

Feb 2010

No. 88



The Stoker

Stoke Golding Village Magazine

including

Dadlington Matters

50p

Ruth



Jane



Note from the Editors

The photograph on this month's Stoker reminds us of the freezing weather in the first half of January. Whilst great fun for sledging and building snowmen, it did create problems for motorists and for people who are unsure on their feet. We hope you have all managed to stay upright.

How lovely to hear that community spirit is alive and well in the village (page 4). This wasn't the only story we heard of neighbours keeping an eye on each other. We love the snowy pictures you have sent us - ice skating on the canal, sheep being driven along High Street and the Snowman Festival. Please keep sending them in.

We'd like to say thank you to Reg Ward and the Gosling family for providing and putting up Stoke Golding's Christmas tree. We understand that Reg has been doing this for the past 25 years.

Jane & Ruth

The Stoker Team

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

Production Team: Ann Edginton, Penny James, Katie Toone, Simon Rees-Jones, Alan Taylor, Rachel Terheege, Jill Webster.

Please send articles for the **March** issue of The Stoker to:
The Editors, c/o 21, Hinckley Road, Stoke Golding by **15th February**
If you can submit articles on disk, 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 greater 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***

Cover picture : Twelve foot high willow-work tree at the entrance to Willow Park. This began life as the centrepiece of a display entitled 'Sleepy Hollow' at the Gardeners World Show 2008. It was created by local 'Willow Man' Tom Hare. More of his work can be seen at the RHS Garden, Wisley, Kew Gardens and many local schools. www.myspace.com/tomharewillow

St Margaret's Snowman Festival

This is a big thank you to everyone who helped at the Snowman Festival - those who made snowmen and who decorated the church - many of our visitors thought it was the best yet; those who gave donations of mince pies, sausage rolls, jams etc, also the ladies in the kitchen for their hard work, those who gave donations for the raffle and tombola and to everyone who helped on the stalls. Last, but not least, thank you to all our visitors who made it such a great success, a wonderful £1213 was raised for church funds.

Thank you to the young people who performed at the concert on the Sunday afternoon – you were all great.

The winners of our competitions:

'How many snowmen' Sammie from Hinckley guessed 297 – actual number 296.

'Best snowmen voted for by our visitors'

Joint first: Grace Deeming and Georgie Moore

Second: Harry & Matthew Setchell

Third: Alfie

Group winners: Robin Hood Nursery and the Cubs.

Margaret Croxall



One of many visitors who enjoyed the snowmen - and his lunch in the Baxter Hall - especially the sausage rolls.

Correspondence



I am the archivist of the Martyn-Clark Family. By a stroke of good fortune I came across this snippet in the Leicester Council Archives. I was trying to follow it up and my paths led to the Stoke Golding website.

This is copied and pasted from LCC records:

John Brown, second son of the Rev. William Brown, Master of the Free Grammar School at Stoke Golding, co. Leics, where he was born 24 January 1782 and was enrolled a freeman of Leic. 10 June 1808. He married at St. Nicholas' 20 October 1812 Martha, daughter of Henry and Martha Clark of Leic., and by her, who died in 1817, had an only son who died in infancy.

Mr. Ald. Brown retired with the old corporation in December 1835. His death took place at his residence in St. Nicholas' Street on 14 July 1850, aged sixty-eight.

Mural tablet in St. Nicholas' church where both he and his wife were buried.

And a bit more info:

John Brown was Mayor of Leicester in 1830 – William's second son Henry Clark's son was also Mayor of Leicester, (twice). His father in law, Joseph Johnson, was a Mayor of Leicester too. They clearly knew each other as they were all related. It would be interesting if they were old boys of the school. I presume Rev William Brown must have lived on the premises.

Jol Martyn-Clark (a direct ancestor of Henry Clark via Robert Clark, the missionary)



On behalf of the residents of bungalows on Wykin Lane I would like to thank the lady who came and dug and swept the path around the bungalows, and asked if we had our basic needs. I would not recognise the lady again as she was muffled up against the bitterly cold weather. It's more than the Council did and as we are the elderly and some disabled we had no grit down to help us. I noticed cars turning into Wykin Lane skidding on the corner, luckily no accidents occurred and our cars were not damaged as it is our only parking area - the council will not give us off road parking. So once again THANK YOU.

