

February 2021

No. 198

The Stoker



Stoke Golding Village Magazine

Including

Dadlington Matters

70p



Note from the Editors

Dear readers,

With the virus and the lockdown in full swing, we had wondered whether we would have many articles contributed by you this month. We have been pleasantly surprised and have received so much input, articles, and



photographs that we have expanded this edition of the Stoker by an extra 8 pages! There are some talented photographers out there judging by the stunning photos submitted. Thank you so much!

Many of you will be aware that Paul Sehmbi who runs our village shop was taken ill with Covid and had to be hospitalised. All of the Stoker team, together with his many followers on the Stoke Golding Community Facebook site, wish him a speedy recovery.

With the village shop closed, many villagers have offered to help those who may now struggle to get food shopping. Please see the article on Page 3 offering practical help. Let's all work together to keep our villages and villagers protected.

Stay safe, Jane and Steve

The Stoker Team

Editors: Jane White (01455 212416), Steve Smithers (01455 213798)

Production Team: Rosemary Collier, Ella Orr, Jan Pettyfer, Jill Webster, Jennifer Michie, Michael Dix, Jan Zelenczuk, Kate Poyser Clark, Sandra Pollard.

Please send articles for the **March** issue of The Stoker **by 15th Feb** to:

The Editors, 45 Station Road, Stoke Golding.

Email thestoker@gmx.co.uk

If you can submit articles by e-mail or on a memory stick (Microsoft Word) it makes our job much easier, (**500 words maximum** please).

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

N.B. All advertising enquiries to Ella Orr - ella42@sky.com

Publication of any articles or letters submitted does not imply approval of, or agreement with, any views and comments contained, and are published without prejudice. Copying of content without our explicit consent is not permitted.

Cover picture: Bebe Blair from Shenton Lane, Dadlington with her fabulous snowman.

Sehmbi Stores Closure

At the time of going to print our local shop has closed because, sadly, Paul has contracted COVID and is fighting to recover in hospital. This must be an awful time for him and his family and our thoughts are with them.

If you, or anyone you know needs help with food shopping while the shop is closed, Paul's son Pinder has very kindly offered to make deliveries outside the shop and you can ring him to organise this on 07585 801946 or 02476 393798.

You can also ring Jane White on 212416, as she has a list of people who have volunteered to go shopping for anyone living in Stoke Golding or Dadlington who can't get to shops outside the villages.

Please don't hesitate to ask for help if you need it.

CASAG - COVID Vaccinations

The practice started to administer COVID vaccinations in the Hinckley Leisure Centre on 14th January. The programme will take several months to complete and are obviously a priority, however this will mean that services at the surgery on those vaccination days will be for absolute emergencies only, and more limited services on other days.

The priority groups to be vaccinated first have been set nationally, starting with Nursing homes and their staff and then the over 80s, then working down the list of age groups 5 years at a time and at risk groups. Each priority group will receive a letter and consent form with instructions on how to book the appointments and how to get to the venue. There will be marshals at the facilities to help.

Central government has started to send letters to all over 80 year olds to invite them to book their COVID vaccine at one of the new COVID mass vaccination centres, with the nearest being in Birmingham. Please be reassured we are calling our patients to offer vaccinations at our HINCKLEY COVID vaccination centre and are working throughout the day and over weekends to ensure patients are booked as soon as possible. If you or your relative are confused or worried about receiving this letter please be rest assured this letter is legitimate and, if you wish, you can book an appointment at the COVID mass centre. You will need to attend the centre for both vaccines as our Hinckley centre will not be able to accommodate the second vaccine appointment.

Demand on our telephones is exceptionally high at the moment, so please do not call for advice about vaccination, ask to be prioritised or ask for a COVID vaccine appointment. We will contact you when you are next on the list.

(continued over page)

(continued from previous page) Thank you to our patients and local community for their understanding during this exceptionally busy period and the support we have received is very much appreciated.

Kind regards, [Alison Ellis, Practice Manager](#)

Dial a Ride Offers Transport Help to Vaccination Centre

Please either ring 01455 250462 or email dialaride21@hotmail.com if you need transport to Hinckley Leisure Centre for your vaccination. Dial a Ride is a local charity that provides transport for elderly and isolated people.

Planning decision for Roseway Application

The planning application for the land east of Roseway was on the agenda of the Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council planning committee on 8 December 2020. Watched on YouTube by a very large number of interested parties, the debate that followed the presentation by the planning officer and then the representations by Steve Martin (from Stoke Golding Friends of the Community) and the developer's representative was an interesting watch.

The possibility of an increase in flooding issues which have prevailed since Bosworth Manor was built, the real visual impact, the danger of closing the gap between Stoke Golding and Dadlington and the unsustainability of village resources and amenities were all highlighted and discussed.

The flooding issue was rebutted by the developer's representative as he said since the Bosworth Manor application had been approved, water attenuation agreements have been improved and they were confident that there would be no issues.

The issue of unsustainability of village resources and amenities in the village to support further development was addressed by a councillor who said that this issue applied to all areas in the borough including his own and so Stoke Golding weren't alone in this.

Several councillors congratulated the Friends of the Community on the paperwork they had submitted as part of their objection and said a lot of other local groups could learn a lot from it. (If you haven't seen it they put in a lot of hard work and it was very professionally done)

Other comments were that no statutory consultees had come forward with any issues, the land is already enclosed on two sides and highways didn't have any issue with the expected increase in traffic through the village and down Roseway.

It felt as if the decision had been already made and this was re-enforced when one councillor said that reluctantly he would have to accept the Planning Officers report and vote for it as if refused it would probably land on a Planning Inspectors desk in the future. There was some frustration from some of the committee members that they were being asked to provide housing by the government but local views weren't able to be taken into account, something that was on the council response to the Government's White paper Planning for the Future.

Perhaps they all had in mind the planning appeal that has now been lodged for the Wykin Lane development (which will be on 13 April 2021 for four days) after they voted to reject the application. When it came to the vote the application was passed by a vote of 11 for and 4 against, notably against their party policy. (Those who have seen the Liberal Democrats bulletin were quick to point out the irony of their headline).

Since the meeting there have been many complaints to HBBC not only against individual councillors but about the meeting as a whole and the parish council are in the process of sending their comments too. Let's hope that this time we may have lost the battle but not the ongoing war against more development in our village.

Jan Zelenczuk

Advent Windows and February Heart Art.

A huge thank you to everyone who took part in the Advent Windows displays in December. It was a real inspiration to walk around the two villages and view such creative and festive displays.

Following on from that, we have come up with the idea of filling our villages with hearts in February... on trees, in windows, on gates and fences.....

Something for everyone to join in with... Let's share some love and joy! See the 'Heart Art' Poster for more details.



