

Season's Greetings

Dec '12 / Jan '13

No. 117



The Stoker

Stoke Golding Village Magazine

including

Dadlington Matters

50p

Ruth



Jane



Note from the Editors

You have all been so brilliant at sending in articles and event information this month that we have had to add four pages to this double issue! The 'What's On' pages are packed with activities in

December with a quiz , party, fayre, carol singing, lights' switch on, a visit from Santa on his sleigh and the Snowman Festival. You may be disappointed if you were hoping for a rest in January as there are a variety of activities planned to stop you from getting bored after the festivities are over.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our readers and advertisers for continuing to support The Stoker and, whatever you are doing, wish you a very Happy Christmas and New Year. We shall be back again with the February issue.

Jane and 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 **February 2103** issue of The Stoker to:
The Editors, c/o 21, Hinckley Road, Stoke Golding by **15th January**.
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.

Front cover - Ashby Canal volunteer work party - see page 11

Fruit Tree Day at St Martin's School



Peasgood's Nonsuch, Laxton Superb, Howgate Wonder! These are just some of the varieties of apple trees which students from St Martin's Catholic Voluntary Academy have discovered growing in Stoke Golding and Dadlington. Many thanks to those residents who told us about the fruit trees in their gardens, and who allowed students to collect samples of the apples for identification. Students will be contacting those people to let them know which varieties they have. They will also be asking if it may be

possible to have some tree shoots after Christmas to use in grafting and the eventual reproduction of some of the apples trees growing in our communities.

As part of this on-going project during their 'Enterprise Week' sixty Year 7 students took part in a number of apple related activities - including working with an expert from Pershore, John Edgeley. John showed the students how to identify the apples collected in Stoke Golding and Dadlington. Not all could be done on the day and John had to take some home to complete the task!

Feedback from the students on all of the activities was very positive. In her own words Alice Taylor gives a flavour of the many upbeat comments from the students:

'When the apple experts came in I really enjoyed it! The three activities we did were: looking at different types of apples, identifying apples and preserving them. But last we got to taste apple crumble, cake, dried apple and apple juice. My best part was the tasting section because all four things were delicious!!! The most awesome fact I learned was that there are 2,200 different types of apples growing in Britain.'

Great ideas came from the groups about how to start an enterprise involving apple trees. These included: growing and selling apples and young trees; producing leaflets to say how you can grow your own apples and preserve them; giving addresses of where you can find apples being grown; make and sell apple pies, crumbles, juices and other apple products; design and create new recipes using apples; produce information on growing the right sort of apples for the purpose you have in mind and on planting several varieties; give people information about how many different varieties there are and give them information about the names etc.

Finally, many students expressed interest in furthering the project by volunteering for learning to grow young fruit trees (by grafting), helping to design and make a tree nursery in the school grounds and planting fruit trees.

Our thanks go to Pauline Goodsell, Jill Webster and Hilary Edgeley who provided extra help with the activities.

Doreen Rose and David Goodsell



Correspondence

Stoke Golding – Bygone Years

I was born in Stoke Golding in January 1941 and left to join the RAF in April 1960; the rest of my family left soon after. I have made only fleeting visits since then, the most recent of which was in June 2009.

Although the village has developed greatly, some of what existed in my childhood still remains in some form today. The cottage in which my five sisters and I were born has gone. It was a converted cow shed, one of a row of converted cow sheds, pig sties and stables in what is now Hall Drive but was then Thornfield Cottages. The Spinney in which we had hours of adventure is now Pine Close. In those trees and bramble bushes we built tree houses, played cowboys and Indians and other games. One of our contemporaries, Moses Mallin, was most adept at setting traps. A small boy might find himself swinging by his ankles from the branch of a tree having stepped into one of Moses' rope traps and being sprung into the air by the branch to which it had been attached. Moses would appear from the bushes cackling with laughter.

The council house at 2 High Street to which we moved as first residents is pretty much the same. Charlie Clifford's shop is no more, (memories of a "ha'penny liquorice and five Turf fags for me Dad, please") and the allotments and water meadow which ran behind the school and council houses and in which we picked wild flowers are now village streets.

Much of my childhood and teen years were spent on Crown Hill Farm where my father was a farm labourer. Crown Hill Farm comprised fields which bordered the farm at the bottom of High Street. The farms were owned by brothers, John and Richard Baker, who had come from Bideford in Devon and were prominent members of the Methodist Church. John's daughter Ethel was the chapel organist. I sang in the choir and later trained as a lay preacher. Crown Hill Farm was of great interest to local historians of the day. I have vivid memories of being asked by history teachers, who came during the summer holidays, to show them the place where King Richard's crown had rolled from his head when he was wounded during the Battle of Bosworth. It was then thought that the site was a hollow in the field known as Crown Hill Field around which three hawthorn bushes had grown.

The Ashby Canal was the means of travel for the annual Methodist Sunday School outing on one occasion. We boarded a barge near the station where Willow Park businesses now rest and travelled to Measham. Can't think why Measham. Do they still hold the annual Sunday school sermon's service, the collections from which used to go to pay for the annual outing? In those far off days it was the only 'holiday' some of us had.

Les Wright

(Mr Wright went on to say that the photos he had looked at on the village website brought back many memories and he sent me a few more to add. *Ed*)

"Our" Canal

The Ashby de la Zouch Canal was dug in exciting times. The French had finished slaughtering the nobility but Napoleon Bonaparte was set on world domination, Nelson lost an arm and prices were rocketing. We all know what "over-budget" means - what's new? Any thought that the proprietors may have had of extending it to the Trent went out of the window, which was probably just as well, given the lack of a suitable water source at the higher elevation necessary to get over the hills on the projected route.

