March '18

No. 169

The Stoker



Stoke Golding Village Magazine

Including

Dadlington Matters

50p

Note from the Editors



It's been a long time since I edited the magazine without Steve's help, but he has been away on a well-deserved holiday to catch some winter sunshine. We really do seem to be having a cold snap at the moment and I'm sure I am not alone in looking forward to the spring and warmer weather coming very soon. With spring around the corner Phil has some great gardening advice and recommendations for

vegetables that grow well in our local soil and climate (page 9). You never know, you might plant the winning tomatoes at this year's Garden Show in September.

It is fantastic to hear that the renovations at Dadlington Village Hall are now complete and it boasts great new facilities (page 10). It just shows what a team of volunteers can achieve. Village Halls can really add to the life of the community and we are so lucky to have thriving halls in both Dadlington and Stoke Golding. In fact there is a fascinating show coming up in Stoke Golding and if you are about to have a biscuit with your cup of tea while you are reading this then take a look at page 8 first and make sure you are not committing a crime!

Don't forget to email your articles, photos, letters and events for the April Stoker.

Jane

The Stoker Team

Editors: Jane White (01455 212416), Steve Smithers (01455 213798) *Production Team:* Rosemary Collier, Beth Ellis, Richard & Ella Orr, Jan Pettyfer, Jill Webster, Jennifer Michie, Michael Dix.

Please send articles for the March issue of The Stoker by 15th March 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. This includes advertisements which are not checked or verified by us.

Cover picture: Artist Bruce Bilcliff with Paul Spokes, Chair of the Charity of Thomas Barton, in front of the newly refurbished village sign.

Contents Page

Page

- 3. Henry Tudor Returns
- 4. Scout Group News
- 5. Correspondence
- 6. Beth's Backstage Whispers
- 7. Correspondence
- 8. Kitchen Corner
- 9. Spring is Around the Corner
- 10. Dadlington Matters
- 11. W.I.
- 11. CASAG
- 12 . What's On
- 13. What's On

- 14. Beth's Corner
- 15. Staffroom Memories
- 16. The Jurassic Way
- 18. Church Matters
- 19. Church Matters
- 20. Obituary
- 20. Ten of a Kind
- 21. Crossword
- 22. A Road by Any Other Name
- 23. Fool on the Hill
- 24. Parish Council Minutes
- 26. Answers to Puzzles

Henry Tudor Returns to Stoke Golding

Had you noticed that the village sign depicting the crowning of Henry Tudor was missing? Well if you did, you will be pleased to know it's back in place now and looking like new thanks to local artist Bruce Bilcliff and the Charity of Thomas Barton.

The sign was erected in 2000 by Thomas Barton as part of the Millennium celebrations. So after 18 years and lots of weather, the Charity decided the sign was due some TLC which Bruce was happy to provide.

The restoration was painstaking and laborious. First the sign needed to be thoroughly cleaned and then all the old paint removed using a "Dremel" sanding tool and extreme care! In some stubborn places small amounts of paint stripper and a stiff toothbrush. Then began the painting with a minimum of 3 coats of durable acrylic paint and as many as 7 coats on some of the lighter colours (e.g yellow and white). Finally 2 coats of clear acrylic glaze were applied and the sign was ready to rehang.

Bruce moved into the village a couple of years ago and has fairly recently set up a studio at Middleton Hall near Tamworth. He specialises in nature and landscapes, original artwork, prints, cards and art workshops. You can contact him on 07807816830 or look him up at Middleton. From personal experience I can recommend the RSPB site at Middleton and the Hall and grounds are reportedly good too so you could make a day of a visit.

Now the wooden frame looks a bit tired too! Is anybody out there a carpenter with some ideas who would like to take it on? If so please call Paul Spokes (trustee) on 01455 212880.

Alan White

We Have Been Out and About and Feasting !!!!

The Beavers have been utilising their new high-vis tops by going out on a night hike –well, a gentle stroll round the village. Thank you to Specsavers at Hinckley for their kind donation of the tops. The Beavers were thrilled with theirs and very excited about being seen in the dark.

On the subject of 'thankyous'; thank you to the White Swan for their kind donation from the Xmas sleigh funds. Much appreciated.

The Cubs have been trying their new skills in volley ball. It's fair to say that the Olympic team have no reason to feel threatened.

The Scouts have been doing some navigating work as well.

Now, onto the subject of feasting, the Scouts and Beavers celebrated pancake night and the Cubs did their chef badge preparing a meal of wraps and salad and chocolate bananas. The request for spam as a filling was amazingly very popular. I think Gordon Ramsey might have had something to say about the food preparation, particularly the onions and lettuce which ended up on the floor or in the bin! They all enjoyed the eating bit.

The Scouts did however celebrate a true Burns supper of haggis, neaps and tatties. All toasted and washed down with a true Scottish drink. No not whiskey the one made from girders. Irn-Bru!

So there has been a bit of an eating theme. Which reminds me that the sleepover at the Sea Life Centre in Birmingham is coming up!!!!

Jennifer





A Possible New Home Development Plan

The field behind the Courtyard, off Higham Lane, was surveyed last year. I recently contacted representatives of the Parish Council to enquire if any proposals/plans to develop this field had been submitted or were being initially considered. I was informed that a firm of architects, representing the owners of the field, had been approached to consider plans to develop the field as a site for 'warden controlled or supervised facilities for the elderly'.

Although no formal application has so far been made to develop this field, as far as I know, it seems the owners of the field are keen to develop this land. I am informed that the proposal is currently being dealt with by the Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee (NPAC) who is required to take into account a range of planning policies and needs. If the proposal does proceed further then there will be consultation at all levels and a public meeting advertised so residents may have an opportunity to voice their views.

