

April 2022

No. 210

# The Stoker



**Stoke Golding Village Magazine**

*Including*

**Dadlington Matters**

**70p**



## Note from the Editors



Firstly, we would like to thank all the village for the varied support for Ukraine that has been going on. Our thoughts are with all those affected in the war.

We were really impressed with the huge sum raised for Lawrence House by students of St Martin's (see page 18) and the talented winners of the Rotary prizes by pupils of St Margaret's (see page 19).

Spring has arrived, the daffodils and spring flowers around the village have brought a welcome splash of colour after all the grey wet weather, and we are all looking forward to the Jubilee celebrations across both villages in June too.

Finally ... Happy Easter to all our readers!  
We hope everyone enjoys the Easter holiday.



*Steve & Kate*

## The Stoker Team

*Editors:* Steve Smithers (01455 213798) Kate Poyser Clark (01455 213744)  
*Production Team:* Rosemary Collier, Ella Orr, Jan Pettyfer, Jill Webster, Jennifer Michie, Michael Dix, Sandra Pollard, Amanda Diboll, Jane White

Please send articles for the **May** issue of The Stoker by **15th April** to:  
**The Editors, 23 Wykin Lane, Stoke Golding.**  
**Email [thestoker@gmx.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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 Stoke Golding stands with Ukraine , Ruth Fisher*

## Memorial Bench

The Parish Council have now taken ownership of the open space at Laburnum Gardens. They have had a bench installed in memory of the residents of Stoke Golding who died during the Covid Pandemic. Cartwright Homes very kindly offered to pay for it.



### The Celebration of the Queens Platinum Jubilee Wedding Dresses of the Decades

I am looking within the local community for those ladies that still have their wedding dress from 1947, the year the queen married, to the present day.

What do I want with these items? Well as you can see from the above title, it's to do with the ongoing celebration marking the Queens special year. As you may or may not know, every year we have a flower festival in St Margaret's church over the three days of the August bank holiday.

What I propose to do is to set out an exhibition with wedding dresses that I'm hoping you would kindly like to loan me. I intend to arrange the dresses chronologically, starting with the year that the Queen got married through to today.

The flower ladies have agreed to enhance this exhibition with a theme which will create a fantastic setting within the church. The exhibition will be supported with refreshments and tabletop sales to be held in St Margaret's Primary school and complimented by many other activities over the bank holiday weekend.

***Please contact me, Doreen Rose, by e-mail  
[dor.rose@btinternet.com](mailto:dor.rose@btinternet.com) or phone me on 213798.***



## Interview with the inspirational Joe Taylor

On a cold, grey Monday morning it was a total inspiration to have a chat with Joe Taylor. Joe is 19 years old and has lived in Stoke Golding all his life.

He works full time as a prison officer and has 2 months left on his first year of his probation period left to do.

He has been boxing since the age of 10 years old and started off at the Engine Shed boxing stable in the village and there Mark Fowler took him under his wing and instilled the traits of focus, discipline, training, nutrition etc and Joe still trains at the Engine Shed boxing stable and keeps in touch with Mark who he describes as being 100% inspirational and has worked with some of the best boxers in the country in his many years as a coach.

Mark then took Joe to Atherstone amateur boxing club, an outstanding club, in which he had much bouts and success at, boxing for them for around 3 years, Joe now boxes for Bulkington boxing club, another amazing club, which like Atherstone, have produced many talented boxers including multiple midland and national champions, which he says it is a brilliant club and like all boxers there, feels honoured to represent the club, He has boxed at County Level and won various vests and trophies in the under 60kg category boxing all over the country beating notable champions. His main aim at this point in time is to win a National Championship in his category, Joe has the East Midlands Boxing cup competition in May and the National Championships in September both this year.

As well as being a prison officer he is also currently working his way towards being a Physical Education Instructor via the Prison Service.

He has in the past, initially on a voluntary basis and then was paid to

work as a mentor and sports coach at Oakwood secondary school, Nuneaton, a school for children with special educational needs and behaviour problems where he adapted his training regime and experience in the sport for various children's needs to help install discipline, confidence and apply a Focus for the pupils. He left there at 18 years old to pursue his career in the prison service and had a big send off from all children.

His training regime is disciplined - minimum of 4 days training, runs every day and follows a strict nutritional regime. So after getting up at 6AM and working a 9 to sometimes 13 hour challenging shift, he then travels straight to training in Bulkington, comes home, runs and then gets up



and does the same thing the next day.!

He does say that the training and boxing is an excellent de-stressor after a hard day at work. From boxing he has developed the focus, discipline, kept him on the straight and narrow and out of trouble, helps with cardiovascular fitness and the self discipline. He wants one day to inspire the next generation of children to train and box and get as much out of the sport that he has.

Being an amateur boxer he does not have any sponsorship although the club does have sponsors which helps all of the boxers careers. He has had some charitable support from the Stoke Golding boys charity which has helped with equipment and other cost such as travel, accommodation etc.

There are a few members of his extended family who have a history of boxing as he had an uncle who boxed in the army and a cousin but it was his mum and grandad who introduced him to Mark at the Engine Shed as an overweight, but energetic ten year old who would quite regularly get into trouble and the rest is history. It was also his mum and grandad who ferried him around to training, competitions until such time as he could get a moped then a car.

He hasn't had any injuries but has listened to older members of the boxing club and looks after his hands and bathed them in a hot and cold regime if any soreness/ tension and has them strapped too before he puts his gloves on.

It was delight to sit and chat via zoom to Joe and hear his story and wish him all the best with his forth coming competitions. I have also asked him to let us know how he got on with them. So watch this space.