Revd Linda.



Meet Our New Treasurer

It was a pleasure spending time on a Sunday morning talking to Sandra Pollard, the new treasurer for The Stoker.

Sandra originates from Nuneaton and has lived in the village since 2003. She enjoys living in the village and finds everyone friendly and feels there is a real sense of community spirit.

After leaving school Sandra worked for the MOD at Bramcote barracks where not only did she meet her first husband but also helped to set up a scout group at the barracks as well.

She moved to work for the DHSS and worked as a civil servant until she retired in 2017. She did have a break in her career when her husband was stationed abroad in Berlin in the 1970s. She has three, now grown up children and five grandchildren. Unfortunately her husband was killed in a works accident in 1985 and she had three children under the age of ten to look after. She met her now husband Paul in 1998 at a friend's wedding and they got married in 2000 in Jamaica. They obviously share a love of travel and adventure and have visited Paul's son who is based in Hong Kong 3 times and have combined this trip with holidays to South Korea, Japan and Singapore.

She has had various treasurer and secretary posts over the years including the Children's society and Fairtrade shop through her Church. She helped her husband Paul in his shop in Atherstone after she retired, however her husband is also retired now. They are just waiting for the opportunity to go travelling again!

Her hobbies are reading and gardening. Sandra describes herself as an avid reader. She also helps out looking after her younger grandchildren and still has her dad living in Nuneaton who will be 90 years old in July. Sandra also loves quizzing and pre Covid 19 used to attend the monthly quiz at the club with friends. So, a busy lady although retired.

Sandra as I had mentioned had been involved with scout association for over 17 years and tells the story of being at a cub camp with her son only being 2 weeks old!

Sandra is keen to get involved with the Stoker magazine after being recommended to the editorial team by her neighbour.

Welcome Sandra to The Stoker Team.

Jennifer

A Socially Distanced Thank You to Richard



The Stoker Team has presented Richard Orr, from Hinckley Road, with a pen to say a big thank you for acting as the Stoker Treasurer for nearly eight years. Not only has Richard kept the finances in good order, providing monthly reports and assembling the annual report, but he has always been cheerful and encouraging with nothing being too much trouble.

We will miss you as part of the team Richard and wish we could have given you a more sociable 'send off' - this will have to wait until COVID restrictions have been lifted!

The Baxter Hall Needs Your Help



The Baxter Hall Committee, which formed six months ago to try to save the Hall from being sold by the Diocesan Board of Education (DBE), has been working hard to be ready to take on the Hall if and when this is agreed. We are ready to become a registered charity and open a bank account and have developed a very

professional and comprehensive business plan. We have engaged a solicitor to advise us and ensure all legalities are adhered to.

The DBE has recently informed us that they would prefer to keep the Hall, but might allow us to rent it from them. We are currently looking into this option and will meet with the DBE (virtually) at the end of January to discuss it further. It remains our preferred option that the Hall is given back to the local community, as originally intended by local benefactor Robert Baxter.

We intend the Hall to be used for the playgroup, the before and after school club and for St Margaret's Church and we would also like to develop other community initiatives, so would be interested in your views and your ideas. Please get in touch by emailing **thebaxterhallsg@gmail.com** or by ringing Jane on 01455 212416.

You can also join our Facebook Page and comment on there. The more people we can get to support us, the more likely we will have a successful outcome. Thank you for all your support. *Jane White*

Stoke Golding Scout Group

WHAT A VIRTUAL ENDING!!!

Well what have we been up to?

The Cubs finished off their home help activity badge by making a cake in a mug and also a baked potato based meal. They had a Christmas quiz and made a snowman in their own home, out of materials available!

The Beavers held a virtual nativity play with a Duke Of Edinburgh virtual helper assisting with music. As the nativity play and Christmas songs were virtual there was a lot of virtual support from grandparents, aunties etc from Yorkshire to Devon and lots of thank you's as well.

About 41 people watched the play.



The Beavers made a Christmas hat for their Christmas party and a very special guest dropped in to read a story, the Beavers found out whether they had been good or not, he asked them what they wanted for Christmas and then asked them to promise to help the grown ups. Yes you guessed it - SANTA! The Beavers were very excited when he appeared but he couldn't stay too long as he had to go off to feed his reindeer. The Beavers even knew all their names !

The Scouts celebrated national toilet day by taking part in a Kahoot Quiz entitled " whose Pooh is this"! They also attended a murder mystery event. There was a national Scout jamboree with a Christmas theme, where all sections could choose to do various activities including Christmas crafts.

Traditionally the Scout group take part in the annual Snowman Festival, so the group had the 23rd of December advent window and it was decorated with snowmen made by the Beavers and Cubs and last year's snowmen from the church.

So as you can see, despite it being an unusual time for us all, the Scout Group has battled on virtually to do the fun things they love over Christmas.

As I said what an end.

Jennifer

Ten of a Kind – February '21

In Roman times, February was the last month of the year but in about 450BC it was decided to move New Years Day to January 1st. Try these ten questions about moves and changes.

1. Which 1977 film was originally going to be called 'The Tribal Rights of the Saturday Night'?
2. From which ancient monument did Lord Elgin take the Elgin Marbles, now displayed in the British Museum?
3. When the May Day bank holiday was changed to celebrate the anniversary of VE Day last year, how many days forward or backward did it move?
4. Why was Top Cat, the 1960's US cartoon series, billed as Boss Cat when it was screened in this country?
5. Which famous London location was originally going to be named after William IV with a large building to house the Royal Academy in the middle?
6. What was the original name of the chocolate bar Snickers?
7. Why did the D Day invasion, planned for June 5th 1944, take place the next day instead?
8. What did singer songwriter Cat Stevens change his name to in 1977?
9. Which modern day orchestral instrument developed from the medieval sackbut?
10. The US constitution has 27 amendments. What does the first one protect?

Answers on page 34

Stoke Golding Charity Sleigh Thank You

Thanks to all who contributed and thanks to the large number of warm and welcoming comments about bringing the sleigh round, as this confirmed our decision to do our normal runs was the right one. Thanks also to Mark Fowler for pulling the sleigh and to the hard-working snow people.

The following have benefitted from your donations: Stoke Golding Village Hall, Dadlington Village Hall, Stoke Golding Junior Football, The Engine Shed, Stoke Golding Flower Show (Junior Section), Stoke Golding Little Explorers and Stoke Golding Scouts.

Many Thanks again for your support.

Sleigh Committee

Great News from St Margaret's Church, Stoke Golding.

We are delighted to tell you that all the funds needed - £220,000 plus - for the work to the interior and to the exterior of our beautiful medieval building have been secured! And work is shortly to start - look out for our banners!

