

July/August 2021

No. 203

The Stoker



Stoke Golding Village Magazine

Including

Dadlington Matters

70p



Note from the Editors

We are really pleased there are even more events to look forward to in July and August in our villages. We all need some community events to cheer us up after all the cancellations over the past eighteen months.



It was very disappointing to hear that the Wykin Lane housing development has been approved despite such a brilliant campaign from The Friends of the Community and it is extremely worrying about how vulnerable Stoke Golding and Dadlington are now to any amount of development, resulting in potentially several hundred new houses being built and the impact this will have on our roads and services (pages 4-5).

On a more positive note we can continue to enjoy the beautiful countryside around us and have really been enjoying all of your photographs and nature observations.

Remember you can have free delivery of the Stoker with your annual subscription (page 9).

Please do keep sending us your news and photos.

Stay safe, Jane and Steve

The Stoker Team

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Please send articles for the **September** issue of The Stoker **by 15th August** to:

**The Editors, 45 Station Road, Stoke Golding.
Email thestoker@gmx.co.uk**

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

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

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

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

Cover picture: "Bath Piece" - also known as "Duck Bend" - photo Vicki Palmer

Leicester Animal Aid Charity Night in memory of Looby Saturday 7th August from 8pm



Looby (Linda Smith) sadly passed away earlier this year after a long illness and like many other people her friends were unable to say goodbye. Looby's favourite charity was Leicester Animal Aid and we are holding a Charity Night in her name on Saturday 7th August from 8pm onwards. It is £5 entrance fee (which will include light refreshments) and a raffle and Auction (Care of Mr Philip Ray). A BIG thankyou to all of you Stokers who have given generously. We are still looking for things to auction and raffle.....if anyone has anything it will be gratefully received. ALL monies taken on the night are going to Leicester Animal Aid. *Sue Colledge*

Stoke Golding Scarecrow Festival



Thank you to the year 1 and 2 children who coloured in some amazing scarecrows for publicity for the scarecrow festival. Our festival is over the bank holiday weekend again this year and this year's theme is "Around the World" which seems appropriate since we can't do much real traveling round the world yet this summer. Entry is £5 and entry forms can be found in the village notice board in Church Walk, in the Scarecrow Box at 38 Wykin Lane or by the Book Swap Shed at 75 Station Road. Completed entry forms and money should be posted in the secure letter box at 38 Wykin Lane. Keep an eye on the notice board and on our Stoke Golding Scarecrow Festival Facebook page for more information as we get nearer to the Bank Holiday Weekend. We will have a nominated village charity again, as well as be encouraging people to have stalls of any sort on their own drives and front lawns fundraising for the nominated charity or for any charity of their own choice, or even just raising funds for personal projects and savings boxes.

Shiona Alston

Housing Developments in Stoke Golding How Much is Too Much and Where Will it End?

We are sure that by now most villagers will know that the developers were successful in their appeal to build up to 55 houses on Wykin Lane. This was despite massive opposition from villagers, as evidenced by 100s of letters of objection. This was also despite a professional, well researched and well evidenced campaign led by the Friends of the Community (FOTC) on behalf of the village. The Planning Inspector in his summing up acknowledged the issues raised by the community including:

- Safety of Wykin Lane particularly for vulnerable road users.
- Affect on local landscape character.
- Lack of local school places.
- Over subscribed GP services.
- Poor public transport and lack of sustainable transport options.
- Non compliance with the current Hinckley Local Plan and our own emerging Neighbourhood Plan.

Having noted all these issues the Inspector then promptly dismissed them or gave them very limited "weight". In the end they were all "trumped" by Hinckley Council's failure to demonstrate an up to date local plan and a 5 year housing supply.

Wykin Lane and Roseway developments (both now approved) together with the Bosworth Manor and Convent developments already completed will deliver more than 4 times the housing allocation for Stoke Golding specified in the Hinckley Local Plan!

But that is not the end of it. Just recently a planning application for 70 houses on Hinckley Road (Stoke Fields Farm) has been formally submitted. Also Jelsons have indicated that they want to extend the Bosworth Manor development further towards Dadlington. We know a developer has bought the land between Station Road and Higham Lane and has been surveying again recently and there have been reports of surveying activity at Mulberry Farm, and of course there is an application for behind the White Swan.

So the big, unanswered question is "how much is too much?" The majority of villagers believe we are already beyond this point. But what about the planners - at what point will they say that more development is not sustainable? It's a big concern because at the moment there does not seem to be a limit to development and the genuine issues raised by the village are simply dismissed as unimportant.

We think the village deserves an answer to the question "how much is too much?" and an explanation of what steps are being taken to protect

us from further opportunistic development. We would suggest that our elected Borough, County and Parliamentary representatives between them should be providing us with an answer to these questions. Perhaps you would like to ask them?

By the time you read this article you may have received a leaflet from the FOTC with more information about what you can do, if not you should hear soon. Certainly they are looking for new people to come forward and carry on the fight. The formal deadline for commenting on the Hinckley Road application is 30th June but an extension has been requested and, in any event, the council will accept late comments. The application reference is 21/00656/OUT and comments can be submitted through the Hinckley Council website.

We need to continue to make our voices heard. Enough is enough.

The Stoker Editors

Breeding Plumage Red-backed Shrike near The Lime Kilns



On Sunday morning June 6th I was notified with regard to the appearance of a Red-backed Shrike along a footpath just beyond the top of Hydes Lane which is a turn off from the A5 opposite The Lime Kilns. On arriving on site early afternoon, I learnt that many keen birdwatchers had already seen this wonderful pristine breeding male throughout the morning.

There was about eight of us present including the finder, Jack Warner. He informed us that he was indeed a birder who regularly visited the area as much to cover quite some distance walking as to observe the movement of migrants. Indeed, he had no optics with him when the bird had appeared on the hedge at the side of the wide main footpath early that morning.