*Jennifer Michie*

### **Mystery Under the Church Floorboards?**

Recently browsing through some Stoke Golding and Dadlington Parish magazines of the 1980's I came across a comment made by the Rev. Chris Gash, stating that he was impressed by the way in which gifts were given to the churches of St Margaret and St James. All done very quietly and without any fuss or show. He also mentioned that the name of one seven year old boy benefactor would not come to light until the floor boards in the south aisle of St Margaret's were taken up again and who knew when that would be. I am intrigued. That seven year old boy will be celebrating his fortieth birthday this year and the Church has just under gone considerable renovations. Was anything found? Did a list reveal how his contribution was raised? Was it quietly returned to the under floor space to await another 40 years before being rediscovered?

*Jill Webster*

## Staffroom Memories 33: The PE Lesson

One of the joys of being a primary school teacher is that you get to teach all the subjects. However this can be challenging when you have to teach something you are totally useless at doing yourself. As a child, I hated PE. I could just about manage a forward roll but that was about it. I only learnt to catch in my mid twenties and I still can't throw a ball any distance. It's a bit galling when the eight year olds you are teaching can actually do the thing you are teaching them far better than you. I was fine with showing the children how not to do it but I'd always rope in a couple of the children to demonstrate the techniques in action.

Someone else who hated PE was seven year old Pam. Every PE lesson, as the children were lined up at the door in their PE kit, there would be Pam, sitting at her desk, unchanged. Every lesson, I'd enquire why she wasn't changed and every lesson I'd get the same reply, "I've forgot my kit." I'd then send her to borrow some kit but as we set off at a brisk pace to the hall, she would head off at a snail's pace in search of shorts and t-shirt and would invariably manage to eek out the searching for kit mission to last the entire lesson. One day I flipped. "If you remember your kit next week Pam," I declared, "I shall get up on the desks and dance." Peer pressure is a strange creature. I'm not sure what encouragement, bribes and threats were aimed at Pam over the next few days by a class of children desperate to see me make a fool of myself, but the following week, there was Pam, in line, in her pristine PE kit. I had to fulfil my side of the bargain and so did my Strictly routine to a rapturous reception. Deciding that perhaps I had discovered a new way of motivating reluctant pupils, I could hardly wait for the next PE lesson. As the children lined up at the door, there was Pam in her seat: "I've forgot my kit."

Over the years, there has been a greater focus on health and safety. In my class teaching days, we'd put mats under the high apparatus but then it was discovered that the slight benefits a thin mat might give to a falling child were far outweighed by the false sense of security the mats gave. They were actually causing more accidents. Some of my more recently qualified teachers became so risk-averse that they wouldn't use high level equipment so when I had to cover a PE lesson, out came the A frames, the ropes and the monkey bars making me the most popular teacher around. My office was opposite the hall and with my door propped open, I could hear PE lessons taking place behind the curtained entrance. One day, tired of entering meaningless data into meaningless spreadsheets, I decided to join in PE lesson that some of the six year olds were having in the hall. Taking a rhino glove puppet that I used in assemblies, I stuck it through the gap between the curtains. For a while nothing happened, then I heard whispering, followed by excited chatter

and finally giggling. Suddenly the teacher's voice boomed out, "Thank you Mr Rhino, that will be all." I withdrew the puppet and returned to my data inputting a happy man.

*Michael Dix*

## **Bats - some useful information about the local populations in the village**

This is the information that I was given by a lady from Leicestershire and Rutland Bat Group. I have simplified it so that it gives an idea of what goes on:-

**AUTUMN** In the roost females mate with the loudest, strongest male who gets first choice, other smaller weaker males also mate if the female chooses to. The females then hibernate together in the roost until the conditions and food supply are at their best, and then the pregnancy goes ahead. Once born the babies rely on milk from their mothers, so she needs to go out and get insects etc to ensure her flow of milk.

**JUNE/ JULY (ish)** When the babies are sufficiently developed they go out to find plentiful supplies and insects, and this is usually within a mile of the roost. Bat numbers decline because the habitats of the insects etc are being destroyed. So it is essential that hedges, mature trees and vegetation are kept intact.

Natterer's bats and Brown Long-eared bats which have been recorded in Sherwood Road gardens, are very selective in their diet and rely on moths. However, moth numbers are declining, so it is important that they are encouraged and provided for. There seemed to be a lot of moths here last year.



*A Natterer's bat*



*A Brown Long-eared bat*

These two species also are very sensitive to light, and are deterred by modern street lights which should not be placed near hedges, mature trees and tree lines. Lighting these areas makes it more difficult for bats to forage for insects, especially moths in the lit area.

The other species recorded informally here last year were Pipistrelles, Soprano Pipistrelles and Lesser Noctule Bats. (Thanks Julie Deeming)

*Kate Ashmole*



## Letter to the Editors - Volunteering Opportunities

Dear Editors

My daughter-in-law works for the Empowering Families Service in Nuneaton and they urgently need volunteers to support families who have a child or children on the child in need or the child protection database.

She has sent me the newsletter below and I would be very grateful if you could include it in the Stoker in the hope that one of our readers may feel that they are able to volunteer for this very worthwhile cause.

Although the newsletter states Warwickshire they do have a great need for volunteers in Nuneaton, Bedworth, Atherstone and Bedworth so there would not be too much travelling involved .

Anyone who is interested may contact Sarah on her email shown at the end of the newsletter.

Thanks in anticipation  
Sandra Pollard

### What is the Warwickshire Empowering Families Service?

The Empowering Families Service has been created by Warwickshire County Council in partnership with NYAS (National Youth Advocacy Service). The scheme matches parents in need of a helping hand with a local volunteer in Warwickshire who can support them and provide guidance.