Valerie Hebden, Wykin Lane

Antique inkstand has village connection

It is amazing how things from the past come to the surface and are connected with the village. Having looked at the village web site and read our magazine thereon a man from Tunbridge Wells contacted me. He told me that he had in his possession a Victorian inkstand in silver which had been passed down through his family, and which had an inscription relating to Stoke Golding. The inscription was as follows: "Presented to Stamp Garrard Esquire M.R.C.S. by the inhabitants of Stoke Golding as a mark of gratitude for his valuable medical services rendered during the prevalence of a severe sickness in that Parish 1850". The inkstand shown here is certainly a grand looking piece of silverware.



He asked what I knew of the events which gave rise to such a presentation. Bearing in mind that the annual death rate for that period was normally about 10 - 12 in Stoke Golding, I checked the burial records and found that in the 14 month period December 1848 to January 1850 there were 31 deaths of villagers ranging in age from 2 to 80 but mostly in the 40 to 60 group. The deaths peaked in the first week of December 1849 with a total of 8. The burial registers do not unfortunately tell us what they died of; dysentery, perhaps or measles? Of course what was mysterious was that the worst time for the deaths was mid-winter and not the hot months of the summer when pestilence would flourish.

The two Leicestershire directories I have show that Dr Stamp Garrard was listed as a surgeon with premises in Coventry Street and latterly in Regent Street, Hinckley at the time. So, the question we would ask readers is, does anyone know anything about the Doctor, his Hinckley family or the epidemic in Stoke Golding, and did Dadlington and Hinckley have similar problems? Could any of our medically trained readers hazard a guess as to what could have been the cause of such an epidemic?

Denis Cash

1st Stoke Golding Scouts would like to say a big thank you to all of you who used the Christmas Post. We delivered over 800 cards - hopefully to the correct addresses. Thanks also go to everyone at The Middle Stores for their help with selling stamps and collecting the cards for us.

Many, many thanks

Hope you all have a good year in 2010, from The Scout Group.

People to Know - Edwin Harry Stoneley

Edwin, usually known as Harry or 'Skip' Stoneley lived in the end house of Woodyard Cottages, Main Street.

Skip was one of those people, once met, that you never forget. He was born in 1889. His father was a wheelwright having come to Stoke Golding from Stapleton. His mother was born in Leicester. Skip had two brothers, Fred, 10 years older, and William 8 years older, but it was Skip who was to follow in his father's footsteps by becoming the village wheelwright and blacksmith.

His wheelwright's yard was to the left of the Methodist Church in the Main Street. Skip was a magnet to the boys of Stoke and it was a privilege to watch Skip at work. I watched him make my great-grandmother's coffin - he was also an undertaker. No job was too small for him; he would even repair the village boys' broken pen-knives. Today people would say, 'What are those young boys doing with that older man?' Everything was completely innocent. Skip was only too pleased to pass on his knowledge of nature, astronomy and the world at large.

In France during the 1914-1918 War, Skip attained the rank of Sgt. Wheelwright. His position kept him out of the actual fighting, but after a while he volunteered for the front line and won the Military Medal for bravery. His Colonel described him as the finest soldier he had ever met. During the First World War, although a staunch member of the Church of England he became a convert to the Roman Catholic faith. He had been a bell ringer at St. Margaret's in the village, and on one of the bells that was re-hung in the church there is an inscription that states 'John Taylor Loughborough 1909, G. M. Edmonds Vicar, E. H. Stoneley, Leader of the Bell ringers; RISE HE CALLETH THEE'.

After returning from war service Skip attended the Catholic Church in Nuneaton but eventually he became a worshipper at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Hinckley. He soon became a Scoutmaster of the St. Peter's Scouts, of which he gave many years service. Skip could easily be recognised because he always short trousers, that is until the Second World War when he joined the Royal Observer Corp and then he had to wear long trousers on duty.