Eventually the canal started to make money, which was unusual as railway competition started to bite. As with many canals, a railway company bought it out; not with thoughts of running it into dereliction which happened to many other waterways. No, the Ashby provided the Midland Railway with a way into competitors' territory. So it continued, with slight changes when the MR was absorbed by the London Midland & Scottish in the twenties and then with transport nationalisation in 1947 it came under the direction of *"The Docks and Inland Waterways Executive"*. It is said that the then Minister of Transport was heard to utter the question: "Canals? Do I get them as well?" A *British Waterways Board* was set up and a chairman appointed; perhaps an ex-army man whose regimental colours were yellow and blue? The boat people were not at all happy with yellow cabins, outlined in blue as a colour scheme and the painting was soon altered to blue and yellow; a slight improvement.

As with anything that involves politicians, they couldn't keep their fingers from tinkering with it. Corporate logos and regional boundaries were changed on an almost regular basis. Almost every change was announced as an improvement, or in other words a reduction in funding. The last straw came following the recent foot and mouth epidemic. How could HM Government pay the fine imposed by the EU for their mishandling of the situation? Easy, having

abolished the Min of Ag. to form DEFRA, they included British Waterways in the package. Then DEFRA could take the money from BW to pay the EU. This left the canals in a precarious position, with a backlog of maintenance and insufficient money to even maintain the status quo. Redundancies and sales of equipment followed until eventually we had a system with very little equipment or staff, in fact the board of directors accounted for 30% of the total wages bill. Obviously the politicians couldn't go much further – they must get rid of the waterways network. No one would buy it and they couldn't even give it away. A solution must be found.

The answer to the problem was the formation of a trust, a bit like the National Trust, run as a charity and depending to a large extent on donations. The treasury would have liked to have kept hold of the not inconsiderable property portfolio but they didn't get away with that one and the *Canal and River Trust* was formed, independent of government control. The taxpayer will continue to cough up the odd million or two for a few years until things settle down. So now we have a registered charity which will depend on income from boaters, property, drainage, water supply, donations and one or two other sources. Volunteer effort will provide an important part of the maintenance of the system and everything in the garden will be lovely. The usual meaningless buzz-words like 'exciting' and 'vibrant' are being trotted out, but the original board of BW directors have simply transferred over to CRT, so no change there. They were doing a good job, of course, every year they told the government so and voted themselves bonuses and rises. We await with interest what changes will occur on the Ashby Canal. Already the Ashby Canal Association has started to organise volunteers and things are looking good for the towpath round Stoke Golding.

Ian Reid

See page 11...

A Big Thank You

Ever since writing to The Stoker explaining about the situation in Kenya my bedroom has been slowly filling up with hats, scarves and sun cream. I now have over sixty hats/scarves and over thirty bottles of sun cream so thank you. It makes me proud to come from a community that is so eager and desperate to help other people that are less fortunate, I honestly didn't think I would receive as much as I have. I could say a million thank yous but I don't think it would ever show how truly grateful I am. I would like to say a massive thanks to three people: Evie, Kirsty and Guy who went out their way to raise money for the children in Kenya. I would also like to say thank you to the people at St Margaret's Primary School and Church who graciously donated their coffee morning and harvest festival donations to help people out in Kenya. Once again I can't begin to explain my thanks to you - it means so much and will truly make a massive difference to people's lives. The donations (fingers crossed if all goes according to plan) will be sent out to Kenya in December/January, if not they will be posted shortly afterwards. Thank you from the bottom of my heart with your ongoing support and generosity.

Katy Shilladay

Thermal Imaging Camera

Stoke Golding Parish Council would like to help residents save energy and cut fuel bills by setting up a project to take thermal images of houses and public buildings in the village. Thermal images will indicate where heat is leaking from buildings, and allow householders to identify where energy saving measures such as loft insulation or draught exclusion should be located. By undertaking a community project there would be minimum or no cost to individual households for this service.

The project would involve publicity to all households, taking pictures of houses (after training) and finally getting results back into the community.

If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact me on 212110 or at roy@mitchellhome.net

Roy Mitchell

Streets4All PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

Stoke Golding residents have their say on traffic

Thank you to more than 200 people who have responded to the recent survey on traffic in the village, which also sought to gauge support for 20 mph speed limits. 150 households were selected at random and we have responses from more than 120 and counting. We are presenting the results to the next Parish Council meeting on 5th December. We shall report, in full next month in the Stoker, on both the results and planned actions. We are always interested to hear people's views, so if you weren't included in the survey and have something to say please contact Alan White on 212416 alanwhitesg@gmail.com

Friends of Kenya's Children

Years ago there were wonderful tea-rooms with names like "The Copper Kettle" or "Molly's Tearoom". They offered real home-made cakes and scones with home-made jam and cream, and copious pots of tea. Often, around the shop there would be jars of marmalade, lemon curd, or strawberry jam, with gingham check covers for sale. There might even be small locally made gifts, perhaps from the W.I. or Mother's Union, to tempt you, as small gifts for Mum or Dad or Auntie Edie. Sadly they have now all gone. However if you had bought a £3 ticket last week for "Gill's Tea and Cakes" here in "The Courtyard", you would have been transported back to those years before the '50s. Having worked non-stop for two whole days, with generous helpers, she somehow transformed her flat into the cosiest example of "Gilly's Tea Rooms". All this hard work was to raise, she hoped, a couple of hundred pounds or so for Kenya's poorest children. Around 80 to 90 people, including children, came along and the final figure was **£650!**



When I ventured out of my next door flat, our shared hall was overflowing with people. As I opened my door, a delighted lady said "*Oh, good there's another room in there!*" Thankfully Ruth Fisher was there to point out that "*No that's Beth's flat*". I had to make a quick trip to Nuneaton and when I got back, there was space to view all the amazing gifts that had been given. I was immediately pounced on by the very lovely Amelia to decide the name of a 'farmer' doll, brilliantly knitted by Gill's good friend Jan. She had been standing for hours behind the bric-a-brac stall. With only three names left to choose from, Bill, Jim or Henry, I chose Henry. The next moment Gill was tinkling a bell to declare that I had won. Hooray! Farmer Henry is sitting in pride of place on my sofa. With the help of all her friends, this event was an amazing success. Congratulations Gill!