We have received a number of generous grants from the following: Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, The Jack Patston Charitable Trust, the Wolfson Foundation, All Churches Trust Ltd., the Garfield Weston Foundation, Leicestershire Historic Churches' Trust, National Churches' Trust, and most recently Historic England (Culture Recovery Fund), which awarded us £25,000. And the grant of £4,185 from The Charity of Thomas Barton enabled us to 'unlock' the grant from The National Churches' Trust.

Over a number of years the Church itself has steadily raised money knowing that major work both inside and outside of the Church would be needed. These funds enabled us to apply for the grants outlined above as nearly always 'match funding' is needed.

We would like to particularly recognise, with our grateful thanks, the efforts of the community over the past year when normal fundraising events could not be held. Stoke Golding has really supported our fund raising. Monies from the Scarecrow Festival, stalls in peoples drives , St Martin's Academy students, and **many** individual donations have all amounted to **£5,376**. Thank you so much!

The work is likely to take up to 5 months and during that time the Church will be closed for services and to visitors. We are hoping to tell the community about progress as the project goes along and especially involve our young people. We look forward to celebratory events when all is completed to let everyone see what has been achieved. The Church will continue to be a centre of Christian worship and events, but we hope it will continue to fulfil wider community needs as well. As a few months ago someone said 'St Margaret's belongs to all of us, whether church goers or not'. So THANK YOU VERY MUCH to all who have given their help.

David Goodsell and Ian Hirons, Church Wardens on behalf of St Margaret's Church.



Glasses Found

Ladies Glasses - Light brown clear frame, found at junction of Station Rd and Main Street, contact Editors

St. Margaret's Church, Stoke Golding



Following on from the recent success of the Advent Windows in our village and the pleasure it brought to those who saw them, we thought it might be fun to do something similar for the month of February.

Since this is the month we remember St. Valentine and celebrate love, what about decorating our village with hearts to show that love really is all around?



We could fill our Windows with hearts and decorate trees with knitted, crochet or wooden hearts.



Or craft some out of twigs, string or plastic bottles and hang them around our village.



Let's get creative and fill our village with love this February!



A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT

The area around Stoke Golding and Dadlington may not be the most traditional and picturesque in the UK, but it boasts a few ancient features. I refer not to myself or even St Margaret's Church, but to our local watercourses. Empires may wax and wane, towns and villages come and go, hills be flattened or quarried, but rivers - they run and run, even if they are canalised or culverted. They always have done, since time immemorial.

It's for this reason that British rivers have the oldest names in the country - usually predating Roman, Saxon and Norman placenames. We have one of the country's greatest rivers here, the Tweed. It forms the border between England and Scotland... okay, actually our Tweed is a different one. A bit smaller. But it's got the same name, deriving from the Celtic (or old British) for 'powerful' or 'swollen'. Which isn't a misnomer when you see it after heavy rain, because it swells from a mere stream to something like a river.

Quite a few rivers have basically the same names. That's why England has various Avons and the Welsh are rich in Afons. It just means 'river' in Celtic. Lack of imagination or what? There are also a few Ouses. Means 'water'. Like, wow. At least Thames, Tamar and Teme (etc.) mean 'dark water'. A few ancient British mystics did embrace new age culture, naming the Severn after their goddess Sabrina; and, as if to prove that Midlander's haven't always been prosaic sons of toil, Trent means 'trespasser', because it floods a lot. Apparently.

Anyway, back to our river. The Tweed rises near Asda, between Hinckley and Barwell. Having passed us (and picking up a tributary or two en route) it traditionally becomes known as the Saint after Shenton. Shenton means 'settlement on the Saint'. It joins the Sence very close to Ratcliffe Culey.



Confluence of the Anker and the Sence near Atherstone

The Sence rises at Bardon Hill, near Coalville. The Tweed/Saint is its largest tributary. The Sence joins the Anker at the attractively named King Dick's Hole near Atherstone. The names Sence and Saint probably share a root with the Celtic Iceni tribe, possibly meaning 'shining'. But hang on, the Sence rises near Billesdon, east of Leicester, and joins the Soar near Blaby. No, that's another River Sence.

See what I mean? Hinckley is on the watershed between the Sence/ Anker/Tame system and the Soar/Trent system. And both have Sences.

The Soar rises near Wibtoft and passes through Leicester to join the Trent. The root of its name is an ancient word meaning 'flow'. It shares this with a number of continental rivers, e.g. the Saar. Its source is not far from the Anker, which means 'winding river'. The Anker joins the Tame at Tamworth. And the Tame meets the Trent near Alrewas. Actually the Trent is smaller than the Tame at that point but Trent trumps Tame name-wise because it's longer. Now the Mease, another of our local rivers, rises near Norton juxta Twycross and joins the Trent at Croxall in Staffs. This name may be Old English, meaning 'swamp'. It's noted for being largely unspoilt and unchanged, and contains some interesting fish.

But this could run and run...

Andy Tomsett

Stoke Golding Liberal Club Membership Fees

We have been asked how members can pay their membership fees for 2021 whilst the Club is closed. We will accept bank transfer, please use your membership number or club swipe card number as the payment reference so we can identify who payments are from.

The secretary has agreed that the due date has been extended to the 31st March.

We do not have a secured letterbox please DO NOT post cash through the letterbox nor hand cash to anyone until the club has opened and we can take payment across the bar. Thank you for your support.

The Club Bank details are: Sort code: 08-90-45, Account: 52092590
Payable to: STOKE GOLDING LIBERAL CLUB & INST LTD

Initial Joining Fee 16-17	£0.00	£4.00
Membership Fee 16-17	£4.00	
Initial Joining Fee 18-25	£0.00	£8.00
Membership Fee 18-25	£8.00	
Initial Joining Fee 25+	£12.00	£20.00
Membership Fee 25+	£8.00	
Initial Joining Fee 65+	£12.00	£16.00
Membership Fee 65+	£4.00	

C.I.U Associated Card	£3.50
C.I.U Annual Pass Card	£3.50

List of charges

Many thanks. MAGGIE

Safety & Security – Don't be Scammed!

Sadly, there are criminals who will take every opportunity to rob or scam you and our modern online world can make it easier for them to operate anonymously and from anywhere. Our current Covid19 environment has opened up more opportunities for these 'creative' criminals – we have heard of scams involving internet and phone services, Covid testing and even the provision of vaccines – often targeted at the most vulnerable in society.