After the First World War he obtained a grant of £21 and this and a collection around the village, enabled Skip's Hut in the High Street, facing the churchyard, to be erected. The hut contained a full sized billiards table, table tennis table and other indoor sports. Skip would not allow alcohol in the hut but he would make you a cup of Oxo for a penny. Behind the hut was a large tin building that contained Skip's Gymnasium. Here many village boys learnt the art of boxing. Unfortunately Skip's Hut was demolished some years ago but it must have had a life of over forty years.

If you visited Skip at his home and he was about to have a meal, you were invited to join him. He did not keep to regular meal times; he would eat when he felt hungry. Skip was famed for his Jip Pot. This was a metal pot that contained some bones obtained from the local butcher a few yards from his house. He then added

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(People to Know - continued from page 6)

many different vegetables that he grew himself and was cooked over a wood fire. It was not until a few years before his death that he would allow coal into his house. Skip also had many beehives and was famous for his jars of honey. He also bottled fruit, which grew in his orchard. Occasionally he gave some of this bottled fruit to my mother. He had kept the bottled fruit for some years and when the top was removed the juice was just like wine.

In his younger days Skip enjoyed skating on the frozen canal and in the severe winter of 1929 he skated the length of the Ashby Canal. The only impassable point was the Snarestone Tunnel, which was hung with icicles as tall as a man.

To have known Skip was an honour and a joy, and having known him you would never forget him. Stoke Golding should erect a Blue Plaque in his memory.

Michael Roberts

Attention all boys under 25 years in Stoke Golding

Do you want some extra cash for your studies or recreational activities? If you do then read the notice below and if you fit the criteria, write a letter to the clerk giving the reason you would like a grant.

(Boys aged 10 years and over should write their own letters, if possible).

N. B. If you are applying on behalf of a group (e.g. Youth Football, Cricket Club), please include the **names and dates of birth** of all boys living in the village and attending your organisation, in order to be considered for a grant.

The Stoke Golding Boys' Charity

Object of The Trust

“Subject to payment of expenses, The Trustees shall apply income of the Charity in promoting the education (including social and physical training) of boys under the age of twenty-five years by the date of return of application as shown below, who are resident in Stoke Golding”.

The Trustees are considering the annual application of grants in accordance with the Terms of the Trust, as quoted above and applications are invited stating the date of birth, address and purpose of the application to the: Clerk of the Trustees, 21, Hinckley Road, Stoke Golding, Nuneaton, Warks. CV13 6DU by **18th March 2010**.

By Order of the Trustees,
R. E. Fisher (Mrs) Clerk

Alan Quinney loaned us this photo of a group of lads enjoying the snow in February 1947. The old cricket pavilion on the rec can be seen in the distance. Do you recognise anyone in the photo?



Alan, Luisa & Richard Quinney skating on the Ashby Canal, Christmas 2000

We would not advise walking or skating on the frozen canal - it can be extremely dangerous.

Health Promotion Day

The second CASAG health promotion coffee morning was held at Stoke Golding Methodist Church Hall on 31st October. The event was well supported by staff and patients alike. Advice was offered on healthy lifestyle including a wonderful interactive tai chi demonstration. Proceeds from a raffle and refreshment sales raised over £150 for the local Mary Ann Evans Hospice. Volunteers received very positive feedback on the day and we hope to build on this success with further events in 2010.

Dr R Dockrell

Stoke Golding Surgery Opening Times

From the start of January 2010 Stoke Golding surgery will be operating on Monday afternoons from 4-6pm. This is to enable patients to attend routine appointments with a doctor; however there will be no nurse appointments available. Dispensary will also be open at this time for patients to collect pre-ordered prescriptions. It is hoped this will enable the surgery to be more accessible to the working population.

Tools for Self Reliance- Deadline for donated tools

Please will you let me have any further items by 14th February.
Thank you very much to those people who have left tools since my last article

David Goodsell, 3 Hinckley Road 212955

New Sightings

And now there's two more. Two more new bus stop signs.

This time they are in Dadlington village. There is one mid-way along the Hinckley Road, on the left as you go into the village. Pre new bus stop signs villagers just stopped the bus to get on or off outside their houses. Now residents on the right hand side will have to cross the road when alighting or disembarking. The other sign is on the edge of the green, opposite The Ambion Court Hotel, and a very smart sign it is with space for two or perhaps three on the newly made waiting area. It's a pity, therefore, that the bus, when making its reversing manoeuvre before turning right to make the onward journey to Hinckley or Nuneaton, doesn't actually reverse up to the bus stop necessitating any waiting passengers to make a dash along the grass or, if too wet or muddy, along the road. Hopefully the driver, when making the reverse turn, will see the waiting passengers in the mirror and not set off without them.



