

May 2013

No. 121



The Stoker

Stoke Golding Village Magazine

including

Dadlington Matters

50p

Ruth



Jane



Note from the Editors

We are sure you will all be feeling as sad as we are that Middle Stores has closed. Let's hope this is not the end of the shop and it can open its doors again

soon - Tony and his family have worked hard for so many years to keep it going.

We are celebrating Adult Learners' Week in May with the opportunity to try or learn about something new (see page 13). There will be plenty of activities to choose from during the week in a variety of venues.

Happy Birthday to Stoke Golding W.I. Fifty years is quite an achievement and we are glad to hear the group is thriving.

Thank you for sending your letters and articles this month - the solar panel development has certainly started a debate, with strong views on each side.

Jane & Ruth

The Stoker Team

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Please send articles for the **June 2013** issue of The Stoker to:
The Editors, c/o 21, Hinckley Road, Stoke Golding by **15th May**.
If you can submit articles on a memory stick (Microsoft Word) or by e-mail it makes our job much easier, (**500 words maximum** please).
If you send photos by e-mail, please keep the file size small - no larger than 150 Kb.

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

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

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

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

Cover picture - *High Street, towards The White Swan, c1910*

News from St Margaret's C E Primary School

Reception

At St Margaret's we enjoy learning about our local history. The Reception children have been on a walk along Station Road to try and work out where Henry VII was crowned and there was plenty of discussion about whose driveway! They also went onto Crown Hill to imagine the battles and where Richard III died.



Year 5

We have had a very busy half term, learning lots. As part of our art work we have been investigating the life of King Richard III. As a result, many fabulous portraits of King Richard are now proudly displayed in the Village's doctors' surgery. We hope you like them!

Molly Carey, Year 5



Japanese Club

Children in Key Stage 1 at St Margaret's Primary School have been having fun at a lunchtime Japanese Club, taking part in activities such as origami, using chopsticks and dressing up in kimonos. We have also been learning Japanese words for basic greetings, counting and colours. In our last session we made sushi, which we shared with other people in the school and which was well received and enjoyed by all.



Correspondence



I am responding to points relating to the Solar Panel Farm Application made in two 'anonymous' letters in last month's Stoker. The Parish Council decided to meet the developer before providing information to the community. At that meeting, on November 14th, the developer was informed of concerns similar to those raised by SCRAG. The PC suggested improvements including screening (hedge and bund) on the interface with the recreation ground and started negotiations for community benefits. In the meantime, SCRAG set about informing the community of its view of the application. Regrettably its "information" was either not true, misleading, unsubstantiated or became outdated. For example the petition, signed by so many stated (emboldened):

Loss of amenity - adjacent to the recreation ground and bordered by an 8ft security fence. No mention was ever made that the fence and solar panels would be screened by a hedge and bund.

Benefits – there are no acceptable benefits to the village as a whole. Not true, subject to the application being approved, the Parish Council was negotiating to get funding from the developer in excess of £30,000 for a number of village projects, three of which would have generated an annual income, for at least 20 years, in excess of £2000, split between St Martin's and St Margaret's Schools, and the Village Hall.

Location and Siting – located close to the village centre. Not true. Similar types of information were repeated later, in the leaflet distributed by SGRAG to every household in the village. Had SGRAG provided up to date and accurate information instead of providing "spin", the response of those who gave their support might have been different.

As a result of the HBBC planning committee decision, the community has gained nothing. The "visual amenity" it has retained for the minority who use the recreation ground, is the view across a piece of bare grassland with some nondescript outbuildings in the distance. What has been lost are some tall, screening hedgerows and a wildflower meadow that would have changed the view but would not have affected existing activities on the recreation ground. The developer's proposals would have benefited wildlife, provided the financial benefits detailed above and made a small community contribution towards reducing global warming that would have helped future generations. I totally agree with the correspondent who stresses the need for views to be expressed, but those views should be based on facts. If the application goes to appeal, I hope that the community will comment, one way or the other, after carefully considering appropriate, accurate, and relevant information.

Roy Mitchell Tel: 212110, roy@mitchellhome.net

Correspondence



I would like to thank the person who wrote in March's correspondence column of The Stoker, highlighting the view that 'The loudest voice is not necessarily the voice of the village'.

Having been a resident of 'The Village' for longer than the five minutes it appears some of the leading lights of these groups have, I feel I am qualified to expand further on that person's comment. I believe that protest groups should be made aware of a few salient points for them to reflect upon.