I stand opposed to any such a development. If it goes ahead it will comprise a number of dwellings that will affect the natural beauty of the landscape that local residents currently enjoy. It will also certainly increase the flow of traffic through the village and may possibly lead to the site being further developed at some point.

G. Wilson The Courtyard,



Looking for G.C.S.E. Tuition? Local teacher 25 years experience of teaching G.C.S.E. English Language & Literature incl levels 9 - 1 specifications Available for exam preparation



References available £25 per hour Please phone Carol on 07814445102

Just phone Rosemary on 212597

BACKSTAGE WHISPERS MASSACRE OF THE ROMANOV DYNASTY

One of the joys of acting is learning about so many different worlds and people. Sometimes this means digging into historical facts, as in "A Man and his Wife" about Clementine and Winston Churchill, or exploring the stylised world of Somerset Maugham, with the added bonus of living and performing in Vienna. My next part was about to open up so many windows into Russia's revolution and the lives of the last Tsar Nicolas II and his tragic family and the mystery of Anastasia.

I was puzzled by my agent's phone call asking me to go to the Fulham hall, where Joan Kemp-Welch was rehearsing. All I knew was that Joan was going to pretend to the cast, that as old friends, I'd just popped in during the coffee break to say 'hi'. The leading lady was a good friend of the playwright, a Hungarian actress, and this part was written for her. After the coffee break, Joan suggested I stayed while they continued rehearsing. I sat as far back as possible as I sensed the leading lady had seen through our subterfuge, and was wondering who I really was. They were working through Act 1 until the lunch break, which is when I said 'goodbye and lots of luck to everyone'. Joan saw me outside, and when I said I thought the actress seemed OK – she explained that it was the second act that was the real problem. and there were only nine more days to first night. "Please Beth, stay at home. If we think it's urgent we'll get a script round to you at the end of rehearsals- and start learning ready for tomorrow.." At home I tried concentrating on domestic chores, but my mind kept worrying about the actress, and imagining her feelings if they took this radical step. I knew playing the part would be a real boost for me, especially in the highly reputable Cambridge Theatre Co. and its overall director, Jonathan Lynn (also the co-writer of television's "YES MINISTER") but not in these circumstances. At five o'clock the phone rang to tell me the sad news had been given to the actress. The script was on the way to me. "Start learning Act1". The play was based on the legend that Anastasia, the youngest daughter, had survived in the massacre at Ekaterinberg, and was later discovered in Germany, eventually marrying and living in the USA as Mrs. Manahan. A film was made about her with Ingrid Bergman and then a couple of journalists found evidence convincing them Mrs Anna Manahan could well have been the original Anastasia and wrote a book. The play "I AM WHO I AM" was based on this.

On a darkened stage the elderly Mrs Manahan crosses to have a final interview with the Inspector in charge of the Anastasia case. After a short scene there is a blackout, and a young woman is in bed in a mental hospital, having been rescued by policemen from a canal in Germany. Refusing to speak for many months, she eventually starts speaking to the staff in Russian (*only a few sentences*) and they wonder if she is the missing Anastasia. The news spreads and members of the Romanov aristocracy visit asking interminable questions, most of which she

manages to answer with seeming accuracy. All the other Grand Dukes and Duchesses were played by two brilliant actors, but of course the play belongs to Anastasia. We opened in Cambridge in August 1978, and the audience showed their appreciation at the end by standing up in their seats to give me a special clap, mainly I think because of the publicity saying I had taken over just nine days ago. I was overwhelmed, and so grateful the first night was over. Exciting consequences follow when I meet the son of the Tutor to the Tsarevitch.

Beth



The Snow Dog of Pine Close

Here is the creator and model of the

Pine Close Snowdog! Simba (the model) and a 2 week old Forest Rayner, who may have had some help from his Dad!

Loved seeing the photo on the front of the Stoker! Thanks! Let's hope for more snow next winter to make a bigger and better creation!

Love from Jamie, Lottie, Forest, and Simba the dog!





StokeArts at Stoke Golding Village Hall

presents

The Ministry of Biscuits

Stop! Think before you eat that biscuit! Is it in any way Fancy? If so, then you are a criminal!

In Post-War London, The Ministry of Biscuits casts its sinister shadow over every elevenses in the land. Established to *"control biscuits, to control the idea of biscuits*", it prohibits decadent sweetmeats, such as the Gypsy Cream. But when Cedric Hobson, a junior designer, falls in love, and designs a biscuit to *"shake confectionary to its very foundations*", his world, and the ministry, are turned upside down. Performed by the Foundry Group <u>www.foundrygroup.co.uk</u>, a theatre company who we witnessed perform in 2015 in "Those Magnificent Men" documenting the 1st successful Atlantic flight in fabulously comedic style!

Saturday 17th March

8pm (doors open 7.30)

Tickets £10 at https://stokearts.yapsody.com/ or tel: 01455 213798 or email: stokearts@gmail.com

Cabaret seating, bring your own drinks and nibbles

Kitchen Corner

SWEET 'N' SOUR PORK CASSEROLE

INGREDIENTS

1 tblsp. Plain flour 1 tsp. Ground Ginger Salt & Pepper 500gms. (1lb.) Cubed Lean Pork 1 Green Pepper, seeded and sliced 1 Onion, finely chopped 2tblsp. Oil ¼ pint (150ml.) Chicken Stock 450gm. Tin of Pineapple Cubes 2 tblsp. Soy Sauce 3 tblsp. Vinegar

METHOD

Heat oven to 160 C or Gas mark 3 Place the flour, ginger and seasoning in a polythene bag and shake to mix. Put a few cubes of pork at a time in the bag until well coated, continue with the rest of the pork.

Heat the oil in a large pan over a medium heat and add the onion and pepper, fry for 3-4 minutes and transfer to a casserole.

Add a little more oil to the pan, turn up the heat and fry a few cubes of pork at a time until browned all over. Continue until all the pork is cooked. Transfer the pork to the casserole.