Jill Webster

Stoke Golding WI - January Meeting

On a very wintry evening, several members braved the weather and thoroughly enjoyed a very informative and interesting account of a visit to Iceland by one of our own members Gill Skelton.



We were entertained with photos and an enthusiastic travelogue from Gill about all the varied landscapes of a diverse country, whose total population is the same as Leicester City! Gill travelled on a National Trust holiday and from volcanoes to geysers, waterfalls to glaciers, wildlife to quaint fishing villages, she had us all wanting to book our own holidays to Iceland by the end of the evening.

We have a varied programme of events for all tastes and interests planned for the year, so whether you are new to the village or just keen to meet new people come along to our next meeting at the Methodist Church Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 10th February when our speaker will be helping us to keep ourselves healthy!

Jean Buckby

Dadlington Pancake Supper - Saturday 13th February

In addition to saving our pub in Dadlington, we also need to preserve our church and war memorial gate. We are awaiting inspection which is expected to show some evidence of death watch beetle, dry rot and damp, and both church and gate have not been painted/decorated for many years. The church is at least 13th century and was also the final resting place for many slain at the Battle of Bosworth.

A pancake supper from 7pm on Saturday 13th February is being held to start a fund for these renovations. It is proposed that money raised will be earmarked for building care and preservation, administered by people in the village.

You are invited by John & Jill Whitehead to their house (Lost & Found, in the courtyard behind 15 Main Street) to enjoy both sweet and savoury pancakes. Please assist catering by advising if you are able to come, either by telephone (213244) or e-mail (jf_whitehead@hotmail.com).

Stoke Golding Mums and Tots Christmas Party

Jingle bells rang early this year for the Stoke Golding Mums and Tots Christmas party. With music, games, entertainers and party food, it was not hard for Santa to find us!

The Village Hall was full of excited children all ready to celebrate Christmas. First we had a 'Find the snowman' game, the reward being lots of Christmas sweeties.

(This little reindeer is very hungry after a long journey from the North Pole)

Then after a bit of play time, our children's entertainer kept our tots spellbound with an array of magic, jokes and balloon wizardry!



It was soon time for party food and for the first time there was a glimmer of silence. The children tucked into all kinds of goodies, whereas the mums and dads had mulled wine and some wonderful raspberry pavlovas, courtesy of Stoke Golding's answer to Nigella Lawson (a.k.a. Debbie Parton). Our wonderful morning was finished off with Christmas carols and a visit from a very generous Santa, who had brought presents for every child. After more carols and Christmas songs our little ones went home, excited and happy that Santa had made a special trip from the North Pole to visit the tots at Stoke Golding village hall.

Stoke Golding Mums and Tots group run every Thursday morning from 10.00 – 11.30am. There are craft activities,

singing, snacks and many, many toys to play with. For the children there are annual activities and days out. For the grownups there are monthly nights out.

Coming up we have:

- Our Mum's night out at Chef Mandarin
- A pamper night in Burbage
- A visit from our professional photographer in time for Mother's Day

All are welcome and you can be sure of good chat, a cup of tea and a biscuit! Just come along or for further information call 212770

Lisa Hickman

What's On

Race Evening

A race evening is being held at Stoke Golding Club on Saturday 28th March. Tickets are £7.00 and include a fish & chip supper. 7pm for a 7.30pm start and all proceeds to worthy causes in Stoke Golding. Tickets from Sue Payne, Tel: 212678

Zion Baptist Chapel Services - 6pm

7th February	J Needham
14th February	G Chapman
21st February	R Cotton
28th February	G Malpass

Women's World Day of Prayer 2010

Prepared by Christian Women of Cameroon
Friday 5th March
7.30pm at the Methodist Church
Speaker – Mrs Hilary Fenton
All are welcome
Refreshments after the service

Methodist Church Services

7 th February	10.30am	Rev'd Andrew Murphy
14 th February	10.30am	Mrs Judith Clarke
21 st February	10.30am	Rev'd Andrew Murphy
28 th February	10.30am	Mrs Joan Ledson

Stoke Golding Heritage Group

"Cherish the past, protect the future"

On Thursday 18th February at 7.30pm in the Baxter Hall, Bill Davies from the Mary Rose Trust will be giving an illustrated talk on "The Mary Rose". Non Members £2.50

What's On



Stoke Golding Club February



All major football matches shown on Sky and all other Channels
Snacks provided during matches.

