

May 2022

No. 211

# The Stoker



**Stoke Golding Village Magazine**

*Including*

**Dadlington Matters**

**70p**



## Note from the Editors



We hope everyone had a peaceful and sunny Easter. The Queen's Jubilee is almost upon us, and as you will see there are lots of events across both villages to enjoy. We are also looking into a online / paperless version of the magazine and would welcome your

feedback on this. Please see page 3 for details.

We have updates on the ongoing Ukrainian appeal on page 18 , and wish to welcome Mila to our village. You can hear more about her story on page 9.

Congratulations to The Concordia Theatre who have been awarded The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, an amazing achievement. You can read more on page 3

We hope all our readers are well, keep sending in your stories and letters please, we love to share them.

*Steve & Kate*

## The Stoker Team

*Editors:* Steve Smithers (01455 213798) Kate Poyser Clark (01455 213744)

*Production Team:* Rosemary Collier, Ella Orr, Jan Pettyfer, Jill Webster, Jennifer Michie, Michael Dix, Sandra Pollard, Jane White

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

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

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

***N.B. All advertising enquiries to Ella Orr - [ella42@sky.com](mailto:ella42@sky.com)***

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

*Cover picture: Apple blossom in the editors garden*

## The Stoker - an online edition?

**Don't worry, we are still keeping the traditional paper version too!!**

We are looking into creating an online copy of the village magazine, as well as a digital archive of the previous Stokers. We wanted to hear from the villages if this is something that would be useful or wanted. We thought those who no longer live in the villages or those with family members who have moved away may wish to read it?! We know that younger readers may rather access the magazine in a digital format too, as well as those wishing to go paperless for environmental reasons.

We would be looking at a subscription £5 annually for both the 10 copies that year plus the archive, or a £2 subscription for the archive only. There would also be scope for additional content such as video or podcasts, or anything else you would be interested in!

**Please send comment or feedback to us at [thestoker@gmx.co.uk](mailto:thestoker@gmx.co.uk)**



## Concordia Theatre Receives Queen's Volunteer Award



The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest and most coveted award that can be given to volunteer groups in the UK, has been presented to Hinckley Concordia Theatre Chairman, Will Hare, to recognise the theatre's outstanding contribution to volunteering in the community.

The award was presented by The Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire, Michael Kapur OBE and the Queen's declaration paying tribute to the theatre was read out by one of his Deputy Lieutenants, Janie Martin.

The theatre is run totally by volunteers who are involved in everything from the Spotlight Bar, the Box Office, general

maintenance, making and painting scenery, lighting, sound, back stage and front of house.

More volunteers are always welcome, so get in touch with Judy if you are interested in getting involved.

Please email: [judy.peatfield@concordiatheatre.co.uk](mailto:judy.peatfield@concordiatheatre.co.uk) to find out more.

*Jane White*

## Bob's Focus

Well, like I said last month, it's all kicking off out there, certainly in the ornithological world. Around the village the Tawny Owls have been very vocal, 4 weeks back, whilst taking Winnie for her evening walk past the cemetery in Hinckley Road I was stopped dead in my tracks by an unusual and haunting sound which I managed to record on my phone, a very low, slow warble. I could just manage to make out the shape of the serenading Romeo perched in the tree just above the gates, a male Tawny apparently courting his mate.

I am amazed at the level of activity in my own garden since moving the feeders closer to the house and changing one of them to sunflower hearts which are now attracting the Goldfinches and yesterday 3 Bullfinches. The peanuts which went uneaten when placed further up the garden next to the Magnolia are now being feasted on throughout the day by Blue, Great, Long tailed and Coal tits with nothing going to waste, anything that hits the deck is hoovered up by the Pigeons, Robins, Dunnocks and Blackbirds.



So far I have identified nest sites in my modest little plot of: Pigeons (2), Dunnock nests (2), Robin nests (2), Wren (1, possibly two) Blue tits (1) Green Finches (1) Blackbirds (2) and I am sure I haven't got them all.



With all this activity comes less welcome but equally as attractive visitors, the head and shoulders shot of this female Sparrow hawk I took just before I sat down to type this article.