Add any left-over flour from the bag to the pan and stir and scrape up the 'bits'. Drain the pineapple and pour the juice and the chicken stock into the pan. Bring to the boil whilst stirring and then add the soy sauce and vinegar, pour the liquids over the meat and vegetables. Cover the casserole and place in the oven for 1 hour. Remove from the oven, add the pineapple cubes, cover again and return to the oven for a further 30 minutes. Serve with rice or noodles.

Pssst! Spring is just around the corner...

Have you tasted the difference between a home grown tomato/carrot /new potato, in comparison to a shop bought one?

Spring is fast approaching, so why not try growing some fresh/ healthy /super tasty vegetables this summer?

If all goes well, this year you could even bring an entry along to **Stoke Golding Garden Show**, which is being held on **Saturday 1st September 2018** (novice classes included) at Stoke Golding Club.

Help is always on hand should you need any advice or guidance.

Some examples are:-

<u>Vegetable</u>	Best Varieties	Sowing date to be ready for 1 st Sept
Beetroot	Pablo/Cardeal	Last week in May
Carrots	Sweet Candle	First week in April
Tomato (medium size) Mecano	Last week in March
Tomato (cherry/plum) Apero	Second week in April
Runner Beans	Stenner	Last week in May
Radish	French breakfast	First few days in August

Longest Runner Bean Contact me and I will source some specialist seed for you (free) Sow these in May

Above are accurate guides for our local area, but timings will vary according to the weather conditions. If you have space, then try sowing a few seeds before and after the above dates.

If I can help in any way with your vegetable or flower growing please do not hesitate to contact me at phil_burgess@hotmail.co.uk

(An excellent alternative source of helpful information is the National Vegetable Society web site <u>http://www.nvsuk.org.uk</u>)







Phil Burgess

Dadlington Matters

Dadlington Village Hall – It's Finished!

After many months of planning, fund-raising and work on the hall, phase 2 of the improvements has now been completed. So to update readers, this includes:

An extension to increase the hall space

A purpose built disabled access

A levelled area of grass outside the hall, accessible through bi-fold doors Baby changing facilities

A new heating system

Hearing loop

New blinds

Film projector and screen

A new audio system with wireless microphones

All this has been made possible through grants from the National Lottery Awards for All and HBBC and through the fundraising efforts of the committee and the support of the local community.

Details on future events and hiring the hall can be found on the village hall website: <u>http://www.dadlingtonvillagehall.co.uk</u>



Stoke Golding WI



Nothing to do with St Valentine's Day

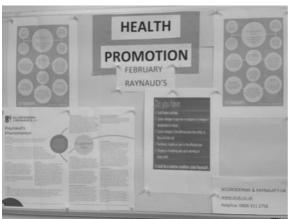
The ladies of Stoke Golding W.I turned out in strength on St Valentine's Day already knowing that the talk and demonstration was going to be lacking all mention of hearts and flowers. Perhaps they were all totally satisfied with the gifts that they had already received and just wanted a ladies get together.

Beginning the evening we welcomed a visitor, Mandy Cutler from Canal Side W.I, who gave us a short talk on Jane Austin. The author wrote about the times she was living in with particular regard to the relationships of children and parents, sisters and the problems women had in finding a place in society. This was especially so for the 'Gentry' as the only way a woman could improve herself was in finding a 'good' husband and if this became impossible she would remain 'on the shelf' and dependant on her family for the rest of her life .Mandy gave us an insight into the life of George III and George IV during whose reigns Jane Austin lived and, considering the short time she was able to speak, gave us many interesting facts and information.

Afterwards Carol Goodridge and her delightful granddaughter demonstrated how to make a pin cushion that looked like a cupcake and we all followed her example by making our own. There were some, including my own that were not exact replicas of a cupcake but in spite of getting all 'glued up' everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and were able to take their pin cushions home.

Our next meeting on March 14th is to do with Willow Weaving which should be both interesting and fun as I believe we will all perhaps be able to have a go. Let's hope I'll be more successful than in making pin cushions. Please come along and join us in the Methodist Hall.

Val Hartwell



CASAG - This month's health promotion theme is Raynaud's Disease.

The Raynaud's phenomena is an adverse reaction to cold, for example when your fingers or toes can blanch white and be painful. It is important that you keep your fingers and toes warm in cold weather with gloves and warm socks to protect them as well as wearing layers.

Very practical advice, especially topical with the current adverse cold weather.

Jennifer

What's On

The Stoke Golding Comedy Night

Friday 16th March, Stoke Golding Liberal Club

Doors open 7pm, Comedy 8:30pm

Tickets £12 each. Over 16 only, Strictly ticket ONLY

Available From Stoke Golding Youth Football Club Members, Committee and Stoke Liberal Club





Coffee and Chat at Dadlington Village Hall

Come for a friendly chat with other residents from Dadlington and Stoke Golding while enjoying delicious home-made cakes and a cuppa.

> Thursday 1st March 10am - 12.15pm

> > All Welcome

Methodist Church COFFEE MORNING

Saturday March 17th



All Welcome

10 - 11.30am

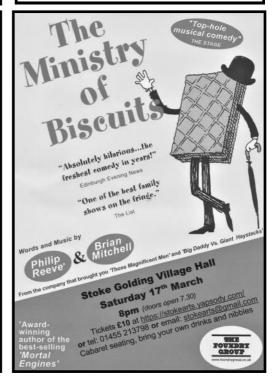
St Margaret's Church Coffee, Chat & Book Swap



Free coffee, tea and a chat on Wednesdays

10.30am - 12 noon in Church

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



What's On

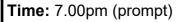


Where can you find out about what's happening with the Neighbourhood Plan for our village? Come to a meeting!