With the increased security built into our computers, tablets and phones, the criminals almost always resort to exploiting the weak link: YOU! Many of the attacks on systems start with some incoming contact: an email, a phone call and more recently a great increase in text messages. These are sometimes referred to as 'phishing', 'vishing' and 'smishing' respectively – the names don't really matter – the common factor is that you receive something that is intended to push you into taking some action that lets the criminal in. Here are some examples:

- A phone call that starts by saying your internet service will be cut off in 24 hours – either due to a failed payment, or 'illegal activity' or any other 'problem with your computer. Microsoft (and its business partners), Apple, Google etc., NEVER phone you up, so if any call starts that way, it's a scam. Don't listen to WHY they claim to be calling – just hang up!
- A phone call asking about your broadband speed – and offering to see if it can be improved. The phone/internet companies will NOT call offering to make your broadband faster – I have had customers with a genuine speed problem and it was a real uphill struggle getting any help from the service provider! Very occasionally, your service provider might call – the safest thing is to call them back on a number published on their website or from a letter or bill they have sent you.
- A phone call from the 'police' saying your bank account is at risk - the Police don't call people like that.
- A text message saying that HMRC owes you a tax rebate - HMRC will NEVER contact you by text message or email for something like this. If they owe you money, or vice versa, they will write to you. Do not respond in any way to these messages.
- A text message asking about that car accident you had – this is almost certainly a scam, especially if you haven't had an accident!
- An email saying you need to update your online banking information - Banks don't do this, again, ignore and delete.

In every case, the perpetrators are either trying to create some worry or maybe offer you 'something for nothing' to create a reason for immediate action on your part – before you have had a chance to think things through.

Any question or objection you come up with, they will have an answer to (they will have practiced this 'objection handling').

The bottom line is – hang up the call, delete the text, delete the email and don't respond or follow any links. If you have any doubts, contact the organisation direct – using a phone number you KNOW to be correct.

If you require any help or advice regarding the above, please call me on **01827 713848** – I am generally available from 9am to 9pm, or email me on neilsherry@talktalk.net. **In the current climate I am working in a 'Covid Safe' manner – including being able to solve many problems with customers over the phone and with remote working.**

Neil Sherry

© Neil Sherry 2021



Kitchen Corner

Duchesse Potatoes

Potatoes, mashed, roasted or chips? This recipe is a little different, also very useful as they can be frozen, then you just have to take out, as many as needed and no extra preparing.

INGREDIENTS

1kg. (2lb.) Old Potatoes, peeled and quartered
50gms.(2ozs.) Butter
2 Eggs, beaten
Pinch of Nutmeg
Salt & Pepper

METHOD

Heat the oven to 200C or 400F or Gas Mark 6.

Cook the potatoes in boiling, salted water for 15-20 minutes or until tender, drain into a sieve and return to the saucepan. Dry them out over a gentle heat, stirring all the time for about 3 minutes.

Remove from the heat and add the butter, eggs, nutmeg and

seasoning. Reserve a little egg for the egg wash. Now, beat everything together with an electric whisk until the potatoes are smooth. You may need to add a little extra milk.

Place the potatoes into a piping bag with a large rosette nozzle and pipe 16 roses onto a lined baking tray. Brush the potatoes carefully with reserved egg.

Bake for 15minutes or until a light brown colour.

TO FREEZE

Cool quickly on a wire rack and open freeze. When solid pack into plastic Ziplock bags.

TO SERVE

Heat the oven to 220C or 425F or Gas mark 7. Take out as many of the potato rosettes as you need, place on a baking tray and re-heat for 20-25 minutes.

Avis

Dadlington Matters

Advent Windows in Dadlington

Christmas lights twinkling through the darkness are a sure way to bring warmth and wellbeing to all of us. This year the Advent Window displays throughout the village of Dadlington did exactly that. The villagers drew together to decorate their window, gate or even their hedge to share in the 24 days of Advent. The displays were magnificent, varied and utterly charming and villagers thoroughly enjoyed a stroll round looking and admiring them; Stoke Golding villagers included Dadlington in their walks to enjoy them too.

Thank you to everyone who joined in and created these joyous displays – it gave us all a great feeling of togetherness as we headed towards Christmas.

Rachel Rees-Jones



Fool on the Hill

Piling on the pounds.....

In amongst the usual cartoon dross and re runs of The Sound of Music, Great Escape et al, I actually found something quite interesting on the old haunted fish tank the other day. This televisual offering concerned the wildlife of Alaska and rather begged the question as to why any creature would want to live there in the first place. It is so cold and inhospitable that most of the indigenous fauna has adapted to deal with it by simply sleeping through that period of the year where it is permanently dark and a brisk minus 50 degrees centigrade. These climatic conditions prevail for about six months before the temperature creeps up to a balmy minus 10 and everyone gets the Ambre Solaire out. Now, although the process of hibernation is almost guaranteed to ensure survival, it is not a state that should be entered into lightly and without a degree of preparation. For the animals that inhabit this region, the perceived wisdom is that you should eat everything in sight for as long as the climate allows. Black bears will gorge on the brainless Salmon who put the urge to mate well before self-preservation and hurl themselves suicidally into gaping jaws, Ground squirrels feast on nuts and I believe Ptarmigan consume huge quantities of turnip tops. It is a frantic race to build up the fat reserves which will be slowly depleted during the big sleep. Alas for us, at this festive time of year, the business of putting on a bit of weight is all too easy. From our humble abode it is not possible to get to the Chocolate Hob Nobs in the supermarkets without running the gauntlet of the drive through McCalorie's burger joint or the siren call of KenChicky Fried Tuck In.

In an online family quiz, one question revealed that the average calorie count of a Christmas dinner is in the region of 7,000. The average male requires an intake of 2,300 calories to fuel the body during a day of normal activity. Therefore to consume three times that amount during a day of hyper inactivity is perhaps not the wisest course of action.

Especially as the period after this meal is usually spent accumulating an impressive pile of sweet wrappers and the only exercise taken is a short walk to the fridge to forage another slice of turkey or a cold sausage. Consider though, the body is a machine and food is what fuels this machine. Using a motoring analogy, it's like filling the tank up with forty quid's worth of two star and then putting the hose through one of the widows and pumping another eighty quid's worth in to the cabin. It is just mad and dangerous, particularly if, in the motoring analogy you are a smoker. Oh, and by the way, to burn off the excess body fat involves a six month sleep, not a fifteen minute egg nog fuelled doze while HRH is on.

F.O.T.H



The Battlefields & Borderlands Way

The Battlefields and Borders Way is a new, 42-mile circular walk through South West Leicestershire and North Warwickshire that passes through Stoke Golding and Dadlington. The accompanying book, just published, recounts the 2,000 years of history associated with the area and is the brainchild of Eddie Smallwood, Dadlington resident and walking encyclopaedia of local history.