A couple of weeks ago I was lucky enough to rescue a Redwing from the middle of the road that was suffering mild concussion after an altercation with a vehicle, he made a full recovery and was released the next day for his long flight back home. The next day, Karma was returned as I found myself only a few feet away from a couple of Yellow Hammers who normally are very shy, they posed for a few photos before flying off to a

distant Hawthorn.

After a tip off from a member of the village Facebook page, yesterday I spotted a pair of Bramblings in the garden next door and last night at the Bath Piece spotted my first Swallow of the season, skimming over the canal mopping up insects.

I'll be keeping my eyes peeled for the first swifts arriving preceded by those screams that give away their presence high in the sky, a

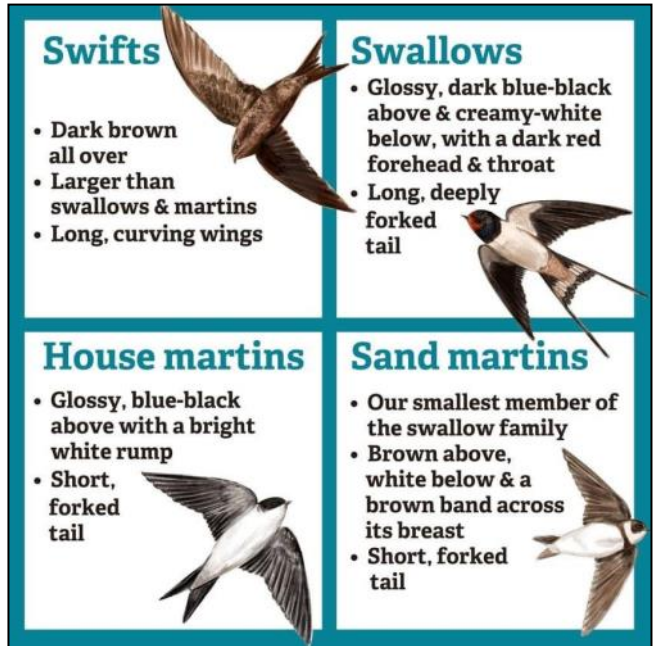
fascinating and prehistoric bird so here are a few facts: Swifts are the fastest bird recorded in level flight 69.3mph. They sleep in part torpor in the stratosphere, they court, mate, eat, bathe and can catch raindrops in mid flight. If a Swift lives to an average of 5.5 years of age (they have been known to live for 21 years) they will have covered over 4 million miles. A juvenile swift will not mate until they are four years old so from leaving the nest they will not land again for another 3 years. Swifts pair for life and are 'site - faithful' returning from Africa to the same nest every year. Sadly they are in decline and have decreased 58% over the last 23 years.

I have attached a quick guide as although Swifts are quite distinctive, Swallows, House Martins and Sand Martins can be a little trickier to identify.

I promise I'll give the birds a rest next time, tomorrow is my oldest daughters birthday and her requested birthday treat is to go and do some Badger watching, how could I refuse? Best pop some new batteries in the night vision equipment, may even take the bat detector out as it seems to be warming up again.

Until next time.

*Bob*



## Battle of Bosworth Myths & Legends - 2

If you take one of the excellent guided walks at the Bosworth Battlefield Centre, you will come across a rather curious structure known as King Richard's Well or King Dick's Well. Here, the story goes, Richard quenched his thirst during the battle, but what is the truth behind this and why was this pyramid of stone erected over it?

There is undoubtedly a well here that, in times gone by, would flow into what is now Ambion Woods as a small rivulet. The author, William Hutton, visited the area whilst gathering evidence for his 1788 book, the first about the battle. In his account, the marsh where Richard III perished was created by the water from the same well he was supposed to have drunk from. In a written conversation with Leicestershire historian John Nichols of 1813, Hutton says

he revisited the site in 1807 but found it barely recognisable, the previously open fields having undergone enclosure in the interim. Nichols reassures him that his friend, the "profoundly-learned" Dr. Rev. Parr had located the well after much searching, with the assistance of a friendly farmer. After locating the owner of the land, Parr began an appeal to raise money for a permanent memorial. Whilst he wrote the original inscription for the grade ii listed monument, the current plaque records Parr's role in erecting it and that of The Fellowship of the White Boar, later to morph into the Richard III Society, in maintaining it. Dr. Parr's concern seemed to have been that the well was in danger of disappearing from history, but should it have been there in the first place?

