

**May 2011**

**No. 101**



# The Stoker

**Stoke Golding Village Magazine**

*including*

**Dadlington Matters**

**50p**

*Ruth*



*Jane*



## Note from the Editors

*Thank you for all your comments about our special 100<sup>th</sup> edition of the Stoker – we are really glad you enjoyed it. We have more celebrations to look forward*

*to in May with the Village Hall's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Dance and Open Day, live music at Stoke Golding Club and a coffee morning and plant sale at the Methodist Church. In June there is a Summer Ball at the Club and the 'not to be missed' return cricket match in memory of Pete Robertshaw, including live music from 'Route 66'.*

*You can't beat good quality live entertainment and we have thoroughly enjoyed the Hinckley Opera Festival with lunchtime concerts, travelling musicians and opera performances at the Concordia (Stoke Golding and Dadlington were well represented in the audiences) – fantastic!*

*Thank you for all your articles this month – we have particularly enjoyed reading about your memories of living in the village.*

*Jane & Ruth*

## The Stoker Team

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

*Production Team: Ann Edginton, Simon Rees-Jones,  
Alan Taylor (01455 212605), Rachel Terheege, Jill Webster.*

Please send articles for the **June** issue of The Stoker to: The Editors, c/o 21, Hinckley Road, Stoke Golding by **15th May**  
If you can submit articles on disk, memory stick (Microsoft Word) or by e-mail it makes our job much easier. (500 words maximum please).  
If you send photos by e-mail, please keep the file size small - no 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 enquiries about advertising should be sent to Jane White - email: ***janewhitesg@googlemail.com***

*Front cover - Stoke Golding village hall, which celebrates its 50th anniversary this month*

## Stoke Golding Village Hall @ 50

This year Stoke Golding village hall celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the hall committee is looking forward to a weekend of celebrations on 7/8<sup>th</sup> May.

The hall was officially opened on 17<sup>th</sup> June 1961 after many years of fundraising by the 'Stoke Golding Playing Fields Development Association' (SGPFDA). A Gala Day and Dance held in 1957 raised £100, which was the first step towards the committee's target of providing £1000 towards the cost of a new village hall. The building cost £8,640 of which sum Hinckley Urban District Council provided £5,045, the remainder being met by a grant from LCC, donations from SGPFDA and residents of the village.

On more than one occasion over the past 50 years the hall has been threatened with closure and has suffered greatly from vandalism, but since 1999 it has undergone much refurbishment and is now a popular venue for many and varied activities.

On **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>** May we shall be holding a dance with live music provided by 'Route 66' – see page 12 for more details. The hall will be open on **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>** May from 1.45 to 6.00pm so that you can come and see for yourselves what it looks like now - if you haven't been inside recently you may well be surprised. There will be a programme of entertainment (see enclosed flyer), various photographic displays and delicious refreshments - so do come along. We look forward to seeing you there.

*Stoke Golding Village Hall Management Committee*

## Star Wars In Stoke Golding



After a hectic few days at the N.E.C working at The Gadget Show R2D2 had a two night sleep-over in Whitemoors Close, much the delight of the children (and some adults). A photo session was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone before R2D2 sped off to open a new superstore in Nottingham.



## **Appeal against refusal to allow development on Sherwood Road**

On March 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup>, the Morris Homes appeal was heard against Hinckley and Bosworth Council's decision not to grant planning permission for the development of land at the end of Sherwood Road. The main arguments were between the Council and the Developer with both sides being represented by specialist lawyers.

In December residents of Stoke Golding and Dadlington, their Parish Councillors and the Heritage Group had submitted written comments to the Inspector. On March 10<sup>th</sup> Morris Homes submitted evidence, which set out their case. Stoke Golding Parish Council and the Heritage Group prepared responses, which were to be read at the appeal.

On the first day the Inspector, in his opening remarks, told Morris Homes that based on what he had seen in written evidence they would have to convince him that there was a need for more houses and that building in open countryside was not intrusive. He also indicated he would make a site visit.

The Inspector then allowed submissions from local representatives. Doug Mayes on behalf of the Parish Council, Reg Ward as Borough Councillor, Ivan Ould, as County Councillor, Roy Mitchell on behalf of the Heritage Group and Brian Ninness who presented the petitions from Dadlington, (98% against) and Stoke Golding (92% against). The only individuals cross examined by Mr Lancaster were Doug Mayes and Brian Ninness.

The inspector then closed the proceedings and we reconvened on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

At 2.00pm the Inspector, Council planning officers, Morris Homes representatives and residents met at St Martin's School. We walked towards Dadlington, then turned down Stoke Lane to the Bathpiece, into the village and along Roseway, turning to reach the top of Sherwood Road, then turning back to Greenwood Road into Hinckley Road and back to the start. Throughout the walk, village representatives pointed out all of the concerns such as traffic at the junction, visual intrusion, the new location of the Battlefield etc. In short, he viewed the site from every possible angle and gained a clear insight of the issues.