February meeting - Monday February 26th Discussion topic: Transport in the village

March meeting - Monday March 12th Discussion topic (to be confirmed): Housing allocation

Venue: The Methodist Hall



The Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee was very pleased with the number of people who attended and contributed at the last Neighbourhood Plan Meeting.

They do really appreciate all those who make the time to attend. As usual keep your eye on The Village notice board for dates of future meetings or sign up for email updates by contacting Jim Hope by email **sgnpjimhope@btinternet.com** (you can also give feedback on The Neighbourhood Plans development on this email address).





BETH'S CORNER SPINNEY BANK FARM

MARCH 2018

Driving down Higham Lane at Christmas time, I was suddenly aware of lights glowing from the front of the farmhouse. It's been dark for so long, so my spirits lift as I realise the house is finally completed. When I came here eleven years ago, the field only contained a caravan followed by a mobile home. Obviously the work on the family house had been delayed. Another delight of my first days here was the small herd of Jacob's sheep in the meadow just behind my flat, and meeting the two teenagers from the farm who came up occasionally to attend to any problems. The arrival of the farm shop was the next addition, although I have to confess as a Londoner, I am usually guilty of piling everything into the car weekly, from a supermarket. Finally I watched with interest to see the new Campsite open, and decided it was time to hear the story behind all of these developments, which led to my visit and a big mug of coffee with Elaine this Monday morning.

When I spoke to Kevin on the phone previously, he explained they were closed on Sunday and Monday during winter months and invited me to visit them in their I came into their sumptuous kitchen, with the sun was streaming in new home. through a large floor to ceiling picture window. Two black cats were enjoying the sunshine on the step outside and I started scribbling in my notebook. Elaine was born and bred in Stoke Golding, and went to school at St Margaret's followed by St Martin's. There were still four nuns there. Sisters Louis, Magna, Noella and Aidan. "Noella was very strict, but she was also my favourite." A year's YTS catering course came next, with her first placement at 'Hinckley Island Hotel', followed by King's Restaurant, then in Mount Road. Her pursuit for independence led to working at Heathrow Airport's restaurant, where she was in charge of a staff of 48 people. Her hours were from 4.30 am to 8.30 pm. After eighteen months she was completely exhausted and very homesick. "Dad drove down and brought me home." She's lived locally ever since, meeting and moving in with Kevin, and getting married in 1995. Becky and Philip are the eldest of their four children. followed by Sam and Matthew. Becky (Becks) is a cowgirl with her boyfriend Dylan on a 4 million acre cattle ranch in the 'Northern Territories' Australia. Philip is an architect, Sam works in the kitchens at 'The Dog & Hedgehog', and Matthew's employed at Caterpillar, while Charlotte is Kevin's daughter from his first marriage. Elaine's pride in her family is obvious. Her Mum Doreen worked in hosiery and Dad, Bill was a precision engineer. Then there are all her aunts. She shows me a small photo of all four 'aunties' - taken in the fifties, and 'auntie' Ruth still lives in Pine Close. There are also 'aunties' Vera and Jovce, both active in our Baptist Chapel.

Elaine and Kevin enjoy these quiet months, before opening the Camp Site in April. Registered with CLC this has proved a great success. The May Bank holiday is fully booked. Being so near to the canal, 80% of their guests are 'boaters'. "*They stop to stock up with provisions from the shop*." So many different nationalities visit them. "Oh yes Beth, there are Germans, Americans, Australians. They love the history and visiting our village churches. The year of Richard III's procession, we never stopped." Elaine and Kevin have worked hard to fulfil their dream, and I've enjoyed two hours sitting listening to Elaine, while Kevin comes to and fro' restlessly, chipping in with his 'tuppence-worth', before setting off to a hospital appointment - with a big kiss for Elaine. "Kevin's always been the motivation for me. At last he's fulfilled his dream of building his own house, and I love him to bits." Again I've had a lovely morning getting to know another of the very special people in this very special village. Thank you Elaine.

Staffroom Memories 14: The Children Part 2

Never make a promise or a threat you can't keep, I was taught when I trained to become a teacher. Parminder was a seven year old girl in my class, and Parminder hated PE. As the children lined up in their PE kits for our weekly work out in the gym, she would be sitting at her desk unchanged. My polite enquiries always elicited the same response: "I've forgotten my kit." Eventually, running out of patience, I said," Parminder, if you remember your kit next week, I shall dance on the tables!" What followed was a collective response from Parminder's classmates who encouraged, coerced, possibly bribed and blackmailed her in order to watch their teacher tango on the tables. It worked. The PE lesson arrived and there she was, resplendent in her pristine kit, so up I got and what a merry jig I performed, much to the delight of my appreciative audience. The following week, Parminder sat at her desk unchanged as usual. Children can be very frustrating.

Don't expect sympathy from them. If they hurt themselves, I'd show great concern and compassion. If I ever got hurt, they thought it was hilarious. If they broke something accidentally, I'd tell them that accidents happen. When, in my first term of teaching, I leant against a huge glass window in the classroom and it cracked from top to bottom, they fell over themselves telling me I'd get into trouble and have to go and own up to the headteacher.

As a headteacher, I would spend a considerable amount of time listening to the views of the children. I found that they felt safe and bullying was minimal and dealt with appropriately. Give them a survey though and boy did it make depressing reading. Nobody felt safe and bullying was at epidemic proportions. After one particularly gloomy survey, I decided to find out why the results were so much at odds with what the children were telling me on a daily basis. "Well," explained one child, " you are always talking about bullying in assembly, so I reckoned there must be quite a lot of it going on." Another said, " I don't feel safe because there are some nettles in the wild area." Yet another: " When we had that big storm, I was frightened because water came in under the door." Tell me about it, I thought, it brought down the ceiling in my office. Context is everything.

