



#### Note from the Editors

We have another article (p.5) and a letter (p.4) regarding the proposed development behind Laburnum Cottage, each expressing a different point of view. We try to remain neutral at The Stoker and will always try to publish your letters and articles sent to us as



long as they don't become too personal. If you have a few hours to spare why not look at some of the volunteering

opportunities on offer this month. Stoke Golding Village Hall Committee needs a new Booking Clerk (p.8) and the Concordia Theatre, Hinckley needs people for a variety of different roles (p.9). You could really make a difference.

Amazingly The Stoker will be fifteen years old in April and we are planning to produce a special 150th edition with a souvenir colour supplement to celebrate this achievement, which we are all very proud of. Please send us your news and photographs as usual - the more the merrier!

On behalf of The Stoker Team we would like to wish all of our Stoker readers a very Happy Easter.

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 **April 2016** issue of The Stoker to: **The Editor, 45 Station Road, Stoke Golding by 15th March 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: Simon Henley (left) and Mickey Vegas after their recent Elvis tribute show at Stoke Golding Club (see write up on page 5)

#### Rob's Extreme Bike Ride to Raise Funds for LOROS



Crown Hill resident Rob Watson is preparing to cycle from London to Paris to raise money for LOROS in memory of his friend and neighbour Gary Bench, who died last July at the age of 39 years leaving a wife and young family.

The ride, from 2nd - 5th June will cover 300 miles over 3 days and Rob, who says he is not a cyclist, has been training hard

cycling in all weathers to get ready for his challenging ride and strengthening his legs at the gym.

He is hoping to raise over a thousand pounds for LOROS - the charity that helped his friend Gary towards the end of his life.

We are sure our Stoker readers will want to support this worthwhile venture - if so you can donate online at www.doitforcharity.com/ robertwatson or contact the Stoker.



#### St Margaret's - a School to be Proud of

Congratulations to all at St. Margaret's Primary School – headteacher Emma Prokipczuk, the staff and all the children - for a fantastic report from Ofsted following a rigorous two day inspection in January.

The school was judged to be a good school with some areas outstanding.

The main strengths were as follows:

Leaders have established a culture whereby the school resonates with a strong sense of ambition, caring values and an enjoyment of learning.

The early years' provision is outstanding. Children rapidly develop skills, knowledge and positive relationships with each other and the adults who work with them.

Pupils, staff and parents express a tremendous loyalty for the school and describe it as 'one big family'. Staff look after pupils very well so that they feel safe and thrive.

The behaviour of pupils is outstanding. Their attitudes towards each other, their teachers and their work are exemplary, founded on mutual respect, high expectations of good manners and consideration for others.

Pupils make good progress from their starting points across all phases of the school.

Pupils' attainment is consistently above national averages.

Lessons are characterised by pupils' high levels of attentiveness. Teachers' careful planning, thoughtful questioning and high expectations mean that pupils are motivated by and productively engaged in their learning.

We have every reason to feel proud of our local primary school.

Ella Orr

#### Correspondence



Following the article about Laburnum cottage in last month's Stoker I wish to state that the ground at the cottage is PRIVATE land and does not belong to the community as implied. If the writer of the article is so concerned about green spaces in the village perhaps he should donate part

of his back garden. Alternatively if there are any villagers who would also be interested in doing this please do contact him, bearing in mind that you would be expected to DONATE the land.

The owners of Laburnum cottage have been there for over 80 years and it is time to show compassion by not trying to take from the owners what is rightfully theirs. The majority of villagers have their own green spaces - their gardens. The village is surrounded by countryside, plus the Ashby canal - is that not enough? Who knows what the outcome of all this might be - maybe the ground will revert back

to its original use - rebuild the pig sties and fill with pigs, add some chickens, throw in a couple of cows, even some sheep. Now wouldn't that be nice, especially when the wind is in the wrong direction!

Lifelong resident of Stoke Golding Name and address supplied.

## Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan (SGNP) – What's been happening?

Here are the headlines from the latest meeting held on Wednesday January 20th

#### **Recommendation of Neighbourhood Plan Boundary**

Following the discussion of two options with Higham Parish Council, written agreement for option 2 has been given, which includes some neighbouring businesses and farms but excludes Fox Covert Farm within SGNP. Members of the public present at the meeting supported option 2 for the SGNP boundary. A timetable for the SGNP Boundary was discussed with estimated timescale for agreement by the Borough Council.

#### Selection of consultants

Fact finding has been carried out on a list of Consultants/agencies potentially support with SGNP. This has been narrowed down to three: Kirkwells, Your Locale and Planit X. These are being invited to present to the committee before a final decision is made. Advice will also be sought from Rural Communities Council as required.

By the time you read this there will have been another meeting scheduled for **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February**, so look out for another update in next month's issue of The Stoker.

Ella Orr

#### **Conservation Area Green Space Under Threat**

The last piece of green space in the centre of Stoke Golding is under threat. The owners of the site next to Laburnum Cottage on High Street, have discussed with HBBC their proposal to seek permission for seven houses. Having been advised that permission for seven houses would be very likely to be refused an application is going to be made instead for five, undoubtedly bigger, 'executive' dwellings. If permission is granted these houses will be squeezed onto the piece of land that runs alongside of the jitty next to Laburnum Cottage on High Street.

This area is within the village Conservation Area and as such, for the development within conservation areas, Local Plan Policy (BE7) applies. This provides that in determining planning applications a primary consideration will be whether the proposal would either 'preserve or, preferably where scope exists, enhance the character or appearance of the Conservation Area.' The proposed collection of supersized executive dwellings, or any dwellings, is wholly incompatible with this primary consideration.

