our prayers. Throughout the centuries, people have offered their prayers to God and we should not exempt ourselves. There are so many ways to pray, the Christian tradition is rich with prayer. And when we haven't the words, a sigh can be a prayer.

Knowing that people are praying for me, my ministry and my family is a source of great strength to me and praying for one another is something we can all do in one way or another.

Did you know that we are happy to pray for you?

Please get in contact if you would like prayer, either on a confidential basis or if you would like to be included in our prayer requests for the month which are prayed for in our services and through our *Prayer & Care* groups. Simply add your prayer request to those of others in our community in a book at the back of church or ask some-one to do it on your behalf.

Sometimes we do not even know the answer to the question, 'What's the matter?'

This is a familiar feeling to the psalmist who writes,

*'Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul,
and why are you so disquieted within me?'* (Psalm 42)

Remembering that our creator is also our sustainer, here is a prayer you might like to pray:

Come, creator spirit, source of life, sustain us when our hearts are heavy and our wells have run dry, for you are the father's gift, with him who is our living water, Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Through prayer and action too - often a trip to the GP too can be helpful - we can begin to untangle ourselves and become free to enjoy the life we have. We are able to move forward, remembering and feeling God's amazing and eternal love for us once again.

Hilary

Church Matters

Church of England Services

St. Margaret's Church

6 th April	10.30am	All Age Service
13 th April	10.30am	Benefice Service, Palm Sunday
18 th April	2.00pm Baxter Hall	Good Friday, Benefice Medication on the cross
20 th April	10.30am	Holy Communion, Easter Sunday
27 th April	10.30am	Morning Worship

Holy Communion 6.30pm every Tuesday evening at St. Margaret's Church.

St. James's Church

6 th April	9.00am	BCP Morning Prayer
13 th April	10.30am	Benefice Service at Stoke Golding
18 th April	2.00pm Baxter Hall	Good Friday, Benefice Medication on the cross
20 th April	9.00am	BCP Holy Communion, Easter Sunday
27 th April	9.00am	BCP Holy Communion

The Methodist Church April 2014 Services

6th	10.30am	Mrs Helen Osborne
13th	10.30am	Mr John Cooke
18th	3pm	Good Friday Rev'd Wes Hampton
20th	10.30am	Rev'd Wes Hampton
27th	10.30am	Rev'd Barbara Bircumshaw

Zion Baptist Chapel April 2014 Services starting at 6pm Sunday School at 11am

6th April	Richard Cotton
13th April	Wynne Richards
20th April	Malcolm Welch
27th April	John Todd

Big & Small Church

St. Margaret's Big & Small Church for under 7s continues to meet every 3rd & 4th Sunday of the month from 10.30am at the Baxter Hall. 2014 has proved to be a busy year so far; the children have been retelling the story of Joseph and his colourful coat, baking bread, creating fantastic crafts, exploring sensory bins and learning new songs. Parents and carers are also invited along with their children to join us for refreshments. If you've not been before, why not give it a try this month and join us at Big & Small Church?



Sam Crowfoot

Weight Watchers is now in Stoke Golding!



My name is Ali and I am your local Weight Watchers leader! I joined Weight Watchers as a member over 6 years ago and I can honestly say it has changed my life. When I joined I was 12st 7lb and although I chose not to admit it, I was deeply unhappy with the way I looked and felt about myself. I had tried other slimming programmes in the past which didn't work for me, so I took the giant leap and found my local Weight Watchers meeting.

Initially I was scared, embarrassed and nervous about walking through the doors but I needn't have been – I was made to feel so welcome not only by my leader but by the other members. I followed the Weight Watchers plan and slowly, slowly began to lose weight – as my members now know, I lose weight at about ½ lb per week but I didn't mind as long as it came off! Eventually I got to my goal weight of 10st 1lb in December 2010 and my goodness what a feeling that was!

Not only did Weight Watchers change my life (cliché I know!), but it gave me my confidence, self esteem and health back too... reflecting on this was what inspired me to become a leader myself. I thought if I can change just one person's life the way that Weight Watchers changed mine then it will have been worth it. I have now been a leader for over a year and run 3 successful meetings:

Monday – Burbage Methodist Church Hall, 6.30-7.30pm

Wednesday – George Ward Centre, Barwell, 7-8pm

Friday – **Stoke Golding Club**, 10.30-11.30am

Like most of us, I am busy, with 2 children, 2 jobs and a great social life – the Weight Watchers plan is so flexible it allows me to eat out, have a glass of wine or 2 (!) and still remain in control.

