

The Stoker

February '16

No. 148



Stoke Golding Village Magazine
including
Dadlington Matters

50p



Note from the Editors



Dear readers, we hope you enjoy reading this edition of the Stoker. This time it was a truly global affair, with one editor in Australia and the other in Stoke Golding. Your contributions have been emailed around the planet more than once!

We are lucky that Stoke Golding and Dadlington have such lively residents; this edition is packed full of your interesting activities. Opportunities for you to join in are a-plenty, see the Stoke Golding cricket article on page 3, the Book Group article on Page 5, Lanequest on page 13 & 19 – all offering a chance to share the fun

This edition boasts the memoirs of a former pupil of Blessed Martin's Convent in the Fields providing an insight of the schooling provided there in the 1950's.

As usual we have a quiz and a crossword to complete too

Please keep sending in your articles and photographs. Note: items need to be with us by 15th February to allow us to meet the print deadline

Jane and Steve

The Stoker Team

Editors: Jane White (01455 212416), Steve Smithers (01455 213798)

Production Team: Rosemary Collier, Beth Ellis, Richard & Ella Orr, Jan Pettyfer, Jill Webster, Jennifer Michie, Michael Dix

Please send articles for the **March 2016** issue of The Stoker to: **The Editor, 45 Station Road, Stoke Golding by 15th February 2016.**

If you can submit articles by e-mail or on a memory stick (Microsoft Word) it makes our job much easier, (**500 words maximum** please).

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

janewhitesg@gmail.com.

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

Publication of any articles or letters submitted does not imply approval of, or agreement with, any views and comments contained, and are published without prejudice.

Cover picture: Snow came to Stoke Golding

Thank you from St Margaret's School PTA

The PTA at St Margaret's School would like to thank local businesses and groups including Stoke Arts, Tammy's Hair Design, Mango Tree, Dog and Hedgehog, Sophie's Beauty Room, Sehmbi Stores and The George and Dragon for donating gifts for the Christmas Fayre Raffle. We raised over £2250 at the fayre which will go towards equipment including books, iPads, subsidise trips and any other items the school may need.

Sarah Beale.

Stoke Golding Cricket Club

Although it doesn't seem like it, the cricket season is only a few months away for Stoke Golding Cricket Club. Preparations are already being made for the upcoming season and this year it is set to be better than ever.

Winter nets are set to start on 9th February at Bounce Cricket, Nuneaton, and will run for a course of 5 weeks. In the summer the club uses the Recreation ground for games on Saturdays, and practices on the new Astroturf pitch at St. Martins School that was kindly funded by the Thomas Barton Trust.



We are currently recruiting new players for the 2016 season. The Club has 2 teams in the Leicestershire Everards League, playing in divisions 5 and 9. All standards and ages are welcome and it would be great to see some more local villagers down at the club. We can offer a friendly, competitive atmosphere and a good social after games.

So if you would like to get your pads on and give us a go then call Joe Rollins on 07747794443 for more information.

Stoke Golding Cricket Club

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who supported our Big Breakfast morning on the 30th Nov last year, either by coming along for a fabulous breakfast or with a donation. We were overwhelmed by all your kindness. We raised a total of £750 which we split between the British Lung Foundation and the Acute Respiratory Disorder Syndrome research. Our special thanks to everybody who gave their time to make it so brilliant. We shall do it all again in the not too distant future.

Kindest regards, Margaret and the Villiers family and friends



GN WESTERN CONNECTION

Line Dancers Raise Funds

Glenis Kately and GN Western Connection Linedancers, who meet at Stoke Golding Club on Tuesday evenings, are pleased to have raised £80 for Breast Cancer Now during last October's Breast Awareness month by holding a pink night and a further £150 for Children in Need in November. The group will have been running twenty years in 2016 and have raised over £19,000 for charity during this time.

Anyone interested in starting line dancing can contact Glenis on 212189

Joy's Update

England international clay shooter, Joy Hirons from Church Walks, Stoke Golding, has just been crowned Hinckley and Bosworth Sport and Health Alliance Sportsperson of the Year.

The annual awards evening was held in Desford and Joy received the Sportsman of the Year award towards the end of the evening. She was very proud to receive the award and it was wonderful to be amongst so many talented sports people of all ages. This was a tremendous finish to another very successful year.

Joy's new gun, which has been custom made at the Beretta factory in Italy, has now been finished and is due into this country sometime within the next few days, and as soon as it arrives Joy will begin training so that she is ready for 2016.



Congratulations

Congratulations to Becky (nee Jones) and Simon Williamson on the arrival of Archie Isaac Williamson on 11th October 2015 weighing 8lb 2½oz. A much loved brother for Leo and second grandson for David and Ann Jones of Sherwood Road.

The George & Dragon Book Group



The book group is continuing to flourish, meeting every first Tuesday of the month at 8pm in the pub lounge. We have a programme of books for the forthcoming year, with a choice of two books each month. We have found this to work well as there is always one of the books that we fancy reading. Our discussion is relaxed and informal, with the added benefit of being held in the pub.

If you enjoy reading, why not come along to join us? You don't need to have read the book if time is pressing; it's always interesting to hear what others think and also a good social time.

If you are interested in hearing more about our group and would like to see our book list, please contact me on 01455 212032 or hilarykf.196@btinternet.com or just turn up on **Tuesday 2nd February 8pm**. You will be most welcome.

CASAG

Castle Mead and Stoke Golding Action Group News

The Health Promotion Board display is very topical for the months of December as it deals with drinking and alcohol. Apart from displaying a few startling facts about alcohol, for example one in six women may develop a health problem caused by alcohol and more than one in 10 deaths of people in their 40s are from liver disease, most of them from alcoholic liver disease. There is information on the drinkaware web site: www.drinkaware.co.uk which contains up to date information on the new UK Government alcohol unit guidelines, how to access the free Track and Calculate Units app and lots of other useful facts. The website also gives the confidential help line number: 03001231110 if you are worried about your drinking.

On a different note the Stoke Golding surgery has changed its hours and will be opening from 8.15am each morning. There is also a Monday afternoon surgery 3.30 pm-6.00pm surgery for pre bookable doctor appointments.

There is also on offer online services for patients wishing to book a doctor's appointment, order repeat prescriptions and view medical records online.

The dispensary will be offering a Repeat Dispensing scheme. Patients who have 4 or less stable repeat items will be able to have up to 3 months' prescriptions dispensed at one time.

For further details of both the on line and prescription ordering please ask at reception.

Jennifer Michie (CASAG member)

Memories of Blessed Martin's Convent in the Fields

The day I went for my interview at Blessed Martin's Convent School was overwhelming. I was eleven years old in 1950. My previous junior school was in the centre of Bedworth. It had high windows, half tile walls (like those in toilets) and was surrounded by tarmac - not a blade of grass to be seen.



The approach to the convent was down a sweeping drive, which I was to find out later would have swathes of daffodils beneath the trees. The building was surrounded by lawns and on the right hand side grew a large beech tree.

