

July / August 2013

No. 123



The Stoker

Stoke Golding Village Magazine

including

Dadlington Matters

50p

Ruth



Note from the Editors

Welcome to all our new Stoke Golding residents, whether in Convent Drive or elsewhere in the village. We are sure you will love it here as much as we do and you will see just how much is going on by this packed July/August double issue.

Jane



It is brilliant news about the community land development at the Convent Site - hopefully the plots will provide some winning entries for the Garden Show on September 7th. Congratulations to young Finlay Wilson on his national success in story writing (p. 8) - you can read his story on page 9 - and also to Joy Hirons who has just retained her England title in skeet shooting (p. 19). We have had to add an extra four pages this month due to all the events and activities that are planned over the summer (well we think it's summer anyway). Hopefully the sun will be shining by the time you read this. We'll see you again in September.

Jane & Ruth

The Stoker Team

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

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

Please send articles for the **September 2013** issue of The Stoker to: The Editors, c/o 21, Hinckley Road, Stoke Golding by **15th August**. If you can submit articles on a memory stick (Microsoft Word) or by e-mail it makes our job much easier, (**500 words maximum** please). If you send photos by e-mail, please keep the file size small - no larger than 150 Kb. All correspondence, including e-mails, must include your full name, home address and home telephone number.

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

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

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

Cover picture - Community Day at the allotments.

The Community Land at the Convent Site – Update

Convent Drive has residents at last! The pace of building work has picked up as the weather has improved. If you know of anyone who is interested in a property - rental or shared home ownership - please inform them that they need to contact Raglan Housing Association for more details.

Meanwhile we continue to work with Raglan Housing on the plans for the future development of the community land behind the houses. The present situation is that the Parish Council has accepted the land in principle, subject to the site being left in a tidy and manageable state. However, it is unlikely that the land will be handed over until the building work is completed or nearing completion. The pipe work for surface water going into the river is being completed and the balancing pond in the bottom corner of the site will be dug soon.

Recently we received the fantastic news that Raglan Housing has been successful in accessing a grant of over £26,000 to develop the facilities on the land. The projects include: a composting toilet, a container shed with shelter and rainwater collection system, rabbit proof fencing for the allotment land and proposed community orchard, renovation and installation of some old village gates, making of willow structures, development of the tree nursery and provision to buy tools and equipment.

The Parish Council has agreed to fund the drawing up of an outline plan for the land. Following this we shall circulate the village in order to gauge opinions and seek support for the project. We recognise that the successful development of this scheme needs the backing of the community - and that there are many of you who have knowledge and enthusiasm for different parts of our environment - we hope you will come forward and become involved.

Other areas for grant applications have begun to be identified such as notice boards, surface for hardcore tracks/paths, improvements to the woodland, orchard, hedge and meadow planting, drainage work and interpretation boards.

Meanwhile, Raglan Housing staff, as part of their aim to help the new residents settle into the village, hosted a 'Community Day' at the allotments. They spent Tuesday 11th June building some raised beds and giving the plot holders an initial start with vegetable plants. Fuelled by barbecued local products, they worked very hard all day and the results look great.

Thank you to Raglan Housing for your efforts on our behalf and the enthusiasm you are bringing to the overall project.

*Pauline Goodsell,
01455 212955
millburn5@hotmail.co.uk
On behalf of the Parish Council
Community Land Sub-
Committee*



Correspondence

Barwell SUE (Sustainable Urban Extension)



The Barwell SUE for 2500 houses, was approved at a Borough Council Planning Committee despite concerns that it would have a serious impact on the local road network, as traffic leaving the SUE onto the A447 in peak hours was likely to make use of local “rat runs” to access the A5 and the areas of employment in the Nuneaton, Coventry and the greater West Midland Areas. Prior to the planning committee meeting local parish councils had formed a joint committee to try and deal with the application in a united and comprehensive way.

Before the planning meeting the County Highways Authority (CHA) produced a report, which recommended approval of the application even though the designs for the Rogues Lane/A447 and A47/A447 junctions had not been finalised. Their computer model indicated that the main trunk roads could absorb nearly all of the additional traffic and there would be minimum impact on the rural road network.

Subsequent to the approval Alan White and myself have been obtaining data from the computer model that CHA used in coming to their decision. We believe that there may be a problem with the computer model. According to the model only 388 vehicles will leave 2500 houses between 8.00am and 9.00am, the peak hour, onto the A447. There are no other viable routes from the SUE.

The Parish Councils' Committee met and it was agreed that County Councillor Ivan Ould would go back to CHA to take up with them concerns about the conclusions of their modelling. If it can be shown that mistakes have been made, then the existing design of the trunk road network and junctions could be amended and traffic calming measures may be required in local villages.

Roy Mitchell



Some years ago I was asked if The Stoker could reprint a transcript from my web site, to which I said yes, and it was reprinted.

'Snowy' - Stoke Golding's Village Baker. Memories of Mr. Arthur 'Snowy' Mason.

The recordings of my interviews are being put up on Hinckley & Bosworth Sound Archive <http://www.habsa.co.uk/oral%20history.html> and the recording of Snowy is the first to go up.

David Wood www.oralhistory.co.uk david@oralhistory.co.uk

Stoke Golding War Memorial

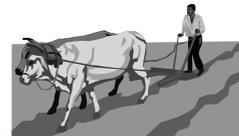
On 4th August 1914 Britain declared war on Germany and The Great War had begun. Twenty one men from the village were killed in the conflict and twelve also died in the Second World War. Their names are shown on the memorial in Hinckley Road Cemetery. To remember these men as the centenary of the beginning of the war approaches I am trying to collate information from all sources and hope to publish short articles in this magazine regarding some of their very short lives. If anyone who is related to any of these men and has information of their lives, I would be pleased if they would consider sharing those details with me so that I can add it to their story. The loan of any photographs would be especially helpful, which I would scan and return. So far I have found only one man named on the memorial whose body actually lies in the churchyard and I hope to give details of him later in the year.