The frustrating child could lead to bizarre situations. James had been teasing some other boys in the toilets. When he fled to the cubicle and locked himself in, the other boys bashed into it and bent the bolt. He was stuck. I was summoned and after assessing the situation, I decided the only way to get him out was to remove the toilet door. I undid all the screws on my side, to discover there were an equal number on his side. First a screwdriver was passed under the door, then a pile of books for him to stand on as he couldn't reach the higher screws, then a hammer for him to attack the bolt when the screws wouldn't budge. That worked and he emerged triumphant. Now that's something I wasn't taught when I trained to become a teacher.

Michael Dix

THE JURASSIC WAY



Reading Michael Dix' article about the Cotswold Way put me in mind of the Jurassic Way. This is a similar longdistance trail which is located not far from the Cotswolds and

quite close to us here in south-west Leicestershire.

When you mention the Jurassic Way people often think it is somewhere in Dorset because they associate the name with the 'Jurassic Coast'. In fact it is a long distance walking route which starts at Banbury in Oxfordshire and finishes at Stamford in Lincolnshire, a distance of 88 miles. Its course, which runs from southwest to north-east, traverses the entire length of Northamptonshire, keeping close to the western border of that county. In doing so it dips into Leicestershire and Rutland as well as starting and finishing outside of Northants. It follows a ridge of rocks (mainly limestone) dating from the Jurassic age, which are apparently bulging with fossilised trilobites etc. hence its name.

I was inspired to walk the route when, on a whim, I bought Ordnance Survey Explorer map no. 206 (Edge Hill & Fenny Compton). When I unfolded it I was struck by the fact that the entire area was rural with not a single town in sight (except for part of Banbury on the southern margin). However, although there were no towns, a great many villages could be seen. It occurred to me that this would be ideal walking country for those who, like me, are too old, weak or cowardly to stride out across fell and mountain at every opportunity - ideal because it would be open countryside with a plentiful supply of pubs for lunch stops and probably a good choice of overnight accommodation as well.

It was then that I discovered the Jurassic Way meandered across this wonderful bucolic environment. I hadn't heard of it before, but I read up on it and quickly decided to persuade Tim, my longsuffering companion of many pub stops and a few walks as well, to join me in conquering it. Like Michael, we are not fast or energetic walkers and comparisons with the team of female soldiers who have recently trekked across the Antarctic would be misplaced. It therefore took us a couple of expeditions with various night-stops en route, plus a one-day excursion from home to knock off a chunk in the middle, to achieve our goal. It was well worth it, though.

The glory of the Jurassic is its villages. As you set off from Banbury you find yourself almost immediately among chocolate-box settlements of honeycoloured stone, and these continue after you cross into Northants. For the literaryminded, or those with an interest in rural social history, this area has the added interest of being *Lark Rise to Candleford*



country. Admittedly the villages become less attractive in the central section of the route (i.e. the bit near here!), but they improve aesthetically as you reach eastern Leicestershire and Rutland. The reduced visual appeal of the middle section is compensated for by its industrial history, particularly represented by railway and canal (the Braunston waterways complex makes a good lunch stop).



The Jurassic's position in the centre of England provides another of the walk's attractions. The route out of Banbury follows the River Cherwell (which joins the Thames at Oxford and therefore ultimately drains into the North Sea). The Cherwell rises at Hellidon, through which the Way passes a considerable while later. The walk also goes close to the source of the Leam. This too rises near Hellidon, but drains into the Avon. The Avon is a tributary of the Severn which finds its way to the sea via the Bristol Channel.

Near Naseby you follow the infant Avon itself, and skirting the site of the battle of the same name you cross another watershed into the Welland catchment. The river Welland rises in the cellar of the vicarage at Sibbertoft and empties into the Wash. The path follows the Welland on and off to the end at Stamford. The Jurassic Way therefore lies atop of the great watershed at the centre of England, or rather a series of watersheds, which divides the east of the country from the

west. The walk begins in Oxfordshire before passing into Northants, with Warwickshire not far away as you traverse the southern section. At one point in the central section you can make out the warehouses at Bitteswell in the distance, and later on, near Corby, there is a section in Leicestershire before a stroll through Rutland, then Northants again and lastly into Lincs. There is a point near the end where four traditional counties (Rutland, Lincs., Cambridgeshire and Northants.) almost meet; the border between Lincs, and Northants, is England's shortest at 62 feet (19 metres). Unfortunately the borders there are such a jumble that I couldn't work out exactly when and where I had crossed what, despite my best efforts. You can reach Banbury by train from

You can reach Banbury by train from Nuneaton, changing at Coventry. You join the Way a few yards from the station. The station at Stamford is only a short walk from the end of the route and from there you can get direct trains to Nuneaton, or, at certain times, to Hinckley. Northants. County Council supply useful route leaflets (though these may be a bit difficult to obtain) and the path is well waymarked - look out for the Kallirhynchia sharpi*. I would suggest arming yourself with the relevant OS maps as well, though.

*Does anyone not know what a Kallirhynchia sharpi is? It's a brachiopod for Heaven's sake...

Andy Tomsett



STOKE GOLDING AND DADLINGTON - IMAGES FROM THE PAST

The sale of this book of photographs of Stoke and Dadlington sponsored by The Charity of Thomas Barton is selling well with 237 of the 300 print having sold. They are still some available from Paul at Sehmbi Stores Stoke, who I should especially thank for selling so many at his shop.

Denis Cash

Church Matters



From St Margaret's Church

Mothering Sunday, this year on 11th March, always brings with it the joy and hope of new life, as flowers make a brief appearance in church, as gifts in the form of posies.

Mothering Sunday as we know it today includes the custom of giving cards, flowers, chocolates and perhaps a trip out for Sunday lunch.

But what are its real origins and why should it be called Mothering Sunday and not just "Mothers Day" as the card manufacturers would have it?