PS. There's a website for "*Friends of Kenya's Children*", if you want to learn more about the charity – www.fkc.org.uk

Beth Ellis

Gill would like to say a big thank you to everyone who came and supported the event, and/or made cakes and gave donations. She was quite overwhelmed by the response.

White Swan Bonfire Night



Congratulation to the White Swan for another terrific bonfire night, which raised £2,300 for charity through ticket sales, barbecue and bar sales. The firework display lasted 35 minutes, which was 26 minutes longer than the Sydney Harbour's New Year's display.

Well done everyone!

'Celebrity Corner' – Jo Tomlinson

By the time you are reading this month's Stoker, Christmas will be just around the corner. So who better to feature as this month's *Celebrity* than Jo Tomlinson of Tomlinson's Farm Shop? One thousand of their locally produced turkeys are waiting to be prepared for their Christmas customers. When I first spoke to Jo on the phone to make a date to get together, she was in the middle of her regular visit to Stratford's Farmers' Market. When this very busy lady got back to me, we decided that she would call in for a coffee and a chat immediately after she had dropped Emily, aged 9, at school in Higham. One of our first celebrities had been Jo's sister, Liz, at the Post Office, however, I had never met Jo so had no idea who I was going to meet. I have to tell you she was a glorious breath of fresh country air, and I knew I was going to love our next hour or so. Like Liz she has lived in the village since the 'seventies when their Dad's company was re-located from Bovington in Hertfordshire. She was a pupil under Sister Louis' rather stringent regime at St. Martin's High School. I was quite horrified to hear of some of the disciplinary methods used back then, but Jo assured me she loved her time at school. Twelve year old son Garth has just started there this year.

Jo lived at Woodyard Cottage for 30 years, her husband Garth was born at Romerden Farm, where the farm-shop is - a family with its roots deep in farming, and Stoke Golding. The Farm Shop was started in 2005, growing more successful each year. Now they have applied for planning permission to build an



extension for a tea shop. Exciting news is that the BBC has been filming there for a series devoted to supplying locally produced farm food to hospitals - the programme is planned for showing in February 2013. Jo has been visiting farmers' markets for twelve years and it was at Lichfield that she met James Martin of the BBC food programmes. I can see why she was chosen for this new series. Jo has a refreshing honesty, and a

natural ability to communicate. She also has a special gift of vulnerability. For example, her story of when she was first learning how to butcher one of their lambs. She said, "*I suppose I was tired at the end of an exhausting day, it was cold and wet and I had this carcass in front of me to cut up, and I suddenly broke down and sobbed. At school I never put my hand up for butchering!*" Now she was laughing at herself, which is a very good thing when you know you will have 1,000 beautifully home produced turkeys to pluck and 'do all those other things to'. Bless you Jo, and all your family.

A very happy and restful Christmas.

Beth

Stoke Golding Mums and Tots

We have had a great autumn at Mums & Tots. The highlight was our Halloween party, when we were joined by little witches, pumpkins, ghosts and vampires for fun and games. We hunted pumpkins in return for pirate treasure, made spiders and hats, won bugs from the witches' cauldron and had a spooky feast!

The children made poppies for Remembrance week and we had a sponsored 'Toddler Waddle' round the rec for Children in Need.

The festive season is now upon us so another party is in order. If we're all very good there might even be a visit from Santa! There will be lots more activities in the New Year so do join us with your little ones - every Thursday morning at 10am in the village hall.

Kate Warner



'Toddler Waddle'



Halloween Party



St. Margaret's Church of England (Aided) Primary School, Stoke Golding, Leics

Parent Reminder

If you wish to apply for a place at the school for September 2013 please make sure that you send us your application forms as soon as possible.

Application packs are available from the school office and should be returned by 15th January 2013 for consideration at the Governors' Admissions meeting.

Mrs J L Wright, Headteacher

I don't trust my computer...

In a futile attempt to appear less of a Neolithic Luddite, I have purchased an i-pad. To put this into perspective, imagine giving a tin opener to a snake. That is how far my comprehension of the capability of this device extends. I freely confess that I was completely seduced by my geeky brother-in-law who uses his to communicate with the farthest corners of the planet and produce incredible graphics and documents with a simple, and imperious, sweep of his index finger. The world of technology had me as a rabbit in car headlights, so I headed for PC World.

I admit that I have a bus pass and that I get my pills for free now (good job), but it did seem to me that every employee of PC World was no more than 10 years old and out-geeked said brother-in-law by a fair margin. I nodded sagely as megabytes were bandied around with baud rates and download speeds. SIM card slots were discussed as were 3G and 4G compatibility and in the end I bought the silver one because it came with a nice green cover. After having a break to get his nappy changed, the assistant explained that the i-pad needs to host with a lap top. "Naturally," I bluffed, "I'll take that one", pointing confidently at a microwave. Blaming my new bifocals, I eventually slunk out of the store with a collection of boxes that looked like the cumulative efforts of a night shift at Amazon.