Warwickshire's **Empowering Families Service** focuses on supporting parents with limited positive support networks who have a child or children on the child in need or child protection databases. The support provided will be specific to each family, from helping parents to implement routine and structure at home to just lending a listening ear and a friendly smile,

### **What Does an Empowering Families Volunteer Do?**

Our Warwickshire volunteers support parents for 1-2 hours on a weekly basis, where they empower parents to feel in control of their situation and gain the tools and knowledge necessary to improve their circumstances. Volunteers understand, encourage and support parents to address the difficulties and barriers within their family.

### **Why Volunteer in Warwickshire?**

Being a parent has never been easy. At times, it can be lonely, frustrating, and overwhelming, especially if you have limited or no other support networks in place. Our volunteers are there to ensure parents feel supported, and to help them create a safe and happy environment for their children.



## What Support do Warwickshire Empowering Families Volunteers Get?

Volunteers have relevant safeguarding checks and provided with full training before commencing their role and will receive guidance from NYAS throughout their time volunteering.

## Who Can Volunteer For The Warwickshire Empowering Families Service?

We welcome volunteers from all walks of life. We simply ask that you are local to the area, and are aged 18 or over.

In terms of personal qualities, all we ask is that you are patient, trustworthy and able to keep the confidence of the parents you work with and maintain boundaries. It's important that you're openminded and not judgemental.

If you would like to make a difference and volunteer for the Warwickshire Empowering Families service, contact [sarah.malin@nyas.net](mailto:sarah.malin@nyas.net) or [elaine.luck@nyas.net](mailto:elaine.luck@nyas.net)



### What a lovely sight.

I have just visited the cemetery, and on my way out I decided to drive through the village and that's where I saw the Ukrainian flag flying alongside the Union Jack

Well done to whoever put it up and many thanks.

**Rachel Spence** *ex village resident*

### CRYPTIC CITIES AND TOWNS IN THE U.K.

1. Student above prof- that's capital.
2. Can the helm turn to find races.
3. Revolting peasant Tyler goes to car make by the gap.
4. TCP sort OK around Manchester's neighbour
5. Rat twists with hog ear in the North.
6. Scottish Battle loses 2<sup>nd</sup> class burn and gain 100 in Staffs.
7. Lop my hut around where Cook set sail.
8. Look into Honolulu to notice airport.
9. Looks like something you don't want in a sandwich.
10. Red fluid shed around Market Town.

**Answers on page 29**

## Fool on the Hill      Mutant Perennials



I wonder if I am in a minority of one when it comes to people who find the whole business of horticulture just the tiniest bit, well, circular. Here I have to tread most carefully since, she who is to be feared, derives much pleasure and enjoyment from the process.

I am rather put in mind of that Greek chap Sisyphus who was condemned for all time to the task of pushing a perfectly round stone up a hill only to find that, having reached the peak, the laws of physics asserted themselves and the stone returned to the point of origin. Rather than taking a hammer to said stone and creating a nice gravel path, he persisted with his task ad infinitum. Such is the way with Greek mythology.

I contend that there are parallels in the world of gardening despite what Monty Don would have us believe. Springtime is the time to acquire and plant many species of things. Summer is then spent staying at home because, if you go away, then the contents of your flower beds and baskets, die of thirst. Or, if it is a typical English summer, drowns. Summer is also spent removing bits of the plant that have withered and died through natural causes. These atrophied parts can be added to the mounting pile of lawn trimmings and hedge cuttings until, come the autumn, the last straggly vestiges of everything that you planted in spring can be unearthed and removed to the local recycling facility. Here they are turned into compost which you purchase, at great expense, before starting the whole process again the following year.

I have been giving the matter some thought. The problem, to me, seems to be that the plants that we buy in the spring are feeble and neurotic little things unduly fussy about their living conditions. If, for example, there is too little or too much sun, they give up the ghost. Similarly, a hint of frost or too much rain, and the inner Kamikaze comes out. To me, dirt looks pretty much the same the world over, but these little darlings will happily kick the bucket if the acidity level is not to their liking. Yet in our garden, in our driveway, in our gutters and even in our walls, plant life abounds and thrives in any circumstance. Welcome folks, to the world of the weed. I will concede that this lot are rather lacking in the plant beauty stakes but boy, they know how to survive and thrive even when we declare chemical war on them. So why not have a word with the boffins

and see if we can genetically engineer weeds to retain their survival genes, but mix in some of the pretty stuff from the pansies and violas? Something that looks great and grows all year. Even if you are in Bognor. Nothing wrong with a bit of genetic tomfoolery. We had a lovely leg of Salmon the other night.

**F.O.T.H**

### **Ten of a Kind – April 22**

In April 1721, Sir Robert Walpole became our first recognised British Prime Minister and over the next 300 years we've had 78 of them. Love them or loathe them, they've certainly made an impact on the country's fortunes so here are ten questions about them.

1. Who is the only Prime Minister to have been assassinated?
2. Whose statue in Parliament Square was vandalised and then boarded up during protests in June last year?
3. Nicknamed 'The Welsh Wizard', who was the last Liberal Prime Minister?
4. What item of luggage is named after the four times Victorian Prime Minister William Ewart Gladstone?
5. How many 21st century Prime Ministers have there been?
6. Which Lincolnshire town was the birthplace of Margaret Thatcher?
7. Who starred as PM Jim Hacker in the TV comedy 'Yes Minister'?
8. James Callaghan is the only Prime Minister to have held all four Great Offices of State. As well as PM, he held the position of Home Secretary, Foreign Secretary and which other?
9. On what occasion did Prime Ministers choose whisky, a tennis ball machine and racket, a guitar, a photo album and a scale model of the Oval cricket ground with a bowling machine?
10. Which four word phrase was used by both Disraeli in 1878 and Chamberlain in 1938 after both had concluded treaties with Germany?