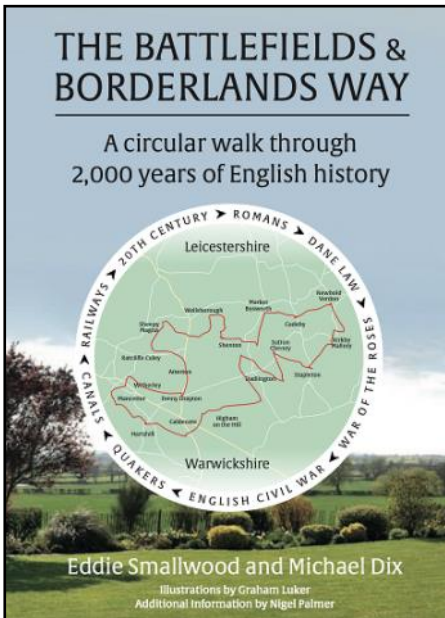
Eddie is one of my fellow guides at Bosworth Battlefield and it was at one of our monthly guides' get togethers that he put the idea to me, asking if I'd like to become involved. I jumped at the chance because it ticked so many boxes: I love walking, I'm fascinated by history and I enjoy getting my teeth into projects. We met up, roughly designed a route and divvied up the villages we were going to research between us. Then nothing much happened for several months. However, when lockdown struck and, after several weeks of being restricted to our immediate vicinity, we were allowed to travel further afield to engage in our daily exercise, my wife and I began to walk some of the planned route, Eddie and his good lady did likewise. The upshot was that we began modifying the route to reflect our experiences of walking it. For instance, the original plan had been for the walk to cross the A5 at Fenny Drayton but this turned out to

be suicidal. A major redrawing enabled the walk to pass under the road at Higham.

Not only were we finding out about the physical practicalities of the walk, we were spending time in villages that we'd previously frequently only driven through. Suddenly, there was a real impetus to discover more about these places.

As we began writing, it became clear that in certain areas, we had disproportionate amounts of information that we wanted to include, so we decided to create eight appendices that readers could reference for more detail. These included Bosworth, about which we both have a fairly wide knowledge, and the most likely site of the Battle of Watling Street at Mancetter where the Romans defeated Boudica. We also covered the Civil War skirmish on the Fenn Lane and the siege of Caldecote Hall, along with the impact of the two World Wars on the area. There are also sections on the Quakers with their Fenny Drayton connection, the canals and railways, and the period when this whole area was the borderland between Anglo-Saxon Mercia and Viking Danelaw.

We spent some time experimenting with the general design, devising easy to follow maps for the walker and taking photographs to illustrate key features. We roped in another Bosworth guide, former St. Margaret's headteacher Graham Luker, to provide a number of amusing illustrations and then we turned the whole thing over to a graphic artist to turn our six-month endeavour into reality. If you wish to purchase a copy of the 140-page book, reasonably priced at £6.50, plus £2.00 postage and packaging unless you live within a three mile



radius of Dadlington, then visit <http://battlefieldsandbor.wixsite.com/>

Michael Dix

Bob's Focus

Well Christmas this year really was a quiet affair followed by even tighter restrictions, as I type there are murmurings that those tighter restrictions are going to get even tougher but with 3 new vaccines being rolled out, hopefully we can soon be back on the straight and narrow.

On the upside, more time at home means more time to re connect with nature, making full use of those permitted periods of exercise.

Just a gentle reminder that we do live in a lovely village and when venturing out to remember the country code, close gates, pick up litter, respect the farmers fields etc. I am saddened to report the deaths of three calves last year belonging to Eddie Fisher as a result of them consuming bags of dog poo that had been thrown into the hedge/field. Also electric fencing is being repeatedly broken down in the fields off Wykin Lane by walkers, the long and the short of it is, if the farmers can't farm, then the fields will be sold and our village will grow! Leave nothing but footprints, take nothing but memories.



With us at the moment are an abundance of winter visitors, noisy devils, if you have been brave enough to tackle the muddy towpaths, you can't have missed the continual chatter of the Fieldfares and Redwings (members of the Thrush family). These will normally polish off any

berries left of the hedgerow but this year there is a bumper crop. We have had a cold snap but I doubt winter has finished with us yet so maybe they are rationing themselves?

Whist along the canal from mid February through to April, once the water warms to 9C look out for large female Pike in the reeds being followed by the smaller males waiting to fertilise her eggs.

Also February is when year old Tawny owls will be calling to hook up for life with a mate, the female calling "Twit" and the male calling back "Hoo".





I posted this on line last year back in May, when I read it again a few days ago it lifted my spirits to think of the warmer weather and Spring, I hope it lifts your spirits too.

Last night I sat at the end of the garden under the pergola and the dappled shade of the tall Silver Birch with its oval leaves gently rustling in a light breeze. Pint of take out Fallen Angel from the George in hand to wash down the lovely meal from the Mango Tree it seemed wrong not to sit there and watch the sun go down. As the sun dropped below the horizon the birds started their final songs for the evening. The finches were the first to fall silent, the yellow hammer in the

chestnut nodded off followed the robins and other small song birds until only the Wood Pigeons were left to welcome the night. Then the regiment of male blackbirds started to sing out their last post-lights out lads! And all fell silent.

This morning at the crack of a Sparrows cough the blackbirds sounded reveille and the cacophony of sound from the dawn chorus heralded the start of a new day before our feathered friends settled down and again it was almost silent.

So I conclude that although not the biggest or prettiest bird in the garden, the blackbird that stands to attention and cocks his tail is in my eyes the Regimental trumpet Sergeant Major that possibly even without you knowing it starts your day. Little blackbird, I salute you.

Colli Bob



Photograph by Steve Elsworth

To Russia with Apprehension – Part 2

A friend of mine, having heard I was off to Russia, asked me, “How come? I thought they would be hostile to Western influence.” The same question was asked about Kazakhstan and here’s the answer. The first thing to be said is that the overwhelming majority of the people I met in both countries couldn’t have been more friendly and generous, so much so that when I was walking down a street or looking round a market my interpreter would often tell me that such and such a person would like to shake my hand, just because I was English.

The second is that the Russian people, having endured 300 years of Romanov serfdom, followed by 70 years of Bolshevik oppression, and then having witnessed the total collapse of their government, economy and such security as they had, leaving behind a vacuum and an unpredictable future, weren’t inclined to reject help of any kind. Having known nothing but a command economy, where the government owns or controls the means of production, sets the prices of goods and services; where private ownership of land, labour and capital is virtually non-existent, the vast majority welcomed whatever assistance they could find. It wouldn’t have mattered who I was or where I came from, those we were trying to help were desperate people and almost invariably very grateful.