In this age of technology, manufacturers assume too much. They assume that the purchaser of their products has the wit to download a manual from somewhere which obviates the necessity for them to provide one. I do not have this ability, so having plugged my i-pad in and watched it charge itself, I stood bemused as it displayed an image that resembled a plastic fork. With no further information forthcoming, I rang the help desk and after listening to the Planet Suite in its entirety, I was greeted by the help line for fridges. Fortunately this was manned by another 10 year old who had an i-pad and told me to download iTunes from the lap top. By sheer chance, I found the correct cable and inserted it into the orifices that allowed these twins of technology to consummate their union.

I sat as an open mouthed voyeur whilst they engaged in an exchange of digital delight. The Luddite had been transformed into a gooseberry. I feel sure that they were discussing me and, like a couple of naughty children, were working out just how much they could play me up. I am certain that they were aware of my technophobia and had set the cameras on their screens to reveal me to the digital web whenever they chose. You may be reading this article with the image of an unshaven wreck sporting a pair of Primark fleece pyjamas. Sorry.



The Fool on the Hill

Stoke Golding website
www.stokegolding.co.uk

Towpath Repairs

On 17th November a group of 30 volunteers, consisting mainly of members of Ashby Canal Association plus a handful of local residents, worked tirelessly on a section of the towpath between Station Road and the Marina to improve its state. By 3.00pm all the gravel had been used and the towpath was again in a fit state for walkers. Tea, coffee and delicious cakes provided by Audrey Boston and friends certainly helped fuel the workers.

Ruth Fisher



Martyn Plant wanted to add his thanks to all the volunteers who helped on Saturday - it was a brilliant effort.

A Very Successful Year for Joy

Stoke Golding's England Ladies Skeet shooting champion Joy Hirons of Church Walk has enjoyed a truly remarkable season with the highlight being winning the England title back in May at Dartford in Kent. She also took silver medals in the British and British Doubles championships.

Joy is double Leicestershire county champion and was the first woman for 17 years to win the Grand Eastern trophy at Northampton, often described as the ugliest trophy of them all but the hardest one to win! She has also won many other competitions in this, her very first full competitive season, winning more in her first year than most other skeet shooters, male and female win at all. She recently scored two perfect 100 out of 100 scores, which was a tremendous result for all her hard work.

She has just acquired a 'new' second-hand 12 bore shotgun for next year as her new coach informed her that she has been using the 'wrong' gun for her, so hopefully next year will be even better.

Her goal for next year is to defend her England title successfully, win the British title and gain a place in the England team.

Thank you to all the Stoke Golding and Dadlington villagers who stop her for a chat and wish her well.



Bob Hirons



From Our Rector at St Margaret's Church

The beginning of December marks the beginning of the Advent Season, the days of preparation as we lead up to Christmas. The shops are full of sparkle, enticing us in, as the Christmas songs and carols are piped through the stores' loudspeakers: "Deck the halls with boughs of holly/ 'tis the season to be jolly".

In the face of Britain officially being back in recession, however, and many of us still being affected by financial and economic problems, these may seem empty words. It's hard to feel jolly if you have lost your job or fear that you will, or if your house is being repossessed.

Of course, the gap between the Christmas dream and the Christmas reality has always been there. The adverts bombard us with images of happy families snug in their cosy homes, feasting together on the best our consumer society has to offer, but that is not how it is for countless people and it never has been.

Many go hungry at Christmas, just as they do for the rest of the year. Many don't have happy families, or have no families at all. Many are homeless or inadequately housed. And for many too, there are hidden sadnesses at Christmas and a hunger for something that all the mince pies in the world won't satisfy; a hunger for love, a hunger for meaning.

The real message of Christmas is that it is precisely when we are most aware of our need and our hunger that God comes closest to us. Wherever there is pain; wherever there is sorrow; wherever there is despair or disappointment, God is there in the midst of it all; because 'The Word was made flesh and dwelt amongst us'.

Think of that first Christmas: A young woman, pregnant in circumstances that must have seemed dubious to many; a child born in an occupied country where any opposition would bring down the brutality of the Roman Army. A nation ruled by King Herod, who is known to have set little store by human life, murdering even members of his own family. Nothing about this story feels very "Christmassy" in the way we tend to use the word today. And yet it was against this background that Christ was born with a message of God's love for the weak and vulnerable. If the Christ Child could be born into such an unpromising world as that, then there is nowhere he cannot be born. And that is why Christians still proclaim this to be a story of joy.

My prayer for you, whatever your Christmas feels like, is that you will find that somewhere in it the Christ Child has been born anew for you this year; bringing true hope, true peace and true joy again.

Linda

Thank you to all the Stoker Team for all your hard work over the last year. We at St Margaret's Church wish you a Happy Christmas and successful New Year.