Coming soon - Sky HD

Day time business hire of the function room is available at competitive rates,
with or without catering services.

The Club now opens at 4.00pm
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
and all day Saturday and Sunday

Golden Browne's Fish and Chips - Wednesdays from 5.30pm on the car park

**Remember Club Prices are very competitive all the time: Carling Lager,
£2.40, Guest Bitters, £2.05 per pint, plus regular special offers.**

Dadlington Village Hall Quiz

Saturday 13th March 7.30 pm

Quizmaster: Michael Dix

Teams or individuals welcome Prizes!

Entry by ticket only - £6 per person including 2 course
supper

Licensed bar

Tickets from:

John Walliker, Ambion Court Hotel 01455 212292

Simon Rees-Jones, 3 Stapleton Lane 01455 212538

Any proceeds will go towards the upkeep of Dadlington
Village Hall

Methodist Church

Coffee Morning

Saturday 13th February

10.00 – 11.30am

For Home & Overseas Missions



Sheep being driven along High Street (Jan '10)- a sight not often seen these days.



Abi looks delighted to meet Santa when he did his rounds of the villages before Christmas.



From The Rector at St Margaret's Church



At the time of writing, the Christmas Decorations have been down just a few days, and now I find the supermarkets are stocking their shelves with Easter Eggs in readiness for the next celebration! But, of course, in between is the season of Lent that takes us from Ash Wednesday through to Easter and is linked to the time when Jesus went for 40 days without food in the desert. It is a reminder that Jesus went through suffering to make him stronger and more trusting in God.

Coming from the Old English word 'Spring', the early Christians called Lent, 'God's Springtime'. The day before Ash Wednesday would see store cupboards cleared and the ingredients made into pancakes. This was known as Shrove Tuesday, with enthusiastic pancake tossing (a definite favourite in our house!), pancake races and pancake parties becoming traditional. This was then followed by a period of fasting and a time for people to renew their life and commitment to Christ.

Lent can be a benefit and blessing to us all; we can see it as a chance to grow spiritually, to find out something new and precious about God. We can spend more time talking to God and listening to Him, perhaps giving up a mealtime (or that favourite TV Soap!) every so often to pray, or by setting aside an extra time to be with Him, perhaps in a Lent Group.

Another way of marking Lent is to undertake an act of kindness every day. The 'Love Life Live Lent' booklets (available from our churches) suggest such actions as: Say something nice about someone behind their back; make and share some cakes; leave a pound coin in a shopping trolley for someone to find; contact a family member you haven't seen for a while. The actions are small and fun to do, but can make a real difference to others. Why not give it a try?

Whatever you chose to do, I hope that this Lent will be a beneficial and enriching time for you, and those around you. Look out for what God might offer you!

May your Lent be joyful and blessed.

Linda

Church of England Services - February

St Margaret's Church

7 th February	10.30am	Family Service Worship Group
14 th February	10.30am	Benefice Service Witherley
21 st February	10.30am	Holy Communion
28 th February	10.30am	Morning Worship

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

St. James's Church – Dadlington

7 th February	9.00am	BCP Morning Prayer
14 th February	10.30am	Benefice Service Witherley
21 st February	9.00am	BCP Holy Communion
28 th February	9.00am	BCP Holy Communion

Stoke Golding Methodist Church

Dear Friends,

In recent weeks, the focus of the world has been on the country of Haiti. This is a country that has had a troubled past and now, in the midst of its poverty, faces this horrific disaster, which the UN have said is the worst humanitarian crisis in decades. As I write this, the number who've died is not yet known, ranging from 50,000 – 200,000 people, with millions more affected through injury, loss of loved ones, or homelessness. The hearts of the world are going out to Haiti and its people. The generosity of human spirit is seen wonderfully at such times.