My heart was beating as Mum and I approached the front door. I had never seen a nun. We were met by the sound of a barking dog. (dogs were not my friends). The door opened and a smiling lady, dressed in

black and white from head to toe, emerged with a bounding black and white dog. His name was Rex. He was to be part of the convent school for many years. When we entered the house, as we later called it, we were met by a majestic staircase and wood panelled walls. Had I entered a palace? Everything shone, not a speck of dust was to be seen and not a sound was to be heard.

The nun introduced herself as Sister Miriam, putting me at ease by saying she liked my blue and white striped dress with red smocking across the chest. We were taken up the sweeping staircase and Mum disappeared into a small room where she was served tea and cake. I was taken into a light and airy classroom to complete an English and arithmetic test. Would they accept me? Sister Miriam marked the test, then announced that when I came in September this would be my class room and there would be twenty two other children (I had just come from a class of fifty two).



The first day was long, leaving home at 8.15am to catch the school bus from Nuneaton. My uniform was my pride and joy. New satchel, books and pencil case all waiting to be used. Lessons were taken by different teachers. We stood up as they entered the room and a prayer was said. No talking was allowed by the children. Discipline was enforced, we soon knew what was acceptable. Break time came, but where was the playground? We followed other children to the courtyard where we helped ourselves to a 1/3 of a pint of milk. A wide path wound round a rectangle of fruit trees where we could see bullfinches. This was to be the area used each day. At lunchtime we ate in the grand wood panelled dining room, sitting at long tables. I didn't like the potatoes, they had black bits in them. We were expected to clear our plates and not waste food. My potatoes were smuggled out in a spare handkerchief

and thrown in the long grass in the field where animals and birds would eat them. That field was the most wonderful place in which I had ever played. It had a spinney with a stream and a small bridge over which we crossed to reach the hockey pitch and tennis courts. Behind the tennis courts was a haystack where we sat and watched the older girls play tennis.

This was the beginning of seven years of very happy schooling. We were taught not only subjects by dedicated teachers, but respect for one another and for society. We carried out extra tasks willingly, bonding as a team. Preparations for taking our place in the world had begun. Anonymous



Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan

Update on the meeting held on November 23rd 2015

This was more straightforward than the previous meeting had been. The members of the Advisory Committee, who have volunteered to co-ordinate the Plan, are getting to grips with the process which needs to be followed to put the whole thing together. Main topics discussed were the options for the boundary of the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan area – it mainly concerns those businesses, farms and properties which are within Higham Parish but who have asked to be included in the Stoke Golding Plan. It was decided that it would be best to discuss the defined boundary with Higham parish councillors. More discussion then followed on sourcing and selecting consultancy support - it was proposed and agreed that the selection would be for one consultant to support the Advisory committee for the whole process.

At the moment these meetings and the topics discussed appear very formal and bureaucratic but the process will, hopefully, gain momentum as we have more meetings/events and we start to get a greater cross-section of people getting involved and having their say.

By the time you read this there will have been another meeting in January, so look out for another update in next month's issue of The Stoker.

Staffroom Memories: Residential Visits

There was a knock at the door. We were keen to discover who it could be, making a nighttime call on our colleague Rob, whose room we had gathered in at the end of an exhausting day. It was a woman, dressed in a white fluffy dressing gown and pink slippers. "Oh, I'm sorry," she said, casting her eyes over the four of us, "I've got the wrong room." As Rob closed the door, we burst out laughing, teasing him about his secret tryst with the mysterious lady. Then came a second knock and there she was again. "I was right," she declared, now clearly agitated. "You are making rather a lot of noise and we have a party of schoolchildren trying to get to sleep along the corridor. Please keep your noise down." We nodded obediently, chastened by our reprimand. We were all too aware of the children down the corridor: we were meant to be in charge of them!

As a primary school teacher for eighteen years and a head teacher for seventeen, I always had a driving passion for education to be as enjoyable and memorable as possible, providing children with a wealth of experiences and opportunities. Residential visits fit that bill perfectly. Maybe it was my own experiences of a week in Derbyshire as a ten year old that inspired me to, first of all, pester fellow staff to get involved and then, as a head, to persuade nervous governors to let me set them up. The result was an involvement in over thirty trips during my career: hiking over hills in Derbyshire; careering about on quad bikes in Wales; cramming forty children onto packed underground trains in London.

Not that things always ran smoothly. In the early days, staff would sleep in the same large dormitories as the children, not an ideal arrangement, especially if the child in the bunk bed above you decided to be sick in the night, as one boy did in a youth hostel in Derbyshire. Rather than mess his bedding, he sensibly leaned over the side of the bunk and liberally sprayed everything below. As, I surveyed the scene, I realised that everything below comprised everything I was due to wear the next day. Clearing up sick at three in the morning wasn't great fun, but it was a lot better than stinking of it for the duration of the next day. Of course, being ill when away from home was no fun for any child, and neither was being homesick. The few who were usually got over it quickly, but for one girl in Scarborough, it lasted to day three, when we found her in her coat and hat at breakfast, carrying her packed suitcase and announcing, "I'm going home."

For the staff, the visits were incredibly rewarding. In a different environment, you got to discover so much more about the children. There was the opportunity to develop relationships with some of the more difficult children, and that stood you in good stead when you got back into the classroom. It was great seeing timid children grow in confidence and supremely confident ones show a bit of uncertainty. This was especially true when it came to conquering fears and it wasn't just the children who got to do that. I would never have discovered the joy of abseiling, were it not for the fact that I didn't want to be the only one in my group who didn't go over the edge.

Of all the visits I organized, the four weeklong sojourns in London were my favourites. The city has so many fascinating places to visit and I was able to indulge in my fantasy of pretending to be a Blue Badge guide, talking animatedly about the history of various landmark buildings to not only the children, but often to interested tourists who would join the fringes of our group. The first year, we stayed in a youth hostel in Holland Park. Our dormitory was the scene of a

burglary on our last night there, the thieves taking off with my razor, a colleague's designer shirt and our first aid kit. The police made a note of everything taken, and when one of the children piped up that he'd had his 'bought the day before' Natural History Museum pencil, ruler and rubber taken, the officer kindly made a note of them in his report.

For the other three London trips, we were based in a University of London hall of residence. It was there that we met our dressing gowned bursar. On one visit, we were allowed to take the children down Downing Street just as Mrs Thatcher was setting off on her way to the Commons. She came over and spoke to the children, asking about the places they might have visited. The children, awed by the sight of this famous woman off the television, just agreed with every enquiry she made. "So," came that familiar voice, "Have you been to the Tower?" "Yes," replied the children, "No we haven't," I added, slightly confused. "What about St Paul's?" "Yes," they all chanted, "No, not there either," said I: it was our first day' we'd not been anywhere!

