

September '16

No. 154

The Stoker



Stoke Golding Village Magazine
Including
Dadlington Matters

50p



Note from the Editors



Welcome to September's edition of the Stoker. September? !! It's often said that time goes fast but really it's the other way around. Time will be here long after we have gone!

Judging by the articles submitted this month it seems there is plenty to be enjoyed. See the page opposite; Joy continues to dominate in her chosen sport by winning the British Open title once more, and it's great to see Ed Rose, who grew up in the village, enjoying his wedding day in a village hall that was used as a setting on Downton Abbey.

This edition goes to print on the eve of another outstanding community event, our annual Village Garden Show. The Stoker is proud to support this wonderful venture and we look forward to see your awe inspiring entries, from unimaginably large vegetables to beautiful flowers, cakes, chutneys and wines to name but a few. Just as enjoyable is the auction that follows in the evening. Tina Waters and her team are the driving force behind this event; see Beth's corner on Page 10 for a more personal insight of Tina.

We hope you enjoy reading this month's edition.

Jane and Steve

The Stoker Team

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

Production Team: Rosemary Collier, Beth Ellis, Richard & Ella Orr, Jan Pettyfer, Jill Webster, Jennifer Michie, Michael Dix.

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

The Editors, 45 Station Road, Stoke Golding
Email janewhitesg@gmail.com

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.

Cover picture: .Joy wins the British Open Skeet Championship

Stoke Golding's Joy Hirons Equals History Books



England International skeet shooter, Joy Hirons from Stoke Golding, has equalled the history books by winning the British Open title for a fourth consecutive year.

Joy competed in the British Open skeet championship held over the weekend at Doveridge in Derbyshire and shot an amazing 99 out of 100 to win the Ladies title outright for an incredible fourth year running.

According to the history books this has only ever been done once before and that was 44 years ago

so it has made this win even more special as she continues to dominate at a sport she only took up competitively 7 years ago.

The new custom made Beretta 12 bore shotgun which she had made specially at the factory in Italy has proven it's worth and has made a huge difference to her performance.

Joy will be travelling to Dundee in Scotland at the end of August as part of the England shooting team to very proudly shoot for her country at the Home International.

Bob Hirons

Wedding Congratulations



Ed Rose, who grew up in Stoke Golding, married Sarah Morgan at St Mary's Church, Greenham on 6th August.

Beautiful sunshine greeted the happy couple who celebrated with their wedding guests at a reception at Burghclere Village Hall.

They set off the next day for a honeymoon touring America.

The Stoker team wish Ed and Sarah every happiness in their married life.

Mrs Bennett



When Redmoor High School embarked on a Living History project in 1974, they interviewed Mrs Elsie May Bennett who had grown up in Stoke Golding at the turn of the 20th century. What follows are the memories of her early years in the village.

Born in 1893, Mrs Bennett lived opposite the school. Her father had his own business making shoe heels and she remembered making fortnightly journeys into Leicester for him to deliver his wares. Young Elsie would be dropped off to spend the day at her grandmothers before making the return journey on the horse and dray, the journey taking well over three hours. On occasions, her father would drape a tarpaulin

over her to protect her from the elements.

The horse and cart was about the only form of transport available, although most of the working men from Stoke would walk to their jobs in the shoe factories in Barwell or hosiery works in Hinckley. Bicycles were rare because of their cost. She recalls the first car that she saw, which brought people out of their places of work to marvel. The owner, a salesman of steel tips for stilettoes from Tipton, offered Elsie a ride which she readily accepted, experiencing speed faster than a horse ride for the first time. People also used the railway, but mainly for shopping trips or days out, as the destination of a 7d return was Nuneaton.

School, for Elsie, was a short walk, initially up the road to Miss Freeman at the infants school, and then to the main school where she was taught by the master, Mr Hurst, his wife and his daughter. The teachers were strict, but she wasn't frightened of them, although she would sometimes get into trouble for giggling and have to stay in over playtimes as a punishment. She remembered a group of boys from Dadlington who were always getting into bother, but appeared unconcerned that their misdemeanors would result in them getting the cane. She was a good scholar, and passed her exams to move up through the classes, or standards as they were called then. By passing her standard seven exams, she gained an employment certificate enabling her to leave school at the age of 13 to work for her father.

She was proud of her father's support for some of the village children who had passed exams to go on to the Grammar School. Whilst the education was free, the cost of buying the uniform was prohibitive for many. As chairman of the parish council, her father ensured there was money available, some from the Hester Hodges Foundation, to enable these pupils to take their education further. His actions were not universally popular, with some villagers complaining that secondary education was not meant for the likes of working class people.

After school, Elsie would play with her friends. Traditional pastimes such as skipping, and whip and top were popular. One favourite activity was rolling a wooden hoop, or bowl as she called it, all the way up to Dadlington. Long evenings passed quickly, as she played games of ludo, snakes and ladders and draughts with her father and brothers. She would do dressmaking and sometimes go out to meetings at Band of Hope, a temperance society.

Mrs Bennett didn't think people were happier back then, but probably more contented. Villagers looked out for each other, her mother virtually bringing up two children of a neighbouring family who found themselves in near destitution. No-one

would let anyone else starve but, in the days before state welfare, help from the authorities was limited. On Tuesdays, a man would come round and give either five shillings from the parish or a loaf of bread to those most in need. She didn't feel people were any tougher back then, but life was certainly more precarious. Elsie lost several friends to TB whilst she was in her teens, and she spoke with great sadness about World War I. It felt like we were having a memorial service almost every other week, she recalled.

The village had a number of shops. Charles Clifford ran one, there was another on the walk to the church and then there was Shilton's Grocery and Bakehouse and the Post Office. Shopping with her mother, once a week, meant sweets: liquorish sticks, aniseed balls and acid drops, two sticks of rock for a halfpenny. Best of all were locust beans, rough and brown on the outside but deliciously sweet when you bit into them – probably a suitable metaphor for life as a child in Stoke Golding in the early 1900s.

Elsie died in 1986 aged 93. She was a life long member of the Methodist Church and was in later years its mainstay.