It first appears in print on the plans for the proposed Ashby Canal in 1871, but a survey of the Dixie estate seven years later simply refers to it as Ambion Well. As there are a number of springs in the area, it's not even certain that the one Dr. Parr found was the same one associated with stories of Richard. Those stories were real enough, but whether they were based on actual events or whether they were just the fanciful musings of a few locals, it is difficult to say. As the battlefield has now been located a few miles away, there is no possibility that Richard drank from the well during the battle. Of course, he may have stopped enroute to the battlefield to quench his thirst but this seems unlikely. The king would surely have had adequate food and drink before setting off and, whilst a natural spring would be safer to drink than other water supplies, the risks of water-borne disease was real, which is why the drink



of choice was small beer, a weak concoction made from a second brewing that neutralised most germs and bacteria.

One possible reason for the emergence of the story could have been the opportunities that a well associated with a murdered king might have if the king subsequently became a martyr. The well might have become a place of pilgrimage and a nice little earner for whoever owned it.

*M Dix*

### Ten of a Kind

The May Day Bank Holiday occurs on the first Monday in May. Here are ten questions relating to public holidays

1. In which decade did May Day become a bank holiday in England?
2. In a normal year, how many public holidays are there in England and Wales?
3. Why do Scotland have a public holiday on 30<sup>th</sup> November?
4. In which county is the 1:2 gradient Cooper's Hill where a cheese is rolled from the top, followed by loads of people trying to catch it, every Spring Bank Holiday?
5. Where, in the British Isles, is Tynwald Day a public holiday?
6. Before 1830, British banks would close on 33 separate days for public holidays. What did the majority of these days celebrate?
7. Why is an additional bank holiday planned for the 3<sup>rd</sup> June?
8. In 1993, the John Major government considered replacing the May Day holiday with one in October to coincide with the anniversary of which naval battle of 1805?
9. Which Leicestershire villages' Spring Bank Holiday bottle kicking game has no rules except no eye-gouging, no strangling, and no use of weapons?
10. Which of the four countries making up the United Kingdom has the most public holidays?



*Answers on page 19*

## CASAG Report

If you have been down to the surgery , the snowmen have gone and the spring flowers printed by the cubs are up. Whilst putting the flowers up, 2 patients who came in spontaneously said how bright , cheerful and wonderful they were. The cubs ( 8-10 years old ) did the art work.

There is also a health promotion on MIND and mental health. They have a mental health support for team 999 number which is 0300 303 599.

They offer support for crisis situations and information on how to look after your well being, what to do if feeling overwhelmed and looking out for others as well.

*Jennifer Michie*



## The George & Dragon Pub Quiz for Ukraine

The pub was extremely full at the last charity quiz, complete with several Ukrainian flags (and our lovely Ukrainian villagers Pete Z and Miron) as money was being raised for the Ukrainian emergency appeal. Dave put together a great quiz as always and there were delicious cakes made for the occasion by Joy Alstead.

A massive £330 was raised for the appeal. There was a great atmosphere of support for Ukraine at the quiz, and we all hope for peace for Ukraine.

There are still a lovely selection of Pete Z's cards available to buy from behind the bar, if you wish to donate to the appeal.

*Kate Poyser Clark*





## Welcome Mila!

We were at a donation evening at the Leicester Ukrainian club last Friday when a friend came over and said she wanted us to meet someone who lived near us. Imagine our surprise when we were introduced to Tina, who lives in Stoke Golding and Mila, who had made her way here from Kyiv.



When it was announced that people could sponsor a refugee and act as their host for six months, Tina and her husband Ross knew they had to do it. What followed was a frustrating hunt on Facebook for Tina because the response from people in the UK was so great it was difficult to find someone to sponsor. Luckily Mila put her email address on her Facebook post and they soon began communicating by email. Mila's journey from Kyiv took her through Lviv, Krakow and Denmark until she arrived here. She is keen to improve her English, which is already very good and she has been cooking Ukrainian food for her hosts and a cake, which apparently, she has never done before because she never had time when she was at home!

The next challenge to tackle was British bureaucracy but Tina has nothing but praise for the council's Housing department and the local DWP. They have been amazingly efficient and helpful.