As the years passed, many schools stopped doing residential visits. The requirements of new legislation, introduced after a number of school visit tragedies nationally, and the nervousness of local authorities who were held responsible if things went wrong, meant an increase in workload for the teachers organizing the trips. Although some of the paperwork required was a bit over the top, generally the new guidance was a good thing and I never entertained the idea of stopping what I saw as an essential part of a child's education. However, even with the best planning in the world, events can take a strange turn.



Peeveril Castle, in the Derbyshire village of Castleton, stands high on a hill, overlooking the youth hostel where we had just unloaded our bags. I'd checked we had all our first aid and medical kit because the previous year we'd omitted to unload it from the coach and it was halfway back to Leicester before our frantic phone calls forced its return. Everything was ready for our ascent to the castle. A healthy one to ten ratio meant we had four staff for the forty highly excited children.

We had just set off when word reached me at the head of the line: one of the boys at the back had had a fit. I wasn't to worry though, because the two first aid staff had the situation under control and were taking him back to the youth hostel. That meant it was now forty children and two staff, but that's why you have high ratios – for unforeseen emergencies. And then, bless her, my colleague discovered she had a fear of heights. Why, at the age of 26, she chose this particular moment, I will never know. "I can't go on," she trembled. And so, there I was, with forty children and one dithering excuse of a teacher refusing to move, half way up a very steep and hazardous path. Always a joy, residential visits – well almost always.

Michael Dix

Scouts, Cubs and Beavers

What an end to a year!!!

The Beavers had a sleep over in the hall at Foxes Covert and slept in tents inside the hut as, being November, it was a bit cold and wet to sleep outside. They completed their Outdoor Challenge badge which involved making a fat ball for the birds who are still enjoying their pre Xmas feast, learning about some simple knots and making skipping ropes with them and finally Basic First aid which included suggestions on dealing with minor injuries including surprisingly earthquakes and volcanoes - not that we experienced any of these that night!!! They had a fun time playing outside in the real dark, enjoyed their packed tea and a treat of a portion of chips. The day finished with a DVD before bed and some sleep.



Question: How many Beavers can you fit comfortably into a tent? Answer: 13.



The Cubs have been finishing their skills challenge badge and hopefully will complete it in the New Year. They have been making and decorating snowmen into angels for the Snowmen festival and helping to assemble the paper chain of angels, snowmen and stars; something that the Beavers contributed to. The length of the chain was estimated about 8 metres.



Did you see it strung between the pillars at St Margaret's - it was impressive.



As well as being creative the Cubs have been learning new skills. Caroline Patullo kindly led a session on hand bell ringing. The Cubs also spent time cooking omelettes,



learning to change a light bulb, making tea and toast as well as ironing. Thank you to all the parents who kindly helped that night. We couldn't have done it without you.

The Scouts have been making fire pictures with matches and sand, came second in a District Scout Incident Challenge and have also been working on a Personal Challenge badge. All sections took part in the Annual Xmas party of fun and games which was earlier this year due to school and leaders commitments on the 3rd December. See the pictures of the snowmen!! There are real children underneath.

Finally we had the Beavers Nativity Play on the 8th December where they acted and sang beautifully throughout the play and their leaders were proud of them.

So this is the end of a hectic and busy few months and yes we have started planning behind the scenes for next year. We are also having a well-earned rest!

Jennifer Michie

Snowman Festival

Thank you to everyone who gave their time to decorate the church so beautifully. Thank you to Robin Hood Playschool, Mums and Tots and the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts for their great contributions to our festival. Thank you to everyone who donated prizes and all the delicious festive food and to those who manned the stalls and welcomed our many visitors.

Winners of guess how many snowmen in church: Amy got the total exactly right - there were 237. Runners up were Noah (236) and Alisha (238)



Defibrillator Awareness Session

Unfortunately, the defibrillator awareness session on January 14th had to be cancelled due to illness. We hope to arrange a date in the spring at Stoke Golding Club. Look out for notices at the Club, around the village and in The Stoker.

Used Stamps

Many thanks to everyone who has given me used postage stamps for Canine Partners. The response since Christmas has been brilliant. Please keep saving your stamps – they are an invaluable aid to fund-raising for this charity.

Ruth Fisher, 21 Hinckley Road, Stoke Golding

Congratulations

Glenis and Phil Kiteley of Dadlington are proud to announce that their son, Robin, has gained his PhD at Huddersfield University. Robin is a senior lecturer in the Social Sciences Department at Huddersfield University and was a former pupil of St Margaret's Primary School.





Stoke Golding Village Hall

Did you know that the village hall is available for party bookings on Saturday evenings (except the second in the month) and Sunday afternoons between 12noon and 4.00pm?

For more information contact our Booking Clerk, Alan White 01455 212416, email: alanwhitesg@gmail.com

We are always looking for new members of the Village Hall Management Committee. If you are interested in joining this very friendly group please contact me and discuss what we do to keep this valuable asset to the village running smoothly.

Thank you

Ruth Fisher: 01455 212489, ruthsg21@btinternet.com

Ten of a Kind (*answers on page 24*)

As this is The Stoker, here are ten general knowledge questions on the subject of stokes and stokers.

1. The title character of which Bram Stoker book, leaps ashore from a Russian ship that has run aground just off Whitby harbour?
2. How many towns joined together in 1910 to make the new city of Stoke on Trent?
3. Stoke Mandeville Hospital in Buckinghamshire was key to the creation of which global sporting event?
4. In the 1980s, Doris Stokes became a well-known to theatre and television audiences. What did she do?
5. Who wrote a famous elegy in the churchyard of the Buckinghamshire village of Stoke Poges?
6. Is Stoke Newington, known as Stokey by local residents, in north, south, east or west London?
7. Only 48 of 173 stokers survived what event in April 1912?
8. In which sport does New Zealander, Ben Stokes represent his country?
9. The Battle of Stoke Field took place two years after the Battle of Bosworth. Which pretender to Henry VII's throne lost the battle but was pardoned and given work in the royal kitchens?

COPY DEADLINE for March 2016 ISSUE: 15th February

Send to Jane White: janewhitesg@gmail.com



Lanequest Comes to Dadlington.

Sunday 28th February, 2016

The last Sunday of February sees Dadlington hosting the arrival of a new sporting event which combines cycling and map reading, known as a Lanequest. Dadlington Village Hall will be the HQ start and finish venue for the event which is being organised for the first time by Stoke Golding residents Geoff Ford and Bernard Lamb. They regularly take part in the more competitive Trailquest League events under the authority of the Midlands Mountain Bike Orienteering or Midlands MBO. Both Geoff and Bernard took part in the off road National Championships last summer at Cannock Chase and were well pleased with their competitive performances, both posting respectable overall and age category results.

So what is a Lanequest? As the name suggests it involves using local, mostly quiet lanes and public highways. A number of checkpoints, up to around 30, are placed around a course within the confines of an A4 size Ordnance Survey map. This is given to each rider at the start, and the rider(s) set off at times to suit themselves between 9:00 and 10:30. The aim of the competition is to visit and confirm on a card as many checkpoints as possible within a 3 hour time limit. Lateness will incur penalty points on an escalating scale so it is important to try and finish as close to the 3 hour limit as possible. More leisurely riders may choose to ride for a shorter period and just enjoy the experience. Each checkpoint will have a points score so the winner will be the rider who has the highest points total less any penalty points.