*Answers on page 26*

# Dadlington Matters



A group of volunteers were busy improving and tidying St James' Churchyard ready for the planting of red and white roses. These repeat flowering shrub roses will be the perfect accompaniment to the Bosworth Sculpture trail installation which is planned as a symbol of healing after the battle.

## St. James' Church Dadlington Flower Festival

70 Glorious Years

Saturday 30th  
April, Sunday 1st May and  
Monday 2nd May  
12 noon to 5.00pm each day.

The theme is HM the Queen's 70<sup>th</sup>  
Jubilee.

In addition to the exceptional floral  
creations, there will be Soup and a  
roll (12-2) teas, coffees, cakes, plants,  
books, raffle, bric-a-brac, in the  
village hall.

Please come and support our local  
church

Offers of help cakes or prizes  
gratefully received

Please call Caroline on 212212  
or 07969 685825



## Wine Tasting Evening

Dadlington Village Hall - Saturday 23rd April 7pm

Come and enjoy a flight of 6 wines plus Ploughman's  
Supper

Cost £10 to support maintenance of the hall

This tasting will feature the wines of Argentina

Tickets from John Whitehead

Email: [jf\\_whitehead@hotmail.com](mailto:jf_whitehead@hotmail.com)

01455 213244



# Hinckley Amateur Ladies Cricket



**WE WANT YOU**

**Would you like to join a very friendly ladies' section within our family-oriented club that promotes sport for all, then we would love to hear from you. We currently have two team playing in the East Midlands Women Cricket League and would love to continue to promote and invest in ladies/girl's cricket.**

**Interested then please call Liane 07962 382601 or Emily 07837 834011. Follow us on Hinckley Amateur Women's Cricket Club –**

**<https://www.facebook.com/hinckleyamateurwomens>**

## What's On

### Community Coffee Morning Baxter Hall - All Welcome !



10am-12pm  
Thursday 21st April  
Thursday 19th May

Drink & cake £1.50

**Tea, coffee & homemade cakes!**

**A chance to meet new people and  
catch up with old friends**

**Hosted by Stoke Golding WI**



**Monthly Charity Quiz  
Night!**

**The George and  
Dragon  
Starts at 7.30pm**

**Wednesday 27th April**

Maximum team size of  
6 people. Bring a picnic  
tea and pit your wits!

## Platinum Jubilee Weekend 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022 Stoke Golding

### Thursday 2nd – Beacon Lighting

We will be lighting the Jubilee Beacon which is located in the field  
behind The Swan pub at 21:00hrs

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> – The Big Rec Lunch

On Sunday we will be holding a BYO picnic at The Rec – with music, ice  
cream, coffee and a face painting stands.

At 10:30 there will be Wheel Barrow Races

11:30 Set up

12:00 Picnic begins

13:00 – Children's Crown procession

(Prizes awarded in ages groups for wheel barrow race and Crown  
making – more details to follow on flyer being sent out)

15:00hrs approx. end of Lunch Party

**ALL WELCOME**

Pease contact [katie.sgpc@gmail.com](mailto:katie.sgpc@gmail.com) if you would like to help

## What's On



### Interested in joining a Creative Workshop?

We have a couple of spaces remaining in our successful workshop for creative, and artistic people. You are invited to bring your work and join us, sharing knowledge and skills as we each create in our own way. This workshop is held each Tuesday between 10am - 1pm at the Baxter Hall.

Please let me know if you are interested. I can be contacted by phone 01455 213798 or email [dor.rose@btinternet.com](mailto:dor.rose@btinternet.com)

**Doreen Rose**

**The Kirby Muxloe Players**

# BRASSED OFF

by Paul Allen  
from the screenplay by Mark Herman  
Directed by Kevin Burrows  
featuring the Croft Silver Band

**11th - 14th May 2022**

**Wednesday - Saturday at 7:30pm**

**Tickets £10**

Please note this play contains adult themes and some strong language



**Book Now -**  
[thelittleboxoffice.com/kirbyplayers](http://thelittleboxoffice.com/kirbyplayers)  
We will still have a limited number of tickets for sale  
on our NEW box office number  
07940 44 21 21

[www.kirbyplayers.co.uk](http://www.kirbyplayers.co.uk)  
Kirby Muxloe Village Hall, Station Road, LE9 2EN

This amateur production of "Brassed Off" is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH LTD a Concord Theatricals Company.

## Bob's Focus

It's the time of the year when we should all be full of fresh hope, new life sprouting from the ground, buds bursting open, and in general, wildlife pro creates like someone has just pulled a trigger on a starting pistol. Sadly though after two years of Covid doom and gloom, the loudest bangs are coming from a conflict that shouldn't be happening and is far too close to home. Now I'm not going to get all political and start a rant but it has made me think and has raised a few burning questions, one of which I doubt I'll ever know the answer to.

Some of the issues that affect the harmony (or lack of it) of the human race and its general inability to all get along together happily are skin tones, cultural differences, religious differences and the one I'm going to ponder, language barriers.

Sometimes it seems to me, the smaller animals with less complex habits appear to get along quite nicely, some larger animals, arguably more intelligent will argue and even war, I.e chimpanzees, Baboons, and other great apes will form troops and fight each other over territory, food, water rights etc, but back to the language barrier.