Tina has set up a Facebook page to help any local Ukrainians and their sponsors and so she's created Drusiv (friends) of Ukraine Leics & Warks which anyone can join.

The plan is to hold events at the Baxter Hall (thanks to the Baxter Hall committee for their generous support with this) for local refugees and their sponsors and to create a support network to get and share information.

Fundraising has already begun and donations of laptops and phones (as they are a necessity these days) or money will be gratefully received! If you would like to help with this or in any other way please contact the Facebook group.

*Jan Zelenczuk*

## Fool on the Hill A double edged sword .....

During the course of the last twelve months or so you will probably have heard or overheard someone in a pub/ coffee shop/ correctional institution banging on about the dramatic increase in the value of their house. Be honest, it might even have been you saying it. According to the Building Societies, the price of houses has risen by between 12% and whatever ridiculous figure upward of this they think will create the most impact. Whoopee, we're all property millionaires. The more astute will have noticed an even stranger phenomenon where the second hand family jalopy, for the first time in my memory at least, has achieved what one motoring journalist imaginatively described as "negative depreciation". Put more simply, your used car is now worth more than you paid for it a couple of years ago. So that's all good then. Break out the Babycham. Three cheers for inflation. However this boost to the family balance sheet does not in any way translate into what is termed disposable income, which is what you are going to need lots of when the less desirable side of inflation comes knocking at your door. A trip to the filling station now costs more than a family holiday (we used to go on some pretty rubbish holidays) and fuel to heat your house is now right up there with Myrrh in terms of price. At the checkout for the weekly shop you could be forgiven for thinking that the till operator failed to spot the little hurdle between you and the previous customer and has added his shopping onto yours. It might be worth asking if they would be prepared to accept some part of your recently enhanced property or motoring assets, say a patio door or the front wing of a Volkswagen Golf, in part payment, but honestly, you should brace yourself for disappointment. So here's the plan. The climate change protesters are telling us that Armageddon can be avoided if we all stop eating meat so I believe that the price of cows will fall dramatically. This means that you will be able to pick up your own bovine at a knock down price. Then you can get rid of the lawnmower, save your self money on petrol for it and, by an imaginative use of your garden hose, hook Buttercup up to your AGA and power all your culinary and heating requirements with your home grown supply of methane. There will be a bit of mess of course but I'm thinking your rhubarb will be the envy of the neighbourhood. Later, with a bit of creative marketing, the cow could be flogged off to Waitrose as

free range and sustainably resourced for a handsome profit enabling you to spend the winter months in Lanzarote.

Or we might find that we can get cheap gas by fracking, even if it means that the Blackpool Tower gets a bit of a lean on it.

Never did Pisa any harm.



## F.O.T.H



### Miles for Rainbows

This April I decided to take part in Miles for Rainbows.

The plan was to raise funds for Rainbows hospice for children and young people by covering a 65-mile loop across the East Midlands by either cycling, running, walking, or swimming throughout April. This could be achieved in one go or over multiple days or multiple ways. I enrolled myself on the Rainbows “Just Giving” website and shared my quest on Facebook.

Cycling is something I really enjoy, and I made a good start, cycling just over 54 of the 65 miles on my first day. To increase my challenge, I decided to try to match the miles I ride during April with the £'s of donations given.

This, possibly foolhardy idea, definitely increased the donations from friends knowing that their gift to the charity also meant that I would need to ride more miles.

At the time of writing, the end of April is looming, and donations have reached £243. I have managed to keep up, completing just over 232 miles. It's been great fun.

The George and Dragon have pledged the money they raise from this month's quiz, held on 27<sup>th</sup> April. I may not be able to match that donation with miles before the end of the month, but am grateful to be able add their support to Rainbows hospice for children and young people

Thank you to all who have so kindly donated.