One of the great things about the sport is that it is not a race. Each competitor, or team of two, can go at whatever pace they are comfortable with and choose which checkpoints they visit and in which order to clock up the points on offer. As the sport involves combining bike riding and map reading to plot an efficient way of gathering the most points, it is not just the best or fastest riders that will necessarily win an event. It's a great way of combining different skills with a new way of keeping fit and seeing the countryside in a new light. This event is on tarmac roads but any bike either road or mountain bike can be used. A helmet is essential to compete.

The event is open to all ages, (under 16s will need to be accompanied by an adult), and although there will be an overall placing for every rider, they will also be entered into age categories so there will be separate competitions against your own age groups as well as male and female competitions all within the same event. At the end of the event whilst the scores are being calculated and the results totted up, there will be refreshments and home made cakes on offer and time to chat with your competitors about how you could have changed your route for a better score!

Anyone with a roadworthy bike and a basic ability to map-read is most welcome to try out the sport with registration at the Village Hall being between 8:30 and 10:00, with a start between 9:00 and 10:30. Further details as well as how to enter are available on the Midlands MBO website www.midlandsmbo.co.uk or www.bmbo.org.uk

The course is guaranteed to take riders on a trip through the rich history of our surrounding countryside from Roman roads through nation changing battle sites, past medieval churches, Victorian railways, canals, country parks and grand houses.

Bernard Lamb

Dadlington Matters

Lighting up the Village

If anyone turned up to watch the second annual Dadlington Christmas lights switch on, expecting a display comparable, say, to that in Regents Street, then they hadn't really got the point of it all. If, however, they had arrived to take part in a fun, seasonal community get together, then they would have been well rewarded. Over 60 people gathered in the refurbished village hall (more of that later) to feast on burgers and mince pies and to sip their mulled wines and stronger beverages.



At the allotted time, the crowds moved outside onto the green and gave a rousing countdown to Sandra MacDonald, the invited guest of honour, whose job was to do the honours and press the switch. Then, with the lights now sparkling and shimmering, the Ambion Voices, carrying out their first ever public performance, entertained the onlookers with three

Christmas songs. This was no mean feat, given the strength of the wind, but the sound of their harmonies, drifting through the air, was at times quite magical.

The lights switch-on was a double celebration, as it marked the re-opening of the village hall after phase one of the alterations. It looked very spruce, with its increased storage space area, and new serving hatches. The latter should make

New village history website

Find out about the history of Dadlington at <http://dadlington-history.myfreesites.net>

So far, the site contains old photographs of the village, various records including christenings, marriages and burials, the 1851, 1881 and 1911 census details, old newspaper reports and trade directory entries, ordnance survey maps and a representation of the 1845 tithe map, stories and links to a range of documents. There is an online contact form to send comments and enquiries, or notifications of any inaccuracies.

Village Hall Phase 1 Completed

Phase 1 of Dadlington Village Hall development is now complete and what a fantastic facility it now is! The new kitchen has a fabulous fitted kitchen, the disabled toilet is probably the largest disabled toilet in the area (!) and redecorating is completed. A huge thank you must go to all those villagers who have given tirelessly of their time to complete it in time for the Christmas bookings. It was an amazing team effort!

Your Invitation
Pancake Supper – Dadlington

From 7pm onwards Saturday 20th February

John & Jill Whitehead invite everyone to a pancake supper from 7pm on Saturday 20th February. Funds raised will be split between Dadlington Village Hall and St James' Church.

Come to our home, Lost & Found, in the courtyard behind 15 Main Street, to enjoy both sweet and savoury pancakes.

Please assist catering by advising numbers, either by e-mail to
jf_whitehead@hotmail.com or telephone 01455 213244

Dadlington Christmas Choral Evening

In a special Christmas concert Ambion Voices displayed their impressive vocal skills to an audience of family and friends in a packed St James' Church. The choir is now some 40 voices strong and 30 of them were on hand to show how well the choir has progressed in the few short months since it formed as Sing4Fun. Rachel Rees-Jones and Jane White had put together a dynamic and varied programme of traditional and modern songs, finishing with a medley of Christmas favourites. Rachel conducted her charges skilfully and the choir delivered the melodies with great confidence and faultless harmonising. After the concert everyone repaired to the Village Hall for some Christmas cheer in the form of mulled wine and a light buffet. If you would like to hear a couple of the songs performed that evening, go to YouTube and search for *Ambion Voices Xmas 2015* or *CFY910Af4Zs*



Dadlington's Decorations

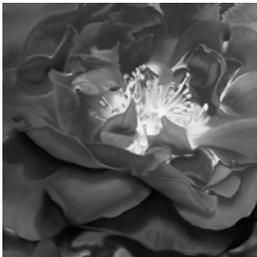
Judging Dadlington's Christmas 2015 decorations display was exceedingly difficult again as households worked hard to make Dadlington attractive and welcoming in the winter nights. Luckily, Major Tim Peake was able to assist from his unique vantage point in the Space Station, and he commented favourably on the colour, variety and spread of lighting. He observed that the cottages 4 to 10 Main Street had unintentionally combined to produce a stylish blanket of soft light and creative design. Last year's winner, Dadlington's Community Tree, showed the twinkling outline of a galloping reindeer, a stationary moose or a sniffing rabbit depending on where one stood. And 43 Hinckley Road offered sheer in-your-face bravado and lit up its neighbours. But the 2015 winning display, with its dazzling display of twinkling colour with bags of child appeal, was: **Ashwood of Shenton Lane**

CURRENT DAY ARTISTIC INSPIRATION FROM 1485

Local Artist, Diane Sinclair shares the inspiration behind her current work

My interest in 15th century history and The Battle of Bosworth dates back to 2003, when my husband and 2-year-old twin boys moved to the village of Stoke Golding. Within days of moving into our new home just south of Crown Hill Field, named 'Crown Hill Close', a 'Welcome Pack' was delivered by the Stoker. We were delighted to find out more about the heritage of the area that was just on our doorstep, not fully appreciating the history of the locality prior to our move.

Visits to the Battle of Bosworth Heritage Centre became a regular family outing and we have vivid memories our young boys noisily re-enacting the battles of the past as we walked through Ambion Woods. We have been privilege to have witnessed the development of this unique resource and its regeneration to become the renowned Centre it is today.



Still based in Stoke Golding, I now work as a professional artist and this year painted four pieces inspired by the King Richard 3rd's reinternment.

The three floral pieces; 'The Yorkist Rose', 'The Bosworth Rose' and the 'Lancastrian Rose' were painted after being motivated and encouraged by being awarded second place with a painting of a Camellia Rose in the floral category of the Pastel Artists UK Competition, judged by the renown floral artist, Nel Whatmore. The Bosworth Rose is the variety that is planted around the Sundial War Memorial at the Battle of Bosworth Heritage Centre.