When the dust settles, many questions may arise. With many tragic events, wars and injustices, it is easy to put the blame on human sinfulness: greed, pride, anger, lust and corruption. Even climate change is widely believed to have a human cause. With earthquakes it is a different matter. There is no one to blame. The earth is still moving and developing, and the forces of nature which formed the continents and mountains are still at work. So naturally, both believers and non-believers alike will ask questions of God at times like this. Where was God? How could a loving God allow this to happen? God might not have 'caused' this, but surely it is just as bad to sit back and let it happen. And there is no answer to this. The questions are valid. Who am I to try to 'defend' God? But it is not our place to judge God either.

I do think it's helpful, however, to affirm what we do believe about God at times like this. After the Tsunami a few years ago, I led a school assembly where I encouraged the children to think about such questions. I wrote the following, which does not answer the questions, but helps us remember what the Church has come to believe over the years:

*I believe in a God who sees things differently to us
A God who sees the whole picture, from beginning to end.
I believe in a God who is bigger than death, and all the pain of this world.
I believe in a God who knows that death is not the end,
But who also knows what it's like to lose a loved one.
I believe in a God who is there in good times and bad:
A God who comforts those who are sad;
A God who sends help;
A God for whom no problem is too big.
I believe in a God who hurts whenever His children are hurting;
A God who cries when we are crying;
A God who feels our pain.
I believe in a God who does not look at the numbers involved,
But loves every individual as if they were the only one.
I believe in a God who knows what it's like to suffer and die,
But who has beaten death.*

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*I believe in a God who knows that love shows up powerfully through suffering.
I believe that God works best, not through the forces of nature,
But through our hearts.*

*I believe in a God who inspires us to do good things,
A God who makes us look at the needs of others,
A God who helps us put things in perspective.*

*I believe that the true power of God is seen, not in the wind, waves and earthquakes,
But in love.*

This is my way of thinking about it. It will not be everyone's. But let not the Love we believe in get lost in accusations or despair. I hope you will join me in praying for the people of Haiti, and for the relief effort, and do give as generously as you can. Our compassion and aid cannot prevent such earthquakes, but we can make a difference for the survivors.

With every blessing,

Rev. Andrew Murphy

We hope Andy has fully recovered after being hit by a car just before Christmas.

Pick up a permit

More libraries across Leicestershire are offering people the chance to pop in and pick up a short term waste permit. The collection service has been extended to include Hinckley, Market Harborough and Wigston.

Rather than waiting for it in the post, residents can call the County Council to request a permit and arrange to pick it up from one of the participating libraries.

The County Council has 14 recycling and household waste sites across Leicestershire where residents are able to recycle a range of materials, including batteries and cardboard, Tetra Paks and yoghurt pots.

To make sure that trade waste is not brought to the sites, anyone using a van or a trailer over 4' 6" needs a short term waste permit. As well as allowing volumes and types of waste to be monitored, this also prevents council tax-payers picking up the cost of trade waste disposal.

Ernie White, County Council Cabinet Member for Libraries, said: "It is a great addition to our libraries which, on top of books and dvds, already offer free internet use and information on health and careers, plus much more."

To apply for a short term permit and make arrangements about collection, please call the County Council on 0116 305 0001.

Residents are reminded that from 1st November to 31st March, all 14 recycling and household waste sites will be open from 8am to 6pm, seven-days-a-week.

More information is available at: www.leics.gov.uk/waste .



OBITUARIES



Jean Reid

Jean of Hinckley Road, Dadlington passed away peacefully in Ashby de la Zouch hospital on the 21st November 2009 aged 76 years. She was the beloved wife of the late Dougie and much loved mum of Elizabeth, mother in law to Richard and loving nannan of Alistair and Isabel. Jean's funeral was held at the Heart of England Crematorium with donations to the D.L.R.A.A. (Air Ambulance) c/o Mc Cartney's Funeral Directors, Coventry Road, Hinckley.