Had 'The Villagers' protested and been successful in the late 1950s the Roseway and Sherwood Road estates would not have been built. In following years 'The Village Protesters' could have successfully prevented the Andrew Close development. Once 'The Village Protest Group' had their hackles up the Goldings could have been quashed. Of course, at this stage no one would have dared propose building Crown Hill for fear of upsetting 'The Protection of our Villager Action Group'. Added to all this, there would have been no out-of-character infill planning passed, because of protests by 'The Villager Protest and Conservation Groups'. The redevelopment of Park House, which is being tastefully carried out at the moment, would not have been allowed, because of protests from 'The Village Listed Barns and Old House Preservation Group'. Of course we would have had the wonderful old Vicarage that stood in Wykin Lane. But then, by now it would have fallen into disrepair, simply because 'The Village', or anyone else for that matter, could not raise the money to keep it in a good state of repair. So you see, if protesters had had their way, none of what we have now would have come to fruition. My point, if any of the members of the action groups live in any of the overspill, infill or redeveloped areas, as I do, none of us would be enjoying life in 'The Village'.

How many of the members of the action groups are embracing green energy by having solar panels mounted on their roofs? If so, do I detect a shade of hypocrisy here? My thought on roof mounted panels - what carbuncles on the face of the village? My preference would be 200ft windmills. Yes we all have opinions, even if some are made up to give effect, but remember, we must 'Accept Progress', because it's been going for years and it ain't gonna stop.

Name and address supplied

End of an Era



All the N I M B Y fuss about renewable energy and who's going to make money out of it. In the mean time the only shop in the village shuts. Sounds as if the village has lost out twice then. Misplaced priorities?

Aimee Smith

Correspondence



Re: Solar Panel Farm Application

I write briefly to reflect on the process so far of the above Planning Application.

This whole process has been an education. Whilst I believe I am one of those potentially most affected, I also accept people have different points of view and believe such differences should be heard, learnt from, respected or at least tolerated. No doubt both sides believe they have sound arguments and that they are right.

Aspects of the process have been disappointing; at times politics seems to have played its part. Some have said one thing and then done another, is this a surprise, hypocrisy or both? No doubt emotions from both perspectives have been tested. I have heard different critical accounts from both points of view and it can be hard to untangle fact from fiction, particularly when it is hearsay/second hand and/or unsubstantiated. Of course sometimes there may be some truth in them? Grapevines and use of rumours can be a great way to create alarm and disharmony, and maybe that is what is wanted. It has been said before that Generals get braver the further they are away from the front line.

I write hoping, that whatever your views, that the small community that Stoke Golding is, maintains not only integrity but also a balanced and respectful/tolerant attitude to differing opinions.

Peter Rooke, Pine Close

Name and Address Supplied...

We have received a number of letters recently where the authors have asked not to have their names published. This has led to comments from several readers, so we discussed the matter at our recent Production Team Meeting. We have come to the conclusion that, in villages like ours, individuals should be able to express their concerns and opinions without fear of recrimination and would therefore prefer to print names on articles and letters. However, we will still print a letter or article 'with name and address supplied' if we believe there is a very good reason for doing so. We hope this won't stop you writing to us as we love receiving your letters; they make the magazine very interesting and relevant to people in Stoke Golding and Dadlington.

The Stoker Production Team

Joy v Olympic Gold Medallist

Joy was placed on a short list of 3 clay pigeon shooters after being nominated in the Clay Shooter of the Year category at the recent Clay Pigeon Shooting Association awards dinner at the Hilton Hotel in Swindon recently. She was up



against Olympic gold medallist Peter Wilson and George Digweed, who has just won his 20th world championship, so a great honour to be placed alongside them.

She finished runner up to Peter Wilson and she was so pleased and very proud of herself.

Joy also begins the qualification shoots to gain a place in the England team at Doveridge on the 13th and 14th April so fingers crossed all goes well and best of luck.

Bob Hirons

Winter Darts

The Hinckley & District Winter Darts League recently held its presentation evening here in Stoke Golding at the Three Horseshoes. It was a good season for our local teams - the Horseshoes 'A' team won the Hunt Cup on the night, beating the Prince of Wales, Hinckley, comfortably.

The newly formed 'C' team stormed Division 2, winning every league game and reaching the semi-final of the Hunt Cup. They are a group of old school friends now in their 40s with little or no darts' experience, who play for fun and ensure everyone gets a game.

Special mention goes to 'Mad' Dave Roberts who won every league game to scoop the league individual trophy, and Terry at the Three Horseshoes for giving us a brand new match board and an electronic scoreboard.

Andy Beale



Stoke Golding W I - April Meeting Celebrating 50 Years



For 50 wonderful years the W.I in Stoke Golding has been a place of enjoyment, discussion, talent, friendship and entertainment both for the village and surrounding areas.

To celebrate that notable milestone, members past and present gathered at Stoke Golding Club along with special guests, Rosemary Heyes and Glennis Wignall from County Federation, and Presidents and a fellow member from all the Bosworth Groups.

To start the proceedings the President of the Stoke Golding Institute, Lesley Gent, (pictured) warmly welcomed everyone, making particular mention of Margaret Tomlinson, a founding member, whose attendance made the anniversary even more special.



All then proceeded to partake in a fabulous freshly prepared cold buffet followed by an amazing array of homemade puddings and cakes that made the mouth water just to look at them. Many stories of past meetings were told as members chatted to each other and by the sounds of friendly laughter and the buzz of conversation it seemed that everyone was enjoying themselves.