Denis Cash - 01455 212480

Stoke Golding Heritage Group – Visit to Laxton Farms

Last year the group had a fascinating talk on Laxton and its farming system. It is the only village in England that farms using the field strip system, which dates back to mediaeval times. We followed the talk up with a visit to Laxton for a guided tour by Stuart Rose one of the farmers and Clerk to the



Leet Court - an institution that still has full legal powers in running the system and dates back many centuries. The land is now owned by the Crown Estates and is not economically viable; however grants and help from a number of bodies will ensure that the system survives for the future. We picked one of the best days for our visit and after a cloudy start we ended in shirtsleeves and sun hats.

The farms are all at the centre of the village and consist of farm buildings such as threshing barns, housing for animals and behind the farms a “close” where the farmer had a smallholding for an orchard or land for pigs etc. Outside of this area were the large fields that were divided into strips so every farmer would get his share of good and bad land. Each farmer would have to go from his farm to tend his own strips, originally oxen worked the land, but later shire horses were used. In some cases it meant a trip of three to four miles there and back, plus a lot of miles walking behind the horses ploughing the strips. We didn’t quite walk that distance but we walked to vantage points around the village to get a better appreciation of how it worked. As a piece of living history it made for a fascinating visit, and one which, if you get the opportunity you should do yourselves.

Roy Mitchell

Beth's Corner

The sun was, surprisingly, shining as I drove over to visit John and Wendy Walliker, owners of Ambion Court Hotel in Dadlington. Parking across from the village green, I realised there wasn't a soul around – total peace and quiet. What a perfect place for that “get away” break from the madness of our busy lives, I was looking forward to finding out more about the owners of this idyllic looking small country hotel.

Wendy was busy in the Courtyard having just bought a mass of bedding plants in Hinckley, and her father was enjoying this sudden burst of summer, relaxing with a coffee in the sunshine. John, a tall, lean man with a military bearing came out to welcome me. Going into the hotel, we sat in a cosy sitting room, decorated in traditional country-style, but once this was the ‘calving shed’. John explained that over a hundred years ago the whole building had been a working farm. So while we were sitting where the new calves would have been born, the next room, now the Bar, was where the grain was milled, and the beautiful four-poster bedroom above with its original beams, was used to store the grain. You'd never believe it now. The dining room, now used to host many events was originally ‘the pigsty’. I wanted to laugh – looking at the room with its shining dining tables – the history is really amusing. All around the courtyard, the original stables are now state-of-the-art modern double bedrooms, all with en-suite facilities.

John was one of three, with one brother and a sister and their father was an army officer. While they were young they travelled with their parents all over the Far East - to Singapore, Hong Kong and then to Africa. They lived in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) and Nigeria, and as the children were growing older their parents knew the time had come when all this travelling had to stop. They needed the stability of being educated in the UK. This meant boarding school. John and his brother had the very good fortune of being accepted at a famous school, through a friend of his father's – The Portora Royal School at Enniskillen, a glorious setting on Portora Hill, overlooking beautiful Lough Erne. The school was founded in 1608 by James I, and among its many famous ‘Old Portorans’ are Bishops and politicians as well as playwrights, Samuel Beckett and Oscar Wilde. Apparently when Wilde was disgraced and in prison, his name was taken down from the list, but was eventually reinstated in the thirties.

John went into the RAF, training as a pilot, and thoroughly enjoyed his time, flying in fighters, for the next twenty years. After the discipline of military life, he obviously felt like being his own boss and decided to turn his hand to running a small country hotel. In 1989 he found Dadlington, and Ambion Court - a perfect setting looking across the village green with a friendly community. A couple of years later he met his wife Wendy, who was teaching at Twycross School. She is now a full-time partner at Ambion Court, helping with the day to day running of the hotel with its fascinating history. A perfect place to suggest to visitors, and for any of our own special parties - in “the pigsty”! Sorry John – I mean - the dining room. Loved meeting you both.

Beth

Stoke Golding Village Showcase

The recent village showcase held in Stoke Golding to celebrate Adult Learners Week was a great success. The week long event included a wide variety of activities including photography, first aid, bell ringing, art, singing, cake decorating, Pilates, yoga, bridge, local history, IT support and even bike maintenance. Local people were able to have a go at something they had not had the opportunity to do beforehand, giving them the encouragement they needed to join a new society or community group. They were able to find out about local volunteering opportunities, and young people were able to get careers advice. Chris Taylor, from the village, was delighted and said: "Thanks to the hard work of the volunteers who organised the week, ran the work shops and provided refreshments, we have held an event to be proud of and one which I hope we can repeat every year. We also have to thank the local churches, pubs, schools and the village hall for being so supportive and allowing us the use of venues free of charge. This was a true community effort.."

Jane White



Bell ringing with John Patullo



Pilates with Katy Quinn



Art with Jan Baker



Alison Waterer led the cake decorating class.



Photography walk with Martyn Fisher



Bike maintenance with John Shilladay

Literary Success for Finlay

For the past two years the Chris Evans Breakfast Show on BBC Radio 2 has run a national short story writing competition. The stories have to be 500 words or less and are entered into the 9 years and under category, or 9 – 13 years.

This year, as part of their February half term home work, Year 3 pupils at St Margaret's Primary School wrote their 500 word stories and sent them off. In total there were a massive 90,000 entries.