This her fathers's (Mr Bust Stoke's Parish Council Chairman) shoe heel factory just before demolition which was behind her house and backed onto the first couple of houses on Roseway



This is Mrs Bennett's cottage before demolition to build the new houses there on High Street

Article written by Michael Dix from a transcript by Redmoor pupils with extra information from Denis Cash and photographs from the Webster Collection.

Thank You



To the lovely people who not only clear up their own dog's mess but other dog's mess too . I have come across two people in the past week doing just that, as well as picking up litter, and I know there are many more of you in Stoke Golding and Dadlington who take a real pride in keeping the villages looking smart - you know who you are!

Jane

Redmoor Rhymes

Poetry from students at Redmoor Academy

A diary for the day.

The sky is clear,
The first time this year,
Everything is so bright,
From morning until night,
Weather is fine,
The day is mine,
The trees sway in time,
To the clock tower chime,
What a beautiful sight,
The water flows fast
In a big blue blast,
Making a loud noise in its
flight,
Insects buzz in my ear,
Without a shred of fear,
Flying around without a care,
Inside of the forest,
That could pass as a florist,
There is a big brown bear,
Clouds float past,
The sky darkening at last,
Time to go elsewhere,
Back to my comfy bed,
Where I can rest my head,
And not fear of a nightmare.

Caitlin Ohara.

Bombers in the Midnight Sky

Bombers filled the midnight sky,
As down below scared children began to cry.
Bangs and flashes surrounded people,
As every church bell rang from its steeple.
Collapsed buildings all around,
As siren handles began to be wound.
People dashed to their shelter,
Whilst the fires made them uncomfortably
swelter.
Fire bells started to sound,
As search teams made the lost become found.
Would that night ever end?
That night was the night I lost my best friend.

Rory Williams

Untitled

The grass lit up with an emerald gleam,
The clouds parted like the Red Sea,
The trees stood tall with pride and valour,
The sun bathed it all in a golden shower.
The wind blew soft like gentle hands,
The grass was a cushion made of green
strands,
The sun was warm like a burning flower,
I was overcome by nature's power.

Ellie Charlesworth

My first day at school was really scary,
All the kids were big and hairy.

I walked through the door,
Just as a big rugby player knocked me to the floor.
I went to the nurse who told me to shoo,
So then I went to try out the loo.

I went to registration a bit late,
My teacher screamed "Detention 'till your eighty-eight."
I sat down in my seat feeling a bit dumb,
There was a pin on my chair that had stuck in my bum.

On my way to French I got lost,
As from one side of the corridor to the other I was tossed.
Once again arriving late,
I gave up and walked out the school gate.

My first day at school was really scary,
All the kids were big and hairy.

Luke Stevenson

Stoke Golding Scout Group



What an ending the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers had to their summer term! The Cubs finished off their athletes badge and had a water fight. The Beavers had water related games and a water fight despite the inclement weather. The scouts went Geocaching (involved a map, 12 figure reference to find "treasure") around Hartshill Hayes.

This was followed by an AGM at the village hall with 90 attending including adults, scouts, Cubs and beavers. There was a brief formal introduction to the event followed by an audio visual parent report of all the activities the group have been involved with during the year, badge presentation and sausages and refreshments. A good evening was had by all.

It was 100 years since Cubs have been formed so 25 of our Cubs joined 1,168 others at Kirby Mallory race track for a centenary camp and activities weekend. There was a huge selection of activities including archery, crafts, musical activities, climbing, inflatable loads of water based activities to name but a few.

The Cubs all had a thoroughly fun time and really enjoyed the occasion. Fifteen of Stoke Golding scouts are joining 5,500 other scouts and guides

for a week's camp at Charnwood, Loughborough in the first week in August. Watch this space for feedback on the camp.

A BIG thank you to all the leaders for their tireless work behind the scenes to deliver such wonderful programme for the group and particularly John and Fiona who take the lead for the various individual sections. They do such a lot of the extra work behind the scenes with organising the camps.



Also thank you to the parent leaders who help out on the nights when asked and who help us with loading up the camping equipment and pitching tents. We couldn't do camps without your help.

Jennifer



Staffroom Memories 4: Parents

There is a poem by Alan Ahlberg called Parents Evening. It looks at the meetings from the views of a parent, a child and a teacher, with all three sharing the same deep sense of foreboding about what is about to take place. For me, parents evenings were never that much of an ordeal, but I did learn to expect the unexpected. The parents you dreaded meeting would often turn out to be an absolute delight, whilst sometimes the ones you felt would be very happy with the progress their child was making, would be anything but.

My first parents evening was a bit of a learning experience. My opening remarks to Peter's parents, "Well, you'll be aware of Peter's problems," instantly reduced Peter's mother to tears. She obviously wasn't aware: previous teachers had only told her the positives. Later, as a head, I always stressed to my staff the importance of being honest with parents and having those difficult conversations about their child's behaviour or learning difficulties. On occasions, this became an almost impossible task if the parent didn't want to hear what you have to say. When I outlined Stanley's specific problems in reading, his dad replied, "But apart from that, everything's fine?" Well, unfortunately it wasn't, but to every new issue that I raised, I got the same response: "But apart from that, everything's fine?" As the interview stretched on and on, I was getting nowhere. Finally, I decided enough was enough and ended the interview by saying, "But apart from that, everything's fine." Stanley's dad smiled, and left the room a happy man!

Still, at least I never encountered the problem a colleague once had. Seeing that her next appointment was with Graham's parents, she went out into the corridor and called out, "Graham?" Up stood one of the parents, whom she invited into the classroom. About halfway through a glowing report, she mentioned Graham's handwriting. "Graham?" said the parent. "My son is called Neil." "Then why did you get up when I said Graham," she enquired. "That's *my* name," came the reply.

I watched with awe as one headteacher that I worked for combatted an angry parent who was haranguing him in the playground, in front of the whole school. "I'm going to report this to Midlands Today," she shouted. "Oh, good," came his quick reply, "I've always wanted to be on the television." His pragmatic approach did come apart though when dealing with a particularly strange parent who had sent his daughter on a residential visit but hadn't got round to paying, despite numerous reminders. On hearing there was a refund, he stormed into school, demanding to know why he'd not received anything back. "But you haven't paid," the head tried to explain but the parent was unmoved and left making threats to all and sundry.