Church Matters



The Methodist Church December Services

2nd	10.30am	Mrs Joan Ledson
9th	10.30am	Revd. Julie Minns
16th	10.30am	Mrs Pat Starbuck
23rd	6pm	Candle-lit Carol Service led by Revd. Julie Minns
25th	9.30am	Revd. Julie Minns
30th	10.30am	Deacon Philip Osborne

Zion Chapel Services - December starting at 6pm

2nd Dec	Wynne Richards
9th Dec	Gordon Malpass
16th Dec	Reuben Gardner
23rd Dec	John Needham
30th Dec	TBC

Sunday School at 11am



Church of England Services

St. Margaret's Church

2 nd Dec	10.30am	All Age Service
9 th Dec	10.30am	Benefice Service Higham
16 th Dec	10.30am	Holy Communion
23 rd Dec	10.30am	Morning Worship
24 th Dec	4.00pm	Crib Service
25 th Dec	10.00am	Holy Communion
30 th Dec	10.30am	Benefice Service Witherley
6 th Jan	10.30am	All Age Service
13 th Jan	10.30am	Benefice Service Dadlington
20 th Jan	10.30am	Holy Communion
27 th Jan	10.30am	Morning Worship

*Holy Communion every Tuesday at 6.30pm (not 1st Jan)
Tots Church – 3rd and 4th Sundays - 10.30am at St Margaret's Church*

St. James's Church

2 nd Dec	9.00am	BCP Morning Prayer
9 th Dec	10.30am	Benefice Service Higham
14 th Dec	7.30pm	Carol Service
16 th Dec	9.00am	BCP Holy Communion
23 rd Dec	9.00am	BCP Holy Communion
24 th Dec	10.00pm	BCP Holy Communion
6 th Jan	9.00am	BCP Morning Prayer
13 th Jan	10.30am	Benefice Service
20 th Jan	9.00am	BCP Holy Communion
27 th Jan	9.00am	BCP Holy Communion



December What's On



Stoke Golding Charity Sleigh

Once again the Charity Sleigh will be around the village over Christmas. Can we please ask for your support again. It will start out at 4.30pm both nights

Saturday 22nd

High Street – bottom
Dadlington
Hinckley Road
Sherwood Road
Hinckley Road
Main Street
Station Road
Crown Hill
Andrew Close
High Street – top

Sunday 23rd

Roseway
Whitemoors
Goldings
Wykin Lane
Little Wykin



Thanks from the Sleigh Committee

Carols By Candlelight at the George & Dragon

Thursday 20th at 8pm



We will be singing carols in the bar and hosting a home-made mince pie competition

Please feel free to enter 4 mince pies and come along and join in with the singing, if you're feeling brave.

Methodist Church December Events

Saturday December 15th 7pm
Salvation Army Carol Concert
Admission £3
to include refreshments

Friday December 21st
Carol Singing 7pm
around the village
Christmas Tree



Followed by refreshments in the Methodist Church Hall

Stoke Golding Festive Lights Switch On by Father Christmas



Wednesday 5th
December 6.45pm

Carols with brass band
from 6.30pm

In the grounds of Park House -
opposite the George & Dragon

By kind permission of Mr & Mrs
Walton
(Trustees of the Charity of Thomas
Barton)

St. Margaret's School

PTA Christmas Fayre

Friday 7th December
6-8pm





December What's On



Scout Christmas Post

1st-14th December

20p per letter. This year delivery includes Hinckley, Burbage, Earl Shilton, Stoke Golding, Dadlington Thurlaston, Barwell, Sapcote, Stoney Stanton and Kirkby Mallory.

All post will be delivered the week before Christmas.

Post box at Tony's Shop. (Middle Stores)



Stoke Golding Club



Tuesday Dec 11th - Christmas Quiz Night

Saturday Dec 15th - Christmas Party Night

Live music and karaoke (Free Entry)

Christmas Eve - Live Music in Members' Bar

New Year's Eve - Live Music Zany J and Simon Crisp

February 14th - Valentine's Night

Double Elvis Tribute Night - Details to follow



St Margaret's Snowman Festival

Saturday 15th December 10am - 5pm

Raffle, tombola and stalls selling cakes, jams etc.

Refreshments in the Baxter Hall including turkey rolls, mince pies, mulled wine etc



Sunday 16th December Concert and Carols 3 - 4pm

If there is anyone who would like to take part in the concert please ring Margaret on 212387 after 6pm.

This is open to all - we do hope you will come and join in the fun.

What's On

Village Hall Centre Stage Event

'The joint is jumpin' by 52 Skidoo

Saturday 19th Jan 2013.

Tickets Selling Fast
- Book Soon!



Vintage American music including classic favourites like 'Ain't Misbehavin'. 52 Skidoo are a three piece Harlem swing band Check them out here: www.52-skidoo.com

Tickets are £8 from Alan White
01455 212416

Future shows

The Hut People: Sat 9th March
Richard Durrant : Sat 20th April

Methodist Church January Events

Saturday

January 12th

Coffee Morning

10am - 11.30am

For Church Funds

St Margaret's Church

Slides of Old Stoke Golding

With Tony Collett
and Gordon Webster
on Saturday 26th January

7.00pm in Baxter Hall

Tickets £6 to include nibbles,
cheese & wine.

Please ring Margaret after 6pm
on 212387 to reserve a ticket
as this is usually a very popular
evening with limited seating.

Stoke Golding Senior Strollers - Walking For Health Group



Come along and join us for a weekly health walk.

Meet at 10.00am each TUESDAY at the village hall car park .

Get fit for free and meet friends old and new!

For more information contact Kate Webb on
01455 619519 email: kate.webb@ageukleics.org.uk



What's On

Stoke Golding Heritage Group

Village History

The January meeting of the Heritage Group marks the start of a collaborative project with Hinckley Archaeological Society (HAS) to look in more detail at aspects of Stoke Golding's history. Bringing together the information that the Heritage Group has about existing historical records of the village and the expertise of the Archaeological Society we believe that at the end of the estimated two year project we shall be able to produce a document that will link with Hall's History of the Village. It will provide future generations with substantive evidence of how and why the village evolved to what it is today. This introductory meeting will include a presentation on a similar project that the HAS did around Wykin, and an outline of documentary evidence that the Heritage Group will research or obtain in support of the project objectives.