The evening entertainment then began with "Our Flossie" bringing to the stage her

"Daft Little Show". With many changes of costume and comedy asides she sang songs that ranged from The Wizard of Oz to Latin American numbers where some of her hip moves were quite extraordinary. Flossie completed her act with songs by female stars of the 60s, and all were encouraged to join in.

Finally after the last thank you was said, the birthday cake, professionally made by Margaret Bliss and beautifully decorated by Beryl Riddington, was cut and everyone returned home with a delicious slice, after enjoying a memorable celebration of the golden anniversary of Stoke Golding W.I.

Val Hartwell

Oops, last month we reported that Stoke Golding W I would be celebrating its 100th birthday in April. As you've just read, it's not quite that old!

Stoke Golding website
www.stokegolding.co.uk

What's in a Name?

Walking along the canal towing path one sometimes ponders the why and wherefore of the name given to a passing boat. Owners like to think that their choice of name is unique although that is not always the case with canal boats. A friend recently acquired a new boat and picked the name *Waterloo Sunset*, but luckily he discovered in time that at least two other people had beaten him to it. The problem was solved with *Waterloo Sunrise* - no one else has thought of that one. Cunard had the same problem with *Queen Mary*, the real one, built in the thirties. There was already a pleasure steamer of that name plying its trade on the Clyde. Every day it passed John Brown's yard where the liner was being built. In the end the smaller craft was renamed *Queen Mary II*, presumably after some financial transaction had taken place. The duplication of names does not occur on the Thames where the registration authority requires that any new boat entered in their books should not have a name already carried by another. This results in quite a lot of numeric suffixes, we even saw a *Mallard 42* on one occasion; maybe the owner had a sense of humour.

Back to our waterway, *the Ashby de la Zouch Canal* usually referred to as *The Ashby*, or, by the old working boatmen, *The Moira Cut*. We see quite a few interesting names among locals and visitors. Down at the wharf, Ashby Boats use local place names such as *Shenton* and *Bosworth*. This use of a theme has been common over the years; way back in the nineteenth century boats of the Moira Colliery Company would regularly pass Stoke Golding bearing the names of battles. *Alma* and *Balaclava* were among those celebrating the Crimean War, while later the Boer War was remembered by names such as *Mafeking* and *Ladysmith*. Another carrier picked constellations; you can imagine what the boaters made of *Betelgeuse*. Of course the independent owner with perhaps only one boat couldn't develop a theme and tended to stick to a favoured girl's name; *Patience* and *Elizabeth* come to mind. Nowadays owners don't feel constrained to pick conventional names any more than do proud parents, although for a boat the world is its oyster. *Pole Pole* is particularly appropriate, meaning, as it does, "Slowly Slowly" in Swahili. The original owner was a army type who had served as a military attaché in Africa. Surprisingly, there seems to be at least two other boats with the same name. Geographic names are favoured by some, *Yorkshire Rose* and *Geordie Lad* betray their origins but the name of hire firm *Central Line*, was somewhat cunning. Yes, it was roughly in the centre of the country, but the place names of its craft came from a hundred miles away; *Greenford*, *Perivale*, *Ealing*: all stations on the Central Line of London's Underground.

So, next time you wander along the canal and ponder, why not ask if you see a name that puzzles you. Most people on boats are quite friendly and will be pleased to strike up a conversation with a local.

Ian Reid





From Our Rector at St Margaret's Church

How do you say “Goodbye” to people? Are you someone who will linger at the doorstep or the garden gate, waving and smiling until they disappear out of sight? Or are you someone who prefers not to hang around, perhaps for fear of becoming too emotional, says “goodbye” and shuts the door? Or would you rather people just let themselves out and went?

I guess the answer might have something to do with how close you are to the person, and how long or far they are going away for. A half-day trip to the shops would probably bring about a different reaction to a three-year trip to Australia!

We say goodbye in different ways, and our goodbyes mean different things depending on what the circumstances are, on how we feel about the one who is going, or those we are leaving, and what we think will happen next.

We can sometimes feel bereft and alone, aware of what we have lost. But we can also feel optimistic and encouraged, as our loved ones promise to stay in touch. On Thursday May 9th, forty days after Easter Sunday when we celebrated Jesus resurrection from the dead, we will celebrate Ascension Day. This is the day when, as we are told in the bible, Jesus said goodbye to his disciples as he took them to the Mount of Olives, where they watched as he ascended to heaven.

There have been many paintings done throughout the ages portraying the Ascension, and depicting the sadness of the disciples as they stood and watched. But the bible tells us that although he was physically leaving them, he would send the Holy Spirit to be with them for ever. Jesus was encouraging them and still watching over them; he was just present to them in a different way.