As a sweetener to smooth the application through, or a late gesture of generosity, it is proposed that a small space, needed to access the development, at the entrance to the development will be 'donated' to the village.

Additionally Local Plan Policy BE19 covers open spaces and areas of special character within settlements. This provides that the local planning authority will 'seek to retain any open area of land or visual break between buildings identified as making a contribution to the special character of the settlement.' It is hard to see how this development could possibly be compatible with this.

Building houses on this remaining open space will fundamentally change the character of the centre of Stoke Golding, removing forever the remnants of the village's agricultural heritage.

If, like me, you feel that this is not a good decision for the village please contact the Parish Council at clerk.stokegoldingpc@gmail.com and or HBBC Richard Wright Planning Officer at Richard.Wright@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk.

Margaret Collier

#### ELVIS IS BACK!

**Stoke Golding Club**, played host to not one, but two professional Elvis Tribute Artists (ETA's) on Saturday February 13th, when the village's resident ETA's, Simon Henley and Mick Goodwill, (aka, Micky Vegas), performed to a sell-out crowd, with a three-hour show that encompassed the King of Rock 'n' Roll's entire 23-year musical career.

Added excitement was provided by the Thornton-based cover band, Dirty Water, which to the delight of the audience, supported a black leather clad Simon Henley, in a raucous, hip-swivelling recital of Elvis' 1968 Comeback Special.

The show ended, with Micky Vegas serenading the crowd with hits from Elvis' performances in Las Vegas. Both artists contributed £50 each to a local charity.

#### **Stoke's Wartime Past**

In 1956, as the cold war between the West and Russia intensified, the Royal Observer Corps began building a series of nuclear monitoring posts across the country, to monitor the Soviet nuclear threat. Staffed by volunteers, they were in use until 1991. Many have since been demolished, whilst others lie in a state of decay. However, that is not the case of Stoke Golding's monitoring post which Terry Bottrill discovered in the grounds of his house on Wykin Lane.

Terry has subsequently spent a lot of time and effort gathering together a collection of artifacts from the underground post's working days, which he puts on display for the public to see when he holds his annual June open days. His expert knowledge has recently been called upon when he travelled to Cheshire where ITV were filming the second series of the drama series Home Fires. As one of the characters was joining the Observer Corps, it fell to Terry to instruct the actors in the correct use of the period equipment.





The only evidence of the post on the surface is a small dark green structure that provided access for the four man crew and an air supply. It was calculated that, in the event of a nuclear war, the 8 inch concrete roof lying beneath a mound of compacted earth, would reduce the effects of radiation by one and a half thousand times. Fortunately, this never had to be tested, but the post did see action of a sort when members of CND broke into it and then painted a sign on the road saying

secret bunker: the council resurfaced the road the next day.

Many of the monitoring posts were sited next to World War II aircraft observation towers and Terry also has one of these that he's rebuilt. The tower recorded aircraft passing overhead during the war years, and was built in Stoke Golding because of its proximity to RAF Nuneaton (Lindley), currently the site of MIRA. None of the people who served in the tower are believed to be still alive, but Terry is keen to track down any of their descendants who may have documents or objects that were kept after their tour of duty, so that he can build up a collection and display them for the public to see. He has one such item that lists all the aircraft movements during a two month period. It was donated by the widow of Ron Bass, who began serving on the post as a 15 year old, prior to his conscription into the RAF at age 18.

The towers were originally built near the south coast, but then construction moved north as the war progressed. The personnel manning it were issued with four rifles, but as far as Terry can ascertain from conversations with those who served there, only one shot was ever fired, and the men enjoyed a good meal afterwards: the rabbit wasn't so lucky. Terry would like to see the site listed in time, as would the council, which has been supportive of his restoration projects. If you are interested in seeing these local historic sites then keep an eye out in June for the open day. 6

#### Ten of a Kind

We are surrounded by logos, but how much do we remember them? Here are ten questions based on common logos.

1. How much do the dots on the Dominos Pizza logo add up to?

2. The logo for Twitter is a little bird, but does it face to the left or to the right?

3. Which animal appears as the logo for the World Wide Fund for Nature or WWF?

4. How many of the letters in the Google logo are green?

5. On a tine of Heinz Baked Beans, how many varieties does it mention under the logo?

6. The Manchester United mascot is the same as that featured on the club badge. What is it?

7. Colonel Sanders appears on the KFC logo. Can you name three things he is wearing along with his white shirt?

8. Which footwear brand has a large tick as their logo?

9. What kind of shapes, coloured red and white, make up the logo of banking giants HSBC?

10. Which film company's logo features the silhouette of a boy fishing whilst sitting on crescent moon?

Answers on page 20



#### **CASAG Information Board February - Heart Month**

Did you know every 3 minutes someone in the UK is struck by a heart attack and 30% of heart attacks are fatal?

The British Heart Foundation has an excellent website to find out more www.bhf.org.uk

They have a wealth of information on how your heart works, treatment options, tests, risk factors, preventing heart disease, support groups and more.

Jennifer Michie

#### More Fun at Scouts and Beavers!

The scouts have been off shooting with air rifles at the scout range in Burbage. One of the scouts, who hadn't done any before, is a complete natural and is now considering joining the scout shooting club.

They have also been making biscuits like the British Bake Off. Mary and Paul would have been interested in the results considering technically the same recipe was used.