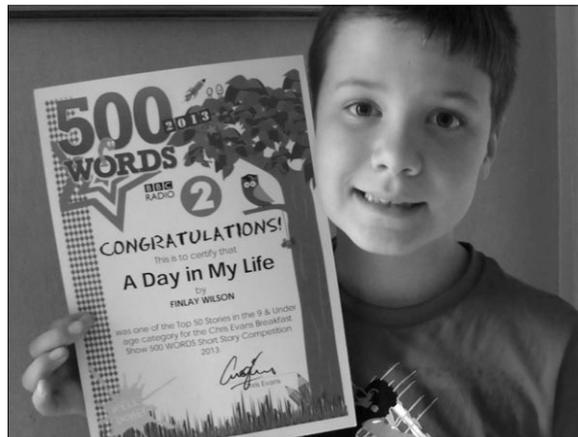
Finlay, my son, wrote a story entitled "A Day in my Life" and he sent it off. Initially, I received an email to say that it had got through to the final 3000 and would be considered in the second round. Then, in April an email came stating that the story was in the top 25 for Finlay's category (9 and under). His story is on the Radio 2 website and was also read out on the Mel Giedroyc Radio 4 show.

We were invited to the BBC Chris Evans Breakfast Show taking place at the Hay on Wye Literary Festival on 31st May.

We travelled to Hereford the day before and met some of the other finalists. The 31st May was a beautiful day and we left the hotel at 5.15am to travel to Hay on Wye. On the way, we had to practise shouting comments such as 'Hello, hello, hello, this is the Radio 2 Breakfast Show' and 'Welcome to planet earth!' The studio was in the middle of the Hay Festival and was a small "Big Top". We were allowed in whilst the 7 o'clock news was being broadcast and stayed in the studio for 2 hours, whilst the winners were announced and their stories read out. Chris Evans chatted to both Finlay and his brother Samuel throughout the show. They got to meet all the other stars: Alex Jones (One Show), Michael Palin, Michael Ball, Oliver Phelps (a Weasley twin in the Harry Potter films), Suzanna Reid (BBC1 Breakfast Show) and the actress Miranda Richardson (Queenie in the Blackadder series). The boys had their photos taken with all the stars and collected their autographs. At the end of the show Finlay was presented with his certificate.

It was a brilliant day!

Fiona Wilson



Many congratulations, Finlay, from The Stoker Production Team.

Read his story on the next page.

A Day in My Life

There are four in our team. Billy, James, Will and me, Herbie. We are builders today, but other days we have looked after animals in the zoo, been firemen or racing drivers. We can do anything that we are asked to do. We always have the right clothes and hats.

We are building a house. It is so big, we need more bricks. The house is unusual. It has green bricks and then some yellow, orange and blue ones dotted around it. The windows and doors are yellow. The garage has lots of different coloured bricks with lots of different sizes. These can be a bit tricky to build with. But they usually stick together. The racing cars will go in the garage.

The garden has been built already. There are some beautiful flowers, a swing and a slide and some lovely green trees. There are children playing in the garden already.

Billy has just gone on the roof, he is building some safety rails and a swimming pool up there. There may even be room for a helicopter landing pad. James is putting the doors on, Will the windows and I am just laying the bricks. We are going to finish this quickly.

Oh no, it is happening again. The house is being pushed over. It is being swept away I feel funny, it has gone dark, there is a loud smash and I can not see anything. What can be happening? I am frightened. I can not see my friends, where are they? The bricks are everywhere, it is such a mess. I move as carefully as I can. James is ok, he is lying on his side, still got his hard hat on and he is awake. He is trying to move, but the bricks are just too heavy on him. I know that he has a torch on him. I wiggle over to where James is lying and press on him. James's torch lights up the mess. Thankfully James' is still in one piece. I can see Billy. He has lost an arm, he seems to be sleeping. Oh no, Will has lost his legs. This is so sad.

What has happened? I look around to see if there is anyone else, anyone who can help. Over the other side of the bricks I can see a nurse and fireman, but they have got an elephant on top of them. Behind them are a speed boat and a lorry. There is no one that can help us.

I lie patiently. I talk to my friends. The torch has run out of power. We are in darkness. It is going cold. I know that this will not last for ever. I will be up and about again tomorrow. This happens to us every day at about tea time when we are being packed away.

It's a hard life being a Lego man.

By Finlay Wilson

COPY DEADLINE FOR SEPT 2013 ISSUE: 15th AUGUST



From the Rector at St Margaret's Church

The school hall was full of children with expectant faces as one of the groups presented their class assembly. Parents and grandparents watched proudly, as their child sat on the stage, and returned their offspring's nervous little wave of the hand.

Someone stood up and began: "Welcome to our assembly on gardening." The class had been learning about plants and how they grow, so we were treated to a wealth of information on planting seeds with all sorts of tips and handy hints to promote growth, as well as a display of the fruit and vegetables that could be produced.

Bill and Ben, the Flower Pot Men (Richard and Nathan in real life) made an appearance and proceeded to show us what happened when they planted their seeds – Bill drowned his with water so nothing happened, whereas Ben's grew into a beautiful bloom in the form of a child with a flower mask on! Does anyone remember watching Bill and Ben on black and white television?

The children sang a song; 'I planted a seed... I planted a word... I planted a deed...' describing how each of these could grow to affect others in a good or a bad way.

Do we ever consider how the choices we make in the things we do and say can have an effect on others? The cross words uttered in a moment of temper which spiral into a full blown argument; choosing to ignore a neighbour's request for help because it would mean giving up too large a chunk of the little spare time available to us. On the other hand, words of kindness are ones that gain respect and appreciation; and the giving of ourselves in deeds for others will be remembered with gratitude.