And today, however we feel about our goodbyes, we can know that nothing and no one is lost to God. He'll always stay in touch because he's promised: “I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Wishing you God's blessings

Linda

Church of England Services

St Margaret's Church

5 th May	10.30am	All Age service
12 th May	11.00am	Benefice Rogation Service Lodge Farm Atterton
19 th May	10.30am	Holy Communion
26 th May	10.30am	United Service at Methodist Church

St James' Church

5 th May	6.30pm	Songs of Praise
9 th May	7.30pm	Ascension Day Service
12 th May	11.00am	Benefice Rogation Service
19 th May	9:00am	BCP Morning Prayer
26 th May	9:00am	BCP Holy Communion

Church Matters

Zion Chapel May Services starting at 6pm

5th May	Richard Cotton
12th May	Malcolm Welch
19th May	Mark Menzfeld
26th May	Wynne Richards

Sunday School at 11am

The Methodist Church May Services

5th	10.30am	Revd. Julie Minns
12th	10.30am	Mrs Eveline Overton
19th	10.30am	Mrs Elizabeth Williams
26th	10.30am	Revd. Julie Minns
	6pm	Mrs Joan Ledson



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.



Methodist Church Flower Festival "Favourite Poems"

Friday May 24th 12 noon - 5pm
Saturday May 25th 10am - 6pm
Sunday 26th 12 noon - 5.30pm
Monday May 27th 10am - 6pm

**Light lunches, tea & cakes on
Friday**

**Ploughman's lunches, cream teas
Saturday and Monday**

**Various stalls, raffle and tombola
Saturday and Monday**

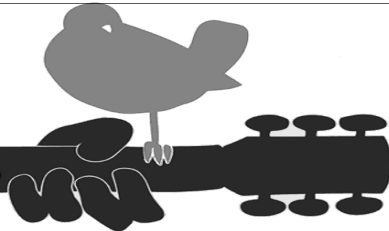
Methodist Church

**Coffee Morning
Saturday 4th May
10am -11.30am
for Christian Aid**

What's On

Saturday 6th July

StokeFest 2013



Following on from last year's event, when we donated over £5,000 to charity, we've been persuaded to try to do it all over again, but we need your help. We need new helpers; there just aren't enough of us on the committee to be able to stage and run the event as it keeps on growing. It doesn't have to be a huge commitment, you don't even have to join the committee and come to meetings, but we do need help in planning the event, getting and raffle prizes, running the bar and barbecue, selling raffle tickets etc.

Without help we may not be able to run the event.

If you could spare some time, even if only an hour, that would be really appreciated. We would also welcome ideas and suggestions for anything that you would like to see on the field, or that we could do differently or better. Please email us contact@stoke-fest.co.uk, or come along to our next meeting at the Club on Tuesday May 14th at 8 pm.

This year we are hoping to run two stages; the main stage and an acoustic stage, so it will be continuous music throughout the day. We have a lot of bands already confirmed including the UpBeatles, The Craic, The Boodons, TBC and the Freightliners. We hope to have the final lineup confirmed next month.

We shall be having stalls and attractions on the field, and again if there's something that you would like there, tell us about it. We can only improve the event with new ideas.

We have our own website www.stoke-fest.co.uk where we shall be posting regular updates. You can email us at contact@stoke-fest.co.uk or phone Pete or Karen on (01455) 212132.

Stoke Golding Heritage Group

On May 16th at 7.30pm in the Baxter Hall we are having an illustrated talk on the Rutland Water Osprey Project. Each spring these birds leave West Africa to breed here before returning in autumn to their African home. Come along and find out more about these amazing travellers.

What's On

Village Showcase: Adult Learners' Week in Stoke Golding!

This month we shall all have a fantastic opportunity to learn a new skill or try something new. During Adult Learners' Week, 18-24 May there will be a range of exciting things to try out. The programme will kick off with a Village Showcase on Sunday 19th May - an open event and exhibition at the village hall, where you can see what's coming up in the week ahead. Everyone's welcome.

Look out for the flyer coming through your door very soon!

Chris Taylor, 213 798 email ms.chris.taylor@btinternet.com

Afternoon Bridge Club

A Bridge Club is being set up in Stoke Golding, starting on 9th May. Katie at "The George and Dragon" has kindly offered to accommodate the Club from 2pm-4pm on Thursdays.

Everyone is welcome; experienced players and beginners alike. There are no charges but it would help initially if some of us could bring a pack of cards. The bar will be open for tea and coffee etc, as usual.

For those who have never played Bridge, it is a difficult game that requires concentration and thought. The basics are fairly straight-forward and beginners can start to play on the first day, but it does take a long time to learn the tricks of the trade.

Essentially, each game is played by two pairs, (who oppose each other), with one pair sitting east-west and the other north-south across the table. The cards are shuffled and dealt, giving each person thirteen cards. Each player only sees his particular cards. The object is for the pairs to bid and compete on the minimum number of tricks that they will make jointly. The bids go round the table and the pair that bids the highest then has to try to achieve its bid. Cards are played around the table, and the winner of each trick plays the first card for the next trick. The points scored depend on whether the bid is made or not.

The complications of the game rest firstly with the system of bidding, which is designed to help pairs make their best bid, and secondly, with the choice and order in which the cards are played during the play-off, which can have a major effect on the result.