When I became a headteacher, my interaction with parents increased dramatically. Once parents realised that we would put their child's best interests to the fore, trust grew. Sometimes this was a surprise to the parents, especially if their own schooldays had been characterized by conflict or if, in the case of some parents whose children had special needs, they'd had to fight for everything and expected to have to do the same in school.

One particularly difficult meeting I had concerned a case of bullying between two eleven-year-old boys. Every case of bullying I dealt with as a headteacher was different, covering a wide spectrum from friends falling out (the most common scenario) to rare acts of physical and verbal intimidation. In this case, there had been ongoing problems, and whilst we continually monitored the situation, resulting in many months, and sometimes years of calm, occasionally something would trigger a fall out and one of the boys always came off worst. The bullied child's mother and I

had had many meetings together, but this time estranged dad came along, and it quickly became clear that he was there to show mum how to deal with schools: to put on a show of strength and read the riot act. Throughout the meeting he adopted a very aggressive stance but, I pointed out repeatedly to each of his prepared questions, we had done all that we could including, on this occasion, excluding the bullying child. Eventually, as I batted every accusation away, he shook his head and said, "Do you know your problem?" I waited for the tirade of abuse, but instead he continued, "You're just too reasonable." I could wish for no better description.

Michael Dix

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Ten of a Kind (answers on page 19)

September is the 100th anniversary of the birth of author, Roald Dahl. Here are ten questions relating to children's books. Can you answer them without a Google?

1. Where does the title of Roald Dahl's book Esio Trot come from?
2. Who wrote Black Beauty?
3. Roger Hargreaves wrote the Mr. Men books. What were his books about female characters called?
4. Chris Riddell illustrates and occasionally writes children's books. What honorary position does he hold this year?
5. How many Harry Potter books did J. K. Rowling write?
6. In Charlotte's Web, Charlotte is a spider who becomes friends with Wilbur. What kind of creature is Wilbur?
7. In which decade was A. A. Milne's first book of stories about Winnie-the-Pooh first published?
8. Which ex-England footballer writes the Frankie's Magic Football books?
9. Which character did Michael Bond, once a cameraman on Blue Peter, create?
10. Which of these is not a series by Enid Blyton: The Adventurous Four, The Famous Five, The Super Six, The Secret Seven

BETH'S CORNER ...

Tina Waters



Who *is* Tina Waters? Her name has been following me around as someone I should approach for a profile in 'The Stoker'. I finally phone her, but she tells me she's already had a short article about herself and her husband Malcolm. "*How long ago was that Tina, and who wrote it, can you remember?*" It transpires it was over ten years ago written by the talented Denis Cash, who has always refused to become one of my 'victims' - obviously a very wise decision. The doorbell rings and a vision in floating chiffon wafts past me carrying a plastic Tupperware lunch box. "*It's an experimental cake - banana and raspberry.*" My plate of shop bought biscuits lie untouched. Out of her handbag a bright yellow "Stoker" appears with that first article based on their work as Emergency Duty Foster Carers that Tina and her husband Malcolm, then newly

retired from Leicester police, had been involved with for over three years; "*ninety three children in three years*". I am astonished and then learn that many of the youngsters only stay overnight or for 24hrs, in an emergency.

Tina's original teacher training was from 1984-1987 in Eastbourne, at the Chelsea School of Human Movement, achieving a Bed Hons in PE and English. Following this, and much to her father's discomfort she suddenly decides to apply for a job found in 'The Lady' as a Nanny in a very beautiful house in Dulwich. "*I had the whole top floor to myself, and the family were lovely. There were two children and a new baby was born while I was with them for the following two years.*" Her father, an army officer for 37 years and not happy at her current choice of employment, visited her there, and challenged her to apply to Sandhurst to see whether they will accept her for Officer training. Tina admits she loves a challenge, and following a year of rigorous interviews and tests, Sandhurst accepts her. After successfully completing her training she is posted to 48 Army Education Centre Dortmund in Germany, where she meets Malcolm, also in the army. Her job description as 'educator' and 'watch-keeper', uses her teaching degree delivering courses in maths, service writing, current affairs and military management, for soldiers to gain promotion through the ranks, from Lance Corporal to Sergeant and then on to Staff Sergeant. Bramcote and working with the Junior Leaders was her subsequent posting with the Royal Artillery. She was living in the Officers' Mess, until January 1992, when she and Malcolm bought their house in Stoke Golding. Her final posting at Kineton in Warwickshire finds her in education again with highly motivated and very bright young men and women. She also trained as a recruiting officer, until she finally decided the time for retirement had come as her first born son Ben was on the way, born in 1994. For generations Tina's family have served in all arms of the forces, her father's final rank as Major, and both Tina and Malcolm as Captain.

Her next big challenge was volunteering at and then being offered a contract for two/three days a week at Emily Fortey School in Glenfield working with children with Special Educational Needs. It was around this time that she and Malcolm had the urge to try fostering, and they joined the Emergency Duty Team after six months of rigorous 'in depth' interviews. She felt she still had energy left over to try one other challenge and tried her hand as a 'sessional worker' for Warwickshire Social Services, working mainly in Atherstone, Rugby, Bedworth and Nuneaton, trying to mediate and guide families going through troubled times. This had been with the possible thought of retraining as a Social Worker, but she realised that her strength was really in education, and finally this is where she has been happiest. For the last seven years Tina has been on the staff of a private school for pupils with a statement

of Asperger's or Autism (combined with severe challenging behaviour), teaching for three or sometimes four days a week. Alongside the mainstream curriculum, there is an emphasis on learning about communication, social skills, work experience and life skills with a view to integrating more fully in life after education. All this would appear to be rather worthy, but finally I hear about the way she has been drawn into so many of the village activities, including 'clowning' around in nine of the notorious village pantomimes, as well as being on various committees including the annual Stoke Golding Garden Show held in September each year. Just writing about this exhausts me, until I suddenly remember I've left out two more completed challenges on her bucket-list! Parachuting and wing-walking. Personally, the thought of standing on the wings of a bi-plane in the rain, or throwing myself out into emptiness, trusting my parachute will open is already bringing on a nervous breakdown. What an amazing lady you are Tina. Hasn't our morning been fun?
Beth

Local Musicians

Fred Semple is a local musician who generally plays mandolin now, although his main instrument since the age of 11 has been guitar. His mother bought him his first guitar in 1955 which cost the grand sum of £17.

