

May 2012

No. 111



The Stoker

Stoke Golding Village Magazine

including

Dadlington Matters

50p

Ruth



Jane



Note from the Editors

There is definitely a travel theme about a number of our articles this month - perhaps spring has brought with it thoughts of holidays abroad and at

home. We love the article about flying by the Fool on the Hill (page 7) and Ian's description of his visit to Slimbridge (page 8) made us realise you don't have to go too far to enjoy a really good break (and you don't have to be 'old codgers' either!) We'd love to hear from you about your holidays and it would be great if you could also include a photo or two. Don't forget to book the Jubilee celebrations into your diaries - we don't often get chance for such a large community gathering in Stoke Golding.

Jane and Ruth

The Stoker Team

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

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

Please send articles for the **June 2012** 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 all advertising enquiries should be sent to
Jane White - email: ***janewhitesg@googlemail.com***

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

Front cover - Wharf Cottages, Ashby Canal

Pedal & Pint is back

So what is 'Pedal and Pint' you ask? Well, we have no constitution, no fees, no membership and we don't really have a name either. What we do have is a bunch of people who enjoy a friendly social cycle ride and refreshment stops.

We are all shapes and sizes, ages and sexes (and probably religions too). Some are fit and some not so fit. We don't wear lycra.

Last summer saw us out and about on Thursday evenings. A couple of dozen people took part, but typically we would number 8-10 covering somewhere around 15 miles.

It's all very informal. We just meet outside my house (45, Station Road) at 7pm on a Thursday evening. Normally someone will have an idea of a route and we just go. No need to book, no need to tell us if you are not coming, just turn up and go (but don't be late or we will be gone).



Cycling is fantastic in this area. Quiet country lanes, interesting villages and good pubs. We visited the usual haunts of Bosworth and beyond (e.g. Congerstone, Shackerstone, Newton Burgoland), but we have also made a few forays into Warwickshire via some 'interesting' routes and also a (very hilly) trip out to Church End Brewery near Hartshill Hayes. We have even done fish and chips at Bosworth Park. Mostly we cycle on road, but we have used tracks from time to time (and have the punctures to prove it!)

I know some people who are maybe thinking of getting back into cycling are put off by the thought of 15 miles, but I will happily organise shorter rides.

Want to know more or got questions, then contact Alan on 212416 or email alanwhitesg@gmail.com. Go on, dust off that bike and get that puncture mended. Hope to see you soon.

Alan White

Golden Wedding Congratulations

Many congratulations to Alan and Maureen Taylor of Whitemoors Close on their Golden Wedding Anniversary, celebrated on 29th March.

The Stoker Production Team Meeting enjoyed some very delicious cake at its April meeting. Thank you Alan and Maureen.



Correspondence

The Stoker Team,

I am writing to highlight the error made by Cllr Reg Ward concerning local footpaths. The path he refers to has been walked regularly for well over twenty years unobstructed. Indeed, walkers were encouraged to use the route rather than the one which runs closer to the farmhouse and is defined on the maps. The information (sourced from the Rambler's Association legal guide) below explains the legal situation concerning this path and it would be wrong not to allow the village to be made aware of this valid information. To highlight in capital letters that the path is NOT a right of way is incorrect.

How does a path become public?

In legal theory most paths become rights of way because the owner "dedicates" them to public use. In fact very few paths have been formally dedicated, but the law assumes that if the public uses a path without interference for some period of time - set by statute at 20 years - then the owner had intended to dedicate it as a right of way.

A public path that has been unused for 20 years does not cease to be public. The legal maxim is "once a highway, always a highway".

Presumed dedication

The most common way rights of way come into existence is through presumed dedication. Presumed dedication refers to a long-established principle that long use by the public without challenge can constitute evidence that the landowner intended to dedicate the used route as a public right of way. Presumed dedication can take place by common law or statute law, which provide slightly different frameworks (see below). Anyone who has evidence that a right of way has come into existence by statute or common law may apply for a definitive map modification order (DMMO) to have the right of way recorded on the definitive map.

Common law

Common law is made up of custom and decisions of the courts over time. Over the centuries the principle of presumed dedication has evolved and it now provides that a person claiming a right of way by common law must be able to demonstrate that public use took place openly and freely for a sufficient period for their claim to succeed. No rule has been established respecting what constitutes a "sufficient period", so each common law claim is decided on the particular facts of each case. The onus is on the person claiming a right of way to show that by the landowner's conduct, or the absence of any action by the landowner to prevent the public from using the claimed route, it can be inferred that the landowner intended to dedicate the way to the public.