If you join with a friend and sign up to our monthly pass (£10 for your first month), Weight Watchers will offer you both a spa day worth up to £50 each (until 19/04/14) Why not pop along to one of my meetings to see what it's all about or give me a ring on 07542 176247 for more information.



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as it was in 1910*



OBITUARIES



Gordon Thomas Webster
1933 - 2014

St Margaret's Church was packed to capacity on Thursday 6th March for the funeral of Gordon and to celebrate his life. Gordon had sadly lost his brave fight against cancer in February and the gathering truly showed in what esteem he was held by family, friends and villagers alike. He was born in Atherstone and in his younger days was a choirboy in his church and also a scout leader. His service to his country was spent in Scotland at Lossiemouth, where he met and later married his wife, Jill. They eventually made their home in Stoke Golding.

Gordon was an engineer of repute, no doubt inspired by his work for Rolls Royce at Anstey near Coventry, and he produced a number of scale replica railway engines. Everything he did was with perfection in mind and after joining the Bowmen of Bosworth he made his own bows and produced many sets of arrows to match his personalised bow. The fellow members of the Bowmen of Bosworth made a guard of honour on the approach to St Margaret's Church. He sourced a 'new' organ for Dadlington Church and after dismantling it and moving it to the church he spent many hours restoring and refurbishing it. That was his fitting tribute to the church that he and Jill supported. He was one of those who fought to retain the village allotments when the Convent site was sold for development and his efforts, with others, to prevent the closure of the White Swan saw the development of the Stoke Golding Heritage Group with his role as Vice Chairman. He was a member of the Stoker Production Team for many years. During his time in the village he made a wonderful collection of many hundreds of photographs and slides of old Stoke Golding and Dadlington buildings and residents which records life as it once was. These he used for charitable purposes on a regular basis; his slide shows being a highlight for all who had the privilege of seeing them. Gordon made a great contribution to village life and will be greatly missed by his wife, Jill, his children Sarah and John, his grandchildren Thomas and Robert and all his many friends.

David Edgar Harman

David Harman of Hall Drive, Stoke Golding and formerly of Coventry passed away peacefully in Leicester Royal Infirmary on 1st March aged 63 years. He was a much loved dad of Jon, a loving granddad to Jude and Grace and a devoted brother and uncle.

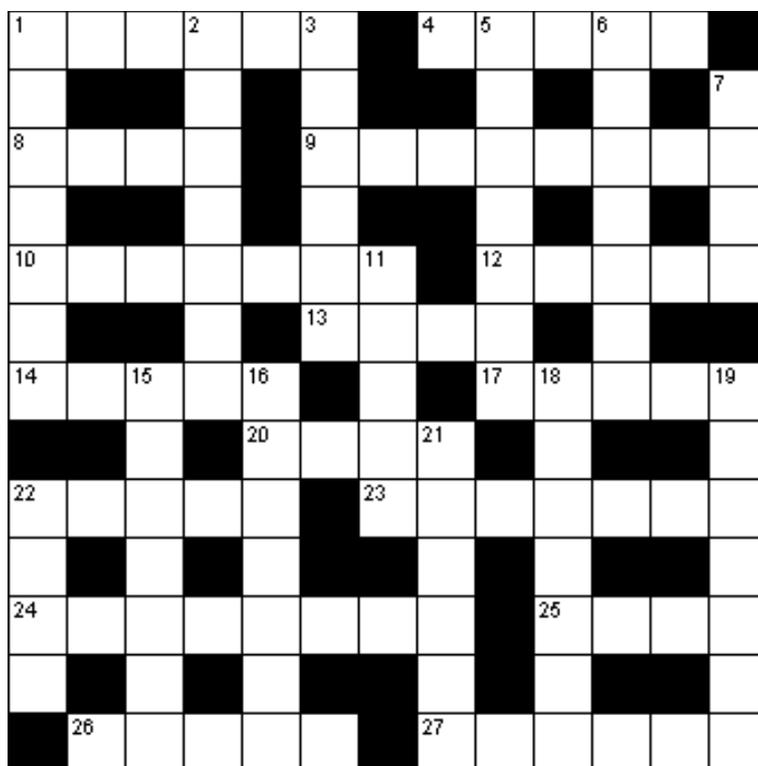
We send our sincere condolences to the families and friends of those mentioned.