There are traditions associated with Mothering Sunday in England which date back as long ago as the 16th century. This was the day when people were encouraged to return to worship in their 'mother' church where they had been baptised.

People who usually attended the local parish church, would make a longer journey to the 'mother church' or cathedral of the area. Children who were working away as domestic servants, or as apprentices, were given the day off to visit their 'mother' church and their family. Often they brought a gift with them, a 'mothering cake' – a kind of fruitcake with two layers of marzipan, known as simnel cake.

The day was also called Refreshment Sunday – the Sunday half way through Lent when the fasting rules were relaxed.

Today Mothering Sunday, as a Christian festival, gives us the opportunity to think about all things which concern motherhood. We give thanks for the mothering we have received, whether it's from the church, from our own families, from friends, or, indeed from God. We are told 'God so loved the world that he gave us his Son.' That is the depth of the love we celebrate today. God is unconditional love. God is the love who mothers. God is both mother and father. God is the parent who heals through love alone.

So let's allow Mothering Sunday to encourage us to think about what mothering means and to give thanks, for our own mothers and those who have been like mothers to us.

We invite you to join us at St Margaret's for our Mothering Sunday service at 10.30am on March 11^{th} .

Wishing you God's blessing, Linda

Church Matters

Church of England March Services							
St. Margaret's Church							
4 th 10.30am	Benefice Service Higham						
11 th 10.30am	Mothering Sunday - All Age Service						
18 th 10.30am	Holy Communion						
25 th 10.30am	Palm Sunday Morning Worship						
27th 6.30pm	Tuesday Holy Communion						
1st April 10.30am	Easter Sunday Holy Communion						
St. James's Church							
4 th 10.30am	Benefice Service Higham						
11 th 9.00am	BCP Morning Prayer						
18 th 9.00am	BCP Holy Communion						
25 th 9.00am	BCP Morning Prayer						
30th 2.00pm	Good Friday Meditation on the Cross						
1st April 9.00am	Easter Sunday Holy Communion						

The Methodist Church March Services

4 th	10.30am	Revd Wes Hampton
11 th	10.30am	Mr Neville Spark
18 th	6.00pm	Revd Dr Tim Woolley (Anniversary Service)
25^{th}	10.30am	Mr Colin Haddon
30th	3pm	Good Friday Service

Zion Baptist Chapel February 2018 Services

- 4th 6pm Bill McIntyre
- 11th 6pm John Needham
- 18th 6pm Mark Menzfeld
- 25th 6pm Richard Cotton

Stoke Golding website: www.stokegolding.co.uk

Obituaries





Maurice James

We are sad to report that another of our oldest village residents has passed away. Maurice James passed away peacefully on the 18th January 2018 aged 92 years. He was the loving husband of the late Rose and a much loved dad and grandad and great grandad. The funeral service was held at the Heart of England Crematorium. There were family flowers only by request but donations may be sent if so desired to benefit either Age UK or the British Heart Foundation c/o The Co-operative Funeral Care, Kings Walk, Earl Shilton. LE9 7NL.

We offer our sincere condolences to family and friends of Maurice James.

Ten of a Kind (answers on page 26)

With two of our national saints having special days in March – St David, patron saint of Wales, on the 1^{st} and St Patrick, patron saint of Ireland, on the 17^{th} – here are some questions loosely connected with saints.

- 1. What is the name of the song by UK group All Saints that reached number 1 in 1997 and is the second highest selling single by a girl group in this country?
- 2. Which premier league football team plays at St Mary's Stadium?
- 3. What was the name of 'The Saint' in the books by Leslie Charteris, played by Roger Moore in the 60s TV adaptation?
- 4. Who is the patron saint of animals?
- 5. The statue of which poet laureate stands in St Pancras Station in London?
- 6. The island of St Lucia is the only country in the world named after what?
- 7. Which saint won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979?
- 8. St Petersburg, once the capital of Russia, was renamed twice before reverting back to its original name. Can you name either or both of its other names?
- 9. In which century was the St John's Ambulance Association set up to teach workers basic first aid?
- 10. Norman St John-Stevas was Minister for the Arts and Leader of the House of Commons from 1979-1981. Under which Prime Minister did he serve?

WITH SOME CLUES ABOUT TV COMEDIES

CrossWord

1			2		3		4	5		6	
											7
8					9						
10						11		12			
					13						
14		15		16				17	18		19
				20			21				
22						23					
24									25		
	26						27				

ACROSS

- 1 see 4A
- 4 & 1A Girl friend of shop owner in 8 & 9A (5-6)
- 8 &9A Barker's shop comedy (4-3-5)
- 9 see 8A
- 10 A person who tempts (7)
- 12 Walk ways (5)
- 13 TV Comedy "Rising ****" (4)
- 14 More secure (5)
- 17 Knitting wools (5)
- 20 Vocal expression of surprise (2-2)
- 22 Material for bed sheets (5)
- 23 Beckinsale's christian name in 24A (7)
- 24 Prison comedy (8)
- 25 Rim or border (4)
- 26 Cul de sac for example (5)
- 27 Persons standardss of perfection (6)

DOWN

1 Arkwright's type of shop in 8 & 9 A (7)

- 2 lvory covering of a tooth (7)
- 3 Removed whiskers (6)
- 5 Sad (7)
- 6 Arkwright did this when talking (7)
- 7 Requests something (4)
- 11 Item to remove beard (5)
- 15 Service for someone who has died (7)
- 16 Barker & Corbett were the Two ******* (7)
- 18 Some who competes in a race (7)
- 19 Sorrow (7)
- 21 Holiday camp comedy (2-2-2)
- 22 What 18D do round a track (4)

A Road by any Other Name

I have a friend who loves road names. Say 'A38' to her and she'll tell you it goes from Bodmin to Mansfield. Mention the A50 and she'll eulogise about its route from Warrington to Leicester. At New Year, I put together a fun quiz for a group of us who go away together, with a round on A-roads: she won hands down. She'd be interested in this article even if, according to my wife, no-one else will. After tracking the course of the Tweed River and discovering the history of the Ashby Canal and Fenn Lanes, I decided to write something about one of the major roads in our locality - the A47 seemed a good choice.