The cubs have been finishing off their 'my skills challenge badge' with circuit training exercises which had some interesting scoring ie 250 star jumps per minute.

They are currently working on their team challenge badge. They are undertaking a lot of team, leadership tasks and team games including running round Foxes Covert in complete darkness and mainly avoiding bashing into trees! The cubs rarely get the chance to run around with complete freedom in the dark.

The cubs and beavers have been taking part in Shrove Tuesday activities. Both groups played pancake games and the cubs cooked pancakes while the Beavers observed. The Beavers learned more about the ancient tradition as part of their 'My World Challenge Award'.

The beavers have designed a helping hand design and have identified where they can help out at home. I don't think the private cleaning companies should feel threatened!

With Easter looming there will be the traditional Big Egg challenge - watch this space.

Jennifer

#### Help Needed for Stoke Golding Village Hall

In last month's issue we reported that we are looking for new members to join the



Village Hall Management Committee. Specifically, we need a new **Booking Clerk** to take over from Alan White, who has done the job very efficiently for many years. If you would like to know what the role entails please contact me. We are a very friendly group committed to keeping this valuable village asset running smoothly.

Ruth Fisher, Tel 01455 212489, ruthsg21@btinternet.com

#### "That's The Way To Do It"

Stanley Opera's latest production, set by the sea side in the late 1940s, will be performed by a top-notch cast of the best singers in the region, including the widely-admired Stanley Opera Chorus and even features a Punch and Judy show! The Elixir of Love, by Donizzetti, was voted 'the funniest opera ever' in a recent national online poll and it's also the perfect opera for those who love musicals but somehow think they don't like opera.

Sung in a really funny modern English translation, The Elixir of Love contains two hours of catchy tunes, a story that anyone who has ever been in love will identify with and more laughs than the very best sit-com.

Would you buy a love potion if it might make you irresistible to the opposite sex?

That's what Nemorino does. The poor lad is desperate for the love of Adina but she only has eyes for men in uniform. When a 'doctor' shows up in town it looks as if Nemorino's prayers have been answered. The doc has potions and lotions for all sorts of ailments but it's his 'magical elixir' that interests Nemorino. This love potion will make every girl in town fall in love with him – or so he's told. Even haughty Adina.

You can book your tickets online at concordiatheatre.co.uk/the-elixir-of-love or by calling the theatre box office on 01455 615005 during morning opening times (Monday to Saturday).



Stoke Golding's own Sarah Moore has been busy designing some of the props including this impressive Mr Punch.

THE ELIXIR OF LOVE CONCORDIA THEATRE 8th, 12th, 14th & 16th APRIL

#### DID YOU KNOW THAT IT CAN TAKE AS MANY AS 75 PEOPLE BEHIND THE SCENES TO STAGE A SHOW AT THE THEATRE?

#### We would love you to come and help.

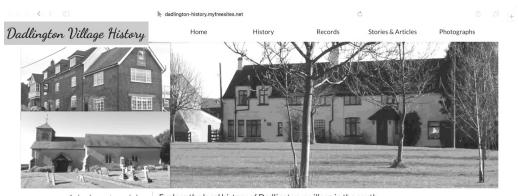
The Concordia Theatre is completely voluntary run and we are always seeking members to join our teams. There are lots of ways you could get involved, meet new people, learn something new and see how it all fits together.

You could help in the bar... Be a stage technician ... help with the sound or lighting ... Serve coffee in the intervals... Dress up and be on front of house ... How about being one of the fly-rail crew shooting in scenery?

#### Interested?

Just contact Judy Peatfield, Theatre Publicity Officer -ring her on 01455 847676 for further details.

# **Dadlington Matters**



A Leicestershire village with royal connections Explore the local history of Dadlington, a village in the south west of Leicestershire, close to the town of Hinckley. Discover the village's close connections with the Battle of Bosworth and Richard III. Search the records, read stories about events of the past and examine photographs.

#### Village History in Dadlington

In last month's Stoker, I announced that I had set up a Dadlington history website at <u>http://dadlington-history.myfreesites.net</u>. This month, I thought I'd give a little more detail about the site and the reasons why I created it.

If you have ever tried researching your family history, you will know that more and more information is becoming available online, not just sites which allow you to search for names, but other resources like newspaper archives and trade directories. Whilst it is interesting to find out the names of your ancestors, it is even more rewarding to discover facts about their lives, and for that local history websites are a valuable resource, especially ones relating to the specific towns and villages where your ancestors lived. Dadlington has a website, set up a number of years ago by Tim Parry, and I had thought about seeing if I could add some more information to that, being interested in history and recently retired– and then I joined The Stoker.

For a piece I wrote about the World War I names on the church war memorial, I came into contact with Denis Cash, a local historian who has contributed to this magazine on many occasions, and he gave me a large amount of digital information about the village. I also interviewed Dadlington resident Charlie Frisby, who has an extensive collection of local stories and drawings that he has put together over many years. Whilst this was all of great interest to me, it seemed a shame to just keep it on my computer when others might benefit from seeing it online. And so I set up the website.

Initially, I chose a free site that provided web design tools online, giving me the option of seeing how successful it was before spending money on a unique domain name. I decided to portion the resources I had into four main areas: a series of brief histories of the village, a compilation of all the records that I hold, a page of stories and articles

and a page of photographs, using the extensive collection that Gordon Webster had assembled and which Jill Webster kindly let me use. In addition, I added a contact form, a message board, a series of links to other websites, a surname index and a search box. Then, having established a format for the site, I set about populating it with information.