The meeting is on Thursday, January 17th, 7.30pm in the Baxter Hall.

If anybody has an interesting artefact they have found in the village please bring it to the meeting where it may be possible to identify it.

Roy Mitchell

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.

Mobile Library

The Mobile Library will visit Stoke Golding and Dadlington on 6th & 20th December

Dadlington 27 Hinckley Rd - 10.05 - 10.25am

Stoke Golding Greenwood Road 10.30 - 10.45am

Sherwood Road 10.50 - 11.10am

The White Swan 11.15am - 11.40am

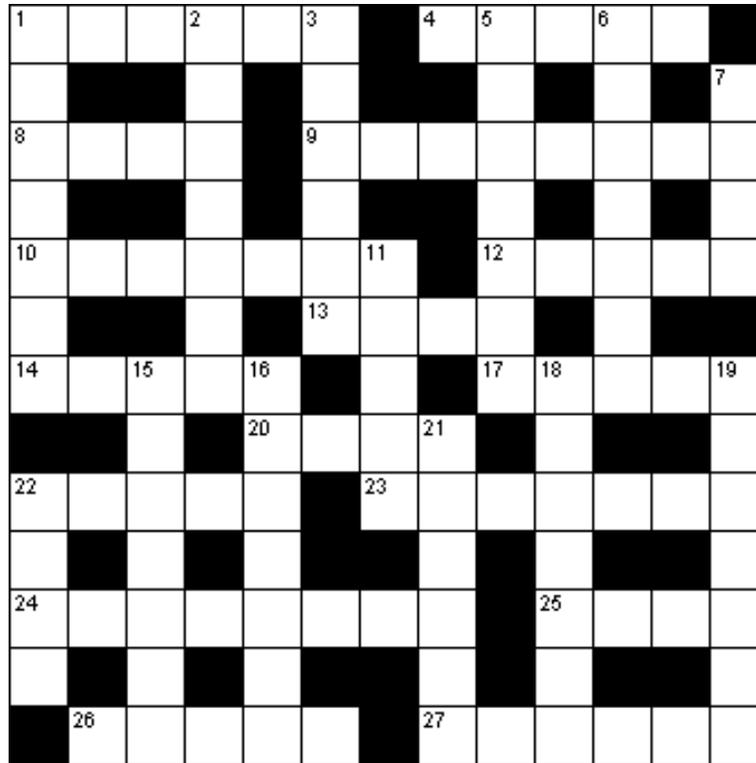
Hinckley Road/Main Street 11.45- 12.05pm



For further details contact: Coalville Library, 0116 305 3565

email:coalvillelibrary@leics.gov.uk

Crossword



Across

1. And 8A and 16D. -- 4A sang this in 'Oliver' (2,4,2,2,5,2)
4. Heroine in Oliver(5)
8. See 1A
9. What Oliver asks for(4,4)
10. Sewing requisites(7)
12. Nagging pains(5)
13. All Oliver musical characters do this(4)
14. Removed.(5)
17. Artist's equipment(5)
20. Large water jug(4)
22. Elastic decorative paper(5)
23. Time period in gym(7)
24. 11D's dogs name(8)
25. Measurement of area(4)
26. Workhouse food fed to Oliver(5)
27. City where Oliver runs off to(6)

Down

1. Next to(7)
2. Very late arriving(7)
3. Slashed wounds(6)
5. Par for the course(7)
6. Garments(7)
7. Pollen collectors(4)
11. Surname of 4A's boyfriend(5)
15. Church pew aid to praying(7)
16. See 1D
18. Refrain from voting yes or no(7)
19. Victorian hand held light 24A(7)
21. Show to everyone(6)
22. Horse drawn Hanson **** are used in Oliver(4)

Answers on page 21

Christmas Traditions

Whether Christian or not, most families living in Britain today celebrate Christmas together by giving gifts, decorating a tree and feasting on turkey and all the trimmings. Hanging up stockings by the fire, sending Christmas cards and kissing under the mistletoe are some of the traditions we associate with Christmas, but where did they originate?



Turkey has been the traditional meat we eat on Christmas day for a relatively short period of time. The birds were originally brought into Britain from America in 1526 by Yorkshire man William Strickland who acquired six birds from American Indian traders on his travels and sold them for 'tuppence' each in Bristol. They were too expensive for most people to enjoy until the end of the 19th Century. Before this, in Victorian times, people in the north of the country feasted on roast beef, whilst those in the south enjoyed roast goose or even a swan, and poorer folk made do with rabbit.

The Christmas tree originated in Germany in the 16th Century when fir trees were decorated with apples, roses, sweets and coloured paper. It was first brought to England by Queen Victoria's husband, Albert, and its popularity soon spread.



The first Christmas card is thought to have been created by Sir Henry Cole, who commissioned artist John Calcott Horsley for the illustration in 1843.



These are just a few of our well loved traditions, which will hopefully be passed down to future generations. **Happy Christmas!**

Jane White

Dadlington Matters

Shambles and Fakes in Dadlington Village Hall

A grand night out was had by all in Dadlington on Saturday 10th November when the village hall played host to a live music event. The main act was a tribute to the late Jake Thackray, very ably performed by an adopted son of Yorkshire, John Watterson. His rendition of such classics as, "The Bantam Cock", "The Nurse" and the very politically incorrect "On Again" were very true to the originals. Many members of the audience will have been familiar with the songs but they also struck a chord with newcomers to Jake's work.