Fred has never been a professional musician, but has always earned money either from playing gigs or teaching guitar in his spare time, while always "keeping a day job". His early musical influence was 1950's Rock and Roll and his first gig was the school dance when he was 15.

In the mid 1970s he started teaching guitar, primarily classical, before branching out into rock music. He said he enjoyed teaching guitar in schools, being very patient with some of the more challenging pupils and he recalled how an autistic pupil had benefited from music. He taught guitar alongside a full-time job at Peugeot in administration.

His musical influences are various, from Rock, Classical, Country and Western to more recently Irish, Scandinavian and French traditional music. Hence his large CD collection of approximately 800, which he has pruned down from over 2000. He has been recently to see the Red Hot Chili Peppers and Bruce Springsteen.

He does not come from a musical background, but as a child he was exposed to a wide range of music on the radio at home and his grandmother and mother were always singing. Interestingly, the musician he would like to have a one to one with would be Bach.

Fred retired 8 years ago and is playing his mandolin regularly at Scandinavian, French or Irish traditional music sessions or dances, either in pubs, village halls or houses and occasionally at festivals. His future plans are to become more proficient on keyboard and melodica, a couple of instruments he has acquired recently, and he would like to organise a 24-hour traditional music marathon for charity sometime soon.

It was lovely to sit and chat and meet a modest musician who has a long lasting passion and interest in a vast range of music.

Fred Semple



Dadlington Matters

Cream Tea at Hall Farm.

The fabulous garden at Hall Farm, Dadlington together with extensive cream teas made for a quintessential English afternoon. Well over a hundred local people came to support St James' Church and enjoy the local baking and convivial company. The weather was perfect, not a comment often made in this country, neither too hot nor too cold but just right. Everyone enjoyed the excellent scones, cakes and meringues and passed a delightful afternoon chatting with new friends and old. The team work was evident to ensure that the afternoon ran smoothly and the tea flowed. Caroline Fielden's personal touch was evident in the lovely vases of fresh flowers on each table and her hospitality was gratefully received by one and all.

As well as the cream teas there were stalls selling jams, plants, books, a raffle, a tombola and a delightful teddy bear, apparently named Callum.

A total of £1035 was raised which will help bolster the funds at St James' Church and everyone who came had a lovely afternoon to remember.



Rachel Rees-Jones

Dadlington Lottery

The lottery supports the upkeep, maintenance and development of our village hall.

Recent monthly results:-

2nd Jul - No. 13. Winner lives in Dadlington. Prize £65.

7th August - No. 8. Unsold.

Next draw will be a rollover prize expected to be £130. A great time to buy a ticket.

Cost of tickets equivalent to £1 per week, £52 per annum. Contact John Whitehead

Tel 01455 213244 e-mail jf_whitehead@hotmail.com

Memorial Service on the Somme



On the evening of 30th June 2016 a memorial service was held at the Thiepval War Memorial on the Somme Battlefield in France. The chief guests were Prince William, Prince Harry, the Duchess of Cambridge and the Arch Bishop of Canterbury who had come to honour the fallen in one of the bloodiest battles in British history. William told the assembled guests: "We lost the flower of a generation; and in the years to follow it sometimes seemed that with them a

sense of vital optimism had disappeared forever from British life. It was in many ways the saddest day in the long story of our nation."

The Thiepval Memorial, the Memorial to the Missing of the Somme, bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20 March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between 1st July and 18th November 1916.

The following Stoke Golding men are here remembered:-

WALTER SYDNEY ADCOCK DIED 23.10.1916

ARTHUR GREWCOCK DIED 25.9.1916

GEORGE LEE DIED 14.7.1916

WILFRED PERCIVAL SHILTON DIED 18.7.1916

GEORGE HENRY TOWERS DIED 3.9.1916

Other Stoke Golding men killed in the first World War and named on our War Memorial are remembered in other World War I graveyards.

Denis Cash

What's On



St Margaret's Church Flower Festival Countries of the World & The Queen's 90th Birthday AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND

Saturday 27th and Monday 29th 10am - 5pm,
Sunday 28th 11.30am - 5pm

Stalls including cakes, scones, jams, plants, raffle, tombola
Ploughman's lunches, cream teas and other refreshments
available in the school hall.

Free parking at the school.

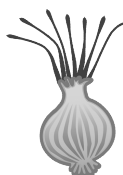
St Margaret's C of E Primary School Open Afternoon Wednesday 28th September - 1.15 - 2.45pm



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Stoke Golding Garden Show Society 86th Annual Open Show – Saturday 3rd September 2016



Enter on the day between 11am and 2pm
Stoke Golding Club, Hinckley Road, Stoke Golding
CV13 6DZ

25p per entry.

Prizes
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What's On

Stoke Golding Heritage Group

The Heritage Group will be presenting a series of open meetings to which all are invited. Membership for the year is £10.00 and visitors to individual meetings pay £2.50. The programme up to our winter break is as follows:

- Sept 15th The Fascination of the English Language - David Siddons
Includes a brief history of how English has developed its idiosyncrasies and the unforeseen consequences of its misuse.
- Oct 20th British Trees - Sally Cunningham
- Nov 17th Sacrifice and Remembrance - Ken Lowels
1st WW and the beginning of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

There will be two more talks after the break. All meetings are held at the Baxter Hall starting at 7.30pm.



St. Margaret's Church TEDDY BEAR JUMP and Bar-B-Q

Saturday 10th September from 12 noon – 3pm

Drinks and cakes available

£2 charge for each bear to fly from the church tower.
It is better not to bring your best bear.

Teddy bear rescue and first aiders on site

Prizes for the bear that flies the farthest, bear that stays in the air the longest, best decorated parachute and best dressed bear.