Something that struck me very early on was that the Russians’ memory of the war was very fresh, possibly because Oryol, where I was initially based, had fallen to the Nazis in 1941, left in ruins and occupied until liberated during the Battle of Kursk in 1943. Soviet losses were estimated at 863,000, dead, wounded or captured and the Germans 200,000, but some historians believe the casualties on both sides were much higher.



The Russians had paid a very heavy price indeed for their victory but “cannon fodder” was plentiful and cheap.

For my “induction” I was taken to some of the battlefields around Oryol, and treated, in a snow-covered trench, to a lunch-break consisting, so far as I can recall, of little else but that obligatory Russian placebo, vodka, accompanied by toasts to the fallen. For once I was happy to oblige, given my admiration for the Russian forces, without whose sacrifice it’s unlikely we would have won the war – plus the fact that the temperature was around minus 15c!

In the afternoon we visited one of the few buildings that had survived the war; a courtroom where people were tried for “political offences”, the only “evidence” necessary being the word of a malicious neighbour. I .

was shown a well-used ledger containing the names of all those tried, found guilty, and, in many cases, transported to a distant “gulag” (Russian abbreviation for “General Directorate of Forced Labour Camps”) most never to return.

What they failed to tell me, but having done my homework before I came and read what I regard as by far the most impressive and comprehensive book written on the Russian revolution: (*A People’s Tragedy – The Russian Revolution - by Orlando Figes*) I was aware that, as the Wehrmacht approached the city, the 157 political prisoners held in Oryol Central Prison, notorious during the tsarist regime for its sadistic tortures (and readily put to use by the Bolsheviki!) were taken out by the NKVD (The People’s Commissariat for Internal Affairs) into the nearby Medvedevsky Forest and executed.

Bob Quinney



Stoke Golding Arts and Crafts website is up and running!

Please take a look at the fantastic items being made by our local artists and crafts people. Of course, there is no obligation to buy – but it will be great if you do! This is the ultimate in shopping locally for your Christmas presents - or to treat yourself. Most of the artists are happy to undertake commissions if you need something different.

<https://stokegoldingart.squarespace.com/>

PS. It's not too late if you want to join the website – please contact: Pauline Goodsell 212955 or millburn5@hotmail.co.uk



Photographs by Graham Nuttall (left) and Mikey Turner

Cycle Ride to Support the Poverty Stricken of Cambodia



Undaunted by her inability to return to visit the U.K. during the pandemic, Siobhan Fray, who used to live with her family in Stoke Golding, will cycle 200kms on 16th and 17th January to raise funds for impoverished families in Siem Reap. She will be joining the young people from this community, who are being sponsored by international donors. The aim is to empower these teenagers and enable them to support their community.

Siobhan has been working as the Communications Manager for the charity Reach Siem Reap. Reach aims to provide

educational opportunities for impoverished young people in Siem Reap. Receiving the supplementary education that Reach provides will enable them to escape the cycle of generational poverty and powerlessness, to provide hope for the most poor in this society who live in corrugated iron shacks.

To access education and welfare support parents must agree not to send their child to work. To illustrate the importance of this aspect of the charity's aim consider the case of a seven year old boy who was encouraged to begin classes with Reach. He had been working on a building site. Readers who cannot comprehend how a parent could use their child as labour need to be aware that



most of these families earn less than \$2 a day as market sellers or by collecting and selling rubbish. A plastic bottle could net the equivalent of 5p. These disadvantaged families are in dire straits, particularly in the present climate, with lack of tourism adding to the problem.

The charity has had to suspend classroom activities due to Covid restrictions. They are at present providing desperately needed food and hygiene packages for 135 families. There is no benefit system in Cambodia.

30 young people, who have been training for four months, will undertake this journey in 3 separate groups over the course of 3 trips due to Covid restrictions. Bicycles have been donated and it has given these teenagers a focus during a time when education had been suspended.



A younger group will undertake a shorter trip.

The funds raised will help Reach to empower these young people through giving them educational opportunities that we sometimes take for granted in the developed world.

If you would like to find out more or to sponsor one of these cyclists please visit www.ridetoreach.org or visit the website reachsiemreap.

Carol Fray



Obituaries



Anthony John Gilbert Harding

Anthony John Gilbert Harding of Stoke Golding passed away on 22nd November, 2020, aged 78 years. Beloved husband of the late Vicky, much loved dad of Mark and Julie, dearly loved grandad of Christopher and dear brother of Linda. Donations in memory of John to Macmillan Cancer Support or East Midland Dog Rescue via J. E. Hackett and Sons, 93, Leicester Road, Bedworth. CV12 8AH.

Colin John Cobley

Colin John Cobley of Stoke Golding passed away peacefully on 30th November, 2020, aged 87 years. Much loved husband of Evelyn, dear father to Leigh, brother to Barbara and loving brother in law and uncle. Donations in memory of Colin to Dementia UK and British Heart Foundation via G. Seller, Funeral Directors, Upper Bond Street, Hinckley.

We offer our condolences to the family and friends of Anthony and Colin from all of the Stoker team.

Church Matters



From St Margaret's Church

It's February – a time when our thoughts can sometimes focus on love as the feast of Saint Valentine is celebrated on 14th February.

Not a great deal is known about him, although it is thought he was a Christian priest in Rome and was martyred in 270 AD by the emperor Claudius II, for secretly performing Christian weddings for young couples which Claudius had forbidden. In order to remind these couples of their vows and God's love, Saint Valentine is said to have given them hearts cut from parchment - a possible origin of the widespread use of hearts on St. Valentine's Day.

Another legend is that while in prison, Valentine actually sent the first "valentine" greeting himself, after he fell in love with the jailer's daughter. On the day of his death, he left her a note that was signed "Your Valentine".

These stories all help with his appeal as a deeply romantic figure. By the Middle Ages his association with love was well known and the idea of Valentine's Day being a day to declare feelings of love was set.

Over the years the focus has increasingly become one of romantic love, although originally it was a day when all sorts of love was celebrated – the love between parents and children, between siblings, between friends, and the love of God for us, his creation.

Love can be, and is, shown in so many ways, especially in these last weeks and months - from helping a stranger, looking out for a neighbour, phoning a friend who lives alone, providing food for families in need – all simple acts of love and kindness that can change someone's day in a matter of moments.

Even in lockdown when we may feel helpless or useless, we can all be bringers of light, encouragement and comfort to others – and you may have seen the launching of 'Heart Art', the decorating of our village with hearts to spread our love around – on trees, lampposts, doors or windows. Get involved and share the love!

So as Valentine's day approaches, may you know how much you are loved, as we remember the greatest love of all: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" John 3.16

Wishing you God's blessings

Linda

Church Matters

Stoke Golding Methodist Church

The church will be closed until further notice, but at the time of going to print we are hoping it won't be too long until we can open again.