The inspiration for the painting 'King Richard's Last Stand' came in response to an invite to demonstrate pastel painting technique at the Market Bosworth Arts Festival in June 2015. I wanted to create a dramatic painting, depicting Richard's last charge into battle, that was both gritty and realistic, hence the angry sky and vibrant colours. The background depicts a vista of Stoke Golding, and highlighted on the horizon is St. Margaret's Church, at the head of Crown Hill. I am very grateful to the author Matthew Lewis, writer of historical fiction, for granting permission to use his photograph of the wonderful horsemen of Destrier.



If you would like more information about this submission, please contact Diane Sinclair at 01455 212683 or email at dianesinclair@pastelportraitsbydiane.com. For more information about Diane's work please visit her website: <https://www.pastelportraitsbydiane.com> and Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/pastelportraitsbydiane>.

BETH'S CORNER

TAMMY'S HAIR SALON 20th.ANNIVERSARY YEAR

In March 1996, an ambitious young twenty-year-old hair stylist is working in a Hinckley hair salon, longing to branch out on her own. But how? And more importantly - where? Her family knows how she longed to find premises, and that's where a concerned Aunt steps into the picture. Working as a carer in this village at the time, she suddenly notices the village salon has closed, and is on the market 'To Let'. Telling her niece, they summon up the courage and our Tammy takes that first brave step, with help from Dad. *"It needed completely stripping and redecorating Beth."* *"Not Avocado green?"* I suggest. Irrepressible giggles from Tammy. *"It was green with cherry bordered walls."* but with help from all the family and friends, Tammy has her first shining new Salon ready to go. *"It was pretty tough at first. I was doing everything by myself, and sometimes even wondering if I'd made the right choice. Business was slow, clients didn't know me. Then gradually I suppose, word must have got round that I was OK, and the villagers kept coming."* Later on, Tammy realises she needs another stylist, and this is when Jade enters the picture. *"I was dating Jade's uncle. She had just finished college, and was looking for her first job. So I took her on."* *"Right Tammy - and where does Charlotte fit in?"* To begin with - Charlotte, Tammy's sister-in-law, just covered Jade's maternity leave, but gradually became a very regular member of the threesome. Three beautiful young women, reminding me rather fancifully, I know, of that statue called 'The Three Muses'. Loud laughter from Tammy.



Between them they have five young children. Benjamin 13 and Hayden 7 are Tammy's. Jade has a boy and a girl, and Charlotte has one little boy. Between them they manage to juggle work with family, but could never manage without the generous help of Mums and Mothers-in-law, as well as loving husbands. I ask Tammy about the ages of her clientele. *"It's a complete mixture. Lots of lovely elderly ladies, and also I've seen young schoolgirls who have grown up, got married, and now bring their little ones."* She also tells me about one of her favourite gentlemen - one in particular in his 90's - who writes saucy poems to her. Finally, I ask her to sum up what she loves most about being the village hair stylist. *"I love the sense of belonging, how the village has embraced me in some way. I just want to say a big THANK YOU."*

Having often watched Tammy listening to her client's stories, I know she has that special gift of a listening ear, I personally believe she has become a 'Village Treasure.' So thanks from all of us Tammy.

Beth

What's On

StokeArts@thevillagehall

Sat 20th Feb 2016 8pm - My Dearest Girls: The Letters Book

Francesca Millican-Slater creates a brand new show based on the real letters sent between a group of six Shropshire women between 1917-1920. Against a background of war the women tell each other stories of their everyday life; as farmers, office workers, factory hands, nurses and teachers.

There is gossip and hint of scandal, reprimands and reprisals, tales of dancing for royalty, fiancé's on the frontline and how to feed 100 chickens while on rations. By combining character, music hall influenced song & lyrical story telling Francesca invites the audience to meet, hear and imagine themselves within the lives and friendships of these women.



"A rising star" - Lyn Gardner, The Guardian

Tickets £8 from Alan White: 01455 212416 alanwhitesg@gmail.com



Valentine Dinner and Dance Dadlington Village Hall

Saturday February 13th at 7.30pm

Complimentary glass of prosecco at 7.30pm

Dinner at 8pm

Dancing from 9.15pm

Live Music from *Take it from the Top* - will suit all styles of dancing!

Tickets from Phil 212189 or Simon 212538



Entry by ticket only.



Fantastic Sounds of Swing from Dean Thomas at Stoke Golding Village Hall on Saturday March 26th 2016

Dean has a good repertoire of songs - both modern and older songs
The doors will be open at **7.30pm**—the Cabaret will start at **8pm**.

Dress code: Evening wear.

Please bring your own drinks and nibbles.

Tickets £10.00, which will include a glass of prosecco.

All profit will be donated to Dorothy Goodman School Hinckley.

Contact Linda Gosling 01455 212598





Womens' World Day of Prayer
Prepared by the Christian Women of Cuba
4th March 2016
At 7pm
Stoke Golding Methodist Church
Speaker - Mrs Hilary Fenby



Date: 28th February 2016

Location: Dadlington Village Hall
The Green, Dadlington, Nuneaton,
Warwickshire CV13 6JB

Event:

3 Hour Bike Orienteering on roads
Check Points on unique landmarks



For information about this
type of event please visit:
www.midlandsmbo.co.uk

Event Info

Online entries at www.bmbo.org.uk

All check points located on minor
roads

Enter by 24/02/2016 to guarantee a
map though entries will be accepted
on the day

Discount for entries before
21/02/2016

Registration: 8:30 – 10:00

Start anytime between 9-10:30



For all updates please check the
midlands mbo Facebook page:
[Facebook.com/groups/midlandsmbo](https://www.facebook.com/groups/midlandsmbo)



Church Matters

From St Margaret's Church

I wonder if you made a New Year's resolution at the start of 2016, and if you did whether you have managed to keep it. I'm not particularly good at even remembering what my resolution was a couple of weeks into January, but for me the start of a New Year is about anticipation and expectation. What will God do in our lives this year, both individually and in our communities?

By the time you read this we will be well into the New Year, with Valentine's Day approaching, when traditionally we give to our loved one's gifts or cards as a token of our affection for them. Whilst many people may not like the commercialisation attached to St Valentine's Day, it is surely a good thing for us, at the start of the New Year, to remember those we love in some way, and to tell them that we love them, whether by our words or our actions.

We have just celebrated Christmas when we remember how God showed his love for **us** by sending his Son into the world. We can help to make God's love real in our world by the way we choose to respond to God's generosity in our lives.

'For God So Loved... Rediscovering the story of God's abundant giving' is the title of our Lent Course this year, inspiring us to rediscover the generosity of God at work in our own lives and communities, and to invite us to make a response – to live life as a "Thank you" rather than a "Please".