It is very rare for this species to appear inland: breeding plumaged males are at a premium anywhere and at any time. Although Red-backed Shrikes are quite scarce, they do appear annually on the east and south coasts between May and Mid-June and from August to late October. In any case this was an absolute gem for the finder.

David Abbott, Stoke Golding

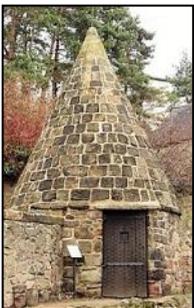
Historic Journeys: The Village Lock Up



During the second phase of the first lockdown, when you could travel by car a few miles for your daily exercise, my wife and I began a series of walks that took us to Ashby de la Zouch. As we approached the weirdly named Drum and Monkey Lane in the village of Packington, we encountered a strange little building set into the roadside wall. Closer inspection revealed that it was the old village lock up or round house, built in the late 18th century and donated to the village by the Countess of Loudoun on whose land it had been constructed.

Regular readers will know that there's nothing that I enjoy more than collecting historic buildings and structures; Cathedrals, Eleanor Crosses, Welsh Castles etc. Perhaps I might find a few more of these to visit. A quick Google persuaded me that this wasn't going to be possible as there are around 200 of these structures dotted across the length of England. What did intrigue me was the small cluster of six that, for some inexplicable reason, had survived in a small area within a five mile radius of Calke Abbey, including three of Leicestershire's four remaining buildings. That was surely worth a trip.

My first destination was Worthington, six miles north east of Packington. Set on the junction of two roads in the centre of the village, the brick built, conical structure was easy to find. A helpful plaque explained that the building had been used to house alleged criminals in the days before county police forces came into being. The village constable would confine his suspects in the lock up until he had means of taking them to the nearest justices, most likely in Ashby. Later they became far more regularly used to lock up drunks and hotheads overnight to let them sober up and calm down.



My next destination was Breedon on the Hill where the lock up was situated in the centre of the old village that nestles beneath the hill. Half of Breedon's hill has been quarried away, leaving the church teetering on the edge of a vertical cliff face, a dramatic backdrop to the round house. This building was made of stone with a conical stone roof. The only light the prisoner would have had was from a small grill in the door and so these places of confinement were also known as blind-houses, and also as jugs, kitties, cages and bone-houses.

My first Derbyshire village was Swarkstone. Not only did it take ages to cross and recross the Swarkstone causeway, a long narrow road with passing places over the River Trent, but I failed to find the lock up. In truth, I failed to find Swarkstone. Resorting to the internet, I discovered that the lock up was a pile of stones by a pub, awaiting reconstruction. I abandoned my search and set off for Ticknall.



This was another brick construction. It is said that the landlady of the nearby pub, Granny Soar, discovered she had a key that would open the lock up. When a group of revellers were incarcerated there one evening, their wives badgered Eliza to release them. When the constable unlocked the cell the next day, he was quite bewildered to find it empty. The construction of many lock ups in Derbyshire followed a 1790 court order requiring all villages to provide a place to house ne'er-do-wells. The order also suggested that they might be used for vagrants when not filled with

villains.

My final lock up, in the centre of the small village of Smisby, was a square brick built edifice. After the County Police Act of 1839, police stations with holding cells were constructed around the country and the lock up became redundant. Many became sentry posts for air raid wardens and the Home Guard during World War II or they were used to store weapons. I have not come across any mention of a lock up in Stoke Golding or Dadlington in my research although it is highly likely that Stoke would have had somewhere to hold miscreants. If any readers have knowledge of this then please let me know.



Michael Dix

Mistress Hester Hodges Exhibition Foundation

At their November meeting, the Trustees make awards of small amounts of money to students. To be eligible, the following conditions must be met:

Two years attendance at St Margaret's C of E Aided Primary School, SG. **Main residence** in Stoke Golding. **Attained the age of** 16 years or more and be undertaking further education at University in September/October 2021

Application forms are available from September either from the Stoke Golding noticeboard or 85 Hinckley Road or by emailing hstrhodges@gmail.com. All Application forms must be returned to 85 Hinckley Road, Stoke Golding by 28th October 2021

I Was There - Again

It was in 2016 that I first wrote about my beloved Leicester City as the relegation favourites made world news, winning the Premier League. There then followed two articles on their exploits in Europe that I followed, home and away. Well, here we go again. The build-up to the FA Cup Final was quite unlike any of my previous Wembley visits, the government solely interested in the logistics of managing a large crowd as COVID restrictions began to ease, and consequently providing very little detail to the supporters of the two clubs involved until very late in the day. If the game itself was tense, the two weeks before was equally so. Would I get a ticket? Would I be able to book a lateral flow test? Would I get the results in time, would I get a negative result, would my phone have enough battery by the time we got to the stadium to prove I was negative? Affirmative to all these, although I took a portable charger with me just in case.



One of the government stipulations was for fans with an LE post code to travel down by coach but, as my post code is CV, I began searching train times, looking forward to travelling by rail for the first time in over a year. However, when my friend rang to say he'd booked the tickets, it transpired that I too had to use the coach. The information told us we could travel from Enderby Park and Ride but we were turned away because we didn't have 'Enderby' printed on our tickets. With much grumbling, we set off for the King Power Stadium: fortunately, we'd given ourselves plenty of time. We moved through the queue that snaked around the ground pretty quickly, and then we stopped. We'd seen a few coaches leave already, but their replacements were conspicuous by their absence. We waited and we waited: and then it began to rain. There were occasional announcements that were impossible to decipher due to an annoying lack of tannoys where we were standing. Gallows humour came to the fore as emails of complaint were being formulated. The appearance of the first coach, after an hour getting very soggy, brought the first of many cheers that day and the journey down to London was incident-free on our socially distanced, mask-wearing coach.