The words and deeds that we plant will spread and grow – sometimes far beyond our reach. How will the things you say or do today affect others?

*Wishing you God's blessing
Linda*

Under 5s' Group (Mums and Tots)

In June we had a fantastic trip to Twycross Zoo. The weather held out for us and we had a great time watching the animals. The dinosaurs proved too terrifying for some, but a picnic and ice cream more than made up for it.

We'll be meeting through the summer, and have a party, picnic and more planned, so do come along and see what's happening. Stoke Golding Village Hall, every Thursday 10.00am.

Kate Warner



Church Matters

The Methodist Church July/August Services

7th	10.30am	Mrs Gwen Coley
14th	10.30am	Revd. Julie Minns
21st	10.30am	Deacon Philip Osborne
28th	10.30am	Mr John Marfleet
4th	10.30am	Mr John Cooke
11th	10.30am	Mr Michael Holt
18th	10.30 am	At Higham Methodist Church
25th	10.30 am	Mr Malcolm Lapper

Zion Chapel July/August Services starting at 6pm Sunday School at 11am

7th July	Richard Cotton
14th July	
21st July	
28th July	Mark Menzfeld
4th August	
11th August	John Needham
18th August	John Todd
25th August	Mark Menzfeld

Church of England Services – July and August

St. Margaret's Church

7 th July	10.30am	All Age Service
14 th July	10.30am	Benefice Service Dadlington
21 st July	10.30am	Holy Communion, Big and Small Church
28 th July	10.30am	Morning Worship, Big and Small Church

St. James's Church

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

St. Margaret's Church

4 th August	10.30am	All Age Service
11 th August	10.30am	Benefice Service
18 th August	10.30am	Holy Communion, Big and Small Church
25 th August	10.30am	Morning Worship, Big and Small Church

St. James's Church

4 th August	9.00am	BCP Morning Prayer
11 th August	10.30am	Benefice Service Stoke Golding
18 th August	9.00am	BCP Holy Communion
25 th August	9.00am	BCP Holy Communion

What's On

Free
entry !

Saturday 6th July

1pm till
late !

Come and support Stoke Goldings annual charity free music festival !

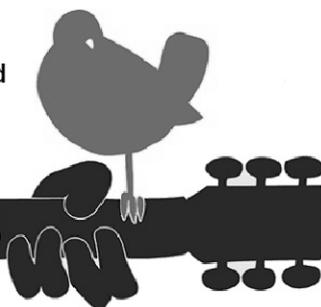
This year promises to be the biggest and best yet, with two stages (main and acoustic) and even more to entertain the family. The main stage will host 8 fabulous bands, ranging from Irish music from "The Craic", mashups and twists on familiar songs from the popular "T.B.C." and for the first time at Stoke Fest we are proud to headline the superb "Up Beatles" tribute act.

As well as the music to keep everyone entertained, there will be plenty to eat and drink with the bar, BBQ, hog roast and other food and drink stalls.

Ankle biters aren't forgotten either, with fairground rides, bouncy castle, "dancing dogs" and a dog competition ... bring the family pet to be judged !

StokeFest 2013

www.stoke-fest.co.uk



Good Companions

Summer Outing to Weston-Super-Mare

Tuesday, August 6th

Leaving Stoke Golding at 8.00a.m.

Higham-on-the-Hill at 8.15a.m.

If you would like to join us ring the Lockleys on 212815

Members - £12

Non-members - £14

What's On

St Margaret's Church Flower Festival - August Bank Holiday



'Television Greats'

Saturday 24th & Monday 26th 10am – 5pm,
Sunday 25th 12 noon – 5pm

Please come and enjoy the amazing flower displays in our beautiful church and afterwards relax in the school hall with one of our delicious homemade cakes and a drink, or enjoy a ploughman's lunch or a cream tea.

Stalls selling cakes, jams and plants. Raffle, tombola etc.

Free parking at the school.

If you have an hour to spare we would welcome any help you can give us. It is always an enjoyable weekend - please ring Margaret on 212387 after 6pm

We do hope you can come and join us.

All proceeds go towards the Restoration Fund.

Self Defence Demonstration/Workshop

All proceeds to Air Ambulance Charity

Friday August 2nd 7pm - 8pm

Village Hall Stoke Golding

£2 donation

To book a place telephone Adele 07837 927227

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.

Zimbe - Songs of Africa

and Rutter's **'Feel the Spirit'**

Atherstone Choral Society

St Mary's Church Atherstone

13th July 7pm

Tickets £10 from 01827 713079

Methodist Church July/August Events

Saturday 20th July
Coffee Morning
10 - 11.30am

Saturday 10th August
Coffee Morning
10 - 11.30am

What's On

Creative Fine Art Course

Whether you want to learn to draw, rekindle your creative output or broaden your drawing and painting skills this course will help you free your inner artist. These workshops have been developed to give you the opportunity to try your hand at a range of painting and drawing techniques. Also allowing you to try out and experiment with a range of new media and processes in a friendly and supportive atmosphere, while gaining professional and practical guidance from your tutor. They are aimed at both the complete beginner, but also those with more experience, who wish to extend their own creative practice.

Starts: Mon Sept 9th 2013

Location: Dadlington Church Hall

Time: 7.00-9.00pm **Duration** 6 Weeks (short course)

First two weeks £16 paid in advance, thereafter simply pay £8 per week or a one off payment of £40 (six weeks for the price of five) All basic materials will be provided. Other art supplies if needed, will be available at a small cost.