Statute law

The lack of clarity in the common law as to what constitutes a 'sufficient period' led Parliament to enact a law about presumed dedication. The law is set down in section 31 of the Highways Act 1980, and says that if a route is enjoyed by the public for twenty years or more, as of right and without interruption, the way is

(Correspondence continued from page 4)

deemed to have been dedicated as a highway, unless there is sufficient evidence that there was no intention during that period to dedicate it. The twenty year period is counted back from the date when the right of the public to use the way was brought into question (usually by a new landowner moving in and challenging the public using the way).

The statute did not supplant the common law, so it is possible to claim a right of way by either statute law or common law.

Name and address supplied

Stoke Golding W I - April Meeting

Wildlife on the Farm by Andrew Parsons

Mr Parsons gave a fascinating talk on the way he manages his farm to provide habitat for wildlife. He is a member of a Stewardship Scheme, and leaves 6 metre margins around his fields, which he plants with flowers to attract birds, insects and mammals. His farm is mainly arable but his son has an interest in cattle and he showed us wonderful photos of some of his pedigree herd of Brazadaise cattle, which form part of his herd. We then had a wonderful show of photos of butterflies and birds which he had photographed on his farm. He also has a large lake and a reed bed which attracts more wildlife. We saw frogs, toads, owls, swans, butterflies and much more. A thoroughly enjoyable evening.

The next meeting, with a speaker, is on June 13th with a talk on Crystal Healing by Pamela Lenthall. It starts at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church Hall - all visitors welcome.

Lesley Gent



Good Companions

The Good Companions are looking forward to their summer day-trip to Western-super-Mare on July 5th and are planning some short trips out in the meantime, as well as activities for the village Jubilee Celebrations.

They continue to enjoy their fortnightly sessions every other Thursday at the Club. These afternoons may include interesting speakers, music, bingo and lots of good conversation.

They would welcome new members, so if you would like to join them please contact the Club for more information (01455 212221).

Celebrity Corner - Bill at The Dog & Hedgehog

Bill Reinking, of 'The Dog & Hedgehog' is this month's 'Celebrity' choice and was unanimously agreed by 'The Team' the moment I made the suggestion. It's nearly a year since Bill opened the doors of a completely renovated building, after it had been lying abandoned for over two years. The signs all round Dadlington urged "Save Our Village Pub". Mutters about possible property developers abounded. *This must not happen!* Hearts rose when whispers became confirmed. It had been saved! In the middle of a financial recession a restaurateur from the 'big smoke' was prepared to gamble on making a success of an old pub that needed copious redecorations in a very tiny village in Leicestershire called Dadlington. He succeeded. Now both Bill and Robert feel very much part of village life.



My first question to him, as I sat drinking the coffee which had been offered the moment I stepped through the door, was one which has always puzzled me *"Bill what made you give up the 'buzz' of London and running a successful restaurant in the middle of Covent Garden for this?"* His answer was immediate: *"The View."* We were sitting at the corner table looking out over that wonderful valley across the canal. My heart responded to him immediately. As a Londoner myself, I revel in these wonderful views...I've got one too.

My second question to him was again answered with his obvious enthusiasm. *"What special things have you done to make the pub so very popular?"* *"I think people like how we've changed the interior, for instance painting all the walls white brings out the character of the building, contrasting with the old black beams. Also of course, we only use local produce, I appreciate our relationship with the local suppliers."* I'd remarked on some unusually beautiful roses arranged on every window ledge. *"From Morrison's, of course. I always buy enormous bunches from them, and then have the pleasure of arranging them myself."*

These are the small touches that we all notice and delight in. I mentioned the fine damask table linen in the restaurant itself. How ever much does the laundering cost? A quick smile. *"We think you're worth it"*. Last but not least of course is the way both Bill and Bob have really invested in village life in so many different ways. *"Well I love people, getting to know you. We now feel part of everything and everyone here in Dadlington – our home"...*

I wanted to say *"Bless you Bill for saving this pub and making it so special"*.

Beth

Come fly with me...

Since our son and heir departed to the land of the All Blacks to seek fame and fortune we now find ourselves hemispherically challenged. Our offspring are equally divided between the two halves of the planet. This involves us in some fairly extensive travelling at the mercy of the world's airlines.

I hate flying. I am not afraid of flying, the statistics speak for themselves. I just loathe the whole process with a passion but, since driving is not really an option, it is something that just has to be done. What really winds me up is the gushing ad campaigns of the airlines which would lead one to believe that air travel is in some way glamorous. Images of a snake hipped oriental stewardess silver serving you Cordon Bleu cuisine as you serenely drift along at the edge of space. Then reclining into a feather filled armchair of a seat to watch the latest film release before drifting into the arms of Morpheus for a dreamless sleep that leaves you refreshed and ready for the challenges of the day in some distant exotic land. Utter hogwash. Reality check.