The atmosphere outside the stadium was electric. There was drinking and singing as the sun made a rare appearance. Inside the stadium was even better, as most of the lower tiers were filled with supporters from both clubs. Every other seat was allocated and I, for one, enjoyed the additional space it afforded us. Beneath each seat was a goody bag from the club, complete with scarf, badge and rosette, all of which I wore, face paints which I decided not to use, and a blue hat with bells. Singing Abide With Me brought back memories of watching the cup final on the television in my youth, the coverage lasting most of the day as I remember.

The game itself was hardly a classic, although the drama of the winning goal, two amazing saves and the VAR decision made for a memorable climax. During breaks in play, the Leicester supporters serenaded Gary Lineker, leaning on the railings of a gantry to our left. Unlike the year of televised games that I've endured, where I become a mass of quivering jelly unless we have a three goal lead, I felt calm throughout, and very measured until the final whistle went. Then we all went crazy. Leicester City, the record holding FA Cup losers had only gone and won it - and I was there, again!



Michael Dix

*****Stoker Subscription Renewals Due October 2021-September 2022*****

Hello all Stoker subscription members. If you have had a subscription with us, your renewals are now due. As we enjoyed a celebratory 20th anniversary free issue this year thanks to the Thomas Barton Trust, the amount for the next annual subscription will be **£6.30**.

We would be most grateful if you could pay electronically by BACS to the Stoker bank account - Account Name: Stoke Golding Village Magazine, Account No: 60748536, Sort Code: 20 23 60. Please identify your payment using the first 4 letters of the street you live in followed by the first 4 letters of your surname. We would be grateful if you could email us at thestoker@gmx.co.uk to let us know you have made a BACS payment so we can check it has gone through ok.

If you cannot pay this way, we can of course accept cheques made payable to the Stoke Golding Village Magazine, or cash in envelopes, which you can drop in at the following addresses:

Jane White – 45 Station Road, Stoke Golding

Kate Clark – 23 Wykin Lane, Stoke Golding

Sandra Pollard – 87 Hinckley Road, Stoke Golding

Michael Dix – 14 Shenton Lane, Dadlington

If you cannot manage to deliver the subscription, or you require any help or assistance please do contact me on 07983084427 or email me at katepoyserclark@gmail.com

If you are interested in subscribing to the Stoker the annual subscription is £7.00, please email or call me to set up your subscription.

Many thanks to all our volunteers who deliver the Stoker we couldn't do it without you.

Kate Clark

Fantastic News!!

The Stoke Golding 90th Celebratory Open Garden Show is planned to go ahead on Saturday 28th August 2021.

We will be bringing our usual timings forward to incorporate live music entertainment from GoDaddyDaddy from approx 9.30pm.

The exhibits room will be **FREE ENTRY** and open to view from 5pm onwards. Competitors are invited to pop along with their entries between 10-12pm on the day.

All of our usual facilities will be available.

Programmes will be ready from early August. Happy to post out if an address is supplied. Send us a message with the details.

Any questions? Need more information? Feel free to contact us and we will do our very best to help.

Stoke Golding Garden Show 90th Celebratory Open Show

**Saturday 28th August 2021
Stoke Golding Club**

Flowers, vegetables, homemade produce, novice, childrens' section and much more...

- ◆ 5pm - Open to the public (free admission to everyone)
- ◆ 7pm - Presentations (class/section winners)
- ◆ 7.20pm - Clear Down
- ◆ 7.45pm - Grand Auction (come and bid on the produce!)
- ◆ 8pm - Grand Raffle
- ◆ 9.30pm - Live band entertainment 'GoDaddyDaddy'

**Free public admission from 5pm
Competitors from 10-12pm
Programmes available early August onwards**

**For more information contact
Tina: 07809629690**

PS this is a 'Big Event Weekend' in Stoke Golding as the **Scarecrow Festival** will also be in full swing - entertainment for all the family!



“A BED, A BED, MY MARRIAGE FOR A BED”

By Bill Rattlelance (William Shakespeare’s brother)

Five years ago, while working as a guide at Bosworth Battlefield, I took a group of people to Merevale, just outside Atherstone to visit the church and remaining ruins of Merevale Abbey, which is where Henry Tudor is supposed to have stayed the evening before the Battle of Bosworth.

As part of the tour, I made reference to RIII staying in Leicester on the eve of the battle and the legend about his bed. At this point, one of the group, Ian Coulson, pulled out of his rucksack a piece of wood, carved in the shape of a Lion and stated that he has Henrys bed.

Ian purchased the bed at auction in 2010 from a Hotel in Chester for £2,200. Since then, he has researched the origin of the bed and, after spending lots of time and money, he has, with the help of the British Museum and Historian Dr Jonathan Foyle, been able to confirm that the bed is the marriage bed of Henry Tudor (Henry VII after Bosworth) and Elizabeth of York.

The bed is the one that went with Henry as he travelled around the country and may have been used by him when he revisited Merevale in 1503. It is most likely the bed where his sons Arthur (who died young) and Henry (later Henry VIII) were conceived.

There is a very good video showing the story of the bed which can be seen via YouTube. It is called ‘The First State Bed of Henry VII & Elizabeth of York and lasts 39 minutes 15 seconds.

So, what of the bed now? The bed was on exhibition at Hever Castle in 2015, but is still yet to be put into a permanent exhibition venue. The bed must be carefully looked after as it is now estimated to be worth £20,000,000.00 (That right, twenty million pounds) *Eddie Smallwood*



The National Garden Scheme 8 Hinckley Road, Stoke Golding

I am due to open my garden as part of the National Garden Scheme on Saturday 3rd (12-4pm) and Sunday 4th July (12-3pm).

There will be plants for sale and refreshments available. At present, admission is by pre-booked ticket only (via ngs.org.uk) but this may be subject to change following guidance from the NGS. Their website will be updated with any changes nearer to the opening dates.