Miss Jackson's for Tea

Miss Jackson lived in a large house called "The Grange"
Down one of our peaceful leafy lanes
Miss Smith was her companion housekeeper
Who had never found the time to change her name
With pussy "Felix" and "Major" the dog they lived happily together
Both having left just a few young kith and kin
Small round and rosy Miss Smith really ruled the roost
While tall, slender and pretty Miss Jackson was just pleased to give in
Miss Smith was our Sunday School Superintendent
We all loved her, and she loved her task
Just hoping our growing minds would retain all she'd taught us
I'm sure that was all that she asked
One special Sunday every year during holiday time
Miss Jackson invited us to tea
Despite the long walk it was a pleasant one
And the ending result we looked forward to with glee
I loved Miss Jackson's large pleasant oak beamed kitchen
Its burnished quarry tiles with Indian rugs spread and big ancient dresser
Laden with old pottery and brass and copper pots and pans
Lovingly cared for by Miss Smith's capable hands
Trestle tables were set up by faithful old 'Jim', the gardener
While his kindly wife (The daily help) snowy white cloths had laid
The variety of sandwiches was out of this world
Gingerbread men for the tots, jellies and lovely cakes all home made
After partaking of this sumptuous tea
Some of we older ones helped with the clearing away
The others supervised the young fry on see-saw and swing
Or hiding in the shrubbery so happy at their play
Next to the accompaniment of Miss Smith at the piano
We sang hymns and songs beloved of childhood days
Finally Miss Jackson's favourite "All things bright and beautiful"
Traditionally sung on that day of days
Now it was time to say our goodbyes
With chocolates and many thanks to the ladies and hip hip hooray
Then that pretty walk home, the tots picking wild flowers
Such a happy ending to a perfect day!

Peggy Holmes

Crossword



Across

1. See 1 down.
4. Province where Jesus was tried (5)
8. **-* area where people are not allowed (2-2)
9. Surname of Jesus' betrayer (8)
10. Jerusalem citizen (7)
12. The communion table of a church (5)
13. For **** and **** amen (4)
14. Fire a gun (5)
17. To force out (5)
20. Parsley for e.g. (4)
22. Teacher of Jews (5)
23. Longed for (7)
24. Person released instead of Jesus (8)
25. Brother of Abel (4)
26. He denied Jesus three times(5)
27. He doubted Jesus was alive (6)

Down

1. And 1 A. He who ordered Jesus' crucifixion (7-6)
2. Green pear like fruit (7)
3. Fit to be eaten (6)
5. Not knowing what is going on (7)
6. An apostle's letter (7)
7. A bright one shone at His birth (4)
11. Tusk material (5)
15. Chancellor's name (7)
16. Sewing aid. (7)
18. Wall tumbling city (7)
19. Glad ones from Xmas carol (7)
21. One room for living & sleeping (6)
22. The **** Biblical Victor Mature film (4)

Answers on page 22

Stoke Golding Parish Council Meeting - February '14

Chairman's opening remarks:

(1) Convent Site and the Raglan Homes issue - this had been resolved to the satisfaction of residents.

(2) VAS Sign and Traffic Monitoring for the purpose of Barwell SUE - the VAS sign to be placed in Sutton Cheney, Dadlington and Stapleton/Peckleton Parishes to record number of cars and vehicle speeds. Alan White and Roy Mitchell to drive this project and to liaise with Parish Councils to identify locations.

(3) SmartWater Signs – still under review.

Matters arising from January's meeting

Planting of troughs –

New village planters proposed to be placed on Station Road and on the corners of Roseway/Whitemoors Road, Pine Close/Hinckley Road, and Arnold Road/Wykin Lane, with possible re-siting of the existing trough in Church Walk due to this being hidden by surrounding trees.