John was supported for the evening by our local ensemble The Shambles, who had reformed especially for this event, and delighted the audience with an eclectic mix of folk, contemporary and even a bit of "do-wop" music, plus a heart rending monologue about life north of Watford.

Many thanks to all who contributed to the success of this event and it is hoped that live music will feature again in the near future. For those who could not attend there is a second chance to see John in action at De Montfort Hall in February as he tours with Fairport Convention.

As a bonus, a goodly sum was raised for the village hall where there are plans for some exciting developments which will be explained in greater detail later.

Graham Grimley

*John Watterson performing
'The Nurse', very ably assisted
by Graham Grimley*



*The Shambles - Reunited.
'Cheap (free) and available!'*

A Day at the Palace

One of Dadlington's long-serving residents has been to Buckingham Palace to see the Queen! Bob Buckby was honoured recently with the award of an MBE for services to teaching. Specifically, the award acknowledged his extensive work in many areas during his 37 years at Hastings High School. Bob began as Head of PE, responsible for time-tabled school sport and for a significant amount of extra-curricular sport too. He taught maths at all levels and was also responsible for mentoring young teachers in their first year at Hastings, and PGCE students from Leicester and Warwick Universities. He finally retired from teaching last year in the post of Assistant Head Teacher. His wife Jean and elder daughter Helen accompanied him to Buckingham Palace to see him receive his award from Her Majesty herself, and they celebrated this memorable occasion with lunch at Claridges. The Stoker wishes to congratulate Bob on this well-deserved award, and hopes that he will continue to enjoy his main passions of family, (he and Jean recently became grandparents to Emily), fly-fishing, gardening and golf during his retirement.



John Walliker



More correspondence...

I have recently found out that there is a planning application for a large solar panel farm on the fields by the recreation ground, which I believe will have a detrimental impact on the surrounding countryside. Instead of the open green fields where the horses are at the moment there will be an eight foot high security fence surrounding the site. I understand the need for renewable energy but feel that a development of this scale should merit a public consultation. By the time you are reading this it may be too late to make comments to Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council about this development which, if passed, will be installed by March 2013.

Name and address supplied

Across. 1. As long as he needs me, 4. Nancy, 8. See 1A, 9. Some more, 10. Needles, 12. Aches, 13. Sing, 14. Taken, 17. Easel, 20. Ewer, 22. Crepe, 23. Session, 24. Bullseye, 25. Acre, 26. Gruel, 27. London. Down. 1. Against, 2. Overdue, 3. Gashes, 5. Average, 6. Clothes, 7. Bees, 11. Sikes, 15. Kneeler, 16. See 1D, 18. Abstain, 19. Lantern, 21. Reveal, 22. Cabs.

Stoke Golding W. I. November Meeting

This meeting was our Annual General Meeting, where we looked at the overall experience and financial situation from the past year. We had had a very interesting year and finished the year financially secure. The committee agreed to stand again and a new president was voted in.



After the business side of the evening had been completed we had a go at making an inexpensive table arrangement, helped and instructed by Marilynne Connelly. Members who wished to take part came with bags of greenery and Marilynne provided a prepared oasis base and candle and a bag of baubles etc. to complete our Christmas creations.

The whole room was filled with pleasurable chattering as we tried to follow instructions to produce our table arrangements. Everyone produced a lovely arrangement and Wendy Walliker produced the best one, chosen by Marilynne. However, all the arrangements were very good and everyone who took part left with a beautiful table decoration to be proud of.

Our next meeting is on 12th December and will be our Christmas Party.

Lesley Gent



OBITUARIES



Greta Hewitt

Greta, beloved wife of Dennis, and a much loved sister, sister in law and aunt passed away peacefully on 27th October in Leicester Royal Infirmary at the age of 78 years. The funeral service took place at the Heart of England Crematorium with interment of ashes in Stoke Golding Cemetery.

Margaret Mary Butler

Margaret of Roseway passed away on 9th November aged 77 years after a long and brave fight against cancer. She moved into Stoke Golding almost 40 years ago with her late husband Tony and was a much loved mother to Alison, David and Charlotte, mother in law to Glenn, Karl, and Sarah, a loving grandmother to Callum, Sally, Michael, Hollie, Ella, Ben, Daniel and Sophie, great grandmother to Cole and loving sister to Pat and Keith. The funeral service to commemorate Margaret's life was held at St Margaret's Church prior to cremation. There were family flowers only with donations in lieu to Felix Holt Ward, George Eliot Hospital, Nuneaton.

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



SPOTLIGHT on... Good Companions

It was just before 2pm when I popped my head round the door of the Club Lounge – a buzz of conversation and laughter caught my attention. Then I was spotted! An arm drew me into the room, “Come on in dear, you’re very welcome”.

Everyone couldn’t have been more welcoming. There must have been twenty-plus people there. I was furnished with a cup of tea and guided to a seat.

The atmosphere at this Good Companions’ fortnightly session was lively. A celebratory meal had just been enjoyed as a birthday treat for a number of the members: Bernice was 90 years old that week, Joan D. was about to be 90, Jeff was celebrating his 80th and Joan L. also had a birthday but she wasn’t about to tell me which one!

Teas were distributed to everyone and out came the raffle tickets. At each session a raffle is held, with people taking turns to provide prizes. I noticed bingo cards being handed around, so I knew what was coming up later.

The Good Companions first met at the village hall on 20th September 33 years ago! (That must have been about the time my family came to live in Stoke Golding). Members are very proud of the group’s longevity... “But,” they said, “We need new members!”