I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

John

Re Collie Bob's notes in the June Stoker

What Goes Around Comes Around or Are There No Records?

The attached photo shows the state of the towpath back in 2012 between bridges 25 (Station Road) and 26 (Marina) which for historic reasons never got the Council/Manpower Services Scheme repairs as the rest of the local towpaths did. The shown mud and puddle is not just surface damage and rain as we are sadly used to on the towpaths today but canal overtopping the worn path and being in danger of escaping down in to the Station yard.

The Ashby Canal Association volunteers put together a plan, along with the then new Canal and River Trust, to repair the section as a joint venture using volunteer labour from the ACA and local community, CRT supplying the materials, equipment and expert guidance.

The presence of water voles was known but to what extent was unclear. CRT shipped in an expert and every burrow along the stretch was recorded and marked and clear instructions supplied to us by the CRT Senior Ecologist as to how we should work in the area.

Thanks to a fantastic effort by the volunteers and CRTs local leader the length was secured, revetment boards laid and many tons of stone spread. The voles had a much more substantial bank to burrow in (the opposite bank was partially cleared of overhanging trees by a later work party to encourage colonisation of that side) and towpath users had a more pleasant surface.



Clearly any records of that professional survey have been lost or the present ecology team would have been well aware of how prolific the voles were in this area. It shows how important the observations and lobbying done by those who care about the environment is.

Martyn Plant

Stoke Golding Scout Group

The Scout group is still operating under the same regulations. We have only been back a few weeks due to half term.

The Scouts and Explorers have been doing their Adventure Challenge Badge and did a walk back to the Village Hall along the canal. I went on that walk and it was a bit more like a route march at cracking speed, rather than a Sunday stroll. They have also had visitors from the British Orienteering Team who helped out with an orienteering exercise at Bosworth Park. Again the Scouts and Explorers were blessed with the recent good weather.

The Cubs have been doing their Navigator badge and learning and playing games in grid references and compass directions. They still have map design and a walk to do.

The Beavers have been doing their Outdoor challenge badge - identifying nature stuff which included wild flowers, trees, squirrels but the bees had gone to their beds!

The Beavers have also been making their own sandwiches and drink and having a picnic. They are going for a walk too.

So all sections of the group have been taking full advantage of the recent good weather with Outdoor activities as we approach the end of term.

Jennifer



The George and Dragon Funday 15th August



The George and Dragon is to hold it's "Charity Funday" on Sunday 15th August, with all the usual stalls and entertainments. Alex and her team are looking for local charities that they can raise money for at this event. All ideas welcome. Please contact Alex at the pub.



Bob's Focus - Amazing Animals

Another 4 weeks have flown by since I sat here last time to do my bit for the Stoker, the weather has turned and, as I type, its in the mid 20s outside. Now is the time for all the wonderful bugs,

butterflies, dragonflies and bees to emerge and make the most of those re-wilded areas I was banging on about last month.

Last month we had a setback with the contractors on the canal, who work for the Canal and River Trust, I am afraid. Despite reassurances they conducted another, second untimely hedge to waters side cut, destroying a lot of the wild flowers that had popped their heads above the grassy parapet. They were challenged by a couple of friends in the village but they merely shrugged their shoulders and said they were just doing as they were instructed!

The day after I went down and videoed the carnage left by the indiscriminate strimming, I loaded up the email and fired it off to their senior ecologist, it may have been clear that this bunny was far from happy!

Water voles are fully protected under sec 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981(as amended). Schedule 5 of this Act makes it an offence to intentionally damage or obstruct access to water vole burrows.



It's fair to say the ecologist was surprised they had done it again and she made contact immediately with their Contracts Manager, who confirmed that they had not cut to specification. The contractors have a map to work from that shows the presence of water voles on our section and as such the grass cutting staff are required to be trained.

The Contracts manager should, by now have communicated with the contractors to ensure this does not happen again. The banks need careful management to ensure that the voles have cover from predators (Herons, buzzards, kestrels to name but a few) If I could spot 8 between two bridges early yesterday morning, so can our fleet of

airborne raptors. With improved cover, wildflowers will flourish and so will our insects with obvious knock on benefits.

Well I have to say I am becoming more like Jonny Morris as I get older, as you know I love taking pictures of wildlife on my walks but sometimes the animals just don't want to play ball and pose.

The other day, Winnie's nose started twitching like a mouse in a snake charmers basket whilst doing the old Collie prance up and down. I just caught sight of a fox behind a big clump of nettles, I waited



camera levelled and ready to fire but it wasn't going to happen. Without really thinking about it I started to purse my lips and make squeaking noises, within seconds Reynard broke his cover to see what all the fuss was about-CLICK!!

The following day I could see something in the long grass , rabbit maybe a hare so I employed the squeak again, instantly two European Meerkats (Rabbits) sat bolt upright - CLICK!!



Yesterday morning as I passed through a stile at Poplars Farm I heard a juvenile Green Woodpecker somewhere in the large oak next to the bridge over the ditch, I was really close but couldn't see it. A quick shoulder check confirmed I wasn't being followed by any men in white coats so I tried my best Woodpecker

call(another squeak but louder) After a about a minute it was a no show so I thought, hmm maybe it was the wrong dialect and started walking to the next stile, then like a laughing green Exocet it shot over my head and landed right in front of me, checking me out and no doubt thinking daddy had put a bit of timber on - CLICK!!

Well thats enough Animal Magic for this month, I'm off to enjoy "Flaming June".

Dadlington Matters

Dadlington Singer Needs Your Votes.



Chelsie Faulks has been working as a performer for several years now, after achieving First Class BA (Hons) degree in Theatre and Professional Practice at Coventry University.

During the last year or so things have been tricky for Chelsie, but during the Pandemic she formed a Piano and Vocal Duo with Nicole, a friend of hers.