The Methodist Church Coffee Morning

Saturday September 10th
10.00 -11.30
For church funds

The Methodist Church Macmillan Coffee Morning

Saturday October 1st
10am -12 noon

Church Matters



From St Margaret's Church

YOU DID GIVE ME A START

In 1986, when I was a Team Rector, our dog, Shep, a Border Collie, wrote a book. I helped a bit even though he called me 'the old man' and harped on about arriving to our family by train in a tea-chest! Here is what he pawed in September 1986:

"Summer is ending but lots of things are starting. Perhaps mother dogs are packing their pups into tea-chests for a train journey. Certainly many human mothers are packing their offspring off to school for the first time - or to a new school - or to a new class. It's starting work time for young people (if they are lucky) or starting dole time if they are not.

In the churches it is getting ready for harvest time, and getting ready for autumn fayres, getting ready for Advent and Christmas. It's the period for education sessions.

Clapping myself with my paws - hinting that it was time for 'the old man' to switch on the central heating - I got to thinking about new starts. January with its resolutions seems to be a new start. Easter with the daffodils and another new life is also a kind of start. And here we are in September making yet another start.

If I had my time over again I wonder if I would choose to be a Rectory dog. As a Border Collie wouldn't I be better off on a farm, looking after sheep? (Mind you sometimes the difference doesn't seem that great!)

But I can't go back. I can't be a pup again. Me, Shep, what I am, has been created by the addition of how I started and what has happened since. A completely new start wouldn't be me, it would be another dog.

What I would like most is to have a clean sheet about the past and make a new start from today being as true to what I could be as possible. I don't know if dogs have psychologies - I can't find mine - but I have some guilt about things I've done, and not done. And I have a sneaking feeling that if that was dealt with I could grow into a more sensitive animal - even loving 'you know who' rather more.

I also suspect that it's never too late. So I am after another new start - not a complete start from scratch - but a start from today.

I've heard 'you know who' talk about this a few times - I think he says that is why Sunday is the hinge between the weeks - an ending and a beginning.

Of course all that's too difficult for me. I was just thinking about all those children and young people making a start. By starting something new - growing into something new. Good luck with whatever September brings you."

Shep
(Alan Davis's Border Collie)

Church Matters

Church of England Sept 2016 Services

St. Margaret's Church

4th Sept	10.30am	All Age Service
11 th Sept	10.30am	Benefice Service
18 th Sept	10.30am	Holy Communion
25 th Sept	10.30am	Morning Worship

St. James's Church

4 th Sept	9.00am	BCP Morning Prayer
11 th Sept	10.30am	Benefice Service Stoke Golding
18 th Sept	9.00am	BCP Holy Communion
25 th Sept	6.30pm	Harvest Service of Praise

Zion Baptist Chapel Sept 2016 Services

4th	6pm	Richard Cotton
11th	6pm	Mark Menzfeld
18th	6pm	Malcolm Welch
25th	6pm	John Needham

The Methodist Church Sept 2016 Services

4th	10.30am	Mr John Cooke
11th	10.30am	TBA
18th	10.30am	Mr Malcolm Lapper (Harvest Festival)
25th	10.30am	Revd Wes Hampton

St Margaret's Church Coffee, Chat & Book Swap

Free coffee, tea and a chat on Wednesdays

10.30am - 12 noon in Church

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



Thank You

Christian Aid Week collections from the chapels and churches of Stoke Golding and Dadlington amounted to £140.23. I am pleased to have been able to send off this sum for use in current Christian Aid projects, including support for refugees. Many thanks to all who contributed.

Carolyn Patullo



STOKE REVEALS MORE MEDIAEVAL SECRETS

In the hunt for the site of the Battle of Bosworth Field numerous artifacts have turned up. Some of these have been connected to the battle but others come from far more ancient times. A dig behind Park House in the 1930's revealed evidence of Saxon Times and a Neolithic axe head was found by a farmer at Dadlington. Now another mystery object has come to light. Found by a Stoke farmer in 2013, he made a clay impression of the lead seal before it was submitted for examination.

The official report into the lead seal reads as follows:-
"SEAL MATRIX - MEDIEVAL - NORTH YORKSHIRE"

'A cast lead alloy seal matrix dating from the thirteenth or fourteenth century. The matrix is circular and carries the device (described from the impression) of a central large pellet surrounded by a ring of six or seven smaller pellets, all within a circle. The legend is very worn. It seems to begin "S' ALEX", meaning seal of Alex{ander} but the remainder is indecipherable so the full name is unknown. On the upper side of the matrix is a moulded fleur-de-lis, the stem of which forms the lug or handle which appears not to be pierced for suspension. The matrix is 28.3 mm in diameter.'

So... Who was this Alexander and what was he doing wandering the fields of Stoke with a seal for perhaps authenticating documents. Being made of a lead alloy it surely could not have been for making coins and therefore must have been for the other use suggested. The only person living in those days in Stoke Golding who was rich enough to have need of such a seal was our very own Thomas Barton who formed his charity in 1400 when he was so rich that he could afford to endow his Charity with acres of land and numerous buildings the income from which paid for pavements or cawsys to be maintained around the village. Could it have been something to do with his activities?

Charles Frisby

Snapdragon in Stoke Golding

On Tuesday 28th July, Snap Dragon came to the recreation ground in Stoke Golding - a scheme organised by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council. Local families brought a picnic and enjoyed a great day out together. Snap dragon provided a wealth of entertainment including beach and sand play, balloon modelling by Smudgy the clown - pictured with Gabriella, face painting, craft activities, story telling sessions and much more!

Steve



Ella's Charity Walk Challenge

Having never participated in a challenging charity event before, I thought I'd set myself a personal goal of getting fitter whilst raising money for the valuable research of Breast Cancer Now. As things turned out, once I signed up for this event, my old school friend Sam - we've been friends for almost 40 years - was diagnosed with breast cancer. I will be doing a 23 mile walk at Cheddar Gorge on 17th - 18th Sept for my friend and the thousands of people whose lives are turned upside down by a diagnosis of breast cancer.

To raise funds for Breast Cancer Now, there will a Charity Zumbathon at Stoke Golding Club on Sunday 11th Sept from 11am till 1pm. Come along and enjoy 2 hours of Zumba with two fantastic local instructors, Stoke Golding's own Claire Ashley and Jo Coverson. Entrance is adults £5 participating children £2.50 and all monies raised by the ticket sales, raffle and tombola will go to supporting the UK's largest Breast Cancer research charity. Tickets are available from Ella - call 07817 145458. Thank you.