My question is:

Let's take a house sparrow, we have them here and all over Europe, just the same but one lives in England, one in France for instance. If they met, would there be a language barrier? does one speak French, would they chirp the same but with a different accent? Does one chirp mean hello on both sides of the pond?

I guess unless I come back next time as a sparrow I'll never know but it has always made me wonder. I first raised this question when I was visiting the in laws in Spain, we were at Guardamar del Segura walking through the park when I spotted some red squirrels. A few months



earlier I had spent ages in the lakes trying to get a good photo of one with a DSLR and it was quite tricky. To my amazement when I made a few clicking noises and spoke to one of the little fellas he came right up to me (Did he speak English I thought?) I was even more amazed when I bent down to take a picture of him, not believing how close he was, with my iPhone and he put both front paws out, took hold of the phone and with my help took a selfie! I have found the photo and although it's a little blurred as he was inside the effective focal length of the lens, you



can see he is holding the phone.

I'll leave you to ponder that one then, if anyone was a sparrow in a past life and can answer my question I'd be thrilled to know.

With meteorological spring having started on 1st March and astronomical spring only a few days away now (March 20th) as I look into my garden, in the space of only 10 minutes I watched, Blackbirds and Jackdaws cleaning the twigs off the Silver Birch from my lawn and Blue tits bobbing in and out of one of the many nest boxes I have provided for them and Dunnock's surveying the tangle of climbers growing up the fence.

Hope you remembered to clean out those nest boxes.

Until next time, stay safe.



***Coli Bob***

## **Stoke Golding's Vigil for Ukraine on Saturday March 5th**



A candlelit vigil was held on the evening of Saturday the 5th March at Stoke Golding Village Hall where many of us spent a quiet moment together reflecting on the crisis unfolding in Ukraine.

We were encouraged to bring donations to help those who have had to leave their homes and possessions behind. The response to the request for donations was amazing and soon the stage was piled full. Fortunately the scouts were on hand to help carry our contributions to the collection point inside the hall. Well done all, every little helps!

## The Big Sleep Out

Staff and students from St Martin's swapped their comfy bedrooms to sleep rough for the night to raise money for Lawrence House charity, in Hinckley, that helps homeless young people. We started our evening with an opening liturgy led by the children. The pupils had an opportunity to reflect on the Good Samaritan scripture reading and how they can show kindness and compassion to others. Louise, the manager from Lawrence house joined us and delivered a short talk on the history of Lawrence house and how they support young people. The 36 youngsters and 4 staff put themselves in the shoes of the homeless, with just coats, sleeping bags and cardboard boxes to brave the elements overnight, away from modern creature comforts. We all slept outside in the courtyard area of the school. The event on Friday 11th March 2022, aimed to raise awareness of youth homelessness and the pupils worked incredibly hard to raise lots of money. "This incredible experience has made me think deeper about what homeless people have to go through." said Callum Lee, Year 7

It was a brilliant experience to be a part of, watching our young people show such compassion and love for people that they may never meet and having the opportunity to make such a great impact to the work of Lawrence House. The event raised a fantastic total of £3,136.05.



*Lucy Chapman - Lay Chaplain*

## Talented Winners!

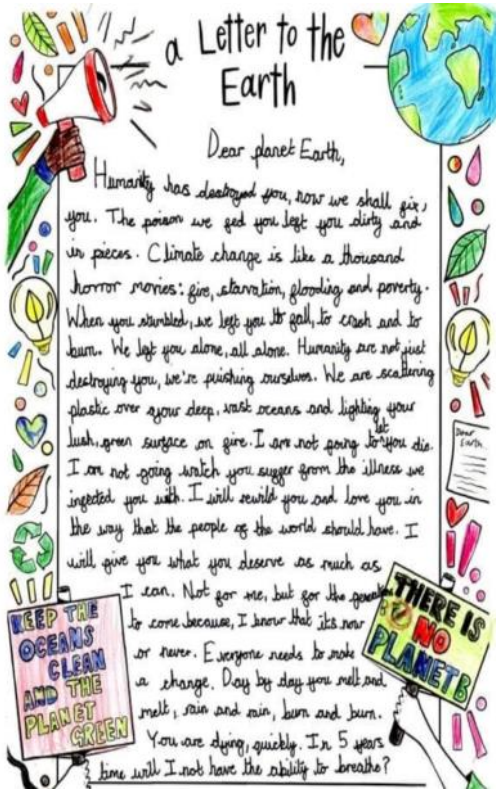
What amazing children we have at St. Margaret's Primary School  
All 3 winners of the Bosworth Rotary competition are from our school!

Young writer winner = Iris

Young artist winner = Mia

Young musician winner = Noah

There's enough talent to blow your socks off at St. Margaret's



## THIS ISLAND NATION (Pt. 2)

In last month's *Stoker* we had a whistle-stop tour of some of the UK's most inaccessible islands and extremities, including Out Stack (Shetland), Soay (St Kilda) and Rockall (and Lowestoft). Maybe, just maybe, you've ventured as far as Out Stack, but of Rockall it has been said (by a Scots politician) that more people have walked on the Moon than have set foot on that particular uninhabitable lump of rock. This is a gross exaggeration. Almost twenty people are known to have been to Rockall but only twelve have landed on the Moon. Rockall is a lot farther west and much more remote than anywhere else. It's 187 miles from Soay and 230 miles from North Uist, which is the nearest inhabited place. However, it was only claimed by the UK in 1955, and some countries, e.g. Ireland, dispute our right to the place. Not that they lay claim to it themselves, but they don't think we should have the strategic benefits that it confers, or the ability to impose territorial waters around it.