John Whitehead, a Dadlington resident and Battlefield Centre guide has written a section on Richard III, the battle and the links with the village. I have put together the other history pages using various sources. The resources section contains a record of baptisms, marriages and burials that Rev Chris Gash transcribed from the original parish registers. As well as a transcription of the 1851 census I'd been given, I used an online subscription to access and record the 1891 census and 1911 census, so giving a picture of the village population changing over time.

Also on the resources page are `Dadlington entries in various Trade Directories, published from 1846 to 1941 which give the names of the gentry and the farmers of the village. There is also a collection of newspaper articles over a similar period in which Dadlington residents feature. Now, having put all this information online, my current task is to publicise it and to get links to it put on other local websites, as well as to continue to add more information as I receive it. If you have anything on the village that I haven't included then please do let me know through the contact form on the website – and the web address again: <a href="http://dadlington-history.myfreesites.net">http://dadlington-history.myfreesites.net</a>

Michael Dix

#### **Dadlington Village Quiz**

The combined intellects of over fifty residents of Dadlington and surrounding areas were superbly tested by the quiz mastery of Michael Dix on the evening of Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January in the Village Hall.

Eight teams ranging from 'Jetlagged' to 'The Scrambled Eggheads' raided their memory banks and sought inspiration in the bottom of a glass before Team 'V6' emerged victorious and claimed their 'silver' trophies.

Everybody judged the refurbished Village Hall to be a perfect venue (also available for party, class and conference hire – contact John on 212167 for details). Teams enjoyed a delicious two course supper from the new kitchen, and all dug deep for the raffle and bar to raise an incredible £770, which will be spent on further improvements.

Many thanks to Michael, the catering team and Sandra McDonald for her generous donation of wine.

Simon Rees-Jones

#### A Cathedral Journey – Part 1: A trio of starters

There must be something deep within the human psyche that makes us want to collect things. I've been doing it for years. I remember my mother's shrieks of disapproval when, as a 13 year old, I retrieved a bus ticket from a wet gutter in the middle of Oxford, for my bus ticket collection. My bookcase boasts an impressive collection of OS Landranger maps, on the shelf above my complete set of Tintin books. And it's not just physical things: readers may remember me "collecting' all the Eleanor Crosses in one day last autumn. I have got previous form however, as, with my friend Andrew, we decided one day, back in 1994, to collect all the Anglican cathedrals in England.

Now this wasn't quite as nerdy as it sounds. For a start, when we made the decision, we were actually inside our first cathedral in Ripon: one down, 43 to go. The plan was that, every so often, the two of us would reluctantly give up a fun day at home with our wives and young families, to go on a solemn pilgrimage, in search of the spiritual wonder and architectural beauty that is the English cathedral. That this would involve

various stops along the way for refreshment and might occasionally coincide with a Leicester City away game, was not even considered at the time.

Ripon is a delightful small town on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales. The cathedral is now in its fourth incarnation, the original building having been started in 672 AD. It stands out, on its own, a little distance away from any other buildings and it has an impressive west entrance, with two sturdy towers flanking the doorways in a kind of Yorkshire,



no-nonsense kind of way. We'd were visiting the town with our wives, on our once a year weekend away together, the children having been dispatched to eager grandparents. We'd done the shops and now it was time for the sights. Entry was free back in those days, but we helped with the huge costs of running an 800 year old building by buying a postcard each, and also a little A4 plan of the cathedral which helped us to navigate our way around. There purchases were to become the first of many as we sought to record our endeavours for posterity.

A couple of months later and it was off to cathedral number two. In actual fact, we set off for it on three separate occasions, the first two visits proving fruitless as the cathedral was closed to visitors when we arrived. I'd glimpsed the imposing Gloucester cathedral from the M5 as we'd sped off to holidays in Devon and Cornwall and it was just as impressive when we finally managed to gain entry. The huge nave, that central part where the congregation sits, is very impressive, with pillars soaring up to the roof. I had a particular interest in this cathedral as it contains the shrine of Edward II. He was rather gruesomely murdered at nearby Berkeley Castle. I'll spare you the details as they're not really suitable for a family publication. By the way, collecting buried royals is another of my strange pastimes, so I could tick this rather ineffectual ruler off my list at the same time. When there was all the controversy about where Richard III was going to be buried, it crossed my mind that Edward II had set a precedent, well not Edward himself, but those who buried him very close to where he'd died. Now Leicester Cathedral has its own royal tomb, a stone's throw away from Richard's original burial place In my opinion, the cathedral authorities have made a mighty fine job in remodeling the cathedral to accommodate the tomb. When Andrew and I visited back in November 1994, it was less impressive. After the glorious medieval giants of Ripon and Gloucester, Leicester's modified church was a bit of a comedown. It has only been a cathedral for less than a hundred years, although Leicester did have a Saxon cathedral elsewhere in the city until its bishop got a wee bit scared of the approaching Danes and fled.

Our visit didn't take too long because a. there wasn't much to see back then, and b. we'd got a Leicester City game to go on to. It's different now and well worth a visit, along with the new Richard III visitors' centre. The year 1994 came to an end: a year that saw the first online newspaper, the first National Lottery draw and the first episode of the Vicar of Dibley – and of course it saw the first three cathedrals ticked off in our new collection.