She put out weekly videos on their [Chelsie & Nicole, Piano and Vocal Duo](#) Facebook Page to keep people entertained and to make them feel like performing

was still an option. Their hard work has paid off and they have been nominated for the Muddy Stilettos “Best New Covid Business Award” in Leicestershire and Rutland.

Chelsie would really appreciate as many votes as possible - just follow the link so they can hopefully reach the final <https://leics.muddystilettos.co.uk/nominate/>



Earlier this year Chelsie won the Best Wedding Entertainment in Leicestershire Award.

Congratulations Chelsie from us all at the Stoker. It is so good to celebrate local talent, especially in such difficult times for entertainers.



Stoke Golding WI June Meeting Leicester Animal Aid

We had our June meeting on Zoom again and our speaker was Helen Wilbur from Leicester Animal Aid. The refuge was set up by Dorothea Farndon in 1960 and she found her first premises in Thurmaston. The centre is now based at a great facility in Huncote.

The centre caters mainly for cats and dogs and when each animal arrives it goes through a thorough check up including vet check-up, vaccinations, microchip check, flea and worm treatment, neutering if necessary, behavioural assessment and lots of love and care.

The facilities at Huncote are extensive, the animals have both indoor and outdoor space, which they can access themselves. The indoor

areas are provided with soft areas to sleep and lots of toys. There are volunteers who take the dogs to an adventure play area and do exercises with them to give them confidence. The Cattery has an individual pod for each cat, and a chill out room to play in. Volunteers come to spend time with the cats sitting with them and having a cuddle, or taking them outside to enrichment areas, to keep them active.

There is also a community support scheme where the centre helps people who need help at home with their pets - dog walking, dog or cat grooming, administering medication etc. The scheme is free and allows elderly and infirm people to keep their pet, which is often their main companion. Membership is available as Gold, Silver and Bronze. More information on Leicester Animal Aid and the wide range of things that they do can be found on leicesteranimalaid.org.uk or social media.

Our next meeting is on 20th July, and we have not got a speaker, as the lady we have booked does not do Zoom meetings and we are unsure as to the situation regarding meetings. We will however get together somehow.

Lesley Gent

Ten of a Kind – July '21

As this issue of the Stoker covers two months, it presents an opportunity to look at a sign of the zodiac that lies within July and August – Leo. The symbol of Leo is a lion and so we have ten questions related to Leos and lions.

1. What was the name of the ventriloquist who appeared regularly on television during the 50s, 60s and 70s with his dummy Lenny the Lion?
2. In which two continents will you find lions in the wild (excluding safari parks)?
3. Where can you find the four Landseer lions, sculpted by Edwin Landseer?
4. Who wrote the music for The Circle of Life, the opening song of the stage show and film The Lion King?
5. Why is the nickname of a lion as King of the Jungle misleading?
6. How many lions appear on the Royal Standard, the flag flown over royal palaces when the queen is in residence?
7. In which year did the Lightning Seeds with David Baddiel and Frank Skinner write their song 'Three Lions on the Shirt' for the European Championships?
8. The lion mark on eggs, introduced in 1958, indicated what about the eggs?
9. Which Championship football team are nicknamed the Lions?
10. In which modern-day country will you find the Lion Gate, the entrance to the Bronze Age citadel of Mycenae?

Answers on page 29

Feeling Hot, Hot, Hot!

By Jess the Vet

With the warm weather we have been having (finally!) over the last month I thought it would be a great time to remind everyone of the dangers of heat stroke to our four-legged friends! All pets can suffer from heat stroke and this condition can be life threatening.

What is heat stroke?

Heat stroke is a form of hyperthermia (high temperature) which is not caused by a fever. It occurs when animals can no longer self-regulate their temperature due to excess stress on this system. Dogs especially can only expel excess heat by panting which is why certain breeds like brachycephalic breeds (flat-face breeds like Bulldogs, Pugs and Shih Tzus) are more at risk. Obese and elderly animals are also more likely to suffer from heat stroke.

What causes heat stroke?

There are two types of heat stroke – exertional and non-exertional. Exertional heat stroke is where an animal has been exercising in hot conditions without the ability to acclimatise e.g. walking on a hot day. *Dogs can take up to 60 days to acclimatise to significant changes in temperature!* Non-exertional heat stroke is where a dog has been exposed to a rise in temperature without access to water or ventilation to allow cooling e.g. being shut in a hot car.



Signs of heat stroke in dogs

- Faster heavier panting
- Barking, whining or signs of agitation
- Excessive thirst
- Excessive drooling
- Dark gums or tongue
- Glassy eyes
- Staggering, weakness or collapse
- Seizures
- Unconsciousness

Top tips for preventing heat stroke

- Do not walk your pet if the outside temperature is above 19°C.
- Walk early morning or late evening and take water with you.
- Use cool coats or regularly soak your pet with cool water.
- Cool mats or a wet towel on the floor.
- Encourage water intake with frozen treats.
- Paddling pools or providing shady places to lie.
- Using fans.
- **Do not leave your pet in a car at all.**

During my eight-year career I have sadly lost a lot of pets to heat stroke during the summer months, which is heart breaking as it is preventable. I cannot express how serious this condition can be and how many owners under-estimate the danger they are putting their pets in. The best advice I can give is that if you are hot your pet is hotter and to



2°C

This small increase in a dog's temperature is all it takes for heat stroke to kick in

50%

Average survival rate of dogs diagnosed with heat stroke



remember your pet can die from having a walk in hot weather, but it won't die from missing one!

Glass Panel Appeal!

We would like to update you on the progress made towards the project to create a glass panel to show the original floor and foundation of one of the pillars in the Church. This will enable people to see what will be hidden from view once the new floor is installed.