Rockall is officially, in the UK - administratively part of the island of Harris. Likewise, the Isles of Scilly are part of England, and Anglesey is part of Wales. However, there are other islands to consider. The Isle of Man and the Bailiwicks of Jersey and Guernsey are self-governing British Crown Dependencies. They do not form part of, and are separate from, the UK but they are not independent of it. They have never been in the European Union. The Bailiwick of Jersey consists of Jersey and a handful of neighbouring uninhabited rocks and islands. The Bailiwick of Guernsey comprises the inhabited islands of Guernsey, Alderney, Sark, Herm, Jethou and Lithou along with various uninhabited rocks and islets.

About nine miles south of Jersey lie Les Minquiers ('the Minkies'), a reef or group of islands and rocks. They are uninhabited but do boast some permanent buildings which are sometimes used for economic and leisure activity, e.g. tasks associated with fishing and the collection of seaweed for fertiliser. At a little over 800 miles more or less due south of Out Stack, Les Minquiers are the southernmost part of our country.



*Les Minquiers by Tony Paintin  
© Copyright by Jersey Birds Photo  
Gallery*

All these islands, plus many more which I haven't mentioned, make up what have been called 'the British Islands' (not the British Isles). They are the homes, some quite far-flung, of our island nation. We're accustomed to thinking of our island(s) home as pretty small compared to many other countries. And while that's true in one way, it doesn't give the whole picture when you consider the distance between Out Stack and Les Minquiers; or the 700 miles between North Rona and St Helier, the capital of Jersey; or the 550 miles between St Kilda and Lowestoft. By way of comparison, it's just over 700 miles from New

York to Chicago, which would take you across several US states; Stockholm to Vienna is between 700 and 800 miles, and Berlin to Rome is about the same distance. Either of those journeys would take you across various European countries.

So if you think of our country as a lozenge, with Out Stack at the top, Les Minquiers at the bottom, boring old Lowestoft Ness at the right hand side and on the left - well, you choose - Belleek? Soay? It amounts to quite a big bit of territory. And if you extend that territory out to Rockall it's huge. Well, quite big. Maybe it's a shame that about 99.999% of the population live in the lower right side (near Lowestoft) but a bit of geographical sleight of hand is fun if you're a nerd like me.

*Andy Tomsett*

## Village Gin!

Last Month saw the launch of David Tait's 'Golding's Gin. The George and Dragon hosted the launch and when we went down it was very busy. The gin is very unusual, my husband and I enjoyed the free sample so much we bought a bottle. It was fascinating hearing about the journey both Dave and his gin have been on. Hopefully we can interview him for a future edition of the Stoker and share his story.

After the event David had this to say 'Thank you to everyone who attended last week's launch of Goldings London Dry Gin. We were blown away by the level of support from the village and beyond. Stoke

Golding is a truly special community. We sold out in about 90 minutes and at some points the pub was at full capacity with people waiting in the marquee! Captain Pete won the 1st official bottle. £200 raffle monies is now on its way to Mary Ann Evans Hospice, Nuneaton. The George and Dragon is the first, and for a while the only, pub stocking our Signature gin behind the bar. So if you haven't tried it yet pop in for a G&T. I have a day job as a pharmacist working for the NHS. I started Goldings Distillery Ltd three or four years in advance of retirement. Therefore initially our production capacity is currently limited to about 30 to 40 bottles a month.'

We wish David well with the next stage of his gin journey.

*Kate Poyser Clark.*



## Henry Despenser - The Fighting Bishop

Of all the locals of note that have appeared in The Stoker, Henry Despenser's association with our local area is the most tenuous, but his story is still worth telling. In 1361, a nobleman, Edward Despenser, Lord of Glamorgan, held the advowson of Market Bosworth church, that is the right to appoint its rector. He decided that the perfect man for the job of "curing souls" was his younger brother, Henry, who was just nineteen. As Henry was studying at Oxford at the time and went on to become rector of a number of other parishes, it is unlikely that he cured many souls in Bosworth, no doubt relying on a deputy to do the day to day work whilst he collected an income. He wasn't even an ordained priest at the time although he did go on to take holy orders and in 1370, he became the Bishop of Norwich.

In an age where politics and religion were deeply intertwined, Henry seems to have spent most of his life falling out with his clergy and fighting. Not that he was anywhere near as controversial as his great grandfather and grandfather, Hugh Le Despenser and Hugh the Younger who were the much despised favourites of Edward II. He gained his soubriquet 'The Fighting Bishop' in 1381 during the Peasant's Revolt. Whilst the headline act was the confrontation between the peasants' leader Wat Tyler and Richard II in Smithfield Market, smaller rebellions broke out across the country and in Norfolk, led by a local dyer, Geoffrey Litster, the rebels looted Norwich before moving to Yarmouth. Henry, already an experienced military commander, set off from his country estate in Rutland to confront them, gathering an army as he went. The rebel forces were defeated at the Battle of North Walsham with Henry leading his troops into the fray of hand to hand fighting. The rebel leaders who survived were hanged, drawn and quartered, the Bishop personally supervising the gruesome execution of Litster. Such was the rigour with which Henry sought retribution that he became a deeply unpopular man in the county, surviving a plot to murder him the following year.