Steve

# Dadlington Matters



## DADLINGTON RESIDENTS

You're Invited to the  
**PLATINUM JUBILEE  
BEACON LIGHTING**

**Hall Farm – June 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Arrive from 9.15pm  
onwards

Beacon lighting at 9.45pm

BYO flask, drink etc

Parking in the yard for a  
few cars

Please walk if you can

**The perfect way to start  
the Jubilee weekend**

## Forthcoming Events in the Village Hall

**1st Thursday every month** - Coffee  
and Chat 10.15am to 12.15pm.  
Home made cakes!

**23rd April** - Wine Tasting Evening.  
Tickets £10 including a ploughman's  
supper. Contact 01455 213244

**13th May and 10th June** - Film  
Nights. £3 including first drink.

**Come and join us!**



## DADLINGTON RESIDENTS

You're Invited to a  
**PLATINUM JUBILEE  
PICNIC ON THE GREEN**

**Dadlington Green – June 5th  
12 noon onwards**

Bring your own Picnic  
Bar available

Celebration cakes and ice  
creams provided. And more!  
Adult and children's games  
and races

Live entertainment  
Book your pitch, £10 donation  
per pitch

Send money in sealed  
envelope to

3 Stapleton Lane asap.

On envelope, write contact  
name and number, number in  
your group (max 6 per pitch)  
and names of Dadlington  
children under 18 in group.  
(Jubilee medals will be given!)

**JOIN US FOR A  
MEMORABLE  
VILLAGE CELEBRATION!**



St James' Church

Dadlington

# *Flower Festival*

Saturday 30th April

Sunday 1st May

Monday 2nd May

# *Glorious 70 Years*

**Songs of Praise** Sunday 1st May 6.30pm

Refreshments afterwards in the Village Hall

**Church Open** Daily 12 noon to 5pm

**Soup & Roll Lunch** served 12 noon to 2pm

**Tea, coffee & cakes & cream teas** served all day

**Raffle, tombola & stalls** in the Village Hall

All offers of **help, prizes & cakes** gratefully received Please call  
Caroline on 01455 212212 or 07969 685825

## What's On

STOKE GOLDING  
METHODIST CHURCH  
JUBILEE SPRING FAIR

SATURDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> MAY  
10.00AM -2.00PM



All our usual stalls with a few new additions including face painting for the children!



Join us for the popular  
Monthly Charity Quiz Night!

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

**Wednesday 25th May**

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

## St Margaret's Church

You are warmly invited to visit the Church for a celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

**Thursday June 2nd 2022 10.00 a.m –4.00p.m.**

Why not come along to enjoy a relaxing time enjoying tea/coffee and cakes in a beautiful setting.

Find out what has made this 800 year old building so special for our community.



## What's On



### **Platinum Jubilee Weekend 2nd - 5th June Stoke Golding**

#### **Thursday 2nd - Beacon Lighting**

We will be lighting the Jubilee beacon which is located in the field behind The Swan pub at 21.00hrs. All welcome to attend.

#### **Sunday 5th - The Big Rec Lunch**

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

At 10.30 there will be wheelbarrow races

11.30 set up

12.00pm Picnic begins

1.00pm Children's Crown Procession

(Prizes awarded in age groups for wheelbarrow races and crown making. More details to follow - look out for more details to follow on flyer being sent out )

3.00pm approx. - end of lunch party.

## Stoke Golding Scout to represent us at the next World Scout Jamboree

My name is Evie, and I am part of the 1st Stoke Golding Scout Group. I have been a part of this scout community for around 7 years, and I have now been given the opportunity to represent us in a World Scout Jamboree in South Korea. I was selected following an application and an assessment day process.

This event unites over 40,000 scouts aged 14-17 from around the world, the aim to build friendships, develop life skills, ideas and to make a positive difference to our world. From taking part, I am really looking forward to meeting lots of new people locally and from across the world, travelling to and exploring South Korea, developing my independence, and learning lots of new things.

Over the next year I will be working hard to prepare for this journey with a major aspect being fundraising to raise over £4000. For example, I will be litter picking around the Stoke Golding, Dadlington and Wykin, continuing to volunteer as a Cub Scout leader, baking for a coffee morning for my Granny's WI group and completing car boot sales. I have also set myself several physical challenges as follows:

- Walk 115 miles, each mile symbolising a year of scouting in the uk
- Cycle a mile for every beaver, cub, scout and explorer in 1st Stoke Golding groups
- Run 25 miles, each mile symbolising I will be attending the 25th World Scout Jamboree
- Climb Snowdon the second highest mountain in the uk to achieve 40,000 mountain steps, symbolising the amount of scouts attending the jamboree
- Kayak 7 miles, each mile symbolising the years I have been in scouting

If you would like to support me please check out my Just Giving page via the below link or searching for 'Evie-Sandall' on the website, I would be extremely grateful for any donations. Evie

[https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/evie-sandall?utm\\_term=ynXPbXj4w](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/evie-sandall?utm_term=ynXPbXj4w)





## Traffic calming changes to Dadlington

Concerns about traffic speeding through Dadlington were one of the biggest issues to come out of the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire a few months ago. Sutton Cheney Parish Council have now announced some measures to try to combat this.