Bridge is interesting, demanding, enjoyable and a good way to keep your mind active.

For more details, contact Vic Rollins on 01455 213709

Dadlington Matters

Richard III at Dadlington

Flower Festival at St James' Church

Sat/Sun/Mon 4th 5th 6th May

Everyone is invited to the Flower Festival at Dadlington which, this year, following the discovery of the remains of the King in Leicester, has the theme 'Richard III.

The church, built before 1283, is situated on a hill overlooking Bosworth Battlefield where Richard was killed in 1485. Many of the soldiers who died in the battle were buried in the churchyard here. In 1511 Henry VIII gave approval for the church to become a Chantry Chapel for a priest to say Mass for the souls of those killed in the battle.

The flower arrangements will, once again, be interpreted by the members of Earl Shilton Flower Club, some of whom are national demonstrators and exhibit at prestigious events.

The church will be open from 12 noon to 5pm each day, with refreshments available in the village hall. Soup and rolls will be served 12 - 2pm and tea, coffee, cakes and cream teas will be served all day.

There will also be a variety of stalls including cakes, books, plants and tombola. Proceeds to the church restoration fund.

The Battle

In February, Richard Knox from the Battlefield Centre gave a talk on the latest thinking of the Battle of Bosworth. This was a topical subject in view of the confirmation of the discovery of the grave of Richard the Third only a week previously and the revelations in 2012 concerning the true site of the battle. Richard's lively presentation of what could so easily have been a dry as dust history held the large audience enthralled.

Many conflicting accounts of the battle, mostly written sometime after the conflict, have been studied. Political bias and plagiarism have not helped the seeker after truth. Shakespeare has made it probably the best known fight in English history, but he was perhaps the Ian Fleming of his age portraying an evil baddy brought down by the forces of good under Henry of Lancaster. The speaker gave due credit to Dr. Peter Foss, a local academic, whose scholarly work on locating the true site of the battle raised controversy at the time of its publication a few years back. His map of the site is now seen to compare well with the latest findings, unlike those of earlier authors who tended to repeat the errors of those who preceded them.

(Continued on page 15)

(The Battle continued from page 14)

So, what actually happened? England had been at peace for a few years. Richard, Duke of Gloucester, had himself crowned. The “princes in the tower” who had been in Richard’s care, mysteriously disappeared and Henry, Duke of Lancaster decided that his own slim claim to the throne justified raising an army to enable him to seize the crown. After landing from France at Milford Haven, Henry headed up through Wales where he could raise support before turning down Watling Street (modern A5) with a sizeable army. Richard was aware of this and moved to Nottingham and then to Leicester. As Henry approached Atherstone, Richard was installing his own troops on Ambion Hill, giving him a commanding view of the countryside. Henry’s route was then up the Fenn Lane towards Sutton Cheney while Richard moved down from his vantage point but still had the height advantage just to the north of a marshy area. Henry, encountering the marsh, swung his troops away from the Fenn Lane to attack Richard’s superior force on its flank. Meanwhile, there were another two armies waiting in the wings, those of the Stanley brothers. Loyalties were fickle in those days and the important thing was to be on the winning side, so Henry and a small force headed over to seek Stanley support. This was observed by Richard and he, himself set out to intercept them. Unfortunately, the marsh got in the way and his war horses were soon floundering in the mud. A *mêlée* ensued with fierce hand-to-hand fighting and with Richard unhorsed he was also unhelmeted and succumbed to head injuries.

Richard’s remains showed evidence of major wounds inflicted after death, but that was the norm in those days. Many of those around the corpse would be proud to claim that they had had a hand in killing a king. Naked, he was strung over a horse and taken back to Leicester. Here he was buried in some haste behind the rood screen of the Friary; a place not accessible to the public. Henry didn’t want a martyr on his hands to inspire any of Richard’s erstwhile supporters.

What of the evidence? Thirty-nine cannon balls, a quantity exceeding the total for all those found on similar sites across Europe. Bits of buckles, spurs, swords, etc. But the star find was a silver-gilt badge in the form of a boar; Richards emblem. The disposition of the balls gives more than one possible siting of the opposing armies. Tests have established that the range of the cannons could exceed a kilometre, but it would have been helpful to know which side fired which missiles! The reason for the scarcity of finds lies in the value of remnants of the battle. We know that the field would be stripped by the victors and, if anything remained, the locals. Any small iron components such as arrowheads, which might be missed, would rust away in the Leicestershire mud. Reports suggest that bodies were interred in field graves but later exhumed and buried in Dadlington. Although we are not told precisely where, there have been references to bones being found, possibly when the canal or railway were constructed.

This is only a very brief synopsis of a very detailed talk. We recommend all those with an interest to go up to the Battlefield Centre and also the exhibition in Leicester’s Guildhall.