Later that year he was commissioned by Pope Urban VI to lead a crusade in Flanders. The country had been invaded by the French King Charles VI and forced to recognise a rival pope, Clement VII who was based in Avignon. The Norwich Crusade appears to have been a bit of a damp squib. Henry's army, after an initial small victory attempted, without success, to besiege the town of Ypres. When this enterprise failed, Henry's army split up, some returning home, others eventually being besieged themselves by the French. For his inept handling, Henry was impeached in Parliament on his return. The fall from grace didn't last long as two years later, he was accompanying the young Richard II on a campaign against the Scots. Eventually, his fighting days came to a close and he became engaged in a different kind of battle with his monks over

their autonomy. This conflict eventually involved the pope and the Archbishop of Canterbury. When Richard II was deposed by his cousin, Henry Bolingbroke, later Henry IV, Henry chose to support Richard. Eventually pardoned by the new king, Henry withdrew from public life and died in 1406. He is buried in Norwich Cathedral close to the reredos.

*M Dix*

## Scouts Update

The scout Group have been busy .....

All sections of the group have been making pancakes with a variety of fillings including Nutella and banana as well as using chocolate coins left over from Xmas. Don't say we never re-cycle ! And enjoying eating them as well.

The beavers started the skills challenge which is a rather involved badge and have learnt to tie their necker , light a match, tie a shoe lace and know their telephone number and where they live - all life skills as well. The Scouts had a talk from Help The Heroes and presented them with monies raised from the Peace Tea we held after the Remembrance Day service.

The explorers and scouts were asked by the Parish Council to help out sorting out donations for Ukraine at the village hall. About 20 scouts and explorers helped out and there was a lot of donations. Several members of the public thanked them for their help. They also took part in the candlelit vigil that was held that evening as well.

The cubs have been very creative making Mother's Day activities from flower printing, decorating photo frames, celebration fruit meringue surprise and cards.

They had the option to take the flower printing pictures home or donate them to brighten up the surgery. One cub insisted on giving her picture to the surgery as she said " they had saved her life". A warming heartfelt gesture - it doesn't get better than that. !!

*Fiona Shilladay*



# Church Matters



## From St Margaret's and St James's Church



Dear friends,

It is a great privilege to be asked to write for our village magazine in the month of April, because most years Easter occurs during the month and this year is no exception.

For many people Christmas is a more important time, with lots of present buying, parties and family get-togethers; but for me Easter is THE season for lots of reasons.

For a start, the Easter season isn't just one day. It lasts for 7 weeks – the 'Fifty Great Days' as they were called in the early church - and joy is the constant theme. Week by week too, we hear the accounts of Jesus appearing to his disciples – in the upper room, on the road to Emmaus, by the lakeside and finally on the mountain when he returns to his Father in heaven.

I wonder what your particular picture of heaven is? For some, heaven is crossing the Jordan and meeting St Peter at the pearly gates. Then there are those who dream of having a rest after their busy lives and possibly sitting on clouds and playing their harps!

I once had a conversation with an architect who was so excited about the picture of the heavenly Jerusalem we are given in the Bible, that he had drawn the plans as if it were something he was going to build – and then he couldn't wait to get to heaven and check it out.

Eggs are very much to the fore at Easter too – and not just the chocolate variety either (although it wouldn't be the same without one or two chocolate treats, would it?). They, along with lambs and other new life are signs of hope.

And then for me it's the daffodils and lilies as well. With their trumpet-shaped flowers I think of them as musical instruments sounding out the traditional Easter acclamation:

*Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!*

May God bless you all this Easter season and fill you with joy and hope.

*Patty*



## Church of England Services March 2022

### St Margaret's, Stoke Golding

3 April	10.30am	Morning Prayer
10 April	10.30am	Benefice Communion WITHERLEY
14 April	7.30pm	Holy Communion/footwashing
17 April	10.30am	Easter Holy Communion
24 April	10.30am	Morning Worship

### St James', Dadlington

3 April	9.00am	Morning Prayer
10 April	10.30am	Benefice Communion WITHERLEY
15 April	2.00pm	Hour at the Cross
17 April	9.00am	Easter Holy Communion

## STOKE GOLDING METHODIST CHURCH

### April Services 2022

SUNDAY APRIL 3RD AT 10.30AM  
REVD PATRICIA MUKOROMBINDO  
THIS SERVICE WILL INCLUDE  
HOLY COMMUNION

EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 17TH  
AT 10.30AM  
PAT STARBUCK  
FLOWERS WILL BE PROVIDED  
TO DECORATE THE EASTER  
CROSS OR YOU CAN CHOOSE  
TO BRING YOUR OWN



SUNDAY  
APRIL 10TH  
AT 3.00PM

#### AT ST MARGARET'S CHURCH

We will be walking from St Margaret's to the Methodist Church in a Palm Sunday procession with a real donkey!

Coffee Morning for  
St George's Day

SATURDAY APRIL 23<sup>RD</sup>  
10.00- 11.30 AM



Date for your diaries ...  
The Jubilee Spring Fair

SATURDAY 28TH MAY 10.00AM –  
2.00PM

ALL THE USUAL STALLS  
PLUS SOME NEW ONES!



## Thank You to the Villagers

Thank you all who voted in the referendum on the 3rd March 2022. I am pleased to say the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Development Plan is now 'made' and becomes part of the Planning Regulations.

This is a culmination of several years' work by the Neighbourhood Plan Group and the Parish Council. I would like to thank everyone who has been involved, in whatever capacity, from the beginning to the end.

Unfortunately, it is not the complete end. As the Planning Regulations change, so the Neighbourhood Plan will need to be brought up to date.

I'm sure there will be a place for anyone who wants to help with this process in the future.

Only time will tell whether the NP will be beneficial to the village, but the Parish Council will continue to do everything in its power to enable Stoke Golding residents to decide the future of your village.