The courses run for five weeks throughout Lent, week beginning 15 February: On Mondays, 2.30pm in Witherley Parish Room; Tuesdays, 8.30am at the Methodist Church Higham; Thursdays, 7.30pm at 8 The Courtyard, Stoke Golding. You are welcome to attend any session.

A message from Bishop John:

"Generosity is a sign of God's activity and presence in our lives and so I pray that this coming Lent may be a time when we begin to see all the blessings in our lives, offer thanks and make our response in generous living. My prayer is that through these resources, and your commitment, we may all be open to God's abundant gifts and be generous in our response."

Wishing you God's blessings
Linda

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.



Church Matters

**Church of England
February 2016 Services**

St. Margaret's Church

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

St. James's Church

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

**THE METHODIST CHURCH
February Services**

7 th	10.30am	Revd Wes Hampton
14 th	10.30am	Mr Colin Haddon
21 st	10.30am	Mr John Cooke
28 th	10.30am	Mr Malcolm Lapper

Saturday Feb 13th: Coffee Morning 10.00-11.30 For Mission Funds

**Zion Baptist Chapel
February Services**

7 th	6pm	John Needham
14 th	6pm	Martyn Owens
21 st	6pm	Steven Connor
28 th	6pm	Malcolm Welch

Notes from Stoke Golding Parish Council Meeting – January

Borough Cllr Reg Ward reported on the following issues:

Morris Homes – the plans presented to the planning committee were the best they had seen - all concerns have been taken on board. Drainage will include permeable pipes under internal roads to take surface water, a French drain along the edge of the site and all foul drainage will be diverted off site and will not impact on Hinckley Road.

Laburnum Cottage – concerns have been raised that the use of the word 'preferred' in the minutes of the November PC meeting may imply that there was a consensus or agreement made on this option. Borough Cllr Ward clarified that this was simply an option suggested by planners to the applicant, as the application made was not acceptable. The developers have still not come back with any amended plans. Any new plans will need to be submitted as an amendment to the existing plans or the application will lapse. David Goodsell confirmed that the meeting with Richard Wright was on 14th January. The intention was to discuss the criteria which could be used to assess any future planning application for Laburnum Cottage. He pointed out that the discussion in the November PC minutes stated that the Conservation Area cannot stop development. This was incorrect; if the application damages the heritage of the area it can be prevented. Furthermore, applications within a Conservation Area should be made in full, not outline.

Matters arising from December's meeting

Dog Waste Bins – the bin by the jitty on High Street has been replaced and the litter bin at the far end of the recreation field moved to the pathway.

Village Flag - Councillors agreed to buy a new flag at a cost of £57.03.

High Street Parking – a LCC Officer has been out to talk to the school and they are awaiting his report.

Reports by Council representatives and Clerk

Cllr Terhegge reported that she has received a request from Pauline Goodsell to be considered for co-option to the Parish Council. It was unanimously agreed that Pauline would be formally co-opted at the next meeting.

Cllr Fisher also reported that a candidate would attend the next meeting to be considered for the second vacancy.

Cllr Pegg reported that the pipework to the pond in the wildflower area of Wykin Lane cemetery had been replaced and there was now water in the pond.

The Clerk reported that the dead trees on Sherwood Road had been removed and would be replaced shortly.

Planning Applications:

New Applications: *Greenwood Road* – single story front and rear extension. *West Lyn, 54 Station Road* – removal of 1 conifer tree. *St Margaret's C of E Primary, SG* – erection of cycle shelter & associated access. *47 Wykin Lane* – two storey rear extension and erection of porch.

Permissions granted: *1 Crown Hill Close* – works to trees. *27 Wykin Lane* – two storey side extension. Land off Hinckley Road - Morris Homes development.

Refusals: *36 Station Rd* - erection of single dwelling (outline access).

Appeal: *48 Roseway* – proposed dwelling and associated access.

Amended: *Basin Bridge Farm, Basin Bridge Lane* – construction of 5 MW solar farm with associated structure. *Land adj 6 Whitemoors Road* – variation of condition 2 of planning permission to alter elevations.

To approve precept for next financial year commencing 1st April 2016

The Parish Council has confirmation of Precept figures from HBBC. It was resolved that the Parish Council Tax Element for 2016/17 should increase from to £42.34 to £49.71 to give a total precept of £34,404.00

Date of the Annual Parish Meeting: Thursday 21st April 2016 in the Village Hall - 7.30pm for 8.00pm

Review of Standing Orders, Code of Conduct and Financial Regulations

All documents were circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. Issues raised in the Standing Order review were discussed and agreed. Clerk to prepare final draft for approval at the next meeting. The Code of Conduct document was agreed.

Play Equipment

Residents who overlook the intended site for a new piece of equipment have been consulted and their views considered. Cllrs Beale and Fisher to check with HBBC for guidance on siting equipment close to boundaries/homes to ensure any restrictions are considered when choosing equipment.

Sport in Stoke Golding

Cllr Pegg reported that development plans were still pending from the Cricket Club and Adult FB Club. Cllr Beale asked if the Village Hall Management Committee could be kept informed of future meetings.

To appoint two trustees to The Charity of Thomas Barton commencing 1st February 2016 - Morris Bolton and Peter Tustain have been thanked for their service and have agreed to be reappointed for a further term of four years.

Communications received by the Chairman of the Council

Letter from resident regarding parking on the corner of Hinckley Rd/Wykin Lane – concerns were discussed.

Letter from the Youth Bus – it was agreed that the bus could continue on alternate Thursdays at the same time.

Next Meeting: Methodist Hall, Wednesday 3rd February 2016 at 7pm

Joy's Update



Stoke Golding and England International Clay Shooter, Joy Hirons of Church Walks, has just become the Leicester Mercury Sportswoman of the Year.

Joy attended the huge, glamorous event at the Leicester Tigers Stadium and was surrounded by TV celebrities and sporting legends both past and present. She was short listed to the final 3 in the Sportswoman of the Year category, and she was finally announced as the winner, an amazing achievement and an immensely proud moment. Leicester City and England striker, Jamie Vardy won the Sportsman of the Year so it was a

fantastic night enjoyed by all.

Joy's winter training continues with her new custom made gun so as to be ready for the start of the competition season in the spring

Quiz answers

1. Dracula
2. Six – writer, Arnold Bennett, called them the five towns, but this was poetic license.
3. Paralympic Games
4. She was a spiritualist and professional medium.
5. Thomas Gray
6. North
7. Sinking of the Titanic
8. Cricket
9. Lambert Simnel

Stoke Golding W.I Meeting January 13th 2016

After a delightful Christmas meeting in December where members enjoyed making beautiful decorations for the Christmas table followed by a lovely buffet and a Secret Santa present exchange, we began the New Year of events, discussions and trips by welcoming back Wendy Martin who was to give us a talk on her experiences of mountain climbing entitled Kilimanjaro to Kathmandu.

But first she tested our knowledge with a little quiz where our retired Geography teacher put most of us to shame by answering correctly most of the questions, followed by a story of two climbers who survived a particularly harrowing accident and its aftermath in South America.