A village gateway will be installed on Shenton Lane, as drivers enter the village from the Fenn Lanes, and enhanced dragon's teeth markings will remind drivers coming from Hinckley. These should be in place by June 2022. Signs to remind drivers to watch their speed will be part of a future development.

The Parish Council advise residents who are not happy with the current 30mph speed limit to raise their concerns with their local County Councillor  
*Michael Dix*

## Thank You

Thank you to all who contributed to or supported our cake stall at Springbank last month. The weather was kind and so was our neighbour - erecting his gazebo to keep the sun off the cakes.

£400 was raised and sent to the Children's Society to support vulnerable youngsters.

Thanks to you all. Patty & Sheila.

## A Very British A - C Quiz



All answers begin with A, B, or C.

1. In 1936 the B.B.C. broadcast their first T.V. programs from these studios.
2. This Crime Writer was born in Torquay and was made a Dame in 1971 and died in 1976.
3. Who was Mad, Bad and dangerous to know?
4. He wrote the 39 Steps and was Governor General of Canada. He was also known as Baron Tweedsmuir.
5. Queen Anne founded this racecourse.
6. This Clipper now rests in Greenwich.
7. This radio programme was first broadcast on January 1<sup>st</sup>. 1951.
8. Built between 1831-64, it spans the Avon Gorge.
9. Who organised the first day trip from Leicester to Loughborough?
10. This Cricketer advertised the hair cream, Brylcreem.

**Answers on page 23**

## Leicester Ukrainian Club 'Kalyna'

Situated on Fosse Road South in Leicester, the club, which is one of the Association of Ukrainians of Great Britain clubs, which were founded by Ukrainians who after the second world war found themselves in this country having in many cases lost their family and homes. The club and its members became their family and it has been part of my husband's life since he was born.

When the war in Ukraine started the Club went into action immediately with an appeal for food, clothes, toiletries and medical supplies that could be sent to Ukraine. The response from the people of Leicester and Leicestershire has been amazing and far surpassed what was initially hoped for.

So far two double articulated lorries and a single one have made it to the Polish/Ukraine border and the contents then moved on by van into Ukraine to where they were most needed. Thanks to an initiative called UK Rail for Ukraine, they have also been able to send three containers of medical and food items by rail.

Sadly, the focus on what they are collecting has changed over the weeks to include items such as tents, torches, thermal clothing, boots and thick socks. The donation list is always being updated so if you would like to donate something the current list is available on the clubs Facebook page and the centre is open to receive donations every Friday from 7-10pm.

They are also looking forward to welcoming Ukrainians coming to Leicestershire and are opening a visitors Welcome Centre at the club so that people can pop in for a chat, have a drink and meet other Ukrainians and let their children play together. It will also be a good place for hosts to get to know the community and swap information and experiences.

If you were wondering why the club was called 'Kalyna' then you may have had a clue if you've heard or seen on You Tube the Pink Floyd song featuring Andriy Khlyvnyuk called 'Hey, Hey, Rise Up' but better known as the folk song 'The Red Guelder Rose in the meadow'. The Guelder Rose is a variety of viburnum (called red after the berries) which is called 'Kalyna' in Ukrainian.

This patriotic, uplifting song has become the unofficial anthem of Ukrainian spirit and is sung now at every donation evening at the club. Slava Ukraini!

*Jan Zelenczuk*



## Coming Soon: A Hinckley & Bosworth Circular Walk

Following on from the success our book, *The Battlefields and Borderlands Way*, Eddie Smallwood and I were commissioned by Blaby District Council to create a circular walk around their area that passed through every parish. Similar in content to our book, the walk, which consists of 12 discrete circular walks that link together, details lots of history about the places the walk passes through. These have now been published by Blaby and are available at <https://www.visitblaby.org.uk/blaby-district-heritage-trails/> .