Ella Orr is fundraising for Breast Cancer Now as part of the Cheddar Challenge. Please come and show your support by wiggling n' giggling !!...

Dance for Life
ZUMBATHON

With Raffle and Tombola

11am - 1pm Sunday 11th September 2016
At Stoke Golding Club, Hinckley Road, Stoke Golding
Ticket price Adults £5, Children £2.50 (participating)
Tickets available on the door

**With Zumba Instructors
Jo Coverson and Claire
Ashley**

Tickets can be purchased from Ella Orr or from Jo Coverson
at the Zumba Studio @ Wildkidz Hinckley.
For more information call/text
Ella 07817 145458 or Jo 07921 665812.
Spread the word to family and friends, all welcome.

breast cancer
now

Answers to 10 of a kind (page 9)

1. It is tortoise spelt backwards
2. Anna Sewell
3. Little Miss
4. Children's Laureate
5. 7
6. A pig
7. 1920s (1926 in fact)
8. Frank Lampard
9. Paddington
10. The Super Six

CROSSWORD ANSWERS (from page 23)

ACROSS 1 Snatch; 4 Track; 8 Area; 9 Carnival; 10 Implies; 12 Lying; 13 Yard;
14 Goods; 17 Oasis; 20 Abba; 22 Chili; 23 Archery; 24 Brasilia; 25 Etch; 26 Rings; 27
Eleven

DOWN 1 Skating; 2. Trailed; 3 Hockey; 5 Ronaldo; 6 Civvies; 7 Flag; 11 Samba;
15 Origami; 16 Sailing; 18 Athlete; 19 Say when; 21 Arcade; 22 Cuba

Dunwich Dynamo 2016

Like all stories of this type, it started with bravo and bragging round the family table. My little baby brother challenged me to join him on an organised "fun ride". I couldn't back out in front of the assembled crowd so I foolishly accepted and promptly forgot all about it...

Six months later, apprehensively, I take a cheap (£6!) train ride to Euston and follow Regents Canal to the start in London Fields Park. Little Bro is not here so I phone him, only to find that he might be a bit late as he had got a bit of a problem with his lights. I begin to wonder if there is a way out without loss of face, but sadly he rocks up an hour and half late on a highly strung, state of the art racing machine. I compare it to my half ton beast of burden and conclude that I really am in trouble.

The Dun Run doesn't have an official start time. People just chill in the park and set off when they feel like it. I've been watching the riders pour out through gates like lemmings for last hour and it doesn't seem to have reduced the body count in the park by a huge amount. I've obtained the route details already from a wandering vendor in the park and we reset our trip computers, wheel our bikes to gate and clip in. Almost immediately we are absorbed by the



wheeled rolling crowd and are moving quite quickly. There are hundreds of us, I feel like we have weight of numbers on our side and the traffic will part for us like the Red Sea but this illusion is soon shattered as we join the main road. London drivers have seen it all before but, like water, we flow round and through the almost stationary traffic and soon we are out of the urban conurbation and into Epping Forest. I had read how one of the things you will remember is the ribbon of red lights snaking away to the horizon and when I saw it for the first I knew why.

There were several pubs that clearly knew a good thing when they saw us peddling by and we soon learnt to slow down entering any village big enough to have a pub as the crowds often spilled out of the car park and across the road. We saw many villagers out on the roadside giving vocal encouragement, although the old gentleman sitting quietly on a patio chair with a tin of beer in one hand and bike pump in the other did make me wonder.

The half way official stop, Sudbury Fire Station, put up a magnificent fight, but was simply overwhelmed by the sheer numbers of cyclists who just shrugged their shoulders when they saw the queues and rummaged in their pockets or saddle bags for a peanut butter sandwich. Fluid intake was a problem as it was a very humid night and the temperature never dropped below 20 degrees. Fireman Sam's friends had run out of bottled water and were offering to fill water bottles from the fire engine hose but by general consensus it tasted like it had been in there for several years. We pushed on into the night hopped up on sugar and adrenalin and the wish not to drink water

from a fire engine tank ever again. In our haste we made our first navigation error. We followed a knowledgeable looking group up a steep hill that promptly turned round at the top, shouted “wrong way” and shot back down the hill. A quick look at the smart phone and we realised that we could cut across country and re-join the planned route without going back down (and then up another) steep hill. We herded up a few more lost souls and set off once more into the night. I can honestly say that is the only time I looked at the instructions. The organisers had put out tea lights at most junctions and the volume of cyclists strung out along the route meant if you didn't know where you going you either followed red lights in front or waited one or two minutes and somebody else would pass and you could follow them. For an hour or two we slotted into a rhythm. We would spin along rolling uplands and then dive down dark tree lined avenues into the towns and grind back the other side. Some of the descents were white knuckle affairs but we soon got quite fearless – more speed means less climb on the other side. Beyond Needham Market we started to see more ‘pop up’ roadside refuelling opportunities. Clearly the locals have learnt that by the time they travelled over 120km, cyclists will be looking for tea and cake. As we travelled ever eastwards towards the slowly brightening horizon these enterprises started offering various breakfast options. Some were fairly amateur, one old lady, a tea pot and camp table at the end of her drive and some were pretty slick, my favourite and last stop just outside Framlingham. Fortified with tea we know we're into the final stretch 25km into what would have been a pleasant sunrise but obscured by cloud. The climbs became fewer and shorter and, at about 7:30am, we rolled onto the beach. We joined the massed ranks of cyclists watching the sunrise, foraging for breakfast, paddling in the sea or sleeping. I had expected to fall off the bike and be asleep instantly on the shingle but the buzz of the ride stayed with me and we whiled away the hours waiting for friends we knew were on the road behind us and the arrival of my lift home to arrive, swapping tales of the ride and how we should do it again next year.

I started scared that I hadn't done enough training and finished a great fan of this event. I didn't write this to brag “look how far I can ride”, I wrote hoping that somebody might read it and give it a try. Looking at my training log I appear to have done roughly 2000km in 100 hours and lost half a stone in 6 months which suggests that this should be ‘do-able’ for most people.

Printed at the bottom of the instruction sheet, “In England they ask ‘Is it for charity?’ and in France, Spain, Italy or Flanders they murmur ‘What beautiful madness’” – sums it up really.