You arrive at an airport, Heathrow is a good example, where a good part of your monthly income has been purloined by a highwayman with a Taxi licence. You try to assemble your luggage into a transportable pile that will almost certainly fall apart before you get to the check-in desk. You are then interrogated to see if you are a terrorist. The desk operative, who obviously has not done the smiling module yet, eventually hands you a boarding card, hurls your worldly goods into an abyss, and sends you off for more ritual abuse at the hands of airport security. Barefoot and with your trousers round your knees because your belt has been removed for X-ray inspection, you hastily retrieve your possessions and reassemble yourself before going to the departure lounge and Duty Free. You injure your foot as your jaw smashes into it when you see how much Mrs Beckham is asking for her latest bottle of Rosewater. Then you wait an eternity, because the airline requires you to be there on the day prior to your departure, before being summoned to the gate where you wait some more. At this point you are counting the passengers and hoping that there will be empty seats next to you. Or perhaps a diminutive Thai lady with no English. What you get is an overweight and talkative truck driver from Wembley who has opinions on everything. The cutlery is plastic as is the food. To simulate an airline meal, try stapling your elbows to the waist band of your trousers and wearing a neck brace whilst eating soup. The TV in your seat back has no brightness control and the earphones make everyone sound like Brian Sewell. Sleep! Dream on. Don't get me started on hand baggage. An IKEA flat pack wardrobe is not carry-on luggage. Next year we are going by sea. With Costa Cruises.



The Fool on the Hill

A Few Days Out

Us old codgers don't have to worry about school holidays and weekend crowds so if the BBC's Autumnwatch suggests December as a good time to visit the Wetlands Trust at Slimbridge, why not go? We could just feed the ducks down at the Bathpiece but exotic species such as Bewick swans seem to ignore the Ashby Canal. So on 1st December we took a leisurely drive down the M5, reaching our destination in only a couple of hours. Well wrapped up, we ventured forth, first using a lift to get to the top of a convenient tower inside the reception area. This gave an overall view of the site, and what a site it is. Fitting neatly in between the River Severn and the Gloucester Sharpness Canal it is a paradise for wetland birds with mudflats, marshy areas and flood-plain. Needless to say, the keen types are attired in camouflage expedition togs, hung with cameras, telescopes and even, in some cases, sound recording equipment. We eschewed most of this paraphernalia and stuck to wrapping up well; after all we were on tarmac or gravel paths and not once did we crawl through the undergrowth. Next time we may borrow a tripod and a telescope to supplement the camera. Now we are not bird experts, we don't know our goldeneye from our flamingo, so a free guided walk seemed a good idea, and so it proved. We had a guide all to ourselves, he knew the best routes and had a real depth of knowledge of his subject; how different it would have been in the summer with a crocodile of people and no migrating species to swell the numbers of birds. The end of the walk coincided with feeding time at the otter's pool: there are more than just birds at Slimbridge. By now we were in need of sustenance ourselves and a visit to the café was indicated. Good food and reasonable prices, we'd recommend it.

Now what about the economics of day trips? With the current price of fuel a single destination is quite expensive: so, is an overnight stay and further exploration of the same area worth consideration? We thought it might, and picked a Premier Inn at a book-ahead rate available via the computer. Needless to say the actual price is never quite as low as Lenny Henry's bargain on TV commercials. It is worth comparing what the competition has to offer. Quite recently we went to a funeral and found a very nice country pub at only a bit dearer than the large chains, but when that included sumptuous English breakfast it wasn't so dear after all. But back at Slimbridge we had booked in for two nights to allow a visit to Bristol and the SS Great Britain. Brunel's magnificent ship has delighted us on several previous visits as restoration proceeds. Now the hull is surrounded by water, apparently afloat in its dock. This is an illusion, the water is there, but only a minimum depth, beneath is glass. This means that visitors now enter from the dry "underwater" area. Temperature and humidity are closely controlled by very expensive looking air conditioning equipment which has the advantage that even on a midwinter visit we could stroll around in comfort.

We had meant to see a bit more of Bristol, but somehow we spent far longer than anticipated on the Great Britain and a change of plan saw us heading south on the final day of our mini-holiday. Our new destination was Avebury Manor, the recently restored (as seen on TV) National Trust property.

So there you are, three days out with accommodation and fuel for the return journey costing less than the fuel for three separate day trips.

Ian Reid



Message from The Rector

Rogation Sunday

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, who invoked the help of the gods. 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.

Rogation-tide arrived in England early in the eighth century, and 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, with schoolboys and their master trailing along.

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 as 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'. Certainly parish boundaries rarely came into dispute, for everyone knew them. (Do you know yours today?)

The Churches of the Fenn Lanes will join together for a Rogation Service

Sunday, May 6th at 11.00am at Lodge Farm, Atterton.

Join us for a walk to see the crops and the animals
and for a 'Bring & Share Lunch' in the barn.

(Remember your wellies!)