**For more information or to book your place please call Jan Baker on 07725 895550
or email: bakerjams@yahoo.co.uk**

Tea and Cakes (again) In aid of Friends of Kenya's Children

At 8, The Courtyard, Higham Lane,
(Hopefully outside!!)

Wednesday August 7th

2 - 4.30pm

Eat and drink all you want.

Cakes and small gift stalls.

Tickets £3 from Jan 212397 or Gill 213700

P.S. You made great cakes last time, could you help again, please?



St James' Church, Dadlington

Garden Party at Hall Farm

Saturday 10th August 3 - 5pm

If wet - in the shed!

The Elephant in the Room...

The present Mrs Fool and I had cause to overnight in Buxton recently. We had reserved lodgings in the Palace Hotel. This is a 4 star establishment, in much the same way as John Prescott is an international statesman.

The appearance and location of this hotel is without peer. It is a truly magnificent structure overlooking the town with an imperious air and was no doubt an essential port of call to the Victorian train set. Viewed from a distance all is well however, the closer one gets to this structure, the more it becomes apparent that since the demise of our longest reigning monarch, little has been done in the way of maintenance.

Access to this Victorian pile is by way of a wholly inadequate revolving door. As I entered from the outside, a departing tourist of ample proportions and, in all probability, German, was set on making a hasty exit. His outgoing momentum accelerated this carousel to the point where it picked me and my suitcase from the ground and deposited us with no great ceremony upon the Axminster of the hotel reception. This close examination of the carpet revealed that it was in good order but from this point on things went downhill. The deeper one travelled into the hotel the more its age started to show. We arrived at our room and entered to find that the towels were arranged on the bed in the form, and here I am perfectly serious, of an elephant. I cannot begin to imagine the thought processes of the management that they might consider that this exercise in flannelette origami would distract from the general condition of the rest of the building. Attempts to rectify the decaying wallpaper looked as if they had been carried out by David Blunkett - during a power cut. It seemed as if the staff considered that a garden strimmer was an appropriate tool for cleaning carpets. However remote a place Buxton may be, surely someone, somewhere had heard of Polyfilla. The lift must have been as originally installed because its progress was so glacial that by the time we descended a single floor, the attendant had grown a full beard. We had set off to have dinner and arrived just in time for breakfast. Here things improved except that in an attempt to cut costs and save up for some emulsion, hot drinks were dispensed from a vending machine. If one were crossing the Sahara and the choice was between the juice of a cactus and vending machine coffee, then watch out for the spikes and go for the succulent. 4 Star, I think not.

The really sad thing was that there did not seem to be a solution, in that the cost of restoring this edifice to its former glory would render it an unviable commercial proposition. A perfect metaphor for the state of our nation today.

Travelodge next time methinks.

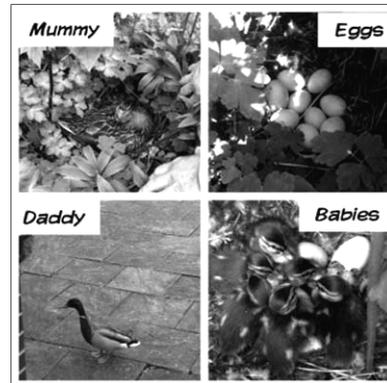


The Fool on the Hill

Delighla Duck

We feel very special to have been chosen by Delighla Duck. She left the canal and decided to nest in our garden on Station Road. Our children are absolutely delighted.

Heather Adlam



Where are They Now? Colin and Jan Stracey



You may remember Colin and Jan from the Scouts, Robin Hood Playschool, St Margaret's Church or even Jan's drumming for the Shambles folk group. So, where are they now?

Living at North Fambridge in Essex, Colin and Jan now run their own sailing school. As an RYA training centre they are delivering RYA shore-based and theory courses for those who take their sailing seriously and skippered trips such as cross-Channel hops, trips along the Thames into St

Katharine's Dock, London, and wildlife and bird-watching cruises along the East Coast for those who take a more relaxed approach – something for everyone!

Many people have enjoyed trips on their boat 'Golden Eye', but now they also have 'Kingfisher of Maldon', a Beneteau Oceanis 351, which has several exciting trips under her belt already - across the Channel to France and Holland and recently a participant in the 'Round Island' race around the Isle of Wight, but graciously letting Ben Ainsley take first place!

And they would love to hear from you! If you enjoy the open air, and would like some sea breeze thrown in, then you are very welcome to sign up for a course or trip. They are not far away ... Fambridge is just a two hour trip south.

If you would like to know more, Colin can be contacted on 07810 484210 or see www.firstclasssailing.com/eastcoastsailing

Happy Sailing!

Colin Stracey

We remember Jan and Colin very well - they played an active role in our community for many years when they lived here. We wish them every success with their sailing ventures. Eds

Bird Notes for May

Several times during the early part of the May I visited Lychgate Fisheries. It is a particularly wonderful habitat for warblers, as islands supporting alder, willow, laurel, elder and dogwood combine with vintage hedgerows and ditches, as well as naturally-preserved ponds with attractive reed beds.



I was far from disappointed since I managed to locate 8 whitethroats, 4 willow warblers, 5 blackcaps, singles of lesser whitethroat, chiffchaff and sedge warbler. The latter could be heard singing in characteristic habitat around an undisturbed pond at the far end of the site.

House martin and swift were gracing the skies at the heart of Stoke Golding by mid-month, joining forces with the much earlier swallow arrivals.

During various visits to Brascote Pits I've encountered at least 4 reed warbler, 2 sedge warbler and several whitethroats. Also yellow wagtails, together with a least five pairs of lapwing and their young over the back of fields containing narrow strips of water. The regular peregrine falcon, on occasions, was in its usual position, high up near the top of one of the pylons. Further, judging by behaviour, pairs of little ringed plover and oystercatcher seemed intent on breeding. Unsurprisingly, I was informed by other regular birders at the site, that a number of both wheatear and white wagtail had been present on passage.