John Shilladay

Green Woodpeckers around the Village

There are usually at least three pairs; within the vicinity of the new cemetery; behind the surgery and around the primary school. I was concerned that those around the latter hadn't been seen for some time though they reappeared more recently. It would seem that they had disappeared to go off and find suitable breeding habitat. Certainly they have returned with full grown juveniles as I've had one feeding on the lawn this morning. Further, it isn't unusual to see also great spotted wood peckers around the school.



David A

Ambion Voices



There has been quite a resurgence in choirs over the last few years, possibly due to Gareth Malone's television series or the nationwide Rock Choirs. Whatever the cause, the simple message is: singing is a fun thing to do. Many choirs, such as Stoke and Dadlington's Ambion Voices, have no entry criteria other than a commitment to attend

practices and sing at the occasional concert. You don't have to have had any previous experience of choral singing; you don't have to be able to read music; you don't have to have been classically trained at a top conservatoire, although you do have to be female as there are currently no men allowed!

I caught up with Ambion Voices a week before they performed at St James' church in Dadlington at the start of the summer. My first impressions were of an enthusiastic group of about 30 who were clearly loving their choir experience, not only the singing but the opportunity to get together and meet other people: choirs are social groups. Put together just over a year ago to perform when Richard III's cortege stopped at Dadlington, the choir has blossomed under the dual leadership of local musicians Rachel Rees-Jones and the Stoker's own Jane White. The two talk enthusiastically about how the choir has grown in confidence over that time, with people finding they can actually sing – in tune – in parts.

The sound they produced during their rehearsal was of a really good quality. The diction was clear and precise. The harmonies worked well together. Rhythms were tight. The repertoire was quite extensive and varied, considering the length of time the choir has been up and running, with songs from more recent times such as California Dreaming and You Raise Me Up to the old folk song The Ash Grove. Many songs broke into two or three part harmonies, with one combining two songs at once: What Shall We Do With the Drunken Sailor alongside Hey Sinner Man. There were one or two unaccompanied songs: a three part jazz number that ended with glad hands waving, an interesting take on the nursery rhyme Sing a Song of Sixpence, and an amusing song about cakes. There was even a song sung in German whose name I didn't quite catch.

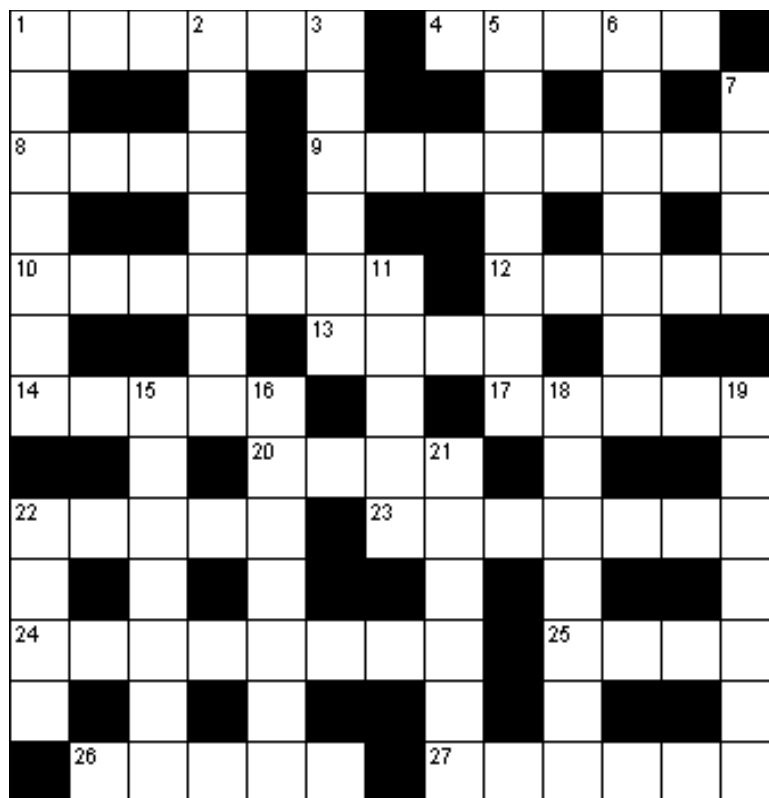
The choir will be meeting up again after the summer for their fortnightly practices at the Methodist Hall in Stoke on Tuesday nights. If you are interested, then why not contact Rachel or Jane for further details.

Michael Dix

COPY DEADLINE for October 2016 ISSUE: 15th September
Send to Jane White: janewhitesg@gmail.com

Crossword

With The Olympics in Mind



Across

- 1 Name of a lift in the weight lifting event (6)
- 4 Where the athletics are run on (5)
- 8 Measurement of a surface (4)
- 9 Street festival in Brazil (8)
- 10 Indicates the answer to a question (7)
- 12 Telling fibs (5)
- 13 Three feet (4)
- 14 Items for sale (5)
- 17 Desert waters (5)
- 20 'Waterloo' pop band (4)
- 22 Hot pepper USA variation. (5)
- 23 Sport using arrows (7)
- 24 Capitol of 2016 Olympics (8)
- 25 To engrave (4)
- 26 One of the gymnastic disciplines (5)
- 27 Number of players in football side (6)

Down

- 1 Torville and Dean's sport (7)
- 2 Followed behind (7)
- 3 Icy sport with sticks and puck(6)
- 5 Footballer played for Man U and Brazil (7)
- 6 Everyday clothes as apposed to a uniform (7)
- 7 There are five coloured rings on this Olympic item (4)
- 11 Latin American dance (5)
- 15 Japanese paper folding (7)
- 16 You need boats for this sport (7)
- 18 Competitor in track or field event (7)
- 19 An instruction when poring a drink (3 - 4)
- 21 A place for slot machines (6)
- 22 Island famous for cigars (4)

Answers on page 19

Notes from Stoke Golding Parish Council Meeting – August (not ratified)

Borough Cllr Reg Ward reported on the following:

The Site Allocation Document has been passed and will replace previous documents.

Planning – new planning committee members are being trained to enable them to make better decisions.

Combined Authority – 9 authorities will need a representative. Progress is on-going and the question of mayors is still unresolved.