Wendy then went on to say how her love of the outdoors began by joining Hinckley Ramblers and going on different holidays to mountain locations. This included a holiday to the Alps where, on seeing people scaling the mountains she decided at 48 that she wanted to do this for her 50th birthday. On returning home she went on training courses and when her birthday arrived was able to go to France and climbed Mont Blanc. Her stories of this climb were both exciting and amusing as were those of her next big climb, that of Kilimanjaro the highest peak on the continent of Africa.

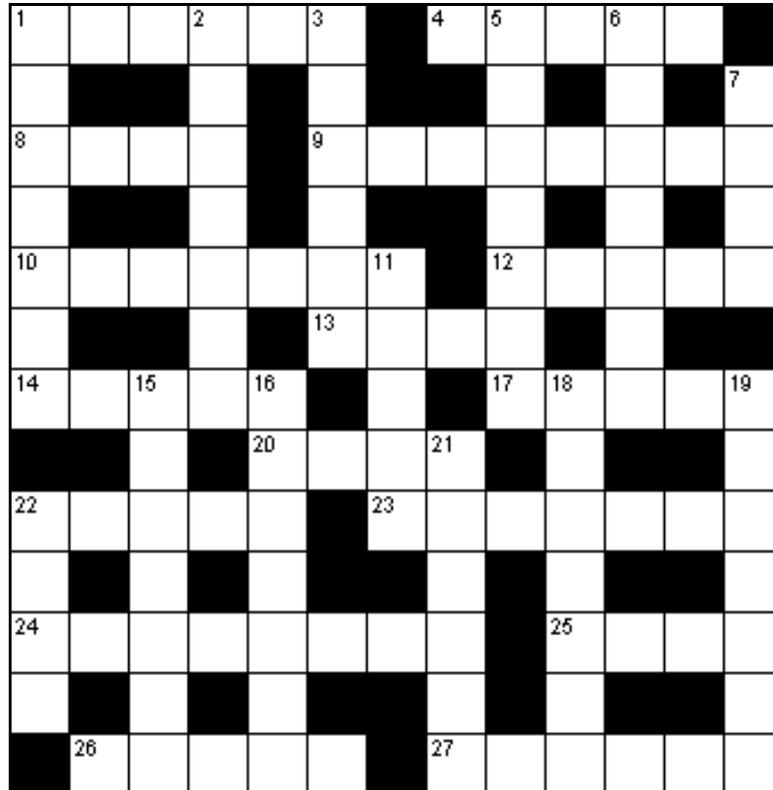
After retiring Wendy and her husband travelled to Kathmandu in Nepal as they both wanted to see Everest, the highest mountain in the world although this time they didn't make the ascent. Nevertheless, Wendy said how awe inspiring it was to see such a mountain so close and to meet the lovely people of Nepal and the dedicated and brave Sherpas and Guides who help those that are able to make the climb. All in all, a very interesting talk.

Our next meeting at the Methodist Hall in Stoke Golding is regarding a Japanese form of Braid Making and is on 10th February and where further visits to the theatre, birthday celebrations and other outings will be discussed. Everyone of any age is very welcome to join in the fun.

Val Hartwell

Stoke Golding website: www.stokegolding.co.uk

Crossword



Across

1. A celestial winged child (6)
4. First name of Wilde author (5)
8. Floor mats (4)
9. The Mrs Robinson love film (8)
10. What 23D, hit (7)
12. Someone who looks after another (5)
13. Old English word for 'you' (4)
14. Yellow fossil resin (5)
17. Juliet's companion. (5)
20. Noise a snake makes (4)
22. Not late (5)
23. Caprio and Winslet love film (7)
24. & 3D Actor in Casablanca film (8 & 6)
25. A thought (4)
26. Grind teeth (5)
27. Aid to getting a tan (6)

Down

1. Old Ford Car (7)
2. Inclined to make one laugh (7)
- 3.. See 24A
5. Person who leads someone of opposite sex astray (7)
6. Word made from mixed up letters(7)
7. 365 days (4)
11. Love film with a 'dead' Patrick Swayze (5)
15. Surname of heroine in film Casablanca (7)
16. Tempos of music (7)
18. Enthusiastic applause (7)
19. Garden of fruit trees (7)
21. Belongs to Basil Fawlty's wife (6)
22. Recurring sound (4)

The Fool on the Hill

How hard can it be.....

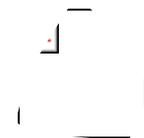
Because we are in the medium of the written word, I will need you to use your imagination in visualising the degree of smugness that has settled on my countenance this week. The reason is that two weeks ago, I built a wall and, at the time of writing, it is still standing. To understand a little better, you must realise that I am to DIY what Darcy Bussell is to cage fighting. Most of my attempts at home maintenance result in an awful lot of bad language, usually a pile of debris or pool of water and frantic phone calls to tradesmen who turn up urgently and expensively and then roll their eyes a lot.

When I said built a wall, I actually just added a few layers of bricks to a pre-existing small garden wall. However, for a complete DIY dunderhead, this was a major achievement. The job involved several trips to Wickes as my lack of experience had ill prepared me for the unfolding pitfalls in the procurement phase. To build a wall, you need bricks. So, off to Wickes where you discover that there are more than one type and colour. The next visit is required when you discover that this is not LEGO so you need some mortar. Once more unto the breach when you realise that a hammer, which until this point was the full extent of your toolkit, falls rather short in the mortar laying department. A further trip ensues when it becomes obvious that for effective wall construction, each layer is required to be straight and level. This, and trust me on this one, cannot be achieved by balancing a cup of water on an old bit of plank. At this stage the siren scent emanating from the Burger van has become irresistible and a heart clogging Bacon and Egg special is added to the mounting bill.

But the wall is built and viewed from a distance in failing light, the result is not half bad. Then, one who purports to be a friend rolled up and stuck a metaphorical pin in my ego bubble. He had just returned from a trip to China and was full of statistics regarding the Great Wall, gleefully pointing out that their 20,000 kilometre effort was completed without the assistance of Wickes whose market share, he presumed, was not significant during the Ming dynasty. Furthermore no bacon butties were hurt during its construction. I had, reluctantly, to concede that my efforts by comparison were on the miserable side of feeble.

I am, however, bitten by the DIY bug and filled with what may prove to be a false dawn of belief in my own capabilities, I have moved onto my next project. It is a state of the art, deluxe bird table and if I am totally honest, it is not going well. Should you chance to see a sparrow on crutches, this may be an indication as to where it has been feeding.

FOTH



Stoke Golding Charity Sleigh

Many thanks to everyone's generosity. Even with the poor weather we just managed to collect more than last year. Special thanks to Phil Burgess for pulling the sleigh round over the two nights.

The following organisations have benefited:
Stoke Golding Village Hall, Dadlington Village Hall, Robin Hood Playgroup, Stoke Golding Scouts/Cubs/Beavers, Children's' Section of the Garden Show and Stoke Golding Parish Council for the planned play equipment additions and refurbishment.