David Abbott



Try our
Farm
Assured
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Stoke Golding W I - May Meeting

Sinking your teeth into a good story

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Who would have thought that the history of false teeth would be so interesting and amusing? Well, members of Stoke Golding W.I most certainly did at their June meeting, when they were entertained by Anne French with her knowledge and many stories of the beginning and the progression of dentistry.

It seems that for centuries past our ancestors have been trying to find a way to keep false teeth to stay in their mouths as their natural teeth became decayed and rotten. Many types of types of false teeth were tried but anything made from tree or animal products would be attacked by saliva in the mouth and then rot, causing bacteria which would eventually lead to death. Apart from this the teeth would never stay in position, so that they never could be used for what teeth are designed for, mastication. Also with no form of anaesthetic, the removal of the teeth was very painful and because of poor hygiene, also dangerous.

It was the invention of vulcanised rubber that enabled base plates to be moulded to the inside of the mouth. The use of porcelain, plastics and silica for teeth and discovery of Novocain for extraction meant that dentistry as we know it today was able to progress.

The speaker at the next meeting on July 11th will be giving an account of the time he spent aboard the Royal Yacht Britannia, which should prove extremely interesting. Please come along and join us at the Methodist Hall on Main Street at 7.30pm. You can be sure of a warm welcome.

Val Hartwell

Joy's Continuing Success

Stoke Golding clay shooter Joy Hirons of Church Walks has just retained her England title after successfully defending it at Nottingham with a superb score of 99/100. Shot over the bank holiday weekend Joy took her place on the Sunday and kept her nerve to retain the national title she won last year at Dartford in Kent. The back to back wins are quite amazing considering the short time she has been shooting the clay discipline English Skeet, where the targets rocket out of the launchers at over 45 mph, sometimes singularly and sometimes as a crossing pair of targets.

In recent weeks Joy has also retained the Leicestershire County and East Midlands regional titles too, so all is going very well. Next up is the final qualification shoot for a place in the England shooting team which takes place towards the end of June so fingers crossed that all goes well for her.

Rob Hirons



Message from Rev'd Julie Minns, Stoke Golding Methodist Church



I have reached the age when I have noticed time speeding up. Years speed by, months gallop and weeks can be missed in a blink or two. Life is busy, and in the busy-ness there seems little time to pause and think. Some of you will have already come across the true story here. It is one which I keep on my computer so that I stumble across it occasionally and am reminded of what I might be missing.

Julie Minns

A man sat at a metro station in Washington DC and started to play the violin; it was a cold January morning. He played six Bach pieces for about 45 minutes. During that time, since it was rush hour, it was calculated that thousand of people went through the station, most of them on their way to work.

Three minutes went by and a middle aged man noticed there was musician playing. He slowed his pace and stopped for a few seconds and then hurried up to meet his schedule. A minute later, the violinist received his first dollar tip: a woman threw the money in the till and without stopping continued to walk. A few minutes later, someone leaned against the wall to listen to him, but the man looked at his watch and started to walk again. Clearly he was late for work.

The one who paid the most attention was a 3 year old boy. His mother tagged him along, hurried but the kid stopped to look at the violinist. Finally the mother pushed hard and the child continued to walk turning his head all the time. This action was repeated by several other children. All the parents, without exception, forced them to move on.

In the 45 minutes the musician played, only 6 people stopped and stayed for a while. About 20 gave him money but continued to walk their normal pace. He collected \$32. When he finished playing and silence took over, no one noticed it. No one applauded, nor was there any recognition.

No one knew this but the violinist was Joshua Bell, one of the best musicians in the world. He played one of the most intricate pieces ever written with a violin worth 3.5 million dollars. Two days before his playing in the subway, Joshua Bell sold out at a theater in Boston and the seats average \$100.

This is a real story. Joshua Bell playing incognito in the metro station was organized by the Washington Post as part of an social experiment about perception, taste and priorities of people. The outlines were: in a commonplace environment at an inappropriate hour: Do we perceive beauty? Do we stop to appreciate it? Do we recognize the talent in an unexpected context?

One of the possible conclusions from this experience could be: If we do not have a moment to stop and listen to one of the best musicians in the world playing the best music ever written, how many other things are we missing?

This is Julie's last message to The Stoker before moving onto pastures new. We wish her all the best for the future.

Methodist Church Flower Festival

'Favourite Poems'

Over £2000 was raised during the weekend. Many thanks to everyone who supported the event.



MISTRESS HESTER HODGES EXHIBITION FOUNDATION

At the next meeting of the Trustees of the Mistress Hester Hodges Exhibition Foundation in October, applications will be considered for awards to students.

In order to be eligible the following conditions must be met:

- a) Two years attendance at St. Margaret's C.E (Aided) Primary School, Stoke Golding
- b) Residence in Stoke Golding
- c) Attained the age of 16 years or more and be undertaking further education in the academic year commencing September/October 2013

Application forms may be obtained from the Post Office and A. Fullagar, 26 Wykin Lane (anne.fullagar@btinternet.com).

Completed application forms should be returned to A. Fullagar by 28th September 2013

Fruit Tree Grafting Success

Great news! 29 out of 34 grafts have 'taken'. Congratulations to St Martin's students and their 'grafting mentors' on the care which they gave to this project. The young apple trees are being grown in pots until they can be planted in a proper nursery.