Eric James Quinney

Eric, of Stoke Golding, passed away peacefully in George Eliot Hospital after a long battle with cancer, on 22nd November 2009 aged 84 years. His funeral service, before burial in Stoke Cemetery, was held at the Baptist Chapel, Stoke Golding with such a large crowd of friends and relatives that the small church was full to overflowing. Up to thirty people were standing and sitting outside to hear the service even though it was a very cold and frosty morning.

Born in Station Road, Eric was the much loved brother of Eileen and a dearly loved uncle. He came from a well known village family and after army service worked for 50 years as a hosiery machine mechanic at Hall and Sons, sock manufacturers. He loved his garden and could be seen working away come rain, hail or sunshine. His garden was something he was immensely proud of, and he produced some of the best vegetables ever seen. It was only in the latter weeks of his illness that he gave up his daily tending of his plots. He was a crack shot with his gun and with his ferrets could be relied upon to provide meat in the way of rabbits and pheasants for Eileen's pot. Until recent years he could be seen at the crack of dawn, just after 3am in the summer, walking his beloved Springer spaniel round the fields and lanes of the village.

Donations in Eric's memory can be made for the D.L.R.A.A. (Air Ambulance) or Cancer Research through A.J. Murray, Funeral Directors, Lower Bond Street, Hinckley.

Bruce Utting

Bruce, beloved husband of Margaret passed peacefully away after a long battle with cancer, bravely borne, on 23rd November 2009. Bruce was 62 years of age and had lived for many years in Ivy Close in the village, and only on the death of his father did he move away to Higham on the Hill. He still retained his love of the village and could often be seen chatting to friends in the four village hostleries. There were only family flowers at Bruce's funeral but A.J. Murray, Funeral Directors are accepting donations in Bruce's memory for the Marie Curie charity.

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

War Memorials

Leicestershire County Council's pilot war memorials project has been tremendously successful. The project aimed to record and research all war memorials in Leicestershire and Rutland and information is flooding in. Fieldwork packs were sent to almost 60 people, asking them to fill out recording forms, carry out condition checks and biographical research, and take up-to-date photographs. On 1st December, participants met in Glenfield to present their results.



All kinds of war memorials are included in the project, from stone crosses, to plaques, playing fields, windows and lamp posts.

Periods so far covered range from Bosworth 1485 to Afghanistan 2009. Before the pilot began, 863 war memorials were on the UK National Inventory of War Memorials website for Leicestershire and Rutland. Almost 150 more have been brought to light, which pushes our known total number of war memorials over 1,000. Missing names from war memorials have been discovered, and names of more recently fallen service people are being recorded. The condition survey is also highlighting memorials at risk. Information will be added to the Historic Environment Record and available online from next year. We continue to invite local knowledge.

For more information contact the Project Coordinator, Elizabeth Blood - liz.blood@leics.gov.uk Tel: 0116 2670004.

Thanks...

Many thanks from staff and friends of Hinckley & District Hospital to the band 'Route 66' who made the Christmas dance go with a swing! Also a big thank you to the staff and members of Stoke Golding Club for all their hard work and financial contribution to the evening. The proceeds from this year's dance are going to the Selly Oak Military Hospital which cares for our soldiers who have been wounded in service. Captain Ian Cheeseman who organises fund raising at the Hospital has requested DVD players and Nintendo DS games to improve the soldiers' time with them. We raised £825 for this wonderful cause and a big thank you again to everyone involved.

Sue Payne

Stoke Golding village web site:
www.stokegolding.co.uk

Stoke Golding Parish Council - Nov & Dec '09 Meetings

Wykin Lane Cemetery

Establishment of wild flower meadow on Green Burial area: The last few seeds were sown Wednesday 28 October. A letter is to be sent to Dave Marriott thanking him for his hard work. A number of hardworking volunteers had attended on Saturday 17th October when they planted oak whips, replaced the fence and hand sowed some seeds from Kendall's Meadow hay.

Recreation Ground Development - Following the Parish Council approval of the leaflet to be circulated to the Village, various groups gave a positive response including members of the Parks Committee, representatives of the Football and Cricket Clubs and HBBC Environmental Dept.

Leaflets were to be distributed as soon as possible for comments to be sent to the Clerk by 30th November.

Replies to Recreational Ground Newsletter were presented and discussed with Councillors and were largely positive in nature. Concern was raised in respect of a gate constructed in a property garden fence allowing direct access onto recreational ground.