We would like to warmly thank all those who have donated money to this project – and are very pleased to say that £754 has been generously given. We don't yet know the precise costings but would welcome any further help. Details at the end of this update.

And a brilliant offer of help has come from John Harvey. He used to live in the village and his business is making glass panels for this sort of project – as well as much bigger ones too! He has been to visit the Church and has already set up a preliminary design. He will generously provide the glass at cost only. Thank you, John! That has really encouraged us.

Following that good news, a 'Faculty' application has been submitted to the church authorities that have to give permission for any alterations to the Church. We hope that this should be agreed soon.

If you would still like to donate here are ways:

By Cheque: 'St Margaret's PCC I' - or cash – to 3 Hinckley Road, SG, (home of David Goodsell).

By BACS: 'St Margaret's PCC I' Account number: 00034041 Sort code: 40-52-40 - The 'I' following the PCC is a letter (capital i for interior)

Gift Aid: If you pay tax and would like to add gift aid to your donation that gives the project an extra 25 % at no cost to yourself. Details from David Goodsell as above or email: millburn5@hotmail.co.uk

Thank you from David Goodsell and Ian Hiron – Church Wardens - on behalf of St Margaret's Parochial Church Council

The Rev Linda Blay



Linda was brought up in Reading as the eldest of three sisters. She was a teacher until she decided to enter the church and train as a priest. After her second child was born, whilst on maternity leave, she spent more time helping at her local church. She says that she felt that God wanted her to do more and that 'He was opening doors for her'. After taking advice from her vicar, following courses and undergoing the selection process she began her two year training in 1998 at Holy Trinity Theological College in Bristol. She was ordained at Coventry Cathedral in 2000, and served as a curate in Foleshill and Rugby, with time, taking on increasing responsibilities.

In 2008 she arrived in Stoke Golding but not as 'vicar'. This was because St Margaret's at Stoke Golding is one of the five churches in the Fenn Lanes Benefice. So, Linda was appointed as Rector to the Benefice and had the perhaps, daunting task, of continuing to coordinate the five parishes into one entity. This she has achieved with tact and grace – and some church members will have almost forgotten that there was a pre-benefice existence! Information and advice are often readily shared between the churches – and already Linda has put in place plans to ensure that services and events can continue when she has left us.

Dealing with meetings of five Parochial Church Councils cannot always have been easy! Then there are all the church events which Linda has unfailingly supported – Flower Festivals, Snowman Fests, concerts, fetes etc... As Rector, Linda has also had regularly visited and supported the three Church of England schools in the group. She helped to develop the St Margaret's Children's Church Trail – and even managed to arrange for Bishop Martyn to come to Stoke Golding and launch the Trail!

Perhaps we in Stoke Golding are more familiar with Linda as the Rectory for the Benefice is in our village. We -if you have been up early enough- will have often seen her running which she took up seriously in 2013. She tried for 5 years to win a place in the London Marathon which she finally did in 2015! Linda has run the Coventry Half- Marathon and several 10k's – she intends to keep running for as long as she can. And all this on a vegetarian diet -which she adopted whilst training for the priesthood.

We should especially recall the great support given by her to our community during the pandemic. Every Sunday Linda has given an on-line service and many of the daily night prayers too. Collections for the local food bank have been collected and delivered weekly by Linda

Although it seems a long time ago now it was Linda who instigated the highly successful Advent Calendar windows, and the lovely hearts displays for February. And it was Linda who, as one of the very few people allowed to enter, rang the Church bell during the VE Day celebrations, again on Remembrance Sunday and to mark the terrible milestone of 20,000 deaths.

On Sunday 27th June, Linda will conduct her last service as Rector. It will be held at Higham Church and a presentation of a gift from the whole of the Benefice will be made.

However, perhaps we will be able to entice Linda back to visit us when St Margaret's Church is re-opened – and to see the sunflowers? Meanwhile Linda, please enjoy your very well earned retirement and Godspeed.

From St Margaret's Church

Stoke Golding Surgery Update

The practice has completed its COVID vaccination programme for patients over the age of 50 and we are proud to say our team have delivered more than 7000 vaccines. Moving forward we acknowledge that although this was the Government priority, this has meant less clinical appointments for our patients as we have used 5 clinical staff and 5 admin staff for the vast majority of these clinics. We have now opted out of the next phase of the vaccine programme to the younger age group. This will be carried out by another local surgery or at the National Centres. Patients will be informed what their options are to get the vaccine when their turn comes.

We are very proud of our Team in the Stoke Golding surgery and Dispensary and are very thankful for their ongoing work.

At Stoke Golding surgery, there is a GP on site each morning carrying out consultations. As per the Guidelines, these will remain telephone consultations in the first instance and, if felt appropriate to the condition, a face to face appointment will be arranged.

We aim to reinstate the nurses and health care assistant appointments to enable as much care to be carried out locally to Stoke Golding whilst being mindful of social distancing measures.

Castle Mead and Stoke Golding Surgeries

St Margarets - Church Restoration

Update Blog 9



A short but important update blog this week. Why? Well the final bit of digging out the floor has been completed and the restoration is

ready to move onto its next stage which will be laying the insulation and underfloor heating. Without doubt the digging has been hard work but it has unearthed some interesting finds and features of the church particularly the tombs, graves and original foundations.



Update Blog 10

The insulation for the floor has arrived in builders bags. It is GLAPOR a recycled foamed glass in the form of a loosefill aggregate - looks rather like large lumps of charcoal/coke.

Once laid it has to be compressed using a 'whacker' plate. It has the advantage that it provides moisture protection while remaining open to vapour. It avoids



the use of a polythene membrane which causes moisture to run sideways until it reaches existing masonry - so resulting in rising damp!
Once this is down the plumbers are due to arrive next week.