David Goodsell and Doreen Rose



Obituaries



Betsy Lilian Jordan

We are sad to record the death of Betsy Lilian Jordan who lived in the village for many years and will be well known to many of our older residents. She was born in 1918 and passed away peacefully, aged 95 years, in Norfolk on 2nd June. She was the beloved wife of Edwin and dear mother and mother-in-law to Paul and Sally.

Robert (Bob) Furniss

We are sad to report that Robert (Bob) Furniss of Higham Field Farm, Higham on the Hill, died suddenly at his home on 17th May 2013 at the age of 77 years. He was the beloved husband of Joy and the late Lucy, and a much loved dad of Sheila, Mick and Steve, and father in law of John, Shirley and Alison, and granddad to Micayla, and Daniele, Georgia and Mark, Jacob and Joseph. The funeral service took place at St Peter's Church, Witherley prior to interment at Higham Fields farm. Bob was well known in the village, his home being just outside this parish boundary. He was active in local politics and represented Sheepy Magna for many years.

Barbara (Forster) Jones

It has recently come to our notice that Barbara passed away on 27th January at Devonshire Court Retirement Home, Oadby. Barbara was the wife of the late William (Bill) Jones and they lived for many years on Station Road, Stoke Golding before retiring to Devonshire Court. Bill was a magistrate for many years and Barbara, along with Bill, were regular performers at Combe Abbey where they sang in the staged mediaeval dinner performances held there. Latterly Barbara became a registered blind person and could be seen in the village being escorted by her guide dog. A memorial and thanksgiving service for Barbara was held at St Margaret's Church on 13th June.

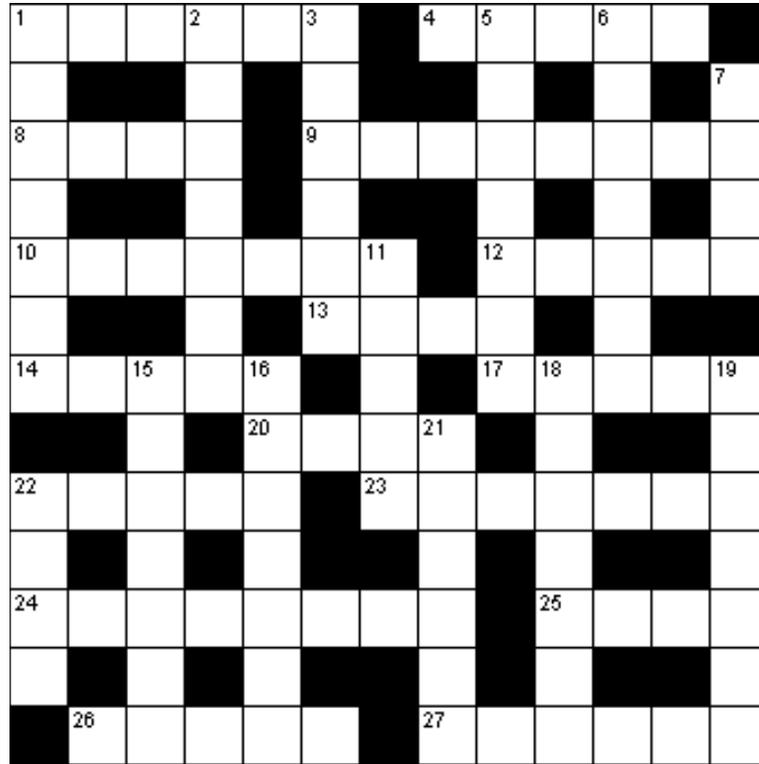
We send our condolences to the families and friends of those mentioned.

Would you like to have The Stoker delivered?

We shall be collecting annual subscriptions of £5 from mid-July onwards.

If you would like to **start** subscribing, please contact Alan Taylor: 01455 212605, and we'll do the rest.

Crossword Word



Across

1. A colourful tropical bird (6)
4. Initials of a bird charity ****for**** (5)
8. There are four in a deck of cards (4)
9. To adjust or control (8)
10. Senior man in armed forces (7)
12. Tiny little brown birds (5)
13. Middle of the egg (4)
14. New Zealand birds (5)
17. Bird "associated" with babies (5)
20. Bird "associated" with Egypt (4)
22. Opposite of dark heavy (5)
23. Identities or characters of people (7)
24. A large pink and red wading bird (8)
25. A door not closed (4)
26. They fly as a symbol of your country (5)
27. Mathew wrote one so did Mark, Luke, and John (6)

Down

1. Stately home bird (7)
2. Italian composer of The Thieving Magpie (7)
3. Christmas bird (6)
5. 1 across makes this sound (7)
6. A non-drug tablet to compare to a real one (7)
7. Farm birds (4)
11. Red breasted bird (5)
15. A songbird (a dog would do this) (7)
16. A bird doing this on her eggs (7)
18. Birds associated with Guinness (7)
19. A small bird of prey ((7)
21. Skirt worn in the Pacific (6)
22. A racing pigeon would live in this (4)

Answers on page 26

Stoke Golding Parish Council - May 2013 Meeting

Playground inspection: Litter bin at bottom of the rec has a loose base – Clerk to instruct groundsman to refit.

Planning Applications:

New Application: 66 Sherwood Road – extension and alterations.

Election of Chairman of the Council:

Proposed by Cllr Terheege, seconded by Cllr Mayes and unanimously agreed that Cllr Ward be appointed as Chairman.

Election of Vice-Chairman of the Council:

Proposed by Cllr Mayes, seconded by Cllr Brown and unanimously agreed that Cllr Terheege be appointed as Vice-Chairman.

To establish committees and appoint members:

Committees: Village Hall – Cllr Fisher to represent the Council.