*Cllr Rachel Terheege (Chair)*

### Answers to Ten of a Kind

1. Spencer Percival
2. Winston Churchill
3. David Lloyd George
4. Gladstone bag - a small suitcase much favoured at one time by the medical profession
5. 5 - Blair, Brown, Cameron, May and Johnson
6. Grantham
7. Paul Eddington
8. Chancellor of the Exchequer
9. Luxury items on Desert Island Discs: whisky - David Cameron, a tennis ball machine and racket - Gordon Brown, a guitar - Tony Blair, a photo album (of her children) - Margaret Thatcher, and a scale model of the Oval cricket ground with a bowling machine - John Major
10. Peace for our time



# Obituary



## **Susan Cheese**

Susan (Sue) Marjorie Cheese of Stoke Golding, passed peacefully away at home on 16th February, 2022, aged 76 years. Beloved wife of John, much loved mum of Alison, Caroline and Lorraine and a treasured grandma and great grandma. Sue will be sadly missed by her family and friends. Donations in memory of Sue may be made to the M S Society via Heart of England Co-op Funerals, Earl Shilton, Tel: 8444400.

*The Stoker team send our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Susan*



## **The Baxter Hall, Stoke Golding A Perfect Place for Your Gathering**

The Community Hall, within The Baxter Hall, is a bright, attractive space suitable for community groups, small businesses (such as exercise classes) and private parties. It can accommodate up to 45 people seated around tables and has clean, modern kitchen and toilet facilities.

For more information about booking the hall take a look on our website

[www.thebaxterhall.com](http://www.thebaxterhall.com) or contact Alison

Bates, our booking clerk, Ring 213779 (before 9pm please) or email [bookings@thebaxterhall.com](mailto:bookings@thebaxterhall.com)



**We would love to hear from you.**

## **CASAG and Surgery News**

We would like to thank so many of our kind and supportive patients at Castle Mead Medical Centre and Pine Close Surgery, who over the last 2 years have understood the challenges the practices have faced during these unprecedented times. A significant change in the way of working, rolling out a huge Covid-19 vaccination campaign whilst managing increased patient demand and relentless staff illness and shortages, has meant we have had to constantly dig deep and pull together.

We are pleased to report we have a number of new staff in an attempt to meet the increasing patient demand. These include 2 new practice nurses, a nursing associate and salaried GP. We have also recruited practice pharmacists to deal with many of the medication queries; to ensure GP appointments are utilised to their best ability. At Pine Close Surgery, we have Amanda, our advanced nurse practitioner, working most mornings alongside a GP.

Unfortunately there has been a significant increase in incidents where staff members have been abused verbally, both over the phone, in person and on social media.

Abuse to our staff is upsetting and demoralising especially when our staff are trying to do their very best to help you. We have great sympathy for those who are distressed trying to get help for themselves and loved ones in these challenging times. However we ask you to remain kind to our staff.

Sadly when abuse does occur it might be necessary in many cases to remove the patient from our list.

We always want to provide the best service to our patients that we can so please use the patients suggestion slips at our surgeries. These are discussed anonymously at the CASAG - Castle Mead and Stoke Golding Action group which is made up of patient representatives from both surgeries and acted upon.

Alternatively, if you have a more formal complaint, please follow the practice complaints procedure. Furthermore, we have a patient participation group who are always looking for new members and value any ideas you may have to make things better for all patients and their families.

***Castle Mead and Stoke Golding surgeries***



## Kitchen Corner

### Minced Tart



So many recipes for Mince, this one however is different, delicious, and easy.

#### INGREDIENTS

8ozs. (250gms.) Shortcrust Pastry  
1lb.(450gms.) Lean Beef Mince  
1 large Carrot, peeled and roughly chopped  
1 large Onion, peeled and chopped  
1 stick of Celery, washed and chopped  
1 Chicken Stock Cube  
1 Tin of Condensed Chicken Soup  
1 heaped tblsp. Tomato Puree  
1tblsp. Plain Flour  
Salt & Pepper  
1 beaten Egg

#### METHOD

Pre-heat the oven to 200C/400F or Gas Mark 6.  
Grease an 8" (20cm.) Flan dish.  
Roll out 2/3rds of the pastry and line the dish, bake blind for 15 minutes, then remove the lining paper and beans and brush the surface with a little beaten egg and bake for a further 5 minutes.  
Remove from the oven and set aside.  
Put a little oil into a sauté pan or wok and fry the beef mince until it

is brown all over, stirring frequently. Set aside whilst you tackle the vegetables.

Put the soup into a blender, together with the chopped carrot, onion and celery, add the stock cube and blend until fairly smooth. Stop the machine every now and then and scrape the sides down. Now add the tomato puree and blend again.

Return the beef to the heat and stir in the flour and cook for 2 minutes, then pour in the liquidised ingredients and cook for 4-5 minutes, Season to taste and put the mixture into the flan case.

Brush the edges of the pie with a little beaten egg. Roll out the rest of the pastry and cut into strips, then make a lattice top. Brush again with beaten egg.

Place in the oven for 30 minutes until the pastry is brown.

If any of the family do not like certain vegetables, this tart is a good way of disguising them!

*If any of the readers of the Stoker have any queries, do not hesitate to get in touch with the Stoker team and I will try to help.*

### **ANSWERS to CRYPTIC CITIES AND TOWNS IN THE U.K.**

1. London, 2. Cheltenham, 3. Watford, 4 Stockport, 5.Harrogate,
6. Cannock, 7. Plymouth, 8. Luton, 9. Oldham, 10. Huddersfield

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If interested, please contact us at [thestoker@gmx.co.uk](mailto:thestoker@gmx.co.uk)

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