Update Blog 11



As you walk into the interior of the church it certainly looks different and things have moved on quickly in the last week or so. The GALPOR aggregate (made from recycled glass) has been spread across the floor and everything is now ready for laying the coils of the underfloor heating. Plumbing work on the heating has also been completed (including drilling through the outer walls, a significant task in itself). On completion of the plumbing and laying of heating coils a layer of lime crete will be put down before the ancaster stone floor



tiles can be laid on a bed of mortar. When the floor is laid and the space can be viewed properly then decisions will be taken about where to re-site the baptismal font and the reuse of the pews.



Finally some external works have been completed including lead roofing being sealed on the North aisle to prevent the current water ingress and the restoration of the hoppers and downpipes which are now looking fabulous, resplendent in their new grey paint.

*Ian Baines, Stoke Golding Photography & Walking
Photos also by Coli Bob, Stoke Golding Photography & Walking & David Goodsell*

Fool on the Hill Happy birthday, be very afraid....

There is an old joke concerning a man and a dog that were put in charge of a fantastically complex machine. For the safe operation of the machine, the function of the dog was to ensure that the man didn't touch anything and the function of the man was to feed the dog. In the lovely county of Yorkshire recently I began to appreciate just how apt this has become in our modern world. Prior to the onset of lockdowns and curtailing of freedoms a well-meaning soul purchased for me, on the occasion of a significant birthday, a half day experience driving the latest incarnation of the famous Land Rover. I did once own a 1949 version of this British icon and I can say without fear of contradiction that they have come on a bit. For a start, it is now twice the size of the original and somewhere between 20 or 30 times more expensive. The real difference though is in the way that the capabilities of the vehicle of 1949 were in direct proportion to the skill of the person behind the wheel, whereas the capabilities of the modern equivalent are entirely dependent on a series of electronic pulses. The man behind the wheel is now merely a potentially dangerous and largely unnecessary accessory. After a gentle introductory trundle around some glorious Yorkshire countryside with the odd pothole of the sort that one would regularly encounter on any British road, our genial instructor poised at the foot of what I took to be a scale model of the north face of the Eiger. I sensed by the Machiavellian grin on his face that this was to form part of our afternoon experience along with our almost certain demise. He lined the vehicle up at the top of the descent and then proceeded to explain that the computers would sense the terrain and thus control the speed and direction of our descent and all that was required of me was to keep the steering wheel straight and under no circumstances was I touch any other control. At this point I am sure that I heard a low growl (see joke above). Hoping against hope that the business model of the operators did not include the odd customer fatality, the brakes were released and I experienced 7 or 8 seconds of abject terror. It is often commented that the male of the species is unable to multi task, however, during the descent I managed to become paralysed with fear, scream, faint and momentarily lose control of bodily functions. Happily we survived leaving me with a deep appreciation of my existence and total admiration for the people who had created this incredible machine.

Sadly few owners will ever experience the full range of this vehicles capabilities as most are destined to spend their lives dropping little Tamsin off at the Hammersmith Stage School whilst Mummy trundles on to lay waste to the carpark at Waitrose.

F.O.T.H



Obituaries

Gordon Hickman

Gordon Hickman of Newbold Verdon, formerly of Stoke Golding, passed away on 26th April, 2021, aged 87 years. Beloved husband to Janet, doting father, grandfather and great grandfather. Donations in memory of Gordon to the Spitfire Society, c/o G.Seller, Funeral Directors, Upper Bond Street, Hinckley.

Richard Bodycote

Richard Bodycote of Burbage, formerly of Stoke Golding, died on 13th May, 2021, aged 87 years. His son Charlie and daughter Liz wish him peace and give thanks to the staff at Hinckley House Care Home where Richard spent the last years of his life. Enquiries to McCartney's Funeral Service, Coventry Road, Hinckley.

Pat Clifford



Pat Clifford, of Roseway, Stoke Golding, died on 18th May 2021, after a long illness, aged eighty three years.

Pat was born in Hinckley and moved to Stoke Golding in 1962 upon marriage to Roger, where she lived in the same house in Roseway for almost sixty years. She was involved in village life for many years, helping out at St Margarets Primary School when the girls were younger, selling

poppies, delivering meals on wheels and helping at baby clinic. She worked at Boots, in Hinckley for fourteen years prior to retirement. She enjoyed village life.

Pat leaves behind husband Roger, daughters Tina and Gaynor and grandchildren Patrick, Toby, Ollie, Jasper & Freya.

She loved her home and she loved Stoke Golding.

Donations in memory of Pat may be made to Multiple System Atrophy Trust c/o G.Seller, Funeral Directors, Upper Bond Street, Hinckley.

We send our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Gordon, Richard and Pat from the Stoker team.

Church Matters



From St Margaret's and St James's Church

Pastoral Letter – July 2021

By the time you read this we will have bid farewell to our Rector Linda, and we **HOPE** she will have a long and happy retirement in her new home in Coventry. All who have known or worked with Linda will, I know, miss her quiet



reassurance and regular presence enormously, but now we have to look ahead to a new future.

The Fenn Lanes Benefice has been in existence for almost 20 years, and consists of 5 parishes – Witherley, Fenny Drayton, Higham on the Hill, Dadlington and Stoke Golding. Revd Linda has been based in the Rectory in Stoke Golding, but she has been supported by a group of Lay Ministers with connections in each of the parishes. As we go forward there are, inevitably rumours of change, but, of course, we **HOPE** to only be without a resident Priest for a few months.

It is quite a coincidence that all this comes just at the same time as, we **HOPE**, the difficult restrictions due to the Covid pandemic may be at least relaxed. Our Church life has been extremely limited, with much of our worship being online rather than face to face. From July we **HOPE** to return to a limited but regular worship pattern in each of the Churches. The particular arrangements for your Church may be found on Church noticeboards, or elsewhere in this magazine, or of course by contacting your Church Wardens or Ministers.