Zion Baptist Chapel

Whilst Churches are allowed to open we have reluctantly taken the decision that we must stay at home and must heed the Prime Minister's pleas to stay at home. The Chapel will remain closed until the end of lockdown in order to protect the community.

DR. RICHARD F. QUINNEY

Following the tragic death of our son Dr. Richard Francis Quinney, The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for the Repose of his Soul has taken place in Dublin. It was kindly arranged by Elizabeth O'Brien and Donal McNally, Secretary and President of the Count John MacCormack Society, based in Dublin. I am proud to have been an active member of this Society for many years and when I visited Ireland Richard accompanied me on a few occasions and met some members of the Society."

Alan Quinney



Outdoor Nativity at St Margaret's Church

Undeterred by enforced church closures at Christmas, a group of volunteers constructed a stable in the Church grounds along with nativity figures for everyone to enjoy.

Photograph by Ruth Fisher

Locals of Note: Thomas Simpson - The Bosworth Prodigy



Somewhere in the churchyard of St James' Church, Sutton Cheney, are the remains of the remarkable Thomas Simpson, a world-renowned mathematician who was born in Market Bosworth in 1710. He was the son of a weaver and followed his father in his trade until, at the age of 14, he witnessed a solar eclipse that sparked a lifelong fascination with mathematics. He was mainly self taught, mastering the basics of arithmetic and algebra enough to take up the job of an usher, a junior teacher, in a school in Nuneaton a year after the eclipse. Four years later, aged 19, he married his 50 year old landlady and they may have remained in Nuneaton had it not been for an unfortunate incident that caused the family to flee to Derby in 1733. It appears that Thomas was also interested in astrology and during one of his sessions with a troubled young girl, he sought to drive out her evil spirits by dressing up as the devil. The poor girl was terrified and had a fit.

At some point in his twenties, Thomas moved to London. There he continued to teach in what were known as the 'penny universities'. These were coffee houses where, for an entry fee of one penny, one could hear a variety of enlightening lectures whilst sipping your coffee. It was not uncommon at this time for working class men and middle class women to seek an education that had previously been denied them. Thomas joined the Spitalfields Mathematical Society, Spitalfields being an area of London well known for its commerce. Half the society's members were weavers, the others being an assortment of brewers, braziers, bakers and bricklayers. It was not uncommon for weavers to become highly competent mathematicians and a fair few have left their mark on the subject.

By this time, Thomas was developing his own theories on mathematics and he had a methodology named after him. Simpson's Rule is still used to this day, although he wasn't actually the first person to discover it: it had been around for about a hundred years. It is not uncommon in mathematics for procedures to be named after the wrong person, as is the case with a rule that Thomas did discover but which is now called the Newton-Raphson Method after the two mathematicians who refined it. In 1743, Thomas became the head of mathematics at the newly established Royal Military Academy at Woolwich. He was made a fellow of the Royal Society and, from 1754, edited the 'Ladies Diary', an annual publication containing all manner of puzzles and mathematical challenges for "the fair sex".

There is a plaque commemorating Thomas Simpson inside Sutton Cheney church where he was buried in 1761.

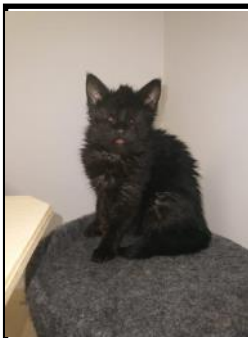
M. Dix

Concern regarding the carpeting of our countryside with house building on a grand scale

John Clare (1793-1864), the renowned Northants poet of Helpston, wrote with much concern regarding what became known as the Enclosure Movement in agriculture. In effect it meant "the enclosure of open fields and common land, creating legal property rights to land previously held in common." It was a process which had very much a detrimental effect on rural life in general but particularly wildlife. Indeed this became the theme of very much of his poetry, written with intense painful nostalgia. This concern over the loss of habitat for wildlife in general has of course gained massive momentum more recently with the rapid expansion of building projects on so much green land in general but including that set aside for agriculture. All seems to have been driven in the reckless pursuit of manifesto pledges though at the same time ignoring objections coming by way of local democracy. And after five years, much of the same or what?

Evidently more houses are required but why not build more affordable ones of a two story nature or even something more enterprising of a communal nature taking up less land? No doubt others will have far better ideas than mine but for sure we need to stem the tide of what's happening at present. Having spent my early youth in the 1950s living in Holycroft, Hinckley, I can remember when there were no new housing developments from my home as far as Coventry Road. We used to venture down Sandy Walk initially, then pass just below the playing field in Wykin where a wetland hosted nesting lapwings and then proceed over further fields to the canal. Now of course there is the A47 perimeter road with housing developments on both sides, the more recent on the Triumph side extending towards Wykin Village. Is there no end to this tsunami of developments for surely there must be some solution which reconciles nature with housing necessity? All alternative ideas or criticisms gratefully received before, like John Clare, I finish up in an asylum.

David Abbott



Leicester Animal Aid (LAA) Continues to Care for Cats and Dogs Despite Lockdown

Jane Walters from LAA says they are looking for a very special home for a kitten, Rainbow, who was sadly born with no eyes.

Leicester Animal Aid
01455 888257
www.leicesteranimalaid.org.uk

Staffroom Memories 27: The History Teacher

When I was at school, history began in the Stone Age in Class 1, and by the time I left primary school, we'd just about reached the Victorians. Then it was back to the Stone Age and by the time I did my O levels, we'd just about reached the Victorians again. It was history told as fact: a series of fascinating stories that inspired me despite the unimaginative way it was often taught. The problem with that approach is that 'facts' are sometimes totally untrue, i.e. the location of Bosworth Battlefield. When the National Curriculum was introduced, history became a set of themes and children delved deeper into specific periods, examining evidence, artefacts and alternative narratives. The problem with this approach is that you lose a sense of chronology. I loved teaching history and would try to combine the two approaches, using innovative ways to explore the subject and share my passion.

After attending a course entitled 'History through Drama', I decided to try out their ideas for inspiring 11 year olds with my class of 6 year olds. It was a gamble. Every child was given the name of one of the Pilgrim Fathers. They each had a brief description of who they were, which they shared with other members of their 'family' once they'd located them. Then we pushed all the desks together to make the Mayflower and spent the next twenty minutes cramped up in the hold. A baby, Oceanus Hopkins, was born and some people died before the children emerged onto the desktop for their first view of the New World. Ten years later, I bumped into two of my ex-pupils in Leicester and their abiding memory of being in my class - turning the classroom into the Mayflower.