Update on 30 Mph Signs – Possible Change of Positioning A Highways representative has requested 'speed data readings' and appears to have a good understanding of the issues at both sites and in particular at the Convent Corner.

Village Hall- Future Projects being considered include the;
Renovation of meeting room – all clubs/committee requirements to be considered.
Blocking up, filling in, and levelling of old outside accesses (old boiler room), removing rails.

The Clerk was requested to send a letter to the Village Hall Management Committee for all the hard work put into the management of the hall.

Hinckley Road Cemetery - New signs for Hinckley Road Cemetery to be put in place on Saturday 7th November. The Cemetery Administrator presented options that were available to the Parish Council 12 months on from their safety checks. The ICCM (Institute of Cemetery & Crematorium Management) recommendations were either (a) laying flat, (b) repair or (c) convert into monolith memorials.

Planning Matters

Mr C Fairchild, 66 Sherwood Road – garage extension
Extension and alterations to Doctors Surgery, Pine Close
Erection of Agricultural Workers Dwelling, Spinney Bank

Precept And Budget For April 2010 - A neutral precept was agreed by all Councillors. The draft budget discussed and provisions for the completion of recreational ground ditch, Village Hall projects (meeting room/outside filling in of accesses), Hinckley Road Cemetery (maintenance/repairs) are to be included. All inclusions to be ratified and budget adopted at the January meeting.

(Parish Council Notes continued from page 20)

Other Items - The Clerk is to contact the Highways Department regarding the cutting of lower branches of a tree at the bottom end of Sherwood Road for health and safety reasons.

A complaint was made to HBBC regarding the residue left behind following the Green Waste bin collections.

Village Beacon:- collection and siting somewhere in the village to be discussed at January meeting.

Footway Slurry Seal programme 2009/10 - work is to be carried out to Church Close/Church Walk/High Street -

Along Church Walk the trees and bushes are overgrown and are to be cut back.

Airfield –flying days being exceeded was reported to the meeting and this matter was discussed

An email communication from Leicester County Council had been received regarding the imminent introduction at St Margaret's Primary School of a 20mph zone.

Trees for Sherwood Road and Wykin Lane Cemetery are to be collected and planted.

Football season fees were still awaited.

The Charity of Thomas Barton has offered contributions to benches, dog waste bins and a notice board.

A rejection letter had been received from the Leicestershire County Council's Highways Department to Parish Council's request for a drop kerb to be installed on the corner of Main Street and High Street.

A quotation for the collection of dog waste had been received – this will be considered if further problems with existing service are encountered.

A letter was received from the Stoke Golding Heritage Group regarding a meeting about the siting of the Battle of Bosworth. The Clerk was asked to reply saying that the Parish Council will be happy to participate and attend the event.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on **Wednesday 3rd February, 2010 at 7.00 p.m. in the Committee Room at the Village Hall. Members of the public** are always welcome to attend, although they cannot speak to the meeting unless invited to do so by the Chair of the Parish Council. There may very occasionally be matters to discuss from which the public and press can be excluded. 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

Notes by Cllr Pauline Goodsell, abridged by Jane White.

A mechanic was removing a cylinder-head from the motor of a Harley motorcycle when he spotted a well-known cardiologist in his shop. The cardiologist was there waiting for the service manager to come and take a look at his bike when the mechanic shouted across the Garage, 'Hey Doc, want to take a look at this?'



The cardiologist, a bit surprised, walked over to where the mechanic was working on the motorcycle. The mechanic straightened up, wiped his hands on a rag and asked, 'So Doc, look at this engine. I open its heart, take the valves out, repair any damage, and then put them back in, and when I finish, it works just like new.'

So how come I make £39,000 a year and you get £800,000, when you and I are doing basically the same work?'

The cardiologist paused, smiled and leaned over, then whispered to the mechanic...'Try doing it with the engine running'.

SUDUKO

Fill in all the squares on the grid so that each row, each column and each of the 3x3 squares contain all digits from 1 to 9.

					2			8
5			6	1	8		4	2
9							1	3
1			9					
3			5		4			7
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2	8							9
7	6		8	3	9			5
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