Eddie and I are currently involved in creating a similar set of walks for Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council. There will be 15 circular walks that will take you around the borough from Burbage in the south, to Orton on the Hill in the west and Groby in the north-east. The area is rich in heritage and contains some fabulous scenery. I will keep you updated on our progress.

Copies of *Battlefields and Borderlands Way* are still available at £6.50 by contacting [eddie.smallwood@btinternet.com](mailto:eddie.smallwood@btinternet.com)

*M Dix*

### Answers to 10 of a Kind

1. 1970s – 1978 in fact
2. 8
3. To celebrate St. Andrew's Day, their patron saint
4. Gloucestershire
5. Isle of Man
6. Saints' days
7. To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee
8. Trafalgar
9. Hallaton and Medbourne
10. Northern Ireland – they celebrate St. Patrick's Day and the Battle of the Boyne.

# Church Matters



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



Recently, I accompanied my wife for an MRI Scan. On arrival we were directed to the Imaging Suite. We waited a few minutes before being called during which I asked my wife what image she would like to be!!! Given the pain in her knee, this comment was not well received!!! However, it did occur to me that with easy access to many Apps on one's phone it would be simple to change one's appearance – some funny, some scary, each reflecting our mood at the time (perhaps you have already done this). A bit like the emojis we attach to texts, perhaps.

On Sundays at around 6.00pm. we watch Extraordinary Portraits on BBC 2. Simply put, the series is about people who have a story, meet up with an artist, tell their story and the artist produces a portrait reflecting the person and the story. If you haven't seen it, (and by the time you read this the series may well be completed but is available on iplayer) then can I encourage you to do so. It is both fascinating and challenging as one reflects on all aspects of what one has seen.

At times we take the skills that people have for granted. But take a step back – what are my skills and where do they come from? It's great to know they are there when needed, especially when life is difficult. These gifts are there whatever the context e.g. social, family, groups, community, caring. But how do we have this huge variety of skills, personally and collectively? Who gives us responsibility to realise our full potential. God provides them and we should give thanks to God for the skills we have and those given to others.

Should you wonder about God's presence in all this then a reading of Psalm 139 Verses 1 – 6 may help, but just in case, Psalm 139 Verse 13,14, and Isaiah 49, Verse 5, remind us that God knows us before we are born. Wow.

Finally, a couple of things to bear in mind as we approach a time in the church for reflection and discernment.

On 26th May, Ascension Day, will be celebrated with a 7.30pm Holy Communion Service at Dadlington.

The Benefice will be seeking to appoint a Rector – some may say about time!!! I wonder what image of the Benefice will be produced to encourage interest and, hopefully, appointment.

Blessings to you all during this lovely month of May,

*Keith Cornford, Pastoral Assistant*

## Church of England Services May 2022

### St Margaret's, Stoke Golding

1st May	10.30am	All Age
8th May	10.30am	Holy Communion
15th May	10.30am	Holy Communion
22nd May	10.30am	Morning Worship
29th May	10.30am	Holy Communion WITHERLEY

### St James', Dadlington

1st May	6.30pm	Songs of Praise
15th May	9.00am	Morning Prayer
26th May	7.30am	Holy Communion
29th May	10.30am	Holy Communion WITHERLEY

## STOKE GOLDING METHODIST CHURCH

### May Services 2022

**All at 10.30am**

1st May: Rev Dr Tim Woolley. This service will include Holy Communion

15th May: Anne Haddon

29th May: Circuit Service at Hinckley Methodist Church

## MESSY CHURCH

**OUR NEXT MESSY CHURCH IS ON THURSDAY 12TH MAY 5.00-6.30PM AT THE METHODIST CHURCH**

### PALM SUNDAY MESSY EASTER

A few photos from our wonderful Palm Sunday celebration



## Scouts Update



The beavers have been busy making mother's day cards and making models. We had a huge collection of cardboard including boxes bigger than the beavers.