Last month some of the group joined with another party from the Sheepy Magna Companions to go and see “Calendar Girls” in Loughborough. There was plenty of time for shopping too. Joining with other groups helps fill a big coach and keeps the costs down.

The ‘Magnificent Seven’, the Management Committee of seven people, organises the running of the group. Ray, the ex-chairman has just stood down. Ron, vice-chairman, now keeps things ticking over, helped by treasurer, Jeff with Christine, Joan D., Bernice and Mary.

“We all know each other very well. We have a great time together... have day trips, parties and speakers... everyone supports everyone else... we have a laugh and a joke... but we do want a few more people!”

Jean and Ron, who have recently joined, said that they have been made very welcome, and looked forward to the sessions every other Thursday. Ron comments, “It’s better than the Morecambe and Wise show, here!”

Thank you everyone, for your welcome! I certainly would recommend the group to all who are available on Thursday afternoons. Just think for a moment... Are YOU...up for a laugh and good friendship? Are YOU game for a party or two or a trip to the theatre?

Are YOU a Good Companion? Come and join us!

Rosemary Collier

Stoke Golding Parish Council - October 2012 Meeting

County Cllr Ould reported on the following:

George Eliot Hospital to retain its maternity and children's services. Children with more serious medical problems will receive their treatment at University Hospital, Coventry.

County Hall – Nick Rushton has become the approved leader of the County Council.

Barwell S.U.E. There now appears confusion over commissioning the Traffic Impact Assessment for the Sustainable Urban Extension at Barwell, in as much as it appears HBBC have yet to action this.

Wykin Lane – speed limit proposals.

Wykin Lane/Northern Perimeter Road – complaint unresolved re poor visibility at the roundabout.

Matters arising from September's meeting:

Monthly Crime Report - no report for September from the Police.

Parish Council reported that there had been person/s trying people's cars and doors of houses around the village. Hairdressers had been broken into.

Actions discussed from September meeting, with further follow ups as follows:

Pine Close – wrote to land owners but only one response received. A meeting to be arranged. Clerk to write to the Legal Department at HBBC for advice.

Barwell SUE Developers' meeting – no further forward, still doing model.

LCC Highways on Jitty issues – Highways reported back formal notices had been issued to the owners of the overgrown hedges adjacent to the path.

Fencing installation, tarmac and recreation ground works discussed. Meeting to be arranged with contractor.

Laying of turf to replace slab area in Children's Play Area - proposed and agreed.

Hedge cutting at Convent Corner – this is being followed up.

30mph Wykin Lane proposed re-siting – PC to write to Highways to ask to put further back.

Planning Application Matters:

a) New Applications:

137 Sherwood Road - Demolition of existing conservatory and construction of two storey rear extension.

Chestnut Cottage, Park House Court - extensions and alterations to dwelling (concerns discussed).

b) Permissions granted:

50 Sherwood Road - extensions and alterations to dwelling.

Severn Trent Water Ltd – Pumping Station, Station Road - recommendation only.

Alan White – Streets4All

Alan White updated the meeting on how the Streets4All committee was moving forward.

(Continued on page 25)

(Parish Council Notes continued from page 24)

Proposal: To carry out a village survey delivered to 120 houses.

Resolved: The Parish Council agreed to support this planned survey.

Village Plan Update - an opportunity to update plan and address housing issues. Housing needs survey/Training & Information to Rural Communities Seminar taking place on 6 Nov. Cllr Mitchell to attend.

Letter re Convent Site name

Await formal reply from Trustees stating their agreement that reference can be made to the Convent when naming the road. Clerk to write to HBBC to request the suggested name be put on hold.

Communications

Email – request for Union Flag to be flown at half-mast to mark death of any residents – although council thought this to be a nice idea it considered that it did not have the resources.

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 5th December - 7pm in the Methodist Church Hall.

Solar Panel Farm in Stoke Golding?

A company called Freetricity has submitted a proposal to construct and operate a solar panel farm on land at the end of Pine Close. The farm will consist of about 7,000 ground mounted solar panels covering about 6 hectares and generating approximately 2MW, sufficient to power between 487 and 609 houses. Representatives from Freetricity met with Parish Councillors to discuss the application and address concerns and issues raised by Councillors. A key concern was the impact of the installation on the recreation ground and its use by the cricket and football teams. Freetricity indicated that it would consider using a security fence that would blend into the rural landscape and would also consider putting a section of high netting to prevent footballs and cricket balls entering the solar panel area. Regarding glare it indicated that the orientation of the panels and the physical construction and materials used in the panels meant that glare would not be a problem. Councillors suggested some small projects that Freetricity could contribute to that could benefit the whole village. Freetricity agreed to look at the suggestions and respond as soon as possible. Subject to planning approval, the installation would be in place and operational by the end of March 2013. Further information can be obtained from Roy Mitchell: 212110.

COPY DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY 2013 ISSUE: 15th JANUARY



Yoga and Fitness Classes



Body Blitz mixed level	Mon	11am	Village Hall
Yoga mixed	Mon	6.30pm	Baxter Hall
Yoga easy	Mon	7.45pm	Baxter Hall
Yogafit easy	Tues	12 noon	Baxter Hall
Yoga mixed/adv	Tues	7pm	Baxter Hall
Yogafit easy/mixed	Wed	6pm	Baxter Hall

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Tues 7-7.45pm The Church, Fenny Drayton
Wed 5.45-6.15 Zumba, 6.15-7pm Toning
(Both at Richmond School)
Thurs 9.45-10.30 St Francis, Tudor Road
Thurs 7.15-8pm Methodist Church, Stoke Golding
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