Planning Applications; New Cemetery; Green Space Convent Site; Sports Sub-committees - as previous year.

Appointment of Financial Officer:

Proposed by Cllr Ward, seconded by Cllr Terheege and unanimously agreed that the Parish Clerk be duly appointed as Financial Officer.

Co-option of a Parish Councillor:

A motion was put forward by Cllr R Fisher that Sarah McKenna be co-opted as a Parish Councillor.

Proposed by Cllr Mayes, seconded by Cllr Terheege and unanimously agreed to co-opt Sarah McKenna. Sarah was welcomed by the Parish Council.

Cllr McKenna thanked everyone and looked forward to being on the Council. She commented that she would like to see better communications between the Parish Council and residents..

Street Lighting Efficiency Savings

Mr Tony Bull reported on the proposed street lighting efficiency savings scheme which is part of the County Council's budget savings. The scheme includes a complete switch off, dimming of high energy lighting and part-night lighting. It is planned that Stoke Golding will have part-night lighting, which means switching off a number of lights between 12.00pm and 5.30am. It was agreed to bring to public's attention the proposed scheme. Notices and map to be put in the Post Office.

Zurich Insurance Renewal

Parish Council insurance renewal was discussed. This had increased due to the new play equipment.

BMX soil humps to be assessed and an up to date valuation of the Village Hall to be sought.

Matters arising from the Annual Parish Meeting:

Recreation Ground: recommendations following a review of the rec:

People using the pavilion and village hall to be reminded to take their rubbish home and not leave it by the litter/recycle bins.

Obtain quotes for tree work in children's play area, woodland area, hedgerow and replacement of chestnut tree.

General tidying up of the rec and ditch.

Benches/Trees/Planters: Motion put forward for the Church Walk plant trough to be re-sited and new benches to be located around village.

Hinckley Road Cemetery: Assessment of the state of the cemetery to be made.

(Continued on page 25)

(Parish Council notes continued from page 24)

War Memorial: It has been suggested to re-site the memorial to the corner of Park House/Station Road/High Street in time for the 100th anniversary of the 1st World War in 2014. Clerk to check that the owners of Park House are in agreement and to liaise with Barry Whirrity, Borough Council's Conservation Officer. Parish Council confirmed their acceptance of this motion.

Road Sign Nameplates: The Parish Council has been asked to consider purchasing 22 heritage road nameplates to be sited in or on the edge of the conservation area costing £3190, of which 50% would be funded by HBBC. Councillors proposed to accept the scheme and phase in the rest of village in the future. It was suggested that the Tudor Rose be used as the crest on the nameplates.

Neighbourhood Plan: This issue was discussed and further investigation will be made by the Council.

Barwell SUE: It was proposed a strong letter be sent to HBBC Planning stating that if this development proceeds, a service road will be needed to take the traffic away from rural roads. Stoke Golding Parish Council to work with other Parish Councils to agree the letter. An invite to be sent to Ivan Ould, Kevin Morrell, Ruth Camamile, HBBC Planning Officers and Alan White.

Communications received by the Chairman

Email – Jane White, re an update on village shop.

Email – Ray Tunks - Hinckley Road Cemetery – repairs and tidying up – the Parish Council to inspect.

Written

Letter - LCC Highways acknowledge that Barwell SUE will present no problems.

Clerk to ask Highways when Station Road surface dressing will be redone.

County Cllr Ivan Ould's report:

Local Issues:

Cllr Ould needs to assess how much support there is within the village for the concept of a 20 mph zone. This will involve circulating all the houses in the Parish and obtaining responses to a yes/no question.

Apparently Stapleton Lane, Dadlington, used to be a gated road. This may become very important in the aftermath of the decision by HBBC to agree the Barwell SUE - on a majority vote. Cllr Ould refused to accept the Highway's Planning Officers' Report, as it offered no mitigation measures for rural hamlets and villages in the Market Bosworth Division affected by the road traffic associated with these proposals.

Cllr Ould requested that the Parish Council give him an indication as to whether or not they would support the re-instatement of the gates on Stapleton Lane?

Clerk to reply – 'With regard to the issue of re-instatement of gates on Stapleton Lane - if the Barwell SUE goes ahead and the planners do not accept the Parish Councils' proposals, this would be supported. We hope to hold a Parish Councils' Group Committee meeting on the Barwell SUE and feel the Speed Initiative Group should be involved in this in order to discuss further whether the whole village supports a 20mph speed limit.'

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

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

YOGA **New class timetable from July 22nd 2013**

Yoga mixed level	Mon	6.15pm	Baxter Hall
Yoga easy level	Mon	7.30pm	Baxter Hall
Yoga Advanced	Tues	6.15pm	Baxter Hall
Yogafit mixed level	Wed	6pm	Baxter Hall

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 1st, 15th & 19th August

Dadlington	27 Hinckley Rd - 10.05 - 10.25am
Stoke Golding	Greenwood Road 10.30 - 10.45am
	Sherwood Road 10.50 - 11.10am
	The White Swan 11.15 - 11.40am
	Hinckley Road/Main Street 11.45 - 12.05pm



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

Across

1. Parrot. 4. RSFPB. 8. Aces. 9. Regulate. 10. Officer. 12. Wrens. 13. Yolk.
 14. Kiwis. 17. Stork. 20. Ibis. 22. Light. 23. Natures. 24. Flamingo. 25. Ajar.
 26. Flags. 27. Gospel.

Down

1. Peacock. 2. Rossini. 3. Turkey. 5. Squawks. 6. Placebo. 7. Hens. 11. Robin
 15. Wagtail. 16. Sittling. 18. Toucans. 19. Kestrel. 21. Sarong. 22. Loff.


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