It is indeed **HOPE** which has carried us through the last year or so – **HOPE** that we and our loved ones remain safe, **HOPE** that a safe and reliable vaccine may be found, **HOPE** that our hospitals can cope with the number needing care, **HOPE** that infections fall, and **HOPE** that life can return to something like normal.

Without **HOPE** we human beings struggle with daily life, it is in our DNA I think, to **HOPE** that tomorrow may be at least as good, if not better than today, and there is nothing wrong with that. It is **the HOPE** for a better future that encourages us all to strive forwards. It is why doctors become doctors, teachers become teachers, and innumerable people put themselves in positions of responsibility – in the **HOPE** of making life better for others.

HOPE is something we all need for our own wellbeing, together with Faith and Love, **HOPE** helps us be rounded and secure human beings, able to cope with today, whatever its trials, and to look forward to tomorrow. As part of families and communities it helps us grow and develop.

So in this time of transition, and in the words of St Paul in his letter to the Romans

‘ May God, the source of hope, fill you with all joy and peace by means of your faith in him, so that your hope will continue to grow by the power of the Holy Spirit. ’

Janet Harding

Church of England June Services Services July/August 2021

St Margaret’s will unfortunately remain closed for services until September at the earliest. We will, however, try to open up for the Scarecrow/Flower Festival on August Bank Holiday.

St James’, Dadlington

4 July	9.00am	Morning Prayer
18 July	9.00am	Holy Communion
1 August	9.00am	Morning Prayer
15 August	9.00am	Morning Prayer
29 August	<u>10.30am</u>	Benefice Holy Communion

Zion Baptist Chapel

4th July: Malcolm Welch
 18th July: Richard Cotton
 1st August: TBA
 15th August: Malcolm Welch

THE METHODIST CHURCH

JULY SERVICES

4th 10.30 am Mrs Gwen Coley
11th 10.30 am Mrs Pat Starbuck
18th 10.30 am T.B.A
25th 10.30 am Mrs Ann Haddon

AUGUST SERVICES

1st T.B.A
8th 10.30 am Mr Neville Spark
15th T.B.A
22nd 10.30 am Revd. Patricia Mucorombindo
29th T.B.A

Baxter Hall Update - Good News at Last!

Following nearly a year of lengthy and complex negotiations with the Leicester Diocesan Board of Education (LDBE) to save the Baxter Hall, we are pleased to report some good news. The local group fighting the sale of the building has formed a registered charity called The Baxter Hall Charity (TBHC) and is taking on a 25 year lease of the Baxter Hall at a peppercorn rent. This means it can continue to be used as a community hall including the lower hall as a really perfect area for the Little Explorer's Playgroup run by Alison Bates.

SMILES, the before and after school club will continue to run in the community hall and this will also be available for activity and interest groups, coffee mornings and children's parties etc.

The Baxter Hall Charity hopes to take over the lease by early July and, following decoration and essential maintenance during the school summer holidays, open for business from the beginning of September.

The intention of both the LDBE and TBHC is that the Baxter Hall will be passed over to be run by the local community for good within a few years of taking on the lease, but there are complicated legal issues that need to be resolved first. *Jane White (Chair of TBHC) janewhitesq@gmail.com*

Sarah Beale: New role as our Parish Council clerk



I have lived with my family in Stoke Golding for 12 years now and have been an active member of the community almost from day one. I was a Parish Councillor for a number of years and stood down earlier this year. Now I have a new role as the Parish Council clerk.

My role is to support the Parish Councillors with all the administration that goes with the projects they are doing for the local community and there are a lot right now. You only need to read the minutes to see how many. The Parish Council has other responsibilities such as grave repairs and tree maintenance, play equipment, grass and hedge cutting and the local recreation ground. I will look after all the paperwork and administration for these jobs, plus anything else that might crop up whilst keeping all the finances in order.

There is a lot to learn, as the job is very different to the councillors' role but now as my son prepares to move onto high school I have the time and enthusiasm to "throw myself into the job".

I look forward to helping and supporting the councillors and residents of our local community over the next few years. All of which help make Stoke Golding such a great place to live. *Sarah*



Kitchen Corner

'STICKY' PORK FILLET

INGREDIENTS

For the Marinade

2tblsp. Soy Sauce

1tblsp. Worcestershire Sauce

4tblsp. Tomato Ketchup

1tblsp. Brown Sauce (HP or similar)

1tblsp. Honey

1tsp. French Mustard

Salt & Pepper

1tblsp. Melted Butter

--

1 Large Pork Fillet

1tblsp. Oil

1tblsp. Butter

1 large Onion, peeled and chopped

3 Tomatoes, skinned and seeds removed

¼ pint of Vegetable Stock

Chopped Parsley for decoration

METHOD

Mix all the ingredients for the marinade together in a medium sized bowl.

Cut the Pork fillet into 2 inch pieces, place the pork into the marinade and leave for at least an hour, you can leave it overnight in the fridge. Heat a wok or sauté pan and melt the butter and the oil. Lift the pork out of the marinade and fry with the onion until coloured, pour in the stock and cover the pan and simmer for 20-25 minutes.

Lift out the pork and cut into slices, place on a serving plate and keep warm. Add the marinade to the pan and boil to reduce until sticky. Slice the prepared tomatoes and cook for a further 3-4 minutes. Pour the sauce over the meat and decorate with chopped parsley.

Serve with Fried Rice or French Fries with a Green Salad on the side.

This recipe will serve 4 people.

Avis

Answers to 10 of a kind

1. Terry Hall, 2. Africa and Asia, 3. Trafalgar Square, 4. Elton John,
5. They don't live in jungles, inhabiting scrubland, grassland, savannahs and rocky hills, 6. Seven – there are two quadrants with the English
- three lions on and one quadrant with the Scottish lion, 7. 1996, 8. That they were British, 9. Millwall, 10. Greece

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