Michael Dix

#### **Cupid comes to Dadlington!**

The village hall in Dadlington filled up on Valentine's Eve for a black tie dinner and dance. The team had recreated a romantic night club atmosphere with a welcoming glass of prosecco, sophisticated decoration and soft lighting. The entire evening was a fabulous success with wonderful musical entertainment from the big band sound of *No Strings Attached.* The enthusiastic dancers jived and glided the night away to

this group's premier performance. *No Strings Attached* is a nine piece instrumental swing band who can play everything from Born to be Wild to Careless Whisper via Here, There and Everywhere. The band clearly have a great future as they play with considerable talent and obvious enjoyment and enthusiasm.

The catering team thoroughly deserved their impromptu round of applause, having served a delicious creamy chicken chasseur with roast potatoes and a vegetable selection. Every guest had their own individual gift of homemade chocolates – a romantic touch.

Dancing continued until after midnight to the sounds of the Valentine Disco. Our very generous guests from Dadlington, Stoke Golding and even further afield, raised over £600 which will go towards the continued refurbishment of the village hall. One final piece of advice – book your tickets early for next year!

Simon Rees-Jones

#### What's On

#### 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.

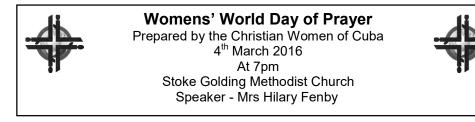
Contact Linda Gosling 01455 212598



Concert by Gresley Male Voice Choir

Saturday April 2nd Methodist Church at 7pm

> Admission £6 to include refreshments



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#### What's On



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#### **Church Matters**



#### From St Margaret's Church

#### WEAR YOUR EASTER SMILE WITH JOY!

Today my wife and I were invited to a fancy dress party – and asked to judge the fancy dressers. I take it that we are expected to dress up as well. It reminded me of a Lecturer in Law in Sheffield who, once, when he saw me without my dog collar, accused me of masquerading as a layman!

I am writing this on Ash Wednesday. At this morning's service we had crosses of ash marked on our foreheads. The delicate decision then had to be made as to whether to retain the cross when leaving the church.

Some of our friends in France are having heated debates as to whether it is right, in a secular society, publically to wear veils which cover the face. Again, I recall weddings which I have conducted where removing the veil from the bride's face at the outset seemed practical and correct. We were able to hear her responses and the groom knew he was marrying the right woman.

And today, one of our grand-daughters from Bristol sent my wife a ring which she had made. (It has been an eventful twenty four hours!) My wife must be sure to wear the ring when we visit the family on Friday.

One day throws up various aspects of how we adorn ourselves – and what is public and what is private.

As we begin Lent, so we may look forward to its ending in Holy Week, later in March. On the Sunday before the first Easter the crowds pulled palm branches from the trees to wave at Jesus as he entered Jerusalem; all very public. Before his crucifixion the Roman soldiers wove Jesus a crown of thorns – and publically jeered at him and abused him. And one part of this barbaric form of execution was to strip the victim. This public humiliation was particularly unbearable for a Jew of Jesus's time.

Jesus on the cross was basic humanity made public – no dressing up – no sign of authority or power. So vulnerable and so alone.

And yet, two days later, on Easter Day, that vulnerable victim was raised by the Father in glory. The very public death changed to an almost private resurrection and then again to universal public proclamation. Wear your Easter smile with joy!

Alan Davis

# St Margaret's Church Coffee, Chat & Book SwapFree coffee, tea and a chat on Wednesdays10.30am - 12 noon in ChurchEveryone is welcome, we do hope you will join us.

#### **Church Matters**

#### Church of England March 2016 Services

#### St. Margaret's Church

	U	
	10.30am	Mothering Sunday All Age Service
	10.30am	Benefice Service Higham
	10.30am	Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Holy Communion (Tuesday)
27 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Easter Sunday Holy Communion
St. James's Church		
6 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	BCP Morning Praver

# 69.00amBCP Morning Prayer13th 10.30amBenefice Service Higham20th 9.00amBCP Holy Communion25th 2.00pmGood Friday Benefice Meditation on the cross27th 9.00amEaster Sunday BCP Holy Communion

#### The Methodist Church March Services

6th	10.30am	Mr Charles Davies
13th	6.00pm	Revd Andrew Murphy (Anniversary service)
20th	10.30 am	Mr John Cooke
25th	3.00pm	Good Friday service
27th	10.30 am	Revd Wes Hampton

#### Zion Baptist Chapel March 2016 Services

m Ri	chard Cotton
m Jo	hn Needham
m Ma	ark Menzfeld
m Ma	alcolm Welch
	m Jo m Ma

#### Stoke Golding website: www.stokegolding.co.uk

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#### **BETH'S CORNER**

#### "THE BAXTER HALL CREATIVE ARTS TEAM - A BIG THANK YOU"



I want a Book Launch - but how? None of us has organised such an event. The picture and article in The Hinckley Times doubles the interest. This is to be the official 'Village Launch'. My first encouragement comes from a very special Dadlington lady; "make it a Friday or Saturday Beth, a relaxed weekend event". I take her advice. The venue comes next. Dadlington Hall is in the throes of refurbishment. The Village Hall - too big, (I visualise 20 coming). It has to be 'The Baxter'. Geoff and Doreen are kindness itself. 'We'll turn the heater on a couple of hours beforehand Beth and don't worry about the tables and chairs, we'll put them all out for you'. This kindness follows me constantly through all the stages of setting up this pompous idea of mine. Steve, from The Stoker, immediately puts the date in his diary along with Doreen, who becomes our Artistic Director. Cream banqueting roll and contrasting coloured napkins with cream roses transform the tops of the formica tables and hide their steel legs. Sue and Sheilah, from our writers' group 'Hinckley Scribblers', work alongside our Designer under her guidance . My pencilled list of

everyone we are expecting is snatched away by daughter Amanda and appears on Excel. Also knowing my panic over mental arithmetic, giving incorrect change for tickets, takes over that responsibility too; 'I'll be on the door Mum'. Grandson Josh travels with us from home carrying everything out of the car, including supplies for the kitchen and the interval teas, coffees and biscuits, milk and sugar. The team has met at 4.30pm. Steve has organised classical music. The decor looks wonderful - apart from the Author. Artistic Designer insists on Author returning 'looking as if you were going to the opera - in black with lots of bling'. Author mumbles disparagingly, but obeys. Someone is already waiting at the door when we return - a good sign. The list on Excel has to be repeatedly ignored and re-jigged. People keep arriving. Steve and Josh carry chairs from the church. At 7.30 we are full, some gallant folk standing. We are ready to go! To read stories from memories of years - of laughter and tears.

Looking out at all those faces, many now friends made these last few years, living in the Sock Factory on top of the hill.

My heart is full . This is 'THE CHOICE' I 've made - I belong.

Beth

#### The Fool on The Hill Your feedback is important to us.....

It seems that every time someone provides a service for me, I am expected to deliver feedback. I don't mind this; however, the culture of ensuring customer satisfaction seems to have become so routine as to make it almost pointless. Recently I had my car serviced and the following is a brief synopsis of the satisfaction survey that followed.

"Good morning Mr Fool, it's Tracy here from Rollup and Smokit your friendly local Nissota dealer. We had your Nissota Cashgone in for service last week and we just wondered if you found everything was done to your pleasurement and satisfication?"

Well, all that really happened here is that I turned up at your garage and sat drinking coffee for an hour while you plugged my car into a computer that chatted to the computer in the car and concurred that everything was hunky dory. Furthermore you charged me £25 for a windscreen wiper that destroyed itself on the raised advertising logo that you stuck, without my permission, on the rear window. As far as I can tell the only tangible thing that you did was to change the oil so what could possibly have gone wrong? Because I am British and something of a wimp, all that I was able to vocalise was "Yes thanks, everything was fine." The lovely Tracy then went on to explain that their paymasters, Nissota, may contact me to review their efforts. She just wished to point out that any score less than 10 out of 10 in the survey would be regarded as a fail for their dealership. No pressure there then.

Although this information was presented as though I had freedom to rate them as I wished, the subliminal message could not have been clearer if she had actually said something like this.

"So, what we are saying Mr Fool is that if you fail to give us the maximum rating, it is highly probable that Dereck, our severely stressed General Manager, will be tipped over the edge and have to go back to seeking solace at the bottom of a bottle and attending those meetings. Furthermore our decreased rating is going to result in cut bonus payments and possibly redundancies. Margaret in accounts is already struggling with her dysfunctional family. Eric the tyre fitter will never get to relive his honeymoon in Bognor. Yvonne on reception will be forced to change her wedding venue from the local 5 star hotel to the Gasworks Social Club. Herbert the apprentice has just committed himself to an expensive course of Acne treatment. All these good, honest and hardworking folk are dependent on pathetic little people like you, expecting miracles from a simple car service. What right do you have, you ungrateful selfish odious pile of human misery to condemn us to a life of penury with your pathetic 9 out of 10 rating? How dare you.



Well, since you put it like that then, it's a 10 from Len.



#### **Stoke Golding WI**

#### REPORT ON STOKE GOLDING W.I MEETING ON 10<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

Members of Stoke Golding W.I were shown a very unusual way of braiding at their meeting this month. This was Kumihimo braiding, a Japanese craft that has been in existence for over 2000 years and had originally been used to decorate the hilts of Samurai swords and to make the Obi belts worn with the Kimonos of both men and women.

Tina Bax introduced Jackie Walker, a professional braid maker who helped all ladies who wished to take part, with step by step instructions in making a key ring using this technic. After positioning and remembering the placement of the four strands of braid in the correct position on the Kumihimo Disc, it was then the turn of mastering the movements of up or down followed by turning the disc anti clockwise in order to finally achieve a beautiful braid in various colours and to finally be able to produce a very attractive key ring holder. By the sound of much laughter and yet also a lot of concentration it certainly seemed that everyone enjoyed the experience and were able to take home something that they themselves had produced.

Jackie also holds a craft and chat morning at her own home where she instructs ladies in making more complicated designs and objects which some of the members seemed interested in attending. Everyone agreed that it had been a very unusual and interesting night.

The next meeting is on March 9<sup>th</sup> at the Methodist Hall and the speaker is a lady from a tea shop talking about and allowing members to sample different teas. Along with the refreshments that members produce at every meeting, this should be another entertaining evening and all are welcome to come and partake.

Val Hartwell

#### Answers to Ten of a kind

1. 3

- 2. To the right
- 3. Panda
- 4. Just one, the letter L
- 5. 57 varieties
- 6. A red devil
- 7. Apron, bow tie and glasses
- 8. Nike
- 9. Triangles
- 10. Dreamworks



#### 2 3 6 5 9 8 10 12 11 13 14 15 17 19 16 18 20 21 23 22 24 25 27 26

The Easter Crossword

#### Across

- 1 He sent Jesus to the cross (6)
- 4 see 27A (5)
- 8 The Sunday before Easter (4)
- 9 The last supper Jewish meal (8)
- 10 Clothing, apparel (7)
- 12 Black wood (5)
- 13 Changes colour of item (4)
- 14 Person canonised by the church (5)
- 17 Initials used in recipe for serving spoons(5)

20 Jesus had a nail put through one of these (4)

- 22 One of the body's senses (5)
- 23 Sea in north Palestine (7)
- 24 Mary's last name she went to the 22D (8)
- 25 A long way off (4)
- 26 Any one of the USA's fifty(5)
- 27 4A did this to Jesus three times (6)

#### Down

- 1 Old Egyptian paper is made of this (7)
- 2 Male supported by charity (7)
- 3 To enlarge (6)
- 5 Simplest )7)
- 6. Jealous (7)
- 7 To address God (4)
- 11 The act of securing a parcel with string (5)
- 15 Power of observation (7)
- 16 the three kings came from ..... (3
- & 4)
- 18 EU country (7)
- 19 A soldier did this to Jesus on the cross (7)
- 21 Mended a sock (6)
- 22 Last resting place (4)

Answers on page 26

### Notes from Stoke Golding Parish Council Meeting – February (not ratified)

*Co-option of Parish Councillor:* It was resolved that Pauline Goodsell be co-opted on to the Parish Council.

Following County Cllr Ould's report, Cllr Mitchell commented on proposals to charge for building material disposal at Barwell Recycling Centre from April 2016. This is a backwards step that will encourage fly tipping. Cllr Ould noted that although the PC could voice their concerns, this was determined by European Directives and landfill tax and would bring the area in line with Warwickshire.

Borough Cllr Reg Ward reported on the following issues:

*Budget* - a £25 brown bin charge will probably be recommended.

*Laburnum Cottage* – applicant has until 26<sup>th</sup> February to submit an amended plan. *Fuel theft* - a resident of Andrew Close has reported incidents of fuel theft.

Site Allocation Document – modifications to the document will go out to public consultation on  $5^{th}$  February.

#### Matters arising from January's meeting

*Crime Report for November* – 1 violence/sexual offence near Roseway and 1 antisocial behaviour near Church Walks.

*Methodist Church Hall* – hire has increased to £10 per hour.

*Cemetery Byelaws/Guidelines* –.these have been made available on the Stoke Golding Village Website and in the PO. Ray Tunks suggests that a note could be added to the Scale of Charges directing families to the village website or PO for guidelines.

*Parking Hinckley Rd/Wykin Lane junction* – due to limited resources LCC Parking Management Team has assessed against their priorities and conclude that this does not rank highly enough to warrant work.

*Dog waste bin at the top of Roseway* – the door has rusted and catch is broken, and needs replacing. It was agreed to purchase a plastic 25 litre bin for £86.52. It was also agreed to move one of the dog waste bins from the village hall end of the rec to the bottom of the field.

*PC meeting venue* – The Clerk has checked availability of the Methodist Hall for further meetings and sought advice from the NALC. It was agreed that with immediate effect, all monthly Parish Council meetings will be held at the Methodist Hall. This will give improved accessibility to all residents who wish to attend meetings.

#### **Reports by Councillors:**

Cllr Pegg reported on the Convent Site. He confirmed that Mar City is operating under new ownership. The possible implications for transfer of ownership of the community land were discussed. Cllr Mitchell will check the terms of the agreement set out in the original planning application.

#### Planning Applications:

*Permissions granted* – Land adj 6 Whitemoors Rd – variation of planning permission to alter elevations, 54 Station Rd – removal of 1 conifer, 52 Station Rd – fell pine tree.

#### Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Mitchell has been talking with Rachel Dexter, designated HBBC Officer for Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan, to ensure that the document submitted for the Neighbourhood Plan Area would be legally acceptable and not open to challenge at a later date. Hopefully the area should be agreed by the Borough by mid-July. It was resolved that 'Stoke Golding Parish Council ratifies the recommendation of the Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee and agrees that the area set out in option 2 discussed with a representative of Higham-on-the-Hill Parish Council is the area to be put forward for the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan'.

Sport in Stoke Golding

In light of recent emergency repairs to the pavilion roof, costing £2846, the future of the existing building was discussed. It is essential that a plan for the pavilion project is in place by July 2016. This will allow the Parish Council to make decisions on whether to carry out further repairs to the existing building. The Clerk will obtain phone numbers for the Adult Football Club and Cricket Club to speak to them about pending development plans.

Christmas 2016 arrangements

It was agreed that the Parish Council would continue to provide a Christmas tree and also confirm the date of the lights' switch-on with the Charity of Thomas Barton. *New play equipment at the rec* 

Feedback from residents and guidance from HBBC were discussed. It was agreed that this project should be postponed. It was also suggested that the Neighbourhood Plan might provide useful feedback on the needs and preferences of residents. *Approval of New Standing Orders, Code of Conduct and Financial Regulations* These were approved and will be formally adopted at the APM on 21<sup>st</sup> April. *Any other business* 

Cllr Fisher reported on the Bosworth 1485 Legacy Group. She will attend a meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> March and report back.

Next meeting: Methodist Church Hall, Wednesday 2nd March 2016 at 7pm

#### The Stoke Golding Boys' Charity

Object of the Trust

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

The Trustees are considering the annual application of grants in accordance with the Terms of the Trust, as quoted above and applications are invited stating **the purpose of the application, date of birth, address and telephone number** to the:

Clerk of the Trustees, 2 Church Walks, Stoke Golding, Nuneaton, Warks. CV13 6HB by **Friday 13th March 2016.** 

By Order of the Trustees, Tony Smith (Clerk)

#### CRIME AND PUNISHMENT IN VICTORIAN TIMES.

In Victorian times the emphasis on punishment of offenders was most severe in crimes against property than against a person. Today it is orientated more towards crimes against people though many would think it still not severe enough.

An article in the Leicester Journal dated 8th August 1817 reads "William Smith aged 40 and George Cleaver aged 50 appeared at Leicester Assizes for stealing a wether lamb the property of Mrs Ann Preston of Wykin near Hinckley on 8th July last. Smith was found guilty and sentenced to death by hanging and Cleaver was found not Guilty." Justice it seems was not only harsh but also swift.

The Leicester Chronicle of 14th July 1883 reports that John King of Stoke Golding appeared at Leicester Assizes indicted for maliciously cutting and wounding Stoke Golding's police constable Thomas Truslove in that village on 3rd July 1883 and stealing fleeces valued at £1. 13s. 0. He pleaded not guilty.

The Constable said he received the complaint of the robbery and found the property in a hovel upon which he kept watch until 11pm when he saw the prisoner enter the hovel and he charged him with the theft and took hold of him. The prisoner struggled to escape and the officer drew his staff and struck him on the head and managed to get his handcuffs onto one hand upon which King drew a knife or other sharp instrument and struck the constable wounding him severely about the head and struck at his throat. The policeman had to release the prisoner who made his escape. Truslove found the weapon had penetrated his ear and had made a wound an inch long penetrating the bone at the back of his head and he was carried to his home where a Hinckley doctor attended to him and said that had the blow fallen a little lower it would have killed him.

The man King was traced to his home and was arrested and was sent to the assizes for trial. The judge summed up to the jury and they returned a verdict of guilty of theft but guilty only of common assault on what should been seen as the major offence. The judge sentenced him to fifteen months imprisonment with hard labour.

Again it seems that justice was swift but the court was more concerned that property had been stolen than the serious injuries to the constable.

Denis Cash

#### Crime in Our Time - Stoke Golding Farm Burglary

Ivy House Farm was burgled in the early hours of Sunday morning at the beginning of February. Thieves broke into outbuildings and stole tools and a new compressor which they tore off the wall using a crowbar. Jayne Fisher, from the farm said " It was a wonder they weren't electrocuted. They also stampeded the cattle in the field causing them great upset."

Anyone with information about this incident should contact the police.

#### THE TRIALS OF MISS BUCKLEY

At the age of twelve we girls were assigned to domestic science To learn our skills with suitable equipment in the old school hall We all thought it great to escape classroom lessons Indeed I never regarded Monday as a school day at all

Miss Buckley was our very strict teacher Possessing a sharp roving eagle eye If she saw anyone whispering or not paying attention Her loud booming voice would rise sky high

Despite these little quirks, she was a very good teacher White aprons and head bands she insisted we make A stickler for cleanliness, hands and nails were inspected Before we could think of starting to bake

Miss Buckley chose for us a cheese and potato pie A simple first dish for us to do I must say that all turned out golden and tasty Miss Buckley was pleased, I'll give her her due

I had failures, my rock cakes lived up to their name The butt of my brother's silly joke My victoria sandwich failed to rise Why could it not have a nice rounded slope?

Miss Buckley taught us all the rudiments of washing We took household articles and soap from home Painstakingly grated into the big copper Then stirred with a long stick to make a good foam

The job we hated was preparation for ironing Handkerchiefs must have corners and edges in alignment Even the humble tea cloth and towel Were treated to the same refinement

Pillow slips and serviettes to be starched for a glossy finish Which we gave a miss from time to time Miss Buckley pounced - a sharp tap with the ruler Our just reward - but how our knuckles did tingle and shine!

After two years of Miss Buckley's critical gaze I took stock of all the improvements I'd made After those early mistakes and disappointments I knew I had now made the grade

Later I heard our spinster teacher had married I was sorry we'd plagued her, she would make a good wife All the things she had taught us and some finicky ones too Have stayed with me always throughout my long life.

Peggy Holmes



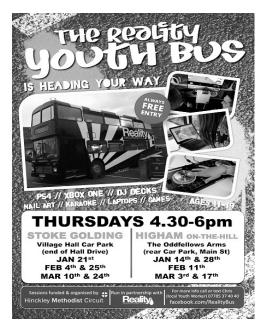
#### Obituaries



#### **BRENDA ROWLEY**

Passed peacefully away at her home in Andrew Close, Stoke Golding on Wednesday 27th January 2016 aged 87 years. She was the beloved wife of the late Jack and loving mother of Carolyn. The funeral took place at The Heart of England Crematorium, Nuneaton, the ashes being interred in Wykin Lane Cemetery. Brenda and Jack moved into the village in 1982 from Nuneaton.

We send our sincere condolences to Brenda's family and friends.



#### CROSSWORD ANSWERS (FROM PAGE 21)

Across: 1 Pilate, 4. Peter, 8 Palm, 9 Passover, 10 Raiment, 12 Ebony, 13 Dyes, 14 Saint, 17 T.B.S.P.S. 20 Hand, 22 Taste, 23 Galilee, 24 Magdalen, 25 Afar, 26 State, 27 Denied

Down: 1 Papyrus, 2 Almsman, 3 Expand, 5 Easiest, 6 Envious, 7 Pray, 11 Tying, 15 Insight, 16 The east, 18 Britain,, 19 Speared, 21 Darned, 22 Tomb

#### COPY DEADLINE for April 2016 ISSUE: 15th March Send to Jane White: janewhitesg@gmail.com