Ian Reid

Beth's Corner - Rev'd Linda Blay

The title 'Celebrity Corner' has been changed by the unanimous decision of our Editorial team. We feel that none of us is really a 'Celebrity', but headlines in every newspaper or magazine insist that someone most of us have never heard of is a 'Celebrity', I thought that we'd have fun creating a few celebrities of our own.

I know that Linda would hate to be thought of as a 'Celebrity'. I had only met Rev'd Linda in her more formal role leading some of our Village Lent Groups, so it was a delight to chat with her casually over coffee. I say coffee, but her tippie at elevenses is a mug of hot water. Time goes so quickly, and I am amazed that it's already five years since she has been in the village as Rector at St. Margaret's Church.

Linda's dad was the owner of a grocery shop in the South East – not far from Windsor, and this was where she was born. "Oh; rather like a very celebrated lady we've recently been hearing a great deal about," she laughed. "Yes but my Dad moved about a bit more. Very soon after I was born, we moved to Reading, then to Bournemouth, and finally back to Reading."

After school, Linda trained as a Primary School Teacher, and came to Allesley, "A very pleasant suburb of Coventry, and while I was there, became very involved with my church "All Saints", especially working with the children. While I was busy with school and church, I had my second baby, James, and asked for an extended period of maternity leave."

During this time away from school Linda started feeling that God was urging her to explore the possibilities of going deeper and further with her faith. Her Vicar suggested a 'placement' for three months at St. Chad's at Wood End. "Do you know Wood End, Beth?" "Well, I've heard it's a very needy area." "You're right!" At the end of the three months the minister gave Linda a glowing reference. "And I think it was this that opened so many more doors, leading to my Ordination in 2000." She trained at Trinity College in Bristol, had her first Curacy at St. Paul's Foleshill in an area of many different faiths – and none.

"I loved the openness of the people and was even asked to tell the Christmas story of baby Jesus to the children of a Hindu school." Her next move was to Bilton, before her appointment at St. Margaret's in April 2008.

Linda's personality, with her underlying sense of fun, along with a total open-mindedness and understanding of the '*ways of the world*', her sense of caring for the congregations in this, her first rural Parish with its five church families, her depth of faith and a complete lack of 'religiosity', appeals to me as everything I would personally want in St. Margaret's Rector.

"How on earth can you manage to give Pastoral care to five such scattered parishes Linda?"

"I just do my best."

Beth



SPOTLIGHT on... Good Companions

Day Trip

Our day trip to Trentham Gardens is on **Wednesday May 15th**. The coach will pick us up at Stoke Golding Club at 9.00am. It will also pick up at the Methodist Chapel. We are sharing the day with our friends from Higham and Sheepy Magna.

There are still tickets available - ring **Ray Lockley** on **01455 212815**

£11 - for members of the Good Companions

£13 – for non-members

We would love to have a big coach – the more the merrier! So please come along with us and have a brilliant day out.

Rosemary Collier

Bird News for March

Heavy snow showers, coupled with the arrival some days earlier of a few hirundines, such as sand martin and swallow, would appear to present a somewhat confused picture. Nevertheless this was a feature of migrant passage in the first quarter of March in the south of England.



Highlights of monthly wildfowl and wader counts at Brascote Pits were 5 Egyptian geese, 4 oystercatcher, 18 widgeon, 5 pochard, and 62 teal. The former are quite outstanding in both colour and form; initially the face, in particular, capturing the attention. The species was introduced to Britain in the eighteenth century.

From these pits, prior to alighting at the top of a pylon, I noted a peregrine falcon involved in aerial manoeuvres with a raven. Also, closer to the wooded area, three very animated greater spotted woodpeckers were chasing each other around.

A number of people have reported seeing a barn owl hunting in the set-aside fields opposite Middlefield Farm, Stoke Road. I visited the farmer who informed me that not only that it had been around for months but that a little owl was also present on his property, and last year a red kite had graced his fields for some weeks. A barn owl has also been seen near the new cemetery on Wykin Lane. Since there is supposed to have been above average numbers of siskin around this winter, Alan Taylor's report of some on his feeders at the top of Whitemoors Close, came as no surprise.

David Abbott

Higham on the Hill - May Fayre

Saturday 18th May 11am - 3pm

Higham on the Hill Primary School

Contact Sharon on 07757539732 for more details

Learning To Graft!

Rootstocks, Scions, Cambium Cells – these are just some of the new words which Year 7 students at St. Martin's Academy learnt about at a fruit tree grafting workshop on February 20th.

You may remember from previous Stoker articles that last autumn students collected apples from trees in Stoke Golding and Dadlington, and the varieties of apple were identified. The next step in the 'Fruit Tree Project' has been to reproduce some of these trees by the process of grafting – the idea being to produce the initial stages of a Community Orchard to be planted on the land at the Convent site being gifted to the community.

Grafting involves joining a shoot from one tree, the scion, onto a suitable rootstock – that is the roots and lower trunk of another young tree. Forty rootstocks were kindly donated by James Coles Nurseries Ltd of Leicester. The rootstocks came in three 'sizes' for producing small and medium trees and a few for larger trees. The scions were donated by residents of Stoke Golding and Dadlington and Coles Nurseries. Our thanks go to residents who allowed us to take shoots from the trees in their gardens.