The cubs have been out at Fox Coverts having a run round and playing games. Because of covid some of the cubs had never been there! So they all had a great time tearing around the place. They spoiled their mums by baking, making cards and photo frames. They enjoyed painting flowers to decorate the doctors surgery.

The scouts have been at Foxes camping in sub zero temperatures . They completed a navigation challenge during an eleven mile hike. They returned to the site to enjoy a campfire before retiring to their tents. In the morning they found ice on the inside of the tents and frozen tent zips. They are now officially members of the 'Frosty ' Club. Thank you to all who gave up their time to make this happen and YES they enjoyed themselves.

The scouts went out for a walk and finished the evening by building fires and toasting marshmallows. Again another fun time was held by all. Cubs, Scouts and Explorers enjoyed the great egg challenge- surprisingly a number of eggs survived the drop allowing the fresh egg to be swapped for a chocolate one!

Explorers enjoyed a night of indoor kayaking, where they perfected their capsze drill.

*Jennifer Michie*



# Obituary



## Ken Wakefield

Ken Wakefield, of Stoke Golding, passed away peacefully on 20th March, 2022, aged 86 years. Beloved husband of the late June and a much loved dad, grandad and great grandad. Donations in memory of Ken may be made to the Alzheimer's Society, care of G.Sellers, Funeral Directors, Upper Bond Street, Hinckley. Tel. 01455 637457.

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

## Answers to A Very British Quiz A-C

- |                     |                                  |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Alexandra Palace | 6. The Cutty Sark                |
| 2. Agatha Christie  | 7. The Archers                   |
| 3. Lord Byron       | 8. The Clifton Suspension Bridge |
| 4. John Buchan      | 9. Thomas Cook                   |
| 5. Ascot            | 10. Denis Compton                |



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

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

For more information about booking the hall take a look on our website [www.thebaxterhall.com](http://www.thebaxterhall.com) or contact Alison Bates, our booking clerk, Ring 213779 (before 9pm please) or email [bookings@thebaxterhall.com](mailto:bookings@thebaxterhall.com)



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

In March we enjoyed a wonderful evening with Margaret Lawrence who gave us a knowledgeable talk about Tai chi. We learnt that Tai chi is all about the 'three b's' - brain, breath and body.

Margaret told us that Tai chi is a form of martial art originating in China but has grown in popularity throughout the world, mainly for its health benefits. It can help relieve stress, build strength in the legs, improve SAD, improve balance and more. So if you are looking for a low impact exercise why not have a go at Tai chi!

At the end we had a go at Tai chi ourselves (it requires a lot of concentration!) and then Margaret gave us a beautiful demonstration. You could really see how invested and dedicated Margaret is and it was absolutely lovely to watch.



Our next meeting is on Tuesday 17th May at the village hall and will be 'holiday highlights' with Anne Fullagar. If you are interested in travel then please do come along and as always visitors are welcome.

We'd love to have you come along!





## Kitchen Corner

### Fluffy Strawberry Cake

This dessert is magnificent, and is deceptively easy. If you are having friends over, it is ideal as it can be made beforehand and serves 10-12 people.

#### INGREDIENTS

150gms (6ozs) Rich Tea Biscuits

½ Cup of Desiccated Coconut

1 tsp. ground Cinnamon

100gms (4ozs) Melted Butter

2 Egg Whites (at room temperature)

1 Cup of Caster Sugar

250gms (8ozs) Strawberries, Hulled and sliced

1tblsp Lemon Juice

1tsp Vanilla Extract

Fresh Raspberries for decoration

#### METHOD

Line the base of a 26cm (10") Spring-form cake tin with baking paper.

Put the biscuits, coconut, cinnamon and melted butter in a food

processor and pulse until combined. Place the crumbs into the base of the tin and press down firmly and evenly.

Put the egg whites, sugar, lemon juice and vanilla extract in a spotlessly clean mixing bowl, whisk on a high speed for 8 minutes. The mixture should now be thick and fluffy. Pour into the cake tin on top of the crumb base and smooth the top. Cover with a round of baking paper and freeze.

Freeze for at least 4 hours, but it will keep in the freezer for up to one month.

When ready to serve, remove from the freezer, sprinkle the raspberries on top and slice with a sharp knife dipped into very hot water, do this for each slice and the cuts will be clean and smooth.

Cheers, Avis



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