On returning to the Council Chamber, Tim Leader made his final submission on behalf of the Council followed by Mr Lancaster on behalf of Morris Homes.

Before closing proceedings the inspector indicated that his findings would possibly be available by late April but it could be mid May because of his holiday commitments. All the village representatives felt we had been given a fair hearing and that we were able to get our views across.

Win or lose we did our best!

*Roy Mitchell & David Goodsell, Heritage Group*

# Correspondence



## Petition response – Morris Homes planning application

A huge thank you to everyone who signed the petition objecting to the Morris Homes planning application on land behind Hinckley Road and Sherwood Road. There was an overwhelming response from Stoke Golding and Dadlington residents and the figures speak for themselves, indicating that many people, for a variety of reasons, object to permission being granted to this proposed development.

- A response was obtained from 82% of households in Stoke Golding, and 93% of respondents supported the petition, with a total of 824 residents signing it.
- A response was obtained from 73% of households in Dadlington, and 95% of respondents supported the petition, with a total of 120 residents signing it.

Many, many thanks also to all the volunteer residents – there were more than 30 from all corners of both villages - who went door to door to obtain signatures. The decision from the Public Inquiry will be announced in the next few days and may well be known by the time you are reading this. We can only hope that the view of the local community is considered in the final outcome.

*Ella Orr*



## Stoke Golding W I Comedy Magic by Joy Henderson

Magic has its appeal to all ages, and Joy proved that when entertaining members of the WI at the April meeting. Unlike some of her audiences, where children are keen to take part, the ladies were quite restrained at volunteering and had to be coaxed to the front. Laughter, surprises, stunned moments, her slight of hand had us guessing and puzzling the whole evening. Relief was shown when G survived having a sword pushed through her throat. The trick was obvious and the idea timeless. The evening was very enjoyable and passed by very quickly.

At the next meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> May there will be an update on this year's chosen resolutions.

*Sue Mitchell*



***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.***

## Memories...

Frances Tomlinson, who used to live in Stoke Golding, and whose mother still does, has been looking through old photos and came across a couple from her youth.

She estimates **the fete** photo was taken around 1976. Joanne Clark is on the left and Frances is second from right. Furthest right could be Sarah Coley.

Frances thinks the picture is most interesting for the old buildings in the background.



**The Sunday School** party was probably taken in 1972/3 in the school hall.

Back row: William Chaplain, Alison Pardoe, Patrick Frisbee, Liz Bodycote, Linda Rowan, Louise Cox, Barry Rowan

Middle: Phil Bowman, Katie Jones, Louise Rossitter, Steven White, Paul Cox, Peter Rowan

Front: Nick Bowman, ?? Frances Tomlinson, Steven Martin, ??



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

The U3A offers the opportunity to share your knowledge, experience and talents with others and learn from them in friendly surroundings.

Hinckley U3A holds a monthly meeting at the newly built George Ward Centre in Barwell, at which we enjoy the company of invited speakers. There are about 20 Interest Group which meet throughout the month. These are run by the members and cover all kinds of topics from Bridge to Creative Writing and Play Reading to Singing.

We are always looking for new members. Those with a particular interest will have the opportunity to share it with others. If you are interested in joining us, please contact either the Secretary on 01455 848403 or the Membership Secretary on 01455 844353.

## **Stoker Readership Grows Across the Seas**

Marice Allen, who was evacuated to Stoke Golding during the war, has recently contacted us about a friend in Australia who asked about receiving the Stoker. Her friend Jane Heale was brought up in the village and her father and grandfather both played the organ at St Margaret's church. Jane's mother, Ena, was a very clever and artistic lady who carved the statue of St Margaret that can still be seen in the church today.

Jane's whole family including mother, father, brother and sister in law plus granddad, aunt, uncle and nephew all went over to Australia on a £10 passage in 1956.

Marie will be sending a copy of the April Stoker over to Australia and we hope all the family enjoys reading about life in the village over 50 years after they left – we are sure it will have changed a little!

*Jane & Ruth*

## **A Village Childhood**

I came to Stoke as an evacuee from Coventry at the beginning of the war. We had left a modern house with bathroom and all conveniences and moved into a cottage which had previously been condemned. There was no water supply - water had to be fetched from a tap in the yard, food cooked on a black range (the only source of heat) and the toilet was down the garden and had to be emptied once a week by the 'night soil' men. But for all these deprivations I fell in love with the village and still am, although I no longer live there.

I attended the village school from the age of 4 and made friends at that time who are still my friends today even though one lives on the other side of the world.

Our social life took place around the Church and Sunday School, and once a year we would go on our Sunday School outing. This was usually on a coal barge (previously scrubbed out) on the canal but in later years we went to Wicksteed Park and Billing Aquadrome. Then there was the Christmas party to look forward to. One year I won the prize for best attendance. It was a book called 'The Little White Horse' by Elizabeth Gouge. In those days books were an expensive luxury and I really treasured that book.

Our favourite pastime was to go for long walks. We would play Pooh sticks at the washbrook, pick kingcups near the canal and violets from the hedgerows, and I can remember walking on a frozen canal on more than one occasion. In the winter we sledged in a field near to Mr Hall's farm.

We knew everybody in the village and I can still mentally name the people from most of the houses.

In many ways it was a sheltered childhood, but at the same time we had so much freedom - going off playing for hours at a time. Something denied to today's children.

*Marice Allen, Hinckley*

## Quiz for Bright People

There are only nine questions and it's a quiz for people who think they know everything. They are not trick questions - just straight questions with straight answers.

1. Name the one sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or the leader until the contest ends.
2. What famous North American landmark is constantly moving backward?
3. Of all vegetables, only two can live to produce on their own for several growing seasons. All other vegetables must be replanted every year. What are the only two perennial vegetables?
4. What fruit has its seeds on the outside?
5. In many liquor stores, you can buy pear brandy, with a real pear inside the bottle. The pear is whole and ripe, and the bottle is genuine; it hasn't been cut in any way. How did the pear get inside the bottle?
6. Only three words in standard English begin with the letters 'dw' and they are all common words. Name two of them.
7. There are 14 punctuation marks in English grammar. Can you name at least half of them?
8. Name the only vegetable or fruit that is never sold frozen, canned, processed, cooked, or in any other form except fresh.
9. Name 6 or more things that you can wear on your feet beginning with the letter 'S.'

Answers on page 22

### Poems from Year 7 at St Martin's School on the theme of 'Gardens'

As I sit and watch the world I  
    See  
    Touch  
    Taste...  
And hear the beautiful vibrant colours.  
Block out the sound of rushing cars  
    that go by  
    The birds tweet  
    As they fly through the trees -  
The smell of mint fills the air with its  
    sweet smell.  
As I touch the long green grass,  
I feel the smoothness of its leaves.  
*Abbie R.*

Soft, slimy, spiky,  
Plants everywhere.  
Bees buzzing. Birds tweeting. Ahh!

*Hope*

In the garden wonderland,  
I sit upon the rough green grass  
And inhale the smell of pollen  
As the flowers dance  
In the slowly blowing wind...

*Kate*

### Wedding Congratulations to ...

Becky Jones and Simon Williamson who were married at St Margaret's in December 2010 followed by a reception at the Royal Arms, Sutton Cheney.



### Diamond Congratulations to ...



Happy couple Ray and Joan Lockley from Dadlington who have recently celebrated 60 years of marriage. After meeting in May 1949 at St George's Dance Hall in Hinckley they were married at Albert Road Methodist Church on 24<sup>th</sup> March 1951. Originally from Mancetter (Ray) and Hinckley (Joan), they moved to Dadlington 32 years ago and it is obvious they really enjoy village life. They have 2 daughters and 3 granddaughters and their secrets to a happy marriage include working together and settling any differences before ever saying goodbye to each other.

### Join Stoke Golding bell ringers and friends on their 2011 summer outing

The bell ringers have seats available on their outing bus.

**When?** Saturday 18th June.

**Where?** Shrewsbury and Welshpool plus a trip on the Welshpool & Llanfair narrow gauge railway.

**How much?** £20 including the train trip.

The bus will pick up in Dadlington at 7.50am and Stoke Golding at 7.55am. Return around 8pm.

We shall be in Shrewsbury for three hours so plenty of time for a good look around or join the ringers in the churches.

For more information or to book a place contact Martyn and Val Plant on 01455 212722 or email [martyn.mjp@btinternet.com](mailto:martyn.mjp@btinternet.com)

# Dadlington Matters

## Villagers Call Time on Pub Nights

Since the closure of the Dog and Hedgehog in 2008, the villagers of Dadlington have strived to keep the spirit of their local pub alive by holding a series of social nights in the Village Hall.

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April saw the latest of these well attended events where villagers gathered to catch up with their neighbours and hear all the latest news.

Happily there was some very good news to report as it was confirmed that work had started on the refurbishment of the Dog and Hedgehog and the new landlords Bill and Robert came along to meet some of the locals. Their presence represented a successful outcome to a long campaign by the villagers, aimed at getting the pub back onto the market and then into the hands of people who were sympathetic to the requirements of running a country pub. Bill and Robert bring a wealth of experience gained in the restaurant business in London and they are now happily settling into their new rural environment. They are keen to retain the charm of a pub that has existed for over 200 years whilst introducing a high level of welcoming hospitality.

The Dog and Hedgehog is an old favourite to many people in the local area and there will, no doubt, be considerable interest when the doors reopen later in May. Dadlington will happily swap the occasional pub night in order to enjoy its own pub every night.

*Graham Grimley*

## Wine Tasting

If you missed the announcement about the wines that were tasted during the evening, here are the details:

Wine number 1: "A classic single grape variety white wine from its new 'home'", namely *Sauvignon Blanc* from Marlborough, *New Zealand*, made by Distant Land winery.

Wine number 2: "A blend of two white grape varieties, one ubiquitous, one more rare but becoming more popular" and this was *Chardonnay & Viognier* from *Australia*, Battle of Bosworth winery.

Number 3: a rosé being a blend of *Syrah*, *Grenache*, and *Cinsault*, from Chateau Pech-Latt in France.

Reds - Wine number 4: *Merlot* from *Chile*, made by the Casa Silva family winery.

Number 5 "This *should* have distinctive flavour ('scent, flavour and texture unmatched anywhere')" and was a *Pinot Noir* also from Distant Land winery.

Number 6: a 'grape of great character', was *Cabernet Sauvignon* from Rutherford vineyard in *California*.

*Keith Morton* [keith@wine-2-you.com](mailto:keith@wine-2-you.com)

## What's On

### **The Pete Robertshaw Memorial Cricket Match**

In aid of research into Pancreatic Cancer

Dadlington v Stoke Golding

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June

Dadlington Village Green

Schedule

1.00pm

Kids Cricket

All children from the villages are invited to play in this curtain raiser.

2.00pm (approx)

Dadlington v Stoke Golding

25 overs per side.

4.00pm (approx)

Live music on the Green from the fabulous

ROUTE 66

6.00pm (approx)

Adjourn to the Dog and Hedgehog!

Raffle with major prizes, bar, hot dogs

Teas in the Village Hall

Helpers and raffle prizes needed.

Please contact Graham on 01455 213487

### **Stoke Golding Club**

SAT April 30th. - Live Band (The Gritters) Tickets £5.00

SAT May 13th. - S.G.F.C. (Just Jake) Tickets £5.00

SUN May 15th. - TABLE TOP SALE 12pm - 4pm

SAT May 28th. - Singer JIM HIRONS (lounge)

SAT June 11th. - SUMMER BALL Tickets £25.00 (on sale soon)

limited to 100 tickets.

**All enquiries please phone 01455 212221**

Maria Twigger, 42 Hinckley Road, Stoke Golding. CV13 6DZ

## What's On

### Stoke Golding Heritage Group May Meeting

#### 'Sex, Lies and Parchment'

Jess Jenkins from the Leicestershire Records Office will give us a guided tour of the Church Courts or, as they were commonly known, the Bawdy Courts. It was the Churches way of setting and imposing moral standards on communities. Perhaps they should be reintroduced today.

7.30pm in the Baxter Hall on Thursday May 19<sup>th</sup>.

#### *Plants for Sale*



*Bedding plants for tubs,  
baskets and gardens.*

*Reasonable prices*

*Come and have a look around*

*Linda Gosling*

*Lodge Farm, Dadlington Road,  
Stoke Golding. Tel: 01455 212598*



### The Village Hall Celebrates 50 Years Gala Dance



Saturday 7th May

8.00 - 11.30pm

Stoke Golding Village Hall

**Dancing to 'Route 66'**

Tickets £7.00 from Alan White 01455 212416

email: alanwhitesg@gmail.com

Bring your own drinks and a dish of food to share.

## Church Matters

### Zion Chapel Service May

1st May	TBA
8th May	W Richards
15th May	S Foxwell
22nd May	R Cotton
29th May	TBA
Services begin at 6pm Sunday School at 11am	

### Methodist Church May Events

Saturday May 7th
<b>Christian Aid Coffee Morning</b>
10.00am -11.30am
Saturday May 28th
<b>Summer Plant Sale</b>
10.00 -3.00pm
Many varieties of summer bedding plants, basket plants & perennials

### The Methodist Church May Services

1st May	10.30am	Mr Charles Davies
8th May	10.30am	Circuit Service at Hinckley
15th May	10.30am	Rev'd Julie Minns
22nd May	10.30am	Mrs Hilary Fenby
29th May	10.30am	Mrs Eveline Overton

### Church of England Services

#### St. Margaret's Church

1 <sup>st</sup>	May	10.30am	Family Service
8 <sup>th</sup>	May	<b>11.00am</b>	Benefice Rogation Service - Lodge Farm Atterton
15 <sup>th</sup>	May	10.30am	Holy Communion
22 <sup>nd</sup>	May	10.30am	Morning Worship
29 <sup>th</sup>	May	10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion Service, Dadlington

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

#### St. James's Church

1 <sup>st</sup>	May	6.30pm	Songs of Praise
8 <sup>th</sup>	May	<b>11.00am</b>	Benefice Rogation Service - Lodge Farm Atterton
15 <sup>th</sup>	May	9.00am	BCP Holy Communion
22 <sup>nd</sup>	May	9.00am	Morning Prayer
29 <sup>th</sup>	May	10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion Service

**L** **Joanne's** **P**  
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 Tuesday 7.45pm

\*\*\*\*\*

Sapcote Pavilion, Thursday 10am  
 Millennium Hall, Burbage  
 Friday 1pm, Friday 7pm

\*\*\*\*\*

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 Stoke Golding

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 Tel: 01455 446849

**The Garden**

All I can see is beauty  
 Yellow, orange, green and red  
 Hanging all around me.  
 Finally, I can smell a dream,  
 The air so fresh, but the compost is  
 something else!  
 There it was, a grey squirrel  
 scampering around the garden...  
 Then that was the end...  
 I went back to a lovely tea -  
 Beautiful!

*Cameron Hill*  
*Year 7, St. Martin's High School*



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**- LOSE A STONE -**

Amazing Support ✓ Value for money ✓

**FREE MEMBERSHIP IN MAY**  
 with this advert

**Stoke Golding**

**Thursday 6.30pm**  
 Methodist  
 Church Room



Class Fee £4.90  
 Membership normally £10  
**Tel 01530 813361**  
**weight-care.co.uk**





## News from St Margarets Primary School

Yet again, the children have been very busy and involved in many exciting activities.

Years 1 and 2 children recently went on a visit to the Motor Museum in Coventry. They had a fabulous time and learned lots to complement their topic work. Their outstanding behaviour was commented upon by museum staff, so more things to celebrate!

On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April our swimming team attended the local schools swimming gala. Although we did not win the trophy this year we still did brilliantly and came very close. Well done to all of our swimmers :Oliver Schaefer, Charlie Bancroft, Ffinian Will-Dixon, Eleanor Wheatley, Megan Davies, Annabelle Blurton, Jacob Truslove, Tom Walker, Harvey Webb, Evie Ruff, Charlotte Oliver and Katie Lee.

Our football team played their first match against Sheepy Magna on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April and won 4-2. Well done to the team and Mr Baxter for excellent coaching. The football team are Sam Wigley (Man of the Match), Holly Curtis, Niall Del Gesso, Harry Setchell, Harvey Webb, Ross Sinclair, Daniel Sinclair, Jacob Wileman, Charlie Bancroft and Oliver Schaefer.

On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 held a 'Royal Wedding Celebration Day'. Children came to school dressed ready for a wedding and took part in lots of activities such as singing the National Anthem and designing wedding clothes for William and Kate. They ended the day by having a pretend wedding at the church, followed by strawberries and cream and cakes.

*God Bless  
Julie Wright*



Stoke Golding village web site:  
[www.stokegolding.co.uk](http://www.stokegolding.co.uk)

## Rogation Sunday – May 8<sup>th</sup>

Rogation means an asking of God - for blessing on the seed and land for the year ahead. It is appropriate in any emergency, war, plague, drought or foul weather.

The practice began with the Romans. In those days a crowd moved in procession around the cornfields, singing and dancing, sacrificing animals, and driving away Winter with sticks. They wanted to rid the cornfields of evil.

About 465 the Western world was suffering from earthquake, storm and epidemic. So Mamertius, Bishop of Vienne, aware of the popular pagan custom, ordered that prayers should be said in the ruined or neglected fields on the days leading up to Ascension. With his decision, 'beating the bounds' became a Christian ceremonial.

Rogation-tide became a fixed and perennial asking for help of the Christian God. On Rogation-tide, a little party would set out to trace the boundaries of the parish. At the head marched the bishop or the priest, with a minor official bearing a Cross, and after them the people of the parish. Most of them held slender wands of willow.

At certain points along the route - at well-known landmarks like a bridge or stile or ancient tree, the Cross halted, the party gathered about the priest, and a litany or rogation was said, imploring God to send seasonable wealth, keep the corn and roots and boughs in good health, and bring them to an ample harvest. At one point beer and cheese would be waiting.

In the days when maps were neither common nor accurate, there was much to be said for 'beating the bounds' - still very common as late as the reign of Queen Victoria. Certainly parish boundaries rarely came into dispute, for everyone knew them. (Do you know yours today?)

This year we shall celebrate a Rogation Service at Lodge Farm, Atterton. Starting at 11am, a walk will take in the different crops and animals, asking God's blessing as we go - followed by refreshments for all. Everyone is welcome, but come prepared for the weather. Tel: 01827 717999 if you need more details.

### Mobile Library

The Mobile Library will visit Stoke Golding & Dadlington on:-

Thursdays 12th & 26th May

**Dadlington** 27 Hinckley Rd - 10.05 - 10.25am

#### **Stoke Golding**

Greenwood Road 10.30 - 10.45am

Sherwood Road 10.50 - 11.10am

The White Swan 11.15am - 11.40pm

Hinckley Road/Main Street 11.45- 12.05pm

*For further details contact: Coalville Library, 0116 305 3565*

*email:coalvillelibrary@leics.gov.uk*





## Message from the Rector at St Margaret's Church

Although it will be over by the time you read this article - as I write, there are just a couple of days to go before the London Marathon takes place. It is one of the biggest running events in the world, with more than 30,000 runners taking part, and it has been held in London each spring since 1981.

Many serious and elite athletes complete the gruelling 26 miles and 385 yards in record time – the winner of the men's race in 2010 finished in 2 hours, 5 minutes, 19 seconds. In 2003, Paula Radcliffe set the women's world record in 2 hours, 15 minutes, 25 seconds. The men and women's wheelchair races, introduced in 1983, have also seen world records being set.

The majority of the 30,000+ runners are made up of club, individual and fun runners who often collect money for charity. Over £450 million has been raised, and crowds are drawn to the streets to cheer and support the participants, many of whom can be seen running in extraordinary fancy dress.

This year I have a friend who is running to raise funds for Christian Aid. It is her first marathon, and since October when she learned she had been given a place, she has followed a strict training programme, gradually building up distances, overcoming injuries, and learning how to train for an endurance event, with goals of 1 mile, 3 miles, 10 miles, and so on, until just recently when she ran 22 miles. She now hopes she is prepared for the 26 miles ahead of her on Sunday!

In St Paul's letter to the people in Philippi, he uses the image of a runner in a race; "I want to know Christ", he says, "forgetting what lies behind and straining towards what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Jesus Christ." Paul knows that he is not perfect, but he keeps focusing on his goal, never giving up because he knows that God will never give up on him.

Nobody's perfect, we all know that. What we all don't know or don't remember is that we can be imperfect but rely on God's strength. That's the experience Paul had.

We are often much harder on ourselves than God is, but God knows us through and through and still loves and strengthens us.

Each of us is an individual; we are important simply for who we are. And God wants us to know that we are loved for who we are, not for what we do. He calls us to keep our eyes firmly fixed on him, promising that he will always be there for us, whatever situation we may find ourselves in, so that we can persevere and keep on going, with the knowledge that God will not give up on us, ever.

*Wishing you God's blessing*

*Linda*

**COPY DEADLINE FOR JUNE ISSUE : 15<sup>th</sup> MAY**

## What's in a name?

I felt very sorry for Mr David Cameron when, in the full public glare surrounding the arrival of his latest progeny, he blurted out that the new child would have some name to associate it with its birth county, Cornwall. Big mistake. I visualise him strolling back to see the dearly beloved and receiving a broadside for pre-empting her wishes to include the names that she would have chosen. What about aunts Esmerelda, Philomena and Agnes who will be devastated if they are not included? How many names can the poor child have?

The choosing of a name for a child is more fraught than crossing a minefield, blindfold, on a pogo stick.

He was though, following the tradition of the North American Indians who named their child after the first thing that the father saw on emerging from the birth tepee. Hence Running Dear, Howling Wolf, Dog licking it's...you get the idea. Swap the tepee for Truro General Hospital and there's Dave searching for a suitable Cornish nomenclature. I think Chardonnay Pasty Cameron has a certain ring to it. The real problem here is the fact that he had a daughter. The name that you give to a girl is vitally important because throughout her life that is what she will be called. By that I don't mean school registers, electoral rolls, gas bills and other formal stuff. I mean that is what her friends will call her. Just listen to any group of girls bitching, sorry, discussing their acquaintances and Susan will be Susan and Jane will be Jane.

Not so with the male of the species. Parents will spend hours poring over name books and researching family histories to find precedents and then having narrowed it down to about 80 or so, they will spend the nine months of pregnancy trying to whittle it down to about 2 or 3. Total waste of time. It's like putting a wet suit on over a wedding dress. Not worth the effort. Why you ask?

Last week I had the pleasure of watching Hurst Green play Rimmington in the Arkwright's Pies Northern League 4. For the benefit of those living in London who think you need a space suit to venture outside the M25, Hurst Green is in Lancashire. If your conception of north is Watford then you are going to have to expand your thinking a bit. I digress. The point is, listening to the calls on the pitch you did not hear "Edgar, be a good chap and mark him will you?" or "Direct it towards my cranium please Charles" No way.

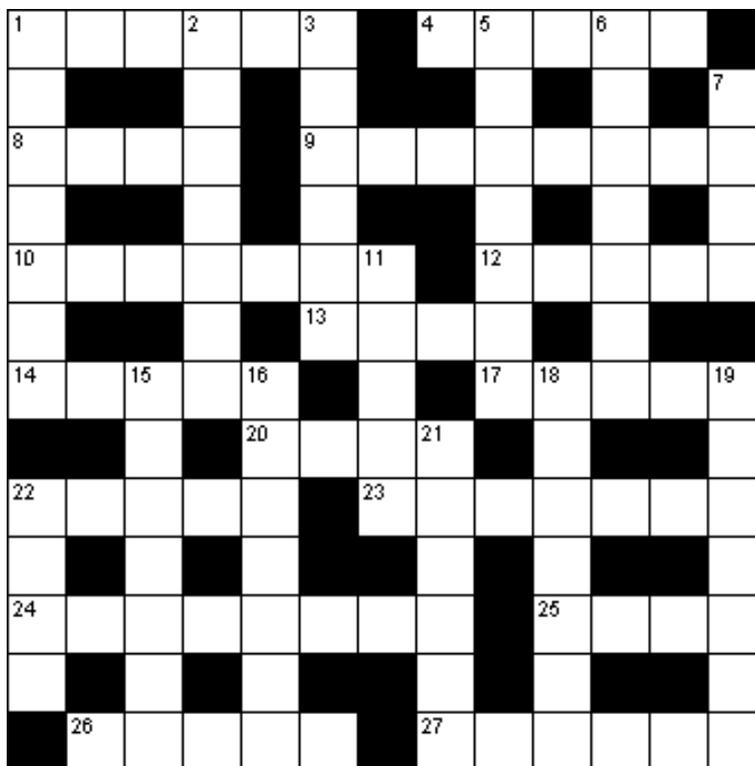
"Fat Boy, get tighter to him". "Banksy, you're bloody ball watching". But the piece de resistance, and here I joke not, "Asbo, take him out". Boys will not use proper names and many only find out what their mates real name is when they are saying the marriage vows. "I Maurice Walter..." Guffaws from the back.

Even David Cameron, or as Private Eye would have it, Lord Snooty, is not immune.

*The Fool on the Hill*



# Downs



## Across

1. Agree (6)
4. NHS are currently trying to stop Stoke docs from issuing these (5)
8. Mid day (4)
9. And 1D permission given for 2 down development (8 & 7)
10. \*\*\*\*\* cordiale (French) (7)
12. In short – magazines report of deaths (5)
13. Education test (4)
14. Year of publication of this village magazine (5)
17. Sides (5)
20. Ancient word for 'good gracious' (4)
22. Name of Princess of Wales (5)
23. Farm vehicle (7)
24. Road in village where builder is appealing for 9A & 1D
25. Wind instrument (4)
26. Remains in one place (5)
27. Simply (6)

## Down

1. See 9A
2. Place in village where 9A & 1D has been given for many houses (7)
3. Good character (6)
5. Brand of lawnmower (7)
6. Leading someone in right direction (7)
7. Gets older (4)
11. In short – a British person living abroad (2 & 3)
15. Closest (7)
16. Progress (7)
- 18 & 19. Place to get your 4A (7 & 7)
19. See 18A
21. Deepen a waterway (6)
22. Sundown(4)

Solution on page 21

## Stoke Golding Parish Council - March Meeting

County Cllr Ivan Ould reported on the possible loss of bus services.

Concessionary travel to be provided as follows – (a) taxi vouchers paid for those unable to use the buses due to disability or situated in a rural location, (b) three morning peak buses provided for disabled, (c) half fair travel on community transport - there will be no free train travel. The Parish Clerk was asked to email Cllr Ould suggesting a full review of the usage of the bus services.

**Morris Homes Appeal for the Sherwood Road site:** A Parish Councillor will speak at the hearing on behalf of the Parish Council and a member of the Heritage Group will also speak.

**Convent Site:** The formation of a Sub-Committee is in hand to look at implications for the village and the Parish Council.

**Ashby Canal Landscape Partnership** – the next meeting on the Ashby Canal bid to the Lottery will be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March - it was hoped that the Heritage Warden would be able to attend.

**Celebrations of the Village Hall 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** – 7<sup>th</sup> May – Dance at the Village Hall.

**8 May Open Afternoon 1.45pm - 6.00pm**– everyone is invited. People are being asked if they have any memorabilia, photographs, memories relating to the Village Hall over the past 50 years to hand them to a member of the hall committee so that they can be displayed. Various groups will be doing 15 minute performances.

**Wykin Lane Cemetery: Water Supply** – it was hoped to obtain metered water from the neighbouring property but this was not feasible - the Council decided that expenditure for separate installation cannot be justified. The matter will be brought to the attention of residents at the Annual Parish Meeting in April.

**Planning Application Matters: Permission granted at Stoke Lodge** – extension and erection of double garage

**Recreation Ground: Children's Play Area project at the rec:** A Councillor proposed that the Parish Council apply for '106 Money' of £1241, for which the village is eligible, to assist in funding this project.

**Work to trees at recreation ground:** A quotation to remove dead branches and prune an oak tree located on the Goldings' boundary to the rec was agreed.

**Football Club** – balance for 2009/10 fees now received. 2010/11 fees agreed and payment is awaited. It was agreed that charges for 2011/2012 season should be adopted in line with HBBC charges.

**Traffic Speed Device:** The Speedwatch Committee was anxious to obtain a decision on the approval of a Traffic Speed Device. The Committee's preference was the Portable Speed Indicator Device (SID) not the solar device and The Charity of Thomas Barton would be funding it. It was confirmed that Hinckley Road residents would organise a rota for moving the devices around the village as necessary. A motion was put forward for a Traffic Speed Device to be installed, which was unanimously agreed.

**Dog Bins:** Discussion was held regarding fitting of catches to damaged door locks.

*(Continued on page 21)*

(Parish Council Notes continued from page 20)

**2011/12 Cemetery Charges:** The Cemetery Administrator attended the meeting to clarify and discuss the cemetery charges for next year. It was agreed that the structure and charges should be adopted, in line with HBBC arrangements.

**The HBBC Conservation Officer** had visited the George and Dragon with regard to the new UPVC windows that have been fitted.

*Notes by Pauline Goodsell*

**Please note the following information:**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Village Hall Committee Room on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2011 at 7pm**. This meeting will be the first of the new Parish Council following the May election. No election will be held for the Parish Council as only 4 residents put themselves forward for the position. These Councillors will co-opt a further 3 residents to serve as Parish Councillors at that meeting.

**Doctors' Pharmacy** – Please remember to fill in the consultation forms which are available on-line or at the Post Office, by the middle of June, if you wish your opinion to be counted regarding retaining the dispensing pharmacy in the village. The result of the **Public Enquiry into the Sherwood Road** site may be known before Easter but it is more likely to be received in May.

*These are Pauline's last notes as a Parish Councillor. We would like to thank her for supplying The Stoker every month and look forward to receiving notes from her successor. Eds.*

Crossword solution  
Across. 1. concur, 4. drugs, 8. noon, 9A & 1D planning consent, 10. entente,  
12. obits, 13. exam, 14. tenth, 17. edges, 20. egad, 22. Diana, 23. tractor,  
24. Sherwood, 25. oboe, 26. stays, 27. easily.  
Down. 1. see 9A, 2. convent, 3. repute, 5. Ransome, 6. guiding, 7. ages, 11. ex-  
pat, 15. nearest, 16. headway, 18 & 19. doctors surgery, 21. dredge, 22. dusk

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## OBITUARIES



We send our condolences to the families and friends of the following village residents.

### George Thomas Wright

We regret to report the death of George Thomas Wright of Hinckley Road who passed away at home on 11th March 2011 aged 87 years. He was the devoted husband of Dorothy, a much loved dad to Ruth and Anne, father in law to John and Andrew and a loving granddad to Helen, Jenny, Sally, Eloise, Stanley and Alf. His funeral service was held at St Margaret's Church prior to interment in Hinckley Road, Cemetery. There were family flowers only with donations to St Margaret's P.C.C.

### John Joseph Hammond

We are sad to report the sudden but peaceful passing of John Joseph Hammond (previously of Sherwood Road) at Kirby House Care Home, Leicester Forest East. John was 88 years of age and although a relative newcomer from Walsall he had become well known to his neighbours. He served during the 2nd World War in the Navy and had been a crew member of various cruisers, taking part in escort duties on Russian convoys and also in the Mediterranean and Indian Ocean. John's funeral service was conducted at Nuneaton Crematorium by Carolyn Patullo - there were family flowers only by request with donations in lieu to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution c/o A.J. Murray, Funeral Directors, 48 Lower Bond Street, Hinckley.

Answers to quiz:

1. Boxing.
2. Niagara Falls . The rim is worn down about two and a half feet each year because of the millions of gallons of water that rush over it every minute.
3. Asparagus and rhubarb.
4. Strawberry.
5. The pear grew inside the bottle. The bottles are placed over pear buds when they are small, and are wired in place on the tree. The bottle is left in place for the entire growing season. When the pears are ripe, they are snipped off at the stems
6. Dwarf, dwell and dwindle...
7. Full stop (period), comma, colon, semicolon, dash, hyphen, apostrophe, question mark, exclamation point, quotation mark, brackets, parenthesis, braces and ellipses.
8. Lettuce.
9. Shoes, socks, sandals, sneakers, slippers, skis, skates, snowshoes, stockings, stilts.



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