To graft a scion to a rootstock slanting cuts were made across the stems of the rootstock and scion so that the two parts fit together closely. Then the students worked on the essential task of tightly binding the joint so that the cambium cells of the two parts grow together over the next few months. The students planted the new trees in pots - thank you to Morrison's Supermarket for donating these. The trees were carefully labelled so that we can be certain of the variety and the final size of the trees. Students attached their names to the trees so that they can monitor the growth of the saplings over the next few years. We hope that as the trees outgrow their pots they will be able to be planted in the proposed Community Orchard.

During the morning the students worked hard to graft and plant 40 trees. They were greatly helped by the enthusiastic group of residents who had volunteered to join in the workshop – and the two experts who did the 'cutting'. Many thanks to everyone who was involved in making this event such a success.

Doreen Rose and David Goodsell

Mobile Library

The Mobile Library will visit Stoke Golding and Dadlington on 9th & 23rd 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 11.15 - 11.40am

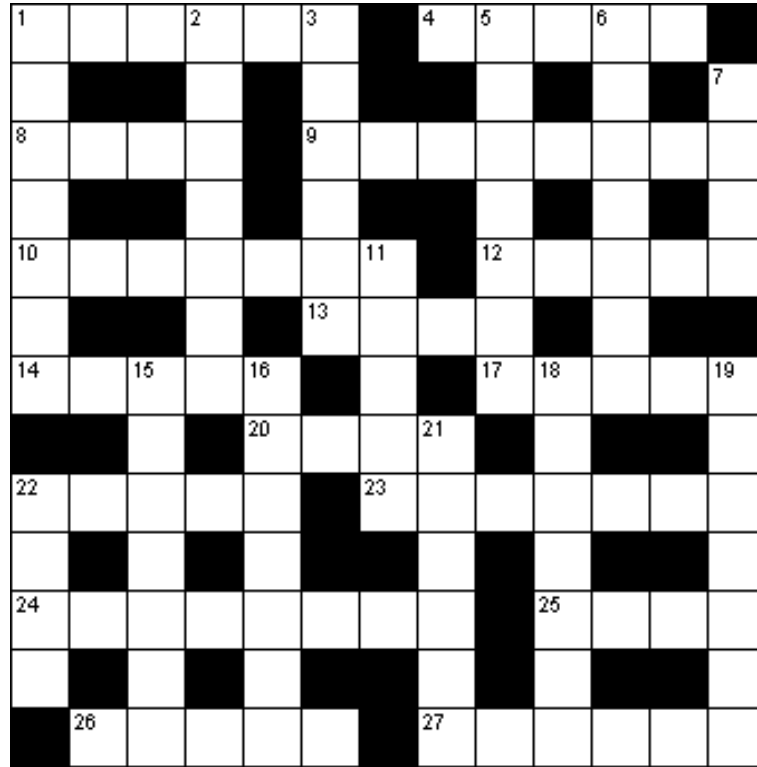
Hinckley Road/Main Street 11.45 - 12.05pm



For further details contact: Coalville Library, 0116 305 3565

email:coalvillelibrary@leics.gov.uk

crossword



Across

1. Exotic fruit (6)
4. Animals heart, liver, etc (5)
8. Foliage of a tree (4)
9. Otherwise known as Mayflower tree (8)
10. Hangs off 16 down (7)
12. Black wood (5)
13. This you do when making tea (4)
14. Device for connecting two computers (5)
17. More timid (5)
20. First of the human race (4)
22. Childs favourite party food (5)
23. Postman's sack (7)
24. Port where the Mayflower set off (8)
25. Mend a hole in sock (4)
26. Snake (5)
27. Insect with long tail (6)

Down

1. & 5. sailed on the mayflower (7&7)
2. Being friendly and kind (7)
3. Capital of Greece (6)
5. See 1 down
6. Verbal or written regret (7)
7. A deadly sin (4)
11. Comes from kettle when boiled (5)
15. Arrived late (7)
16. Dance round this in fifth month (7)
18. Bank ----- there are two in May (7)
19. Period of George IV time as Prince (7)
21. Any violent disruption (6)
22. Jest or joke (4)

Answers on page 22

Stoke Golding Parish Council - March 2013 Meeting

Cllr Ward opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the public. He asked if anyone present had any issue to raise over the Borough Council's decision on the Solar Panel Farm application and he would willingly discuss it with them elsewhere as it was not a matter for the Parish Council.