The first school I taught in was an old Victorian building with a modern extension. We found plenty out about the original school: the evidence was all around us as the children became history detectives. On residential trips to Castleton, the children also got to experience archeology first hand. There was a room at the back of the youth hostel we were staying in that had a large enclosed area filled with sand. The children would scrape and brush very carefully, getting very excited when they unearthed pieces of Roman pottery, medieval coins and Victorian medicine bottles that had laid undiscovered in the ground for, well for about half an hour since the hostel staff buried them there. Rather unnervingly, one of the designated periods of history the children could study was the 1960s and all the staff who were alive back then brought in pictures of themselves and their possessions from that time. Along with my Nottingham City Council bus pass, my stamp album and a rather fetching photo of me on my pogo stick, I took in my highly desirable Blue Peter Competition Winner's badge. It was so highly desirable that I never saw it again and now, whenever I'm boasting about my Blue Peter badge, my wife claims I never had one in the first place, trying her own hand at rewriting history!

M Dix

Christmas Stoker Stall Boosts Donations to Charity

It was worth standing outside on a freezing cold and damp day in December as we sold a number of our cookery books and raised an additional £53 from the raffle of a lovely Christmas cake made by Avis, the author of the book.

As well as the Stoker Team, Mia and her brother Marcel came along to help on the day and they even brought chocolates to cheer everyone up. So far the Stoker Cookery Book has raised over £200 for the Little Princess Trust taking Mia's own fundraising efforts to an amazing £828!



The Stoker and Avis would like to say a really big thank you to everyone for buying a book and, or raffle tickets and hope you enjoy the recipes. We do have some books left, available to buy at Sehmbi Stores for £5 each. £2.50 from each book sold will go to the Little Princess Trust.

Work.Live.Leicestershire Project in North West Leics

Are you unemployed (or know someone who is), living in Leicestershire and looking for help finding employment?

As part of the now extended Work.Live.Leicestershire initiative there is advice on C.V. writing, job search, online training courses and business start-up.

A team of keyworkers will be on hand to offer accessible, tailored advice and support that can link you to volunteering, learning or work opportunities in your area.

The Work.Live.Leicestershire team look forward to helping you every step of the way.



Tori Haines WiLL Delivery Officer

E: thaines@ruralcc.org.uk

T: 01455 856316

rcc Unit S09, The Atkins, Lower Bond St, Hinckley, LE10 1QU

Notes from Stoke Golding Parish Council – January Meeting (Draft)

Reports by County and Borough Councillors

A report by County Cllr Ivan Ould was circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting and the following was discussed:

- Correspondence from Friends of the community.
- Osbaston planning application for 55 homes.
- Roseway planning application for 65 homes.

Borough Cllr Jonathan Collett reported on, and the following was discussed:

- Roseway planning application
- Concerns regarding protecting green spaces in Higham and Stoke Golding.
- HBBC finance.
- Rural Strategy – reflects views but offers no solutions.

Communications received by the Clerk

Update and funding request from the Friends of the Community was noted. Cllr Terheege clarified the position with regard to due diligence, statutory rules, audit and the previous decision regarding a donation. The Clerk to seek advice from LRALC to enable a decision at the February PC meeting.

Public participation – to consider any comments by the public on items on the agenda:

- Comments from the Chair of Friends of the Community were noted and the status of the group was confirmed as an unincorporated group.

Matters arising from previous decisions of the Parish Council not covered by the agenda:

- Work to trees at Hinckley Road Cemetery – the core survey on the oak tree was postponed due to access issues and will take place shortly.

Minutes of Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee (NPAC) meeting

- Minutes of the NPAC meetings held on the 7th and 21st December were noted.
- Invoice for consultant was agreed, at a cost of £2,600 + VAT.
- Invoice for printing was agreed, at a revised cost of £381.00.
- A report on the arrangements for Reg 14 by Cllr Terheege was noted.

Update on maintenance of the pavilion

- Arrangements for the underpinning of the pavilion are pending.
- It was agreed to look at installation of a water meter, as part of the refurbishment.
- Issues with the electricity meter were noted and the Clerk to call an electrician.

Convent Open Space Committee and Terms of Reference

- The Terms of Reference for the advisory committee was agreed.
- The committee will have three councillor members, Cllrs Pegg (Chair), Clover and McLean, with three non- councillor members who will be appointed at the first committee meeting.
- Cllr Pegg will consult members and confirm the date of the first meeting.

Memorial safety – gravestone repairs

- Works to grave memorials at Hinckley Road Cemetery are now complete.
- The unauthorised kerb at Hinckley Road Cemetery has been removed and the plot will be returned to grass shortly.
- A flooded kerb grave at Hinckley Road Cemetery was discussed and the Clerk to seek advice from memorial contractor.

To update on work to the recreation field pathway

- A site meeting had not been possible due to lockdown.

Update on application for Asset of Community Value status for Baxter Hall

- It was noted that the moratorium period ended on the 23rd December 2020 and an update on progress was given by Cllr Fisher.

Work to recreational field copse

- Cllr Pegg would meet with the tree contractor to discuss the necessary tree work.

Update on Wildflower Verge Scheme

- There had been one reply to the leaflets previously sent out to residents living near the designated area.
- Cllr Clover has completed the online application.

The precept and parish element of Council Tax for the next financial year

- It was noted that the tax base figure for 2021/22 has decreased from 801.4 to 788.8.
- It was unanimously agreed that the Band D figure should increase from £65.63 to £70.40 per household which will give a precept of £55,531.00 to cover the cost of a pro-active budget and medium-term planning requirements.

Adoption of an amended Accessibility Statement

- The amended Accessibility Statement for Parish Councils matters on the village website was unanimously agreed and adopted.

Response to Roseway Planning application decision

- It was agreed to send comments to the Chief Planning Officer and copy to Luke Evans MP.
- The Clerk to compile councillors' comments and forward the draft letter to them for approval before sending out.

Future agenda items

The following items will be added to the February agenda:

- To consider a donation to Friends of the Community.
- To consider play equipment matting safety.

Next meeting: Wednesday 3rd February, 7pm on Zoom – agenda and invitation on www.stokegolding.co.uk



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*Photo by Annie
Spratt on Unsplash*

National Garden Scheme Garden Open for Charity (Subject to COVID restrictions)

8 Hinckley Road, Stoke Golding

Sat 6th March 12-4pm
Sun 7th March 12-3pm

Adults £3.50 Children FREE
Light refreshments

Answers to 10 of a Kind

1. Saturday Night Fever, 2. The Acropolis (Temple of Parthenon), 3. 4 days forward, 4. To avoid it advertising Top Cat, a brand of cat food, on the BBC, 5. Trafalgar Square, 6. Marathon, 7. Poor weather conditions, 8. Yusuf Islam, 9. Trombone, 10. Free speech

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