Peter Zelencsuk attended the meeting and gave a presentation to Councillors to make Church Walk a more vibrant area, enhancing it with plants. Councillors thanked him for his work, but needed to consider the costs, since the focus was on planting up the new troughs and maintenance of existing ones.

New planters are to be ordered, re-siting of Church Walk planter to be investigated and assistance sought in their planting and maintenance.

Planning Application Matters:

New applications:

(i) Change of use from agricultural land to residential curtilage and erection of a boundary fence (retrospective) and extensions and alterations to dwelling - Dormer Cottage, 10 Main Street.

(ii) - Meadowside, High Street.

Permission granted:

(i) Part change of use of ground floor from residential dwelling (C3) to child minding (D1) including extensions and alterations to dwelling - 12 Whitemoors Road.

(ii) Extension and alterations to dwellings - Trinity House, 16 Main Street.

(iii) Extension and alterations to dwellings - 86 Sherwood Road.

(ix) Extension and alterations to dwellings and alteration to access - 49 Arnold Road.

War Memorial

The Chairman presented an updated report concerning the issue of (a) leaving the War Memorial where it was or (b) moving the memorial to the Park House site with the conditions and costs involved in doing this.

Cllrs Ward and Mayes had met with Mr M Walton and residents at Park House where it was made clear that should any land be needed for re-siting the war memorial it would be gifted on the understanding the Parish Council undertook to repair the wall all the way round Park House - this has been deemed unsafe by the Borough Council.

A resident of Park House proposed that the memorial be placed in the walled

(Continued on page 21)

(Parish Council Notes continued from page 20)

garden and provide access via a gateway in the repaired wall.

Cllr Ward pointed out that:

1. It would not be re-sited at the original site, but would be moved to an area in a garden, behind a wall and not as a centrepiece in the village.
2. Conservation Officers stated that funds available were only 50% for the cost of removal of the memorial, and not for any work that the Parish Council would have to spend in setting up the new area.

The Chairman stated that there had been issues in the village in the past few years where difference of opinion had caused the village to be more divided than ever before, so whatever happened please respect what the Parish Council does and respect any decision it makes, and it would take any decision forward in a democratic way.

Following some debate a motion was put forward – ‘The Parish Council rejects the idea of moving the memorial and spends the necessary money to improve the surroundings and the condition of the memorial in its present position. The village should be notified in detail why the Parish Council came to this decision’.

A proposal was made to reject the relocation and was decided with a majority vote. While other quotes could have been obtained and may possibly have reduced the overall cost, the Parish Council felt this expenditure was poor value and could not be justified. The Parish Council will seek funding for improvements to the memorial and its surrounding area where it has been for 60 years.

Perimeter path on rec

Cllr Pegg reported that he had met the groundsman regarding the state of the footpath and shown him what work was required. The groundsman has been informed that it is his responsibility to ensure that the path remains in good order.

Any other business

Stoke Fest 2014 – scheduled for 24 August with reserve of 30 August.

Wykin Lane – request by a parishioner to repair poor road condition and possibly reinstate pathway – Parish Council to inform LCC Highways.

Flytipping in the ditch at Bath Piece – Hinckley Streetscene to be contacted to remove.

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 Parish Council meeting: Wednesday 2nd April at 7pm in the Committee Room of the Village Hall.

Thank you...

To everyone who has given me curtains and fabric, which will be made into ‘Morsbags’.

PS - from Canine Partners: ‘*The stamps will be used to raise money for a puppy called Pat, who has been paid for throughout his training by stamp collecting*’.

Ruth Fisher

Yoga & Fitness Classes at the Baxter Hall, Stoke Golding

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Across: 1. See 1 D, 4 Judea, 8 No Go, 9 Iscariot, 10 Israel, 12 Altar, 13 Ever,
 14 Shoot, 17 Eject, 20 Herb, 22 Rabbi, 23 Earned, 24 Barabbas, 25 Cain, 26
 Peter, 27 Thomas.
 Down: 1 & 1A Pontius Pilate, 2 Avocado, 3 Edible, 5 Unaware, 6 Epistle, 7 Star,
 11 Ivory, 15 Osborne, 16 Thimble, 18 Jericho, 19 Tidings, 21 Bedsit, 22 Robe.

COPY DEADLINE FOR MAY ISSUE: 15th APRIL

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