Unlike the A5 Watling Street or the modern motorway network, the A47 wasn't planned. No-one sat around brainstorming then suddenly jumped up and shouted, "I know, let's build a road from Birmingham to Great Yarmouth!" The route had been around for centuries, a mixture of local tracks and streets through villages, towns and cities. What sparked a flurry of road labelling was the emergence of the car. Suddenly motorists were travelling much further afield and needed help. Work began in 1913, stopped for World War I, and reached a conclusion on April 1st, no joke, 1923. Planners split the country into zones, the boundaries of each zone being either one of the single digit A-roads. Other main roads were given numbers depending on which zone they began in so, as the A47 started in Birmingham which lay in Zone 4 bounded by the A4 and the A5, it's number began with a 4. Major routes between towns and cities, such as the A47, were designated Trunk Roads. Over time, routes have changed, new roads have been built and existing roads reclassified. The A47 is no exception. The building of the M69 caused the A47 from Hinckley to Leicester to be de-trunked!

The original and current roads both begin at roughly the same spot in Birmingham, but then diverge quite dramatically. The old route twisted and turned through the Warwickshire countryside through Coleshill and onwards to Nuneaton on what is now the B4114. Here, the modern road appears again, but on reaching the Dodwells roundabout, they go their separate ways once more, the old road running into Hinckley along the Borough, up Castle Street, along New Buildings and onto the Leicester Road. Many places on the original route have had bypasses, Earl Shilton being one of the more recent. Unfortunately for anyone trying to get to East Anglia, one city that doesn't have a bypass is Leicester. Then it's off through rolling countryside to Peterborough. A major change occurs in the flat lands east of this city. The old road used to go through Wisbech and Downham Market; now it goes to Kings Lynn. The final approach into Great Yarmouth has also been altered with a more direct route, although the current road bypasses the seaside resort and finishes in Lowestoft. Now, if you're still reading this, then you've proved my wife wrong. I bet you'd like to hear about the A444 or the A447? No? Michael

Fool on the Hill

Mismatch of the day....

When I was a mere lad, just after the last Ice Age, I played rugby for a local team. Each season between September and whenever Easter was that year, we would play a regular round of fixtures against other clubs with whom we had longstanding arrangements. Results were probably recorded by some tame accountant because they seem to enjoy that sort of thing. However, no one was really bothered as we would be playing the same fixtures next year irrespective of recent outcomes. In short, we were playing simply for the sheer enjoyment of the game. Oh, and the beer and curries.

Then some bright spark decided that we needed to play in a league and from that point on, for me, the fun went out of it. I have seen a man playing rugby with his shorts on fire although this had nothing to do with the blistering pace of his running. It was merely an unfortunate contact with the book of matches that he had in his shorts pocket for the purposes of igniting his half time cigarette. We had often completed our starting line up by physically removing a reserve from the bar of the Green Man, even though he had supped well before the call to arms. We even had one inventive soul who charged down every conversion attempt whilst singing "on the road to Mandalay". I would dearly love to see the effect that this might have on today's generation of goal kickers and their preposterous regime of pre-kick twitching and thrutching. Pitch side medical assistance involved nothing more complex than a bucket of cold water and a sponge. The NHS could learn a thing or two there, particularly with the clots that cloq up A&E because they don't know how to say no to the 12th pint of Stella. With the advent of playing in a league, the need to excel overtook the gay abandon with which we had habitually approached our fixtures. Suddenly there were trainers, coaches, sports psychologists and tactical gurus springing up like weeds on a dung heap. When there is a break in play in modern rugby so many people pour onto the pitch you would think that a tube train had just come in. There has also been an alarming explosion of video analysis and, heaven help us, statistics. Football is probably even worse because of the sheer volume of cash that is ladled into it each year from the subscriptions that we pay to the likes of Sky.

So kids of today, how about this for a million dollar idea? Find yourselves a smallish sports stadium and set up a few cameras. Then invite some completely obscure and preferably, useless teams to have their moment of glory by playing on the telly. The more unfit and mismatched they are the better. Let's have some howling mistakes and crazy shorelines. Match of the Day meets You Tube if you like. I, for one, would watch it.



F.O.T.H.

Notes from Stoke Golding Parish Council February Meeting - Draft

County Cllr Ivan Ould reported on the following issues:

1. Site meeting regarding flooding at Convent Corner – positive outcome.

2. Neighbour dispute in Stoke Golding.

Concerns from Courtyard residents regarding possible use of land to the rear.

Borough Councillor Reg Ward's report included the following issues:

1. Oak tree on Hinckley Road – TPO confirmed and drainage issues to be referred to LCC.

2. Barwell SUE – Taylor Wimpey have pulled out, but HBBC confirm that the consortium of interested parties are still set to continue.

3. Proposed increase in car park charges in Hinckley have raised concerns.

4. Convent Corner – positive outcome to issues raised regarding flooding.

Query regarding the ownership of hedge to the front of the Morris Homes devt. *Matters arising from January's Meeting:*

St Margaret's Churchyard – The works to renovate the pathway are now complete. *Village planters* – Winter planting has been completed at a cost of £68.58.

Village 'Christmas' tree – The cost of the tree was agreed at £160.00 and sum payable for electricity at £5.00.

Ground maintenance – Additional emergency work was carried out, at a cost of £98.50.

Planning Applications:

New Applications:

22 Station Road – two storey side and single storey rear extension.

Land off Hinckley Road, SG – variation of condition 1 of planning permission to substitute the house type on plot 83.