Cllr Mitchell asked if there was anything new to report on the safety issues at Convent Corner. County Cllr Ould confirmed that he had visited the site and had informed the resident that nothing can be changed at this time.

Matters arising from July's meeting

Crime Report for May – 1 anti-social behaviour near Station Road, 1 vehicle crime near Pine Close and 1 violence/sexual offence near rec.

Morris Homes 'Bosworth Manor' Development - street names have been confirmed as Ridgeway and Ryelands Crescent.

Planning Applications:

New Applications:

36 Station Road – erection of 1 dwelling (outline – all matters reserved).

98 Sherwood Road – erection of garage, car port, single storey rear extension, loft conversion and installation of 1 dormer to rear.

St Martin's Catholic Academy – erection of classroom block. Comments from resident discussed and some valid points raised. Clerk to submit comment regarding the opportunity for review of safety at the school and forward copy of resident's comments to County Cllr Ould.

85 Hinckley Rd – two storey side extension, single storey rear extension and 1 rear dormer.

Permission granted:

Trinity House, 16 Main St – two storey side and rear extension

Land off Hinckley Rd – variation of condition 1 of planning permission to amend positioning of plots 75-80 due to water main easement, with plot 76 house type substituted

Arrangements for Remembrance Sunday - 13th November

Church service will be held at St Margaret's Church, prior to Service of Remembrance at the War Memorial.

Requests for use of football pitches

The Adult Football Club has confirmed its pitch requirements. The Youth Football Club has not yet confirmed its requirements.

Neighbourhood Plan

The minutes of Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee meetings held on 22nd June, 8th and 20th July, and all documents requiring approval were circulated to Councillors. The following were approved:

- Minutes of meetings

- The NP logo

- The NP project plan

- The members of the AC to undertake specific tasks in the plan

- The methodology to obtain the evidence base by consulting group/societies, information/evidence meetings and a survey/questionnaire to all households in the NP area

The pro-forma used to collect evidence from societies/groups/businesses

The method of recording the evidence base

It was agreed that open ended questions should be used with no leading questions. Cllr Terhege queried Kirkwells costs. Cllr Mitchell confirmed that once the costs of meetings were confirmed and the AC was ready to claim the government grant then actual costs for Kirkwells consultancy would be sought.

It was agreed that a public meeting should take place at least every two months; it is important to keep residents informed of progress, answer any questions and ensure transparency. Cllr Beale has applied for an Ordinance Survey Mapping license. The question of whether the NP should be until 2026 or 2036 was discussed and deferred until Cllr Mitchell had gathered further information and advice.

Sport in Stoke Golding

The cricket club has confirmed three representatives for the SISG committee, with one willing to stand as Vice-Chair. Pavilion repairs are almost complete; however a crack on the back wall is getting worse. Cllr Pegg suggested digging a trench to find out the cause. A budget of £200 was agreed.

Play equipment

The additional 106 money has been received and the order for the table tennis table has been made.

Bus shelter near St Martin's School

The Dominican Sisters have confirmed permission to use their land. It was agreed to order the Eaton (same as the one on Hinckley Road), at a cost of £7,170. Clerk to confirm funding from the Charity of Thomas Barton.

Convent Site Community Land

Cllr Pegg reported on discussions with Mark Horsley of Mar City regarding the poor state of the community land. If the Parish Council does not take on the land the allotments will remain and the other land will be fenced off. Cllr Pegg suggested the Parish Council should aim to secure and protect the existing allotments.

Cllr Terhege reported that residents of the development are not happy with the state of the community land and the unfinished roads. As yet Mar City has not met its 106 obligations and the HBBC Enforcement Officer is looking into this.

Appointment of a trustee of the Charity of Thomas Barton with effect from 2nd August

Gillian Groom has agreed to be reappointed for a further term of four years

Communications received by the Chairman of the Council

Written

Email from resident regarding trees and ditch at Hinckley Road Cemetery – following inspection by Cllr Pegg, Parish Council awaiting assessment by Harbours.

Email from resident regarding Convent Corner hedge – Clerk notified Morris Homes and work has been carried out.

Email from resident – boundary query at Hinckley Road Cemetery.

Email from resident – additional car parking at the rec.

Verbal

Request from resident of Church Close regarding brambles/nettles – Jason has completed this work as part of his contract.

Trees at Hinckley Road Cemetery – pollarding required in the future.

Trees in Shenton Close are overgrown. Clerk to notify LCC Highways.

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



OBITUARY



Mary Winifred Doughty



It is with sadness that we report that Mary Doughty passed away at the Leicester Royal Infirmary on 16th July 2016 at the age of 79 years. She was a much loved wife of Derek and a cherished mum to Kevin, a doting grandmother to Kirstie and Leon and a great grandmother to some amazing children.

Mary was born in Leicester and before moving into this village, she and Derek ran a thriving bed and breakfast business in Blackpool.

They eventually came to Stoke Golding in the 1980's as tenants of the White Swan on High Street where they made an immediate and popular impact amongst the locals. With their willing band of helpers Derek constructed a sledge mounted on a trailer which featured Santa Claus at Christmas time, as they toured the streets of the village and Dadlington, shaking their collecting tins. It was an immediate success with adults and children alike and over the years Mary and her snowmen and snowgirls collected thousands and thousands of pounds for village and local charities. Mary and Derek's sleigh still patrols the streets at Christmas time. Look out for it this coming festive season.

They instigated a bonfire night fireworks display, always with a massive fire and with food made and sold by Mary and her team. The profits from this event together with that from a monthly pub quiz, which was always a great success, with free food courtesy of Mary's kitchen, went towards a special Christmas Party for the older members of the village. Mary was thus able to invite some sixty or seventy pensioners to the pub just before each Christmas where they were all treated to a three course turkey dinner with a miniature bottle of spirits thrown in. The meal was always followed by a visit from father Christmas, songs from the junior school choir, and entertainment afterwards. How did she and her helpers manage to serve up such a feast from such a tiny kitchen

Many people in this village support our local charities and organisations but with the passage of time their efforts fade in the memory. So, let's not forget people like Mary.

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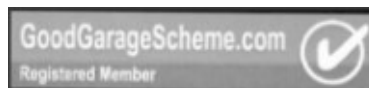


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