Thanks once again The Sleigh Committee



Stoke Golding Christmas Light-up

It rained and it poured but that didn't stop the band from playing. The rain didn't stop the hot mulled wine and mince pies being consumed either! True it did make a few of us hesitate to attend, but by the designated light-up time the gardens of Park House Court were thronging with well over 100 villager revellers.

The traditional countdown saw all the lights light to great applause signalling the start of Christmas celebrations in Stoke Golding. Many thanks to all who came, to those who helped prepare and for the support of the Thomas Barton Trust



CROSSWORD ANSWERS (FROM PAGE 25)

Across 1. Cherub, 4 Oscar, 8 Rugs, 9 Graduate, 10 Iceberg, 12 Carer, 13 Thee, 14 Amber, 17 Romeo, 20 Hiss, 22 Early, 24 & 3D Humphrey Bogart, 25 Idea, 26 Gnash, 27 Sunbed.

Down 1 Cortina, 2 Risible, 3 see 24A, 5 Seducer, 6 Anagram, 7 Year, 11 Ghost, 15 Bergman, 16 Rhythms, 18 Ovation, 19 Orchard, 21 Sibyls, 22 Echo.



Obituaries



PETER FROST

We regret to inform our readers that Peter died peacefully at Ivydene Care Home on Saturday November 21st 2015 surrounded by his family and the lovely people who cared for him during a very difficult illness. He was the beloved husband of Carol and a loving dad and grandad of Andrew, Alison, Elise and Charlie. For a number of years Carol and Peter lived in Hinckley before they moved back to Carol's place of birth, to be near relatives. Carol was a member of the well known Mayne family of the village and we send our sincere condolences to her and her family.

DICK ALLEN

We are sad to report that Dick Allen passed away peacefully in hospital on 9th December 2015 aged 92 years. He was the beloved husband of the late Beryl, a much loved step father to Ian and Christine and a special grandad and great grandad. His funeral took place at St Margaret's Church Stoke Golding, followed by interment in the cemetery.

HAYDN WILLIAM SMITH



Haydn of Sherwood Road, passed away on 6th December 2015 aged 76 years, having been born within the City Walls of Coventry in 1939. He was the beloved husband of Sue and a father, step father, and grandad and great grandad. For 34 years he was an 'Emergency Ambulance Technician' in Coventry, the equivalent of today's Paramedics. In this role he saved many a heart attack victim thanks to his expertise in cardiac massage. In his career with the ambulance service he also delivered 64 babies and received two commendations from the Chief Constable of Coventry; one for disarming a man armed with a rifle who was threatening to shoot him and a police officer, and the second for disarming a man armed with a large knife. He and his wife Sue moved to Stoke Golding in 1992 where he became the Chairman of the Youth Club which had just reformed. In retirement he was a renowned carver of model WWI biplanes and spitfires many of which he sold for charity. He also made items of garden furniture and bird tables which he gave to his many friends. Haydn's funeral service was held at the Heart of England Crematorium at Nuneaton.



LEONARD GEORGE PITT

Len, the much loved husband of the late Mary, of Sherwood Road, Stoke, passed away at the George Eliot Hospital shortly before Christmas following a short illness. He was a resident of Birmingham before moving to Stoke Golding. He was employed by Jaguar Cars and was an expert body builder on their production line. In retirement he kept up his trade transforming many a caravan and motor home. He renovated a Triumph Vitesse and on buying a scrap Triumph Herald saloon he promptly applied his expertise to turn it into a sparkling red open topped tourer. He was an avid model railway enthusiast with a spare bedroom filled with a model layout. His other love were his dogs which usually came from the 'mongrel department'. His last one however was a retired greyhound which he walked regularly until shortly before his death.

DAPHNE LEE (formerly Dockery)

Daphne of the Goldings passed away peacefully on 20th December 2015 aged 82 years. She was a much loved mum to Christopher & Jan, and Rachel & Steve and an adored Gran to Rebecca and Robert and a loving sister to Eileen. She will be sadly missed by all. Her funeral service was at the Heart of England crematorium.

We send our sincere condolences to the family and friends of loved ones who have passed away.

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AGES 11-19

<p>THURSDAYS 4.30-6pm</p> <p>STOKE GOLDING Village Hall Car Park (end of Hall Drive) JAN 21st FEB 4th & 25th MAR 10th & 24th</p>	<p>HIGHAM ON-THE-HILL The Oddfellows Arms (rear Car Park, Main St) JAN 14th & 28th FEB 11th MAR 3rd & 17th</p>
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Sessions funded & organised by Hinckley Methodist Circuit. Run in partnership with Reality. For more info call or text Chris (local Youth Worker) 07285 37 49 40 facebook.com/RealityBus

Laburnum Cottage Planning Application

In May 2015 an application to build 7 houses behind Laburnum Cottage (opposite the Three Horseshoes) was lodged with Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (HBBC). Thirty objections were received by HBBC to the development and one letter in support. The Parish Council and the Stoke Golding Heritage Group also objected to the application.

Since then discussions between the applicant and the HBBC Planning Department have taken place. Discussions have also been held between Richard Wright, Case Officer, Paul Grundy, HBBC Conservation Officer, and Borough Councillor Reg Ward, Chair of the HBBC Planning Committee.

Recently a meeting was arranged at my request with Richard Wright, HBBC Case Officer, Paul Grundy, HBBC Conservation Officer, Borough Councillor Reg Ward, Chair of the HBBC Planning Committee, a Stoke Golding Parish Councillor and a small number of Stoke Golding residents. Unfortunately this meeting has had to be postponed by Richard Wright.

However a group of residents met with Conservation Officer Paul Grundy on 21st January. This was an informative and constructive meeting.

Residents will be writing to HBBC Planning Department and our Parish Council explaining our strong opposition to any development on this land.

Meanwhile concerns are being expressed by myself regarding the conduct of HBBC in the application process, mainly as follows:

This application relates to a 'key space' within Stoke Golding Conservation Area (designation 2004) and the Conservation Area statement specifically refers to its historical and environmental importance, and which has been designated as 'warranting special consideration for enhancement'

The amount of housing which has been permitted in Stoke Golding far exceeds the 60 houses referred to in the HBBC Core Strategy. The development on the Convent land fulfilled that requirement and recently 80 homes on the Morris development at the end of Sherwood Road have received approval. As a result there is no need for additional housing at this time. Andy Killip, HBBC, confirmed this at the meeting on 16th July 2015, (Gladman/ Development Site Allocations) I understand that HBBC have advised the applicant that *'an L-shaped development with 4/5 homes behind the existing building with a green area at the front which could be donated to the village'* would be a possible submission in any amended application. The expression 'preferred option' has been used in connection with this advice. I am, understandably very concerned as to whose 'preferred option' this is and what message have been conveyed to the applicant regarding this!

If you would to know more about the danger to this community's remaining piece of green space disappearing then please contact me.

David Goodsell, millburn5@notmail.co.uk, 212955


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