Ring Jan Harding for more details - 01827 717999

Stoke Golding Activities Update

Here are some activities that you can add to your Village Directory -

at Stoke Golding Club:

Ladies' Darts - Tuesdays, 9pm *

Men's Darts - Thursdays, 9pm *

Quiz Night - second Tuesday of the month, 8.30pm.

Auction - Thursdays . Viewing 4 - 6pm, auction 8pm.

Jamming Session - Wednesdays, 8pm

* both looking for new members to make up teams.

Also 'The George and Dragon' Book Group - first Tuesday of the month, 8.00pm

Church Matters

Church of England - May Services

St. Margaret's Church

6 th May	11.00am	Benefice Rogation Service, Lodge Farm, Atterton
13 th May	10.30am	All Age Service
20 th May	10.30am	Holy Communion
27 th May	10.30am	Morning Worship

St. James's Church

6 th May	6.30pm	Songs of Praise
13 th May	9.00am	Morning Prayer
17 th May	7.30pm	Ascension Day Holy Communion (Thursday)
20 th May	9.00am	BCP Holy Communion
27 th May	9.00am	BCP Holy Communion

The Methodist Church May Services

6th May	10.30am	Mrs Pat Starbuck
13th May	10.30am	Mr Colin Haddon
20th May	10.30am	Mrs Gwen Coley
27th May	10.30am	Mrs Hilary Fenby

Methodist Church May Events

Saturday May 5th
**Christian Aid Coffee
Morning**
10am - 11.30am

Zion Chapel Services - May starting at 6pm

6th May	Richard Cotton
13th May	Wynne Richards
20th May	Mark Menzfeld
27th May	Gordon Malpass (TBC)

Sunday School at 11am

St Margaret's Church Coffee, Chat & Book Swap

Free coffee, tea and a chat on
Wednesdays

10.30am - 12 noon in Church

Everyone is welcome, we do hope
you will join us.

What's On

Regular Club Slot for Singer

Local singer and song-writer Jim Hirons is hosting a musical evening at Stoke Golding Club on the last Sunday of each month. The club organises regular live music events and has its own members' band – The Men in Black – which plays to raise money at charity events and support the club throughout the year. 'Stoke Golding Club is a warm, friendly place that welcomes new faces and old friends. I always enjoy performing there,' says Jim. 'I play something for everyone, starting at 7pm and running through until 10pm so it's not a late night. This is a social evening with some great music so please come and join us'. Jim, who plays in the club lounge, sings relaxed country-style music and welcomes guest musicians to join in.

For more about Jim go to www.jimhirons.co.uk



Saturday 7th July

This year's Stoke Fest is hoping to have 2 stages running this year. In addition to the main stage, we hope to hold a more informal 'Jam' stage, where local musicians can do a short acoustic set. If you, or anyone you know, would like the opportunity to perform a few numbers at the event, then please let us know. Acts for the main stage confirmed so far are: Spuff, The Craic, Black Star Bullet, The Boodons, Stone Cold Sober and The Decade Runners. We also have the Redmoor Steel Band opening the show. We will be announcing the final line up and Headline Act very shortly!

We still need more helpers on the day, so if you can tear yourself away from the music for half an hour, please can you contact us to put your name forward. We need people to help man the gates, organize the stages, sell raffle tickets etc, you name it ... we need it, and any offer of help however big or small will be gratefully received.

We now have our own website: www.stoke-fest.co.uk or you can email us at: contact@stoke-fest.co.uk

Please contact Pete or Karen on (01455) 212132 for further details.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations – June

Stoke Golding will be celebrating!

Events and activities confirmed so far:

- Saturday 2nd June - Daytime - **Heritage Exhibition** at the Methodist Hall
- Saturday 2nd June - Daytime - Jubilee event at The George and Dragon
- Saturday 2nd June - Evening - **Concert** at the Village Hall with the Stanley Opera
- Sunday 3rd June - **The Big Lunch - Village Celebration** on Hinckley Road
- Monday 4th June - 1.00pm - 7.00pm - **Jubilee Party** at the Three Horseshoes
- Monday 4th June - Evening - Lighting the Beacon at The White Swan

Stanley Opera Performs 'Songs for a Summer Evening'



Including songs from the shows
and popular classics

Stoke Golding Village Hall

Saturday 2nd June

7.30 - 11pm

Tickets £8 each including a glass of
wine and strawberries & cream

Please ring Alan 01455 212416
for tickets



The Three Horseshoes Jubilee Party

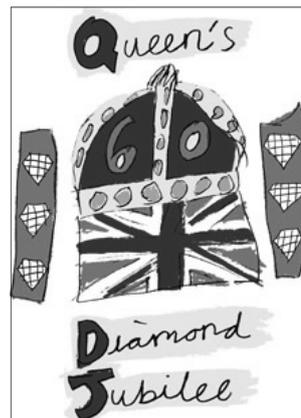
Monday 4th June

1.00 - 7.00pm



Live music
Refreshments
Stalls

If you would like to have a stall at
this event please get in touch with
Terry 01455 212263



Contact Ruth Fisher 01455 212489
for more information.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations – June

Sixty Years in Stoke Golding

As part of the celebrations of the Diamond Jubilee, the Heritage Group is co-ordinating an exhibition of contributions by village organisations reflecting the last 60 years in Stoke Golding – '**Sixty Years in Stoke Golding**'. The exhibition will be held **on Saturday 2nd June 2012 1.00 – 5.00 pm in The Methodist Church Hall in Stoke Golding.**

If you belong to a village organisation or take part in a village activity then the Heritage Group very much hopes you will contribute to this exhibition in whatever way you can.

Please contact David Goodsell as soon as possible to discuss your contribution to the exhibition:-

3 Hinckley Road, Stoke Golding, Nuneaton, CV13 6DU

Tel (01455) 212955, email: millburn5@hotmail.co.uk

'The Big Jubilee Lunch'

On Hinckley Road- between St Margaret Road and Wykin Lane

An opportunity for the whole village to get together and
celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Sunday 3rd June

12.30-3.30pm

Bring a table (some will be available), chairs and your lunch + a bit extra
if you'd like to share

Stoke Golding Club will be open to buy drinks and for toilet facilities.

Live music

Children's activities

Optional dress code:
red, white and blue



What's On

Stoke Golding Heritage Group

Meeting 17th May, Baxter Hall 7.30pm

May's meeting is about MoTown; not Detroit, but Coventry. Steve Bagley from the Coventry Motor Museum will be giving a talk on the Museum and its collection. From bicycles to Jaguars, Coventry became the major motor manufacturing centre for the UK and home for world famous marques such as Humber, Standard and of course Jaguar. The museum houses a large collection of vehicles associated with its past and this will be an opportunity to understand why the industry grew and why a trip to the museum is such an interesting experience. Non-Members £2.50

Dadlington Matters

Dadlington Flower Festival - May 5/6/7

Come and enjoy the spectacular flower arrangements at our beautiful little battlefield church of St James at Dadlington. The theme is "By Design" – an apt choice for our creative and innovative arrangers. The arrangements are by members of the Earl Shilton Flower Club, many of whom have exhibited at the highest level in Chatsworth, cathedrals and national competitions.

Church open 12noon-5pm on Sat 5th/Sun 6th/ Bank Holiday Mon 7th

May Refreshments in Village Hall – tea, coffee, cakes.

Soup and roll served between 12noon and 2pm each day.

Stalls including plants, cakes, jams, books, tombola.

Festival Songs of Praise: Sunday 6th May, 6:30pm

For further information telephone 01455 213244

COPY DEADLINE FOR JUNE ISSUE : 15th MAY

Stoke Golding Garden Show
'Diamond Jubilee'
82nd Annual Show - 1st September 2012



Preparations for this year's Diamond Jubilee Garden Show, to be held on Saturday 1st September, are already under way with the committee trying hard to persuade individuals and businesses in Hinckley and Bosworth to part with their hard earned cash to help us to achieve our targets this year.

Each year the show raises enough money to make sizeable donations to local groups, individuals and charities. In 2011 we were able to send £1500 to the Mary Ann Evans Hospice alongside making a £500 donation to 'Get Thomas to America'. Traditionally, sponsorship has come from many sources within the community. Please be assured that ALL donations, no matter how big or small will be very gratefully received, especially in these times of financial restraint.

We are especially indebted to The Charity of Thomas Barton which provided the funding for the running of the 2011 Show, enabling us to donate far more of our profit to worthwhile causes.

To make a much needed donation, offer help and support or to obtain further details please contact:

Roger Flavell, Compass Fields Farm, Wykin Lane, Stoke Golding, Nuneaton, CV13 6HW. Tel: 01455 212457

The show is open to everyone (we cater for all ages and abilities) and we attract competitors from all around the county and even further afield. We have included sections to test local ability in floral art, wine making, vegetable growing, flower growing, children's art, cake baking and photography, to mention but a few. We have introduced a new feature this year whereby a novice (someone who has not won a prize before at the Garden Show) can enter in a separate category in the 'Four Potatoes' class and be judged purely against other novices.

Following the judging at 6pm, you are free to admire the class entries, congratulate the prize winners and then you are invited to bid on some of the produce in our fun Grand Auction.

Schedules will be available during the month of August from the village pubs, Club and local shops. These are free of charge so why not pick up a copy and have a go at entering one of the varied classes on offer? If you need advice please contact Tina on 07809 629690.

PS. For all of our budding photographers, both young and old, the theme for this section is 'Stoke Golding Events and Celebrations'. Have you got any photos of past events – or maybe you could take some during this special Diamond Jubilee year.

The show depends on YOUR donations to keep being a historic and worthwhile event each year. Please help us to help others! Thank you.

Transported To Australia

With reference to the information given in last month's Stoker on Samuel Kirkland and Thomas Sheen being transported to Australia in 1837, my wife's maiden name was Sheen and Thomas Sheen is one of her ancestors.



The Sheens first appeared in the Parish Register of St. Margaret's Church in 1693 with the marriage of Joseph Sheen to Eleanor Bradford and Sheens were still living in the village into the early years of the 20th century.

Thomas Sheen, born in the village on the 17th of April 1817, was the son of Thomas Sheen and Mary nee Miles. Thomas and Mary had eight children, including Thomas Jnr, all born in Stoke Golding. A brother of Thomas Jnr, Francis Sheen, born 19th September 1824, was also transported to Australia in 1850 but that is another story.

In addition to Samuel Kirkland and Thomas Sheen a further villager, Thomas Storer, was also charged with setting fire to a stubble stack and a stack of straw but he turned King's evidence.

The Jury returned a verdict of guilty against the prisoners, after which the Learned Judge, (Lord Abinger), in passing sentence addressed them as follows:

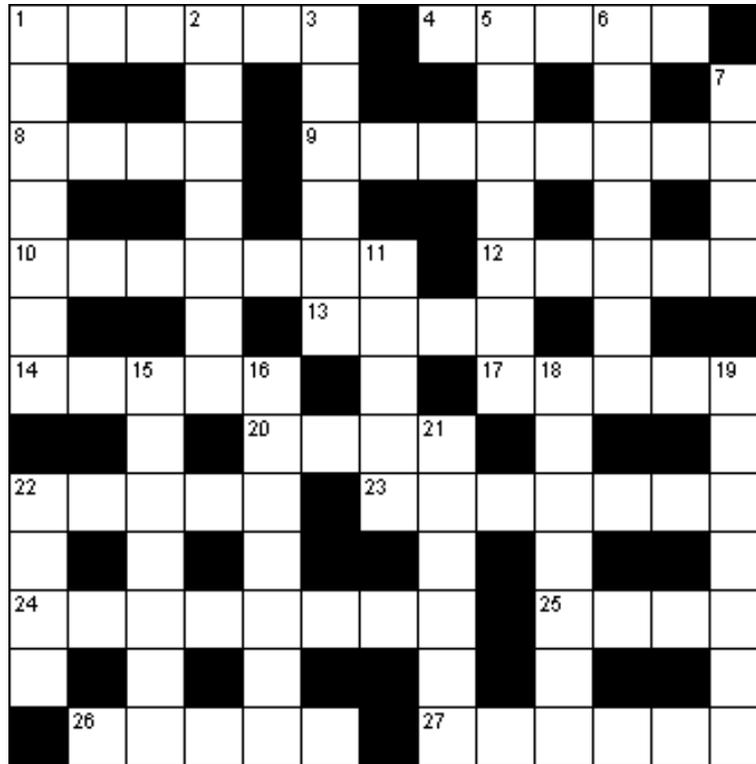
"Prisoners at the bar, you stand convicted of an offence for which you ought to forfeit your lives – the most ignominious and disgraceful crime that can be perpetrated. To add if possible, to your crime, you can read and write and with an education to instruct you better, you have violated every decency and law. There was a time when the peasantry and working classes of this country were noted for morality and obedience to the laws, but I am sorry to say, of late years there has been a great and deplorable change. It is fortunate for you that your neighbours have come forward and given you something like a character, or I should have considered it my duty to have sentenced you to forfeit your lives on the public scaffold. Your character and youth, however, have pleaded strongly for you and the sentence of the Court is that you be transported beyond the seas for life as being unworthy to live in the country that gave you birth".

Thomas Sheen was one of 270 convicts transported on the 10th July 1837 on a ship named the 'James Pattison' and arrived in New South Wales. A ticket of leave was given on the 19th August 1846 and Thomas was given a land grant of which he farmed for many years. Thomas married Phoebe Ellen Perkins, who was born in Australia and they had twelve children. Thomas died in 1885.

A few years ago, before my wife and I were in touch with her relations in Australia, one of the Australian Sheens had been working at the Australian Embassy in London. He and his family rented a house in London but before they returned home they made a brief visit to Stoke Golding. They visited St. Margaret's Church and the cemetery in Hinckley Road and found a grave of one of their ancestors. We regret we were not in touch at that particular time.

Michael Roberts

Crossword



Across

1. Small seabird with multi coloured bill. (6)
4. Musical groups (5)
8. A state in 19 down 4)
9. State in 19 D named after Queen Elizabeth I. (8)
10. Rolls back an audio tape. (7)
12. Fury (5)
13. No known author. (4)
14. Posh name for a lady.(5)
17. Puerto Rican dance. (5)
20. Birthday greeting. (4)
22. Top of a church. (5)
23. Pasta meal. (7)
24. State in 19D with Denver as its capital.(8)
25. Italian sparkling wine. (4)
26. English snake. (5)
27. Northernmost state in 19D. (6)

Down

1. List of events (US spelling). (7)
2. The sunshine state in 19D. (7)
3. A 19D desert state with Carson City as its capital.(6)
5. People who live in middle east war zone. (7)
6. North west Ireland county. (7)
7. Roundabouts and side shows. (4)
11. Sound an annoyed animal makes. (5)
15. Bored a hole. (7)
16. Tennis star of yesteryear from 19D. (7)
18. South eastern state in 19D on Gulf of Mexico. (7)
19. USA (7)
21. This 19D state has a north and a south. (6)
22. Big hessian bag. (4)

Answers on page 22

A Paper Girl's Round 1933 - 35

Our county newspaper brought out a midweek supplement
Which my two brothers delivered respectively for two shillings
When they both started work, the task fell to me
And for that princely sum I was willing

No stopping for tea! First "Ivy House", "The Lodge", and houses around home
In Meadow Lane, "Cherry Orchard", the Post Office, butchers and bakery shop
From where drifted fragrant smells – I just fancied a crunchy doughnut
But duty called and I could not stop

Up the curving drive to "High Chace", home of Copelands, of pottery fame
Mrs McCall and the maids always in evidence there
If they saw me coming Daisy would press in my hand
A nice juicy apple, or sometimes a pear

Next the old "Lamb and Flag", the grocers, cobblers and the cottages
Where on warm evenings neighbours would often gather and chat
They were always interested in my snippets of news
While one dear old soul nursed "Moses" her large grey cat

I reach station house and church farm where I scatter squawking hens
The Ivy clad vicarage, eight almshouses and our headmasters place
I admired Miss Horsefall's lovely garden at "Lavender Lodge"
With it's tall elegant chimneys of architectural grace

Clustered cottages led me down a green lane to the elderly Keelings
Renowned for their home grown tomatoes so tasty and sweet
They would often greet me holding a small paper bag
Wherein nestled a big tomato for my suppertime treat

A row of cottage, then I've reached Grannie Alsopp's shop
In summer she stayed open till seven
I exchanged my two pennies for my favourite Mars bar
And happily munching away I was in my seventh heaven

Onward now to a large lonely house with a nice friendly family
But their grizzly Alsatian was hardly my mate
If I heard him prowling, while gently lifting the latch
I'd just throw the newspaper over the gate

Next stop "The Gables" – our well loved old doctor's domain
Close by Evans's farm, with cat on a churn, and jersey cows lowing
Jocks wagging tail escorts me over the bridge – my last port of call
To the old "Roe Buck" Inn where I was going

I turn around with wings on my heels
So light on my shoulder the empty sack
In record time I sped the one and a half miles home
Where Mother had laid me a lovely late tea time snack.

Peggy Holmes



OBITUARY



Stella Burton

We are sad to report that Stella passed peacefully away on 16th March 2012. She was the wife of the late Charlie, loving mum of Charles and Judith and Nanna to Alexandra, Sophie and Charlotte. Her funeral service was held at St Margaret's Church on 28th March.

Stella was well known in the village and a member of the Good Companions - she will be sadly missed by her friends there.

We send our sincere condolences to her family and friends.

Bird News



The unseasonal, very warm weather in late March was responsible for many buzzards taking to the air to enjoy circling on the thermals. On one occasion in particular I noted four together over the new cemetery and not so far from this group another two enjoying each other's company.

I have encountered, with some regularity, quite a few goldcrests both in and around the firs where I live, near the primary school playing fields, as well others in similar habitat just a stones throw from the new cemetery. It's one of those birds, which initially at least, you find yourself drawn to by its call: a thin high pitched 'zree, zree, zree'.

With regard to migrants, as yet I've only managed to come across a chiffchaff near the allotments where once stood the convent. Also around this location I've noted a pair of bullfinches, a few pairs of yellow hammers and both greater spotted and green woodpeckers. On one occasion I observed, in the distance above the wood, a raven involved in aerial manoeuvres with a rook. Surprisingly the raven did not appear to have caused any disturbance to the rookery.

A neighbour in Sherwood Road has informed me that a pair of blackcaps has been visiting her bird table; a male has certainly been in song around my place. During milder winters some of these warblers will stay here rather than migrate to warmer climes.

David Abbott

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Stoke Golding Parish Council - March 2012 Meeting

County Cllr Ivan Ould reported on several local issues:

Spinney Bank Farm, Mar City development, Pine Hollow Barn planning application, Children's Play Area – Shire Grant outcome, Response to salt bins enquiry, Jubilee Tree Planting grants - 0800 856 7984.

Matters Arising

Pavilion – quotes received for repairing the roof with felt or bitumen. Bitumen repair was agreed.

Neighbourhood Watch – the setting up of this still on-going.

Wykin Lane Cemetery water supply – plumber to return to complete the work in line with Severn Trent's new instructions.

Ashby Canal Towpath - British Waterways confirmed a temporary repair was carried out to the towpath to make it safe. In the longer term this stretch would require extensive work to reconstruct the bank. BWs is looking to get match funding and requesting help from other sources to provide a financial contribution.

Salt Bins – Highways Dept has stated that only three bins are authorised by them and it will fill those.

Dog Waste – Waste contractor reported that someone has tipped a heap of dog waste bags by a bin near Wykin Lane Cemetery.

Reports of Elected Officers of the Council:

Big Tidy Up – due to bad weather on 4 March, this endeavour was cancelled.

Children's Play Area – four pieces of equipment ordered and awaiting installation, together with an offer of £10,000 match funding from the Charity of Thomas Barton for a further two pieces of equipment.

Refuse Collection, Sherwood Road – it was reported that bin men are still reversing down Sherwood Road by St Margaret's School before 9.00am. Clerk had contacted Mike Brymer to ensure this does not happen again. *Hinckley Road, road surface* – Clerk to contact Highways regarding the 'gully' down the middle of Hinckley Road that remained after resurfacing.

Planning Application Matters:

New applications

Unit 16, Willow Park – extension of time to planning permission for erection of industrial unit with fence; 133 Hinckley Road – extensions and alterations to dwelling; 113 Hinckley Road – extensions and alterations to dwelling; 81 Hinckley Road – alterations to garage.

No objections to above applications.

Spinney Bank Farm – change of use to Farm Shop (retrospective). Comments to be made re this application. Parish Council to endorse the conditions set by LCC Highways in respect of the location. The access to the farm between two bridges creates a blind spot and is unsuitable for significant vehicle usage. A tight limit should be kept on the farm's expansion to minimise the dangers of increased traffic.

Liveable Streets - A presentation was given by Alan White on a vision of 'Liveable Streets' where the village is primarily somewhere to live and play rather than just a thoroughfare for cars. Proposals were put forward with a view to obtain the Parish Council's endorsement of a policy of the aspirational principle. The Parish Council

(Continued on page 21)

(Parish Council Notes continued from page 20)

stated it did not have a problem with the principle, but suggested the need to obtain village consensus and proposed a presentation be made at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Green Wedge - Proposals were discussed in detail. It was agreed that the document be sent on behalf of the Parish Council to David Kiernan, Planning Officer at HBBC, David Tredinnick, Ivan Ould and those who had supported the document.

Parish Council Sub Committee report on Convent Site - A report was circulated to Parish Councillors giving an update on meetings held with Mar City Planning Co-ordinator, Director and Construction Manager and the Environment Agency.. The Convent road junction plan from Highways was circulated and concerns were highlighted. It was proposed that the thoughts and concerns be forwarded to Mar City and Highways.

2012/13 Fees for Cemeteries - New cemetery charges for Stoke Golding, in line with HBBC Cemeteries were agreed for adoption.

2012/13 Fees for Football Pitches - New football charges in line with HBBC were agreed for adoption.

Communications received by the Chairman of the Council

Email - Mr and Mrs Spencer, re overhanging trees into their garden from Hinckley Road Cemetery. It was agreed to prune back all major overhang to boundary.

Letter - Mini Wildflower Meadow: a suggestion was put forward to convert green communal spaces in the village into wildflower meadows to encourage wildlife, e.g. the space between Hinckley Road and Bennett Close. Parish Councillors supported this. Parishioners to be approached regarding this concept.

Letter - Saint Martin's High School has been approached by the Diocese to use it as a pilot for setting up a sponsored 14-19 free school. Councillors expressed concerns on the extent of the building - where would the extension be, how will this affect the village, and concerns about the impact on traffic/extra transport movement issues. Will it serve the local needs being a free school?

Letter - HBBC re road closure application for 'The Big Jubilee Lunch' – the Parish Council is fully supportive of this application

Letter – Unofficial Footpath (running through Hardy's field) restrictions – this has been a well-used footpath by villagers for many years and this is believed to be the first occasion a restriction had been imposed. The issues were discussed by Councillors with a suggestion that it may be possible to divert the existing footpath and make the unofficial footpath the 'Right of Way'. It was proposed to review the matter at future meetings.

Matters from which the public and press may be excluded.

To resolve upon acceptance of tenders for maintenance work. Five people applied for the tender - it was agreed to appoint Mike Smith as groundsman for the parish.

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

Next Meeting - Wednesday 2nd May 2012 at 7pm in the Committee Room of the village hall.

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The White Swan 11.15am - 11.40am
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