36 Wykin Lane – two storey side extension and single storey rear extension. 83 Hinckley Road – single storey rear extension, front porch.

Chestnut Cottage, Park House, Main St – horse chestnut – reduction of any long limbs which have evidence of decay and removal of dead branches, horse chestnut – shorten two south limbs by 50%. Clean out, crown lift to 5 metres and inspect cavity. Land Adjacent White Cottage, 5 Church Walks – change of use of land to the storage of building materials with the erection of a 2 metre-high close-boarded fence to eastern boundary including gate (retrospective).

Resolved Comment:

The Parish Council strongly objects to this application. The proposed change of use is not in keeping with the character of the residential walk located in the village conservation area. There is no vehicle access to this plot via Church Walks and it is therefore considered that the Enforcement Order to remove building materials should be enforced.

Permission approved:

21 Andrew Close – ash tree topping and lopping.

High View, 4 Church Close – reduce radial spread of canopy to ash tree. Westmoreland Farm, Rogues Lane, Hinckley – erection of a detached garage. *Notification of Tree Preservation Order 2017* – No 26 - reinstated, outside 105 Hinckley Road.

Neighbourhood Plan

The following were resolved:

• The minutes of the NPAC meeting held on the 8th January.

• The appointment of Alan White and Brian Ninness, to carry out work on the transport policies.

• Cllr Goodsell will liaise with Cllr Mitchell regarding editing of the Neighbourhood Plan, Part 1.

• Land behind Station Road - a reply from GBa&e regarding further consultation with the NPAC was noted; a public presentation event is proposed within the next month to offer the community an opportunity to view and comment on the evolving proposal. It was agreed that the event should be publicised by GBa&e and they should be responsible for all arrangements and costs of this event. *Sport in Stoke Golding (SISG)*

A meeting of Parish Councillors and representatives of the sports' clubs will be held on 21st February.

*Works at Hinckley Road Cemetery Boundary*_It was agreed to proceed with the removal of existing overgrown plants, at a cost of £970.00. The Clerk to chase resident regarding necessary work to clear the boundary.

Tree Work: Harbours (Tree surgeons) have assessed a conifer tree and confirmed no work is required. An oak tree will be assessed shortly.

Wall and Gate Damage: Clerk to request separate quotes for the rebuilding of the wall and removal and assessment of the gate and forward these to Harbours for approval.

Play equipment: All funding for a new roundabout was confirmed and the order has been placed; the date for installation to be confirmed.

Memorial safety – gravestone repairs

Prices for the final phase of grave repairs were noted and it was agreed to proceed with Sellers, at a cost of £2808.33. It was also agreed to proceed with a claim for 50% funding from the Environmental Improvement Programme.

Village Flag – A replacement flag will be purchased at a cost of £44.10.

Vehicle Activated Sign

The following was noted:

• A proposal for the upgrade of the existing VAS system to allow data retrieval via Bluetooth.

Progress on the viability of an Automatic Number Plate Recognition Scheme. *Pitch hire*

- Revised pitch hire agreements were agreed.
- Requests for use of facilities, from the Cricket Club and the Youth FB Club, for the 2018/19 season were noted.

Fees for the Cricket Club and the Youth FB Club were agreed.

The Clerk to confirm the fees to clubs and invoice accordingly, and arrange a meeting with the Cricket Club.

Local Plan Review and Strategic Growth Plan Consultation

• A presentation by the HBBC Planning Policy Team was given.

The Local Plan review is being carried out in stages and the aim is to consult at the following stages

Scope, issues and options consultation (Jan 2018 to Feb 2018)

Draft Local Plan 'preferred options' (Dec 2018 to Feb 2019 Pre-submission (Jan 2020 to Feb 2020) Estimated examination in public (Nov 2020)



Parish Council minutes continued from previous page

New local plan adopted in 2021.

It was agreed that the NPAC should liaise with HBBC Planning and forward draft policies as the Neighbourhood Plan develops and is approved by the Parish Council. *Communications received by the Chairman of the Council Written*

- Concern from resident regarding oak tree at Hinckley Road Cemetery Cllr Pegg to have the tree assessed and the Clerk to reply to resident.
- Tree Warden enquiries the Clerk to reply to interested residents. Convent Gate query the Clerk to reply to resident.

Verbal - Resident query regarding Hinckley Rd Cemetery fence – the Clerk to reply to resident.

Next meeting: Methodist Hall, Wednesday 7th March at 7pm

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS see 4A; 4 Nurse Gladys; 8 & 9 Open all hours; 10 Enticer; 12 Paths; 13 Damp; 14 Safer; 17 Yarns; 20 Oh Oh; 22 Linen; 23 Richard; 24 Porridge; 25 Edge; 26 Close; 27 Ideals DOWN 1 Grocers; 2 Dentine; 3 Shaved; 5 Linhappy; 6 Stutter; 7 Asks; 11 Pazor; 15

DOWN 1 Grocers; 2 Dentine; 3 Shaved; 5 Unhappy; 6 Stutter; 7 Asks; 11 Razor; 15 Funeral; 16 Ronnies; 18 Athlete; 19 Unhappy; 21 Hi de Hi; 22 Laps

Ten of a Kind Answers

Never Ever, 2. Southampton, 3. Simon Templar, 4. St Francis of Assisi
John Betjemen, 6. A woman, 7. St Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)
Petrograd (1914-1924), Leningrad (1924-1991), 9. 19th century – 1877
Margaret Thatcher

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Luisa Quinney MFHT, MHFST

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Tuesday 6.30pm & Thursday 12.15pm Swan House MARKET BOSWORTH

Wednesday 6.15pm DADLINGTON Village Hall

Thursday 10.00am SHARNFORD Youth Club

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