Matters arising

- a) Crime Report February – 1 burglary and theft of jewellery.
- b) Waste Bin Collection – response from Darren Moore, HBBC, explaining why some bins were not collected in the bad weather. Cllr Mayes asked for a further letter as residents were not complaining about non-collection but the misinformation given at the time about when the bins would be emptied.
- c) Convent site – report from Pauline Goodsell communicated to meeting
Dog walking on site – The Councillors thought that as the land has not been handed over to the Parish, they did not have the authority to answer this question. The allotment holders were advised to put up a notice limiting dogs as required.
- d) Letter from David Tredinnick – he supported Stoke Golding's right to be acknowledged for the connection with Richard III and for representation at the interment.
- e) Children's Play Area – 3 signs have been put up stating no bicycles, no dogs and no ball games.

Planning Applications:

New applications:

Pinewood, 1B, Arnold Road, (extensions and alterations to dwelling) – following a letter from the neighbouring resident to the Parish Council, the clerk to reply that the Parish Council does not comment on applications unless it directly impacts on the whole village. 21, Andrew Close – work to ash tree.

Permissions granted:

Chestnut Cottage, Park House Court, Main Street - extensions and alterations.

Barwell SUE: It was reported that a parishioner was upset with regard to the traffic exercise carried out in the village, quoting the data protection act. It was confirmed that the recording of registration numbers was to monitor the volume of traffic passing through the village.

Councillor Vacancy

The Parish Council has gone through HBBC's correct process and a vacancy is still to be filled.

Judicial Review

Communication from Planning Office for Erection of Solar Plan Field and Associated Infrastructure.

Following the consideration of the above application by Planning Committee on 19th February it has become necessary for there to be a re-consultation exercise in respect of amended plans prior to taking the application back to Committee on 26th March 2013. Additional plans are Site Block Plan Drawing, Wildflower Meadow Detail Drawing and Detailed Planting Proposals.

(Continued on page 21)

(Parish Council notes continued from page 20)

The public should have been given 10 days to respond to the amended plans but were only allowed 7 days. This notice dated 5 March allowed for correspondence until 15 March 2013. The Parish Council decided to stand with its original submission.

Communications received by the Council

County Cllr Ivan Ould's report:

He has received complaints about the *slow speed of broadband services* within the parish. HBBC has been offered just £40,000 out of the required sum of £440,000. This lack of local commitment by HBBC puts the Market Bosworth Division at the back of the queue.

Solar Panel Farm:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, Cllr Ould examined the file held by HBBC, together with a Stoke Golding resident. The level of written opposition was high, numbering 165 letters of objection.

The application was passed on 19th February by the Chair of the Planning Committee's casting vote after a tied vote. There remain serious doubts about whether or not the correct process was followed by the Borough Council but this may result in a legal challenge.

Cllr Ould's philosophy is that the role of an elected representative is to do just that, represent constituent's views whether or not the councillor actually agrees with the prevailing opinion. His letter on behalf of the numerous Stoke Golding residents recorded not only the views of those 15 residents in favour but also the 62 who wrote or e-mailed me expressing their opposition.

Green Composting Site:

The owners of the site are making enquiries as to its future again. Following their threat to sue Cllr Ould for libel over the contents of his representations to the Development, Planning, and Regulatory Board at County Hall, and to the Planning Appeal Inspector, he has said that he will not meet with them until the threat has been formally withdrawn.

A5 - A start will be made this autumn on the mitigating A5 road works associated with the MIRA development.

Parish and Community Initiative Fund 2013/14 – Parish Council has submitted an application for fitness equipment for the recreation ground.



Email – from Jo Burton re winter road / path conditions (submitted to Highways) and request for a grit bin on the Goldings - issue discussed and will be an Agenda item in April.

Letter – from Mr W R McCreight thanking the Parish Council for tidying up an unkempt area in Hinckley Road cemetery.

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 1st May in the Methodist Church Hall at 7pm.

COPY DEADLINE FOR JUNE 2013 ISSUE: 15th MAY

 **Yoga and Fitness Classes** 

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Yoga easy	Mon	7.45pm	Baxter Hall
Yogafit easy	Tues	12 noon	Baxter Hall
Yoga mixed/adv	Tues	7pm	Baxter Hall
Yogafit easy/mixed	Wed	6pm	Baxter Hall

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Stoke Golding Heritage Group

Wrapped in our winter woollies, April's meeting was held in 'idyllic' spring weather at Ros Smith's farm, which is managed on conservation principles. Whilst we may be suffering as a result of the weather patterns changing, during the walk around the farm, Ros made it clear that this is having a dramatic impact on farming and wildlife. Crop yields are down and some wildlife species such as butterflies have really been hit hard. Lack of insects has impacted on bats and birds and other species. Any help we can give to help wildlife in our gardens, through these difficult times would be of great value.

Roy Mitchell

Across
1. Papaya 4. Offal 8. Leaf 9. Hawthorn 10. Ribbons 12. Ebony 13. Stir
14. Modem 17. Shyer 20. Adam 22. Jelly 23. Mailbag 24. Plymouth 25. Darn
26. Adder 27. Mayfly
Down
1. & 5 Pilgrim Fathers 2. Affable 3. Athens 6. Apology 7. Envy 11. Steam
15. Delayed 16. Maypole 18. Holiday 19. Regency 21. Mayhem 22. Jape


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