

The Stoker



Stoke Golding Village Magazine

Including

Dadlington Matters

70p



Note from the Editors

As we write, the Autumn is making itself known once again, replacing the warm sunny blue skies that we have been enjoying with clouds, a light drizzle and a cooler temperature.



This years village Scarecrow event was a great success, despite Covid-19. It's

heartening witnessing the village pull together. Congratulations to the winner, pictured on our cover. See if you can find the photo of your scarecrow in the centre pages? I hope we didn't miss any, they were all brilliant!

A big thank you to those that have provided the content to this edition, full of local and historical interest—with some wonderful photos to illustrate too.

September was the month that we collected the yearly £7 from our subscribers. We asked, where possible, for payment by bank transfer and many of you have done so, thank you. (See Bob Q's amusing response to this on p5). This helps us in maintaining social distancing, however we are still accepting cash or cheques where this is more convenient for you. **Note:** Did you know you get free delivery when you subscribe to The Stoker?

Enjoy October and stay safe, Jane and Steve

The Stoker Team

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

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Please send articles for the **November** issue of The Stoker **by 15th Oct.** to:

The Editors, 45 Station Road, Stoke Golding.

Email thestoker@gmx.co.uk

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

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

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

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

Cover picture: Stoke Golding's winning Scarecrow September 2020 (only a part of the actual creation by Tina Waters and Co.)

Animal Enthusiast Charlie Raises Funds at the Scarecrow Festival

Seven year old Charlie, from Roseway, raised a fantastic £111.91 for the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) on his sweet stall at the Scarecrow Festival.

Charlie thought it would be a good idea to have some sweets and a donation box, so the money he raised could be used to help animals from around the world under threat through issues such as habitat loss.

As the weekend went on he really enjoyed talking to people about his chosen charity and became increasingly determined to raise more money for the cause, so donated a portion of his own spending money and decided to clear out some of his toys to sell.

Charlie's Mum, Sam, says he has a real growing interest in animals. He loves bird watching, bat watching, and hunting for minibeasts. He has made a wildlife haven in his back garden and is hoping to attract hedgehogs. His interest in global wildlife has increased with visits to the zoo and he loves watching wildlife documentaries, such as David Attenborough's 'Seven Worlds, One Planet'. He has a National Geographic Animal Encyclopaedia which he has read from cover to cover, and continues to enjoy on a near daily basis, and he can now tell you all sorts of facts about animals from around the world.

Sam says "we are really proud of all his efforts and determination and the response of the community in supporting his fundraising has been so fantastic".

Well done Charlie from the Stoker Team - you are a Super Star.



Scarecrow Festival Fund Raising

Stop Press! To the Scarecrow Festival Committee and all the community who worked so hard and gave so generously our grateful thanks for the money raised for the Church. What a tremendous result!

From the Parochial Church Council of St. Margaret's.



A Letter From Stoke Golding Surgery

Dear patients at Stoke Golding Surgery,

We hope many of you have had the opportunity to read the letter we as Partners wrote to you at the end of August. We have sent a text message with a link for those who have mobile phones but also are providing a paper copy of this letter for those attending to collect their prescriptions from the dispensary at Pine Close.

A number of questions have been raised by some patients at Stoke Golding and as Partners, we are keen to clarify and reassure you on some of the more common and understandable concerns.

The temporary closure of Stoke Golding Surgery, except the dispensary, was a decision that was not taken lightly and was done in line with local and national recommendations. First and foremost, we hope to reassure you that we are keen to re-open the surgery as soon as possible for clinical work and are looking at ways to do this safely.

As mentioned in the previous letter, our main aim was to protect the staff in the dispensary to ensure a continued prescription service to you as patients. Furthermore, working out of one site allowed us to be flexible in the instance of staff illness but also set the practice up in a manner to support the more vulnerable and shielded patients.

Another concern was the decision made not to hold a flu clinic at Stoke Golding Surgery. The government have released guidelines on how we should proceed with the facilitation of these clinics and we have extensively explored ways both in Stoke Golding and Hinckley. It was imperative that we were able to ensure social distancing and also meet the infection control guidelines. This means we had to consider carpets, entrances and exits and car parks. We explored other larger sites in Stoke Golding but once again they did not meet infection control recommendations nor did many have the availability we needed.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused to you in recent months during the pandemic. Our focus has been to provide a safe and efficient service to patients, whilst also mindful of the responsibilities that we have to our staff.

We want to assure you that the care of patients in Stoke Golding is just as important to us as those patients in Hinckley. Despite the uncertainty of what the pandemic holds, and that this year has been unprecedented in its challenges to healthcare and beyond, please know that re-establishing a local service when safe and possible is our main priority.

Yours Sincerely

The Partners



Subscription by BACS?

Dear Stoker Editors,

Last Tuesday I went to Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club for my afternoon game and meeting with my old pals. There were six of us, all of whom had played for many years in the Leicestershire and /or Staffordshire Leagues before our relegation to the Veterans and finally to the "Super-Vets" League. We now play "friendly" but still highly competitive tennis amongst ourselves. One of our group reminded us that it would be his 83rd birthday later in the week and another wondered how many of us were now octogenarians. Four of us fell into that category, the other two not far behind. Another of our group, a former grammar-school teacher and one of four teachers in the group, told us he had recently received a request to pay a bill via "Pay-Pal" and he had no idea what that was. This prompted our four octogenarians to tell similar stories of being "left behind" in an increasingly computerised "digital" world of which they had little or no knowledge.

I said, with some pride, I had managed to cope very well in dealing with my Tax Returns and Bank Accounts "online" for several years until I was told that I must have a mobile 'phone as well as a computer in order to receive additional passwords by text every time I wanted to access my accounts. This was the final straw for me, and I wrote very pointed letters to both organisations demanding that we revert to the post.

Our "elder statesman," a former deputy headmaster who had stayed "on-call" for many years after his retirement would, at the drop of a hat, step into the shoes of any teacher who fell sick. He said he felt embarrassed when the school decided to "computerise" the registers and he had to ask one of his students to come to the front to mark it for him. They must have found it very amusing.

Both he and the grammar-school teacher had, some time after their retirement, enlisted on a computer course for "beginners of a certain age," led by a "teacher" who knew everything there was to know about computers, nothing about teaching, was oblivious to the difference between knowledge and skills, and unaware of the maximum number of students required to teach the latter, a situation I have come across many times. They came away with a little knowledge but no idea how to use it.

By some strange coincidence when I arrived back home there was a message waiting for me from a representative of The Stoker asking me if I "**could pay by BACS this year.**" I was tempted to ask whether I could pay with **BOEBs** instead but think my reply was polite and I made it clear that, not having a clue what a **BACS** was, I would be happy to pay by cheque or cash and I'm pleased to say this was readily accepted.

Yours sincerely, Bob Quinney.

P.S. for those too young to remember, a **BOEB** is a Bank of England Banknote!

We would like to reassure all our readers that we are happy for subscription renewals to be by cheque, cash or BACS, but maybe not BOEBs!! Ed's

Bob's Focus

For those of you who follow me on Facebook you may have seen that a few weeks ago I submitted a post, highlighting our delight when we walked one of our favourite circular routes to Shenton and back, returning across the fields between North and Apple Orchard Farms.



What we discovered were 3 fields that had been planted with a mix of Millet with wild flowers between the rows, a haven for bee's, butterflies and birds. I know Shenton isn't Stoke Golding but it's only a spit away and as its close enough to affect our ecology I thought its more than worthy for this article.

I needed to find out more so the detective work started and with the help of some Facebook friends and my neighbour Sarah I was able to email Mr Charles Wollaston to express my excitement at what they had done on the estate, this led to me being contacted by Stephen Smith, the Shenton Estate Farm manager.

It was a lovely sunny afternoon as I drove half way down the long track to meet Stephen who gave me a warm and friendly greeting (Social distancing adhered to) Stephen and his wife Ros have managed the estate since 1986 and I was soon to find out that his knowledge and passion for wildlife was going to humble me, his interest goes back to his childhood and was nurtured by his parents. In 2001 Stephen realised that wildlife in the area was rapidly diminishing so decided it was time to do something about it.



This was when Stephen applied for a Stewardship Grant from the government which would help fund his dream of giving something back to nature and bringing the wildlife back to the estate. We walked 5, possibly six fields with Stephen pointing out insects, butterflies, bees plus a couple more fields planted with wildflowers that were yet to

take hold. "Seed is very expensive but its well worth it" he said. Ros was in one of the fields collecting buckets of seed heads to dry out, being tipped off when to harvest them by the flocks of Goldfinches that descend upon the fields when the seeds are ready.

Wildflower meadows need a lot of care he told me, not all weeds are good and need to be kept in check manually which takes hours of their time. The borders around the fields are wider than normal to encourage ground nesting birds and wildlife, hedges are only cut every two years to ensure the

best habitat for the birds.

At any one time between 50 to 75% of the 550 acres are managed to enhance diversity, a new larger wetland has been created on the estate to increase the existing wet areas to encourage Snipe.

The fields that you will see along the footpath have been planted with various Kale hybrids, Linseed, Fodder Radish, Gold of Pleasure, White Mustard, Phacelia, Sandoval Quinoa, Utopia and Perennial Chicory and Millet. These fields will not be harvested but will be left to feed the birds well into Spring!



I have done it again and gone over my 500 words, the editors will be after me! I could have written 5000 words on the work of Stephen, Ros and Mr Wollaston quite easily. I just wanted to highlight the excellent ongoing work by our neighbouring estate and for what they are doing to promote and diversify the local ecology which will impact upon our lovely village. I am sure we all thank you Mr Wollaston, Stephen and Ros for your dedication and hard work.

Colli Bob

James & Harry's Stoke Golding



Two Stoke Golding boys decided to start a website as a summer project. James (aged 8) and Harry (aged 7) created "**James & Harry's Stoke Golding**".

The two boys enjoy walking and have seen lots of interesting things around the village and their wonderful project documents much of

Stoke Golding, as seen through their eyes.

Take a look at James & Harry's Stoke Golding:
<https://sites.google.com/view/jamesharrysstokegolding/>

Friends of the Community: Stoke Golding Wykin Lane Road User Survey

As we all know, traffic is a key concern for everyone who lives in, or travels to and from Stoke Golding. The developer concerned with the current Wykin Lane proposal made the statement that there are no pedestrian road users on the lane. We all know this is incorrect, but in order to prepare for the potential appeal, we wanted to provide fact-based evidence.

The best way to achieve this is to sit at the side of the road and conduct a survey. Over the weekend of 12th & 13th September, Ross Lockett organised us into a few groups to do just this – sit at the side of the road and record activity for 2 hours in the morning and 2 in the afternoon over both days. The site selected was adjacent to the first public footpath, as you leave the village on Wykin Lane. We recorded pedestrians, runners, cyclists, equestrians and basically anything that moved without an engine. The direction of travel was recorded - north and south on the Lane and turning into or out of the footpath.

Were we surprised by the results? Absolutely.



364 individuals passed by over the **8** hours of the survey.

This was made up of:

197 Pedestrians

163 Cyclists

2 Equestrians

2 Wheel Chairs

The average movement we saw during the weekend survey was **46** per hour.

We will conduct a similar exercise during weekdays over the next few weeks. This information is specifically targeting the defence of Wykin Lane and is intending to illustrate how well it is used by vulnerable, non-motor vehicle traffic.

This defence of Wykin Lane traffic plays a significant role in resistance against any of the proposed village developments. What route from the village will the proposed Roseway homes take? Many of us believe that this potential new traffic would avoid both schools and meander through the estate and onto Wykin Lane as the preferred .

route to Hinckley. We need to prove that this lane is simply not safe enough for more traffic.

If you haven't already, please **object** to Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council in writing concerning the proposed **Roseway** development. Remember to include the reference 20/00779/OUT and your name and address

You can email:

Planning@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk or post a letter to Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, Hinckley Hub, Rugby Road, Hinckley, Leics LE10 0FR

Also, please join our campaign against overdevelopment of Stoke Golding and similar villages and sign our online petition on **Change.Org**. Go to the site and simply type in Stoke Golding in the search bar.

Steve Martin



Stoke Golding Scout Group

The Scout Group is now in the Amber plus zone, having been in the red zone before the summer due to the lockdown in Leicester.

We have been given permission to consider resuming the meetings within the regulations imposed and having done a thorough risk assessment following the 160 page document risk assessment for “getting back together safely”. For example, our numbers will be restricted to 15 with maximum of 5 leaders, but at all times they must be 2 metres apart and preferably outside.

So, at the moment, the leaders are conducting the meetings virtually and working towards the sections getting together at some point in the future. Following the detailed risk assessment it still needs to be agreed by the Executive within Stoke Golding and then has to go to District and County for approval too.

At our virtual Cub meeting this evening there were the suggestions for baking, drawing and crafts. The logistics of these suggestions are being considered but may have to wait until we are back in the hall.

In summary - watch this space. However, if you want your child to join the Scout Group, you can search on line for the “on line scout manager” and search for the waiting list for 1st Stoke Golding (St Margaret’s) and fill in the boxes.

Jennifer



New Baby Congratulations to Charlotte from Tammy’s Hair Design

Delilah Emmy was born on 15th August weighing 5lb 2oz and we understand both mother and baby are doing well.

*Congratulations from all the
Stoker team*

Thank You from the Scarecrow Team

The Scarecrow Committee felt the village really needed something positive to look forward to in the current climate and decided the Scarecrow Festival could safely go ahead.

The success of the year before was always on my mind. Would this really work? Can we manage this safely and will the villagers want this? I did have some worrying nights thinking this could not work out as well as we planned.



We had Bernie's ice cream van driving around the village all weekend, the Club put on some music and snacks while the pubs opened up for refreshments. We arranged it a little bit differently this year by having stallholders outside their own homes over the three-day period. It worked so well and we were pleasantly surprised we actually raised more money than we did last year, which was just amazing.

Posters were made and displayed in the village by Shiona, Wendy and Suzanne and Scarecrow trails were designed and printed by Vicki Palmer. Advertising was done locally so that we didn't attract too many people from outside the village, again sticking with safety measures.

It wasn't the hottest days and we had a few less scarecrows than last year, but it went so well! I couldn't believe all the different creations that people made this year and how many people are really getting into it. The winners were well deserved, and we all agreed the Covid scene designed by Tina Waters was brilliant. We thought everyone's Scarecrows were imaginative and clever.

It was good to see the village again scattered with so many scarecrows and just a happy vibe. Our local photographer, Colli Bob (not his real name), did a grand job of taking all the pictures and walking around with me for 3 hours, stopping and talking to everyone!

Altogether the event for the church restoration fund raised £2727. £792 from raffles tickets, trails, entries, and competition entries. £1935 was donated from stall holders and donations. This includes sales from trails, raffle tickets and entry fees. Many stallholders donated the profits from their own stalls.

Lovely raffle prizes were donated by villagers, including a boat hire for the day and a flight experience in a Boeing plane! You were all amazingly generous considering the impact Covid has had on so many businesses.

We just want to thank everybody again from the bottom of our hearts for making this weekend happen.

We anticipate next year to be bigger and better and hopefully Stoke Golding will continue to keep building scarecrows every year.

Thank you again from the Committee - myself Rachel, Shiona, Wendy and Suzanne.

Dadlington Matters



Wild flowers in Dadlington

Dadlington has also been doing its bit for pollinators and wildlife. Following the improvement of the bank adjacent to The Green last Autumn by Sutton Cheney Parish Council, residents sowed wild flower seeds earlier this year and were pleased to see the result so quickly. Hopefully this will look even better next year. The Neighbourhood Plan group are also looking for sites in the village to sow wild flowers.

Phil Kitley

Save the date!

You may remember the successful Art Exhibitions held at the Baxter Hall in the last two years. The group are planning to hold one this year at the **VILLAGE HALL** on **SUNDAY 29TH NOVEMBER**. Outline plans include a one way system through the Hall with suitable social distancing etc. As usual there would be no obligation to buy – although of course we love to sell. There will be original works of art, prints and cards on display.

As we are using the Village Hall we will have a bit more space and would be pleased to welcome one or two more artists to exhibit with us. The only real criterion is that you live in Stoke Golding (or Dadlington). We know there are many talented crafters in the village – but please don't apply!

For further details please contact:

Pauline Goodsell 01455 212955 or email: millburn5@hotmail.co.uk

Fool on the Hill

Saving Grandpa's sanity....

I mean, honestly, if you had seen the way the Tombliboos were messing about the other day. Not sitting down promptly, changing seats and pretending they had forgotten how to fasten their seatbelts. Then the Pontipines, all ten of them, joined in as well, running around and generally misbehaving. It's no wonder that the Ninky Nonk never runs on time.

About now dear readers, you have probably divided into two camps. Those of the opinion that after years of provocation, Mrs Fool has finally, and some may say justifiably, lost her cool and set about my cranium with the family rolling pin. The above gibberish is therefore, the product of a severe concussion. There will also be those parents and grandparents familiar with the output of C-Beebies and will, therefore, recognise the characters from In the Night Garden. I would still contend that the writers of this bizarre offering could be concussed or in the habit of experimenting with strange substances. Perhaps though, it has some deep psychological and educational basis which escapes me. I can say with a high degree of certainty that the effect of this programme on a certain young member of our clan, and I am sure many others of his ilk, is little short of miraculous.

It would appear that Government rules now permit us to visit grandson Mark 3 in the Metropolis and stay overnight. This means that after many years away from the practise of looking after toddlers, we can now be pitched in at the deep end of what they call childcare. Well, things have changed a bit since our days of parenting. The thing that strikes the Grandparent in charge, and I use that word very loosely, is that there is a very good reason why people have children when they are young. The ageing and increasingly failing body of a grandparent is simply not equipped to deal with a toddler who gets bigger and stronger with each passing hour whilst our physical decline is on an opposing and accelerating track. Hence after a few hours of trying to keep up you are faced with a very stark choice. You can either administer sedatives or reach for the TV remote. Like many others, I have been of the opinion that resorting to plonking them in front of the telly is tantamount to an admission of defeat. I now freely accept the error of my thinking. It is amazing to see how this little bundle of joy, who has been bouncing around all day like a charged particle in a magnetic field, will suddenly become like the Duracellbunny with the batteries removed. One word from Iggle Piggle and all activity ceases to the point where you could remove his socks, plant cress in his toes and watch it grow. I should add that the last metaphor is intended to convey an image of the passage of time rather than being a commentary on the state of his feet.



F.O.T.H

Locals of Note: Ada Lovelace - The Mother of Programming



Did you know that 8th October is Ada Lovelace Day, an international day that celebrates the achievement of women in maths, science, technology and engineering? So who was Ada Lovelace, and why would there be an article on her in *The Stoker*?

Quite apart from the merits of celebrating the largely unheralded contribution of women to science, Ada was a local girl. She grew up five miles from our two villages in Kirkby Mallory, although she wasn't your typical Leicestershire lass. For a start, her father was the celebrated poet and peer, Lord Byron. Ada's parents separated a month after her birth in 1815, with Byron leaving England forever three months

after that. Ada's mother was determined that her daughter should follow her own interests in mathematics rather than follow her father's poetic excesses and so Ada was schooled in maths, logic and the sciences. Machines fascinated her throughout her life, this at a time of great technological innovation.

She married into the nobility to become the Countess of Lovelace and was mentored by the Scottish science writer Mary Summerville. Through her scientific and social connections, she was introduced to some of the leading Victorians of the age, such as Charles Dickens, Michael Faraday and Charles Babbage. Babbage was a mathematician who is often described as the father of computing because of his plans to build an incredibly complicated Analytical Engine, a machine that would carry out mathematical calculations. He asked Ada to translate an article on the machine, written by an Italian mathematician and to add her own thoughts. Her notes turned out to be three times as long as the original article and contained what are generally considered to be the very first computer programs. She also foresaw the possibilities of using the machine to manipulate symbols and create music. The notes were a key document that Alan Turing drew upon when working on the world's first computer in the 1940s.

The Analytical Machine was sadly never built and Ada's contribution to maths and science was cut short at the relatively early age of 36. She is buried next to her father in Hucknall, Nottinghamshire. When, in 1977, the US Department of Defence commissioned a new computer language to replace the 450 different ones they had running, they decided to call it ADA as a tribute.

Michael Dix

Ten of a Kind – October 2020

October was when the first Ten of a Kind appeared in The Stoker and, as this is the sixth October of the quiz, the questions all relate to six and sixths.

1. Which number is opposite a six on standard dice
2. Who was the sixth wife of Henry VIII?
3. In the 1999 film The Sixth Sense, what does the young boy tell the child psychologist he can see, in the most quoted line of the film?
4. How many birds did I receive from my true love on the sixth day of Christmas?
5. Six sided hexagons can be arranged in a repeating pattern with no gaps between the shapes. What word describes this kind of repeating pattern?
6. Which nation joined the Five Nations Tournament in 2000 to make it the Six Nations?
7. Who was the Six-Million Dollar Man? (Character or the actor who played him, or both)
8. The 1967 conflict 3rd Arab-Israeli War was also known as the Six Days War and was fought between Israel and three of its Arab neighbours. Egypt and Jordan were two of them, which was the third?
9. What will a cricket umpire do with his arm or arms to signal the batsman has hit a six?
10. If something happens every six months, is that a biannual event or a biennial event?

Answers on page 26



The old Vicarage and the iron railings

I was very interested to read Roy's article about the old Vicarage and the iron railings. I was only recently thinking about them when walking by one day. I lived next to the Vicarage with my parents, Robert and Peggy Holmes from 1961 until 1977. In the earlier days prior to having a fence erected, we had lovely views of the woodland and the vicarage grounds.

It was the time of the Reverend and Mrs Moncur, and I was of similar age to their four children. Their cousins used to visit each summer and we became friends, and I remember climbing over those railings to see them. Each summer there were garden fetes held in the grounds, and Mum and I always had a stall, and the sun always seemed to shine. Once, I remember members of the Clergy coming to visit and Mrs Moncur asking me if I would help her to serve them all breakfast, which I did, and I got to know that kitchen very well! I can still picture all those downstairs rooms, and the big wide staircase.

There was great sadness when it was demolished, as it was so much a part of Wykin Lane and the village.

Christabelle McCarthy

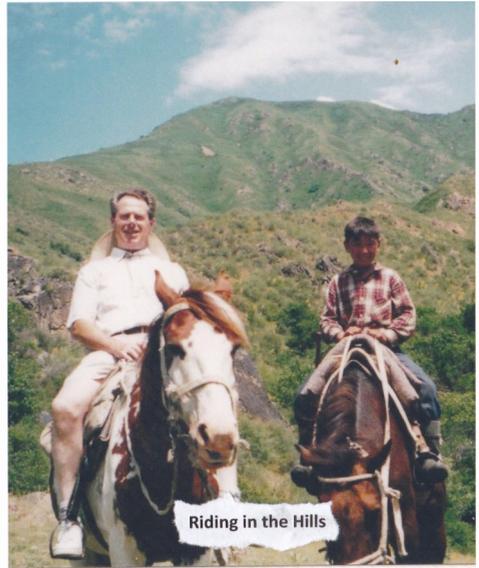
Memories of a Broken Empire - Part 5

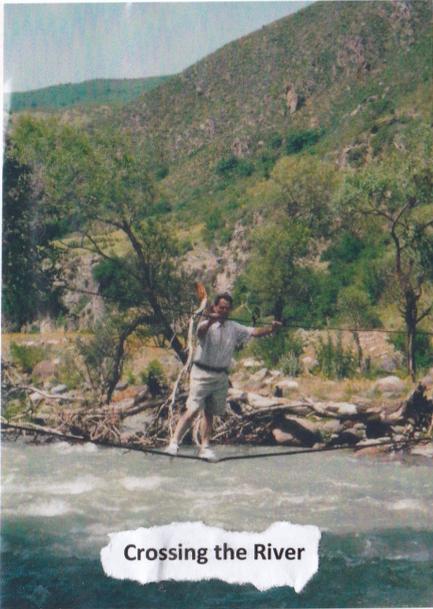
In a previous article I said Co-operative enterprises were a very important part of the Soviet economy and social structure. When I arrived in Kazakhstan in 1994 there were 1,160 societies with 8 million members (43% of the country's population) employing 70,000 workers. The Co-operative Movement had 17,000 retail outlets and over 1,500 processing units producing a million tons of bread, 15 million litres of beer, 22 million cans of fruit, 6,000 tons of confectionery and 3,000 tons of sausages, a delicious delicacy eaten raw. It was a joy to walk down a street, smell the aroma of bread just taken from the oven, buy a loaf still hot and eat chunks of it on the spot, bringing back fond reminiscences of Snowy Mason.

There were also factories producing clothing, footwear, knitted goods, leather and furs, although many of these products were in short supply and queues were formed very quickly when word was spread that a particular shop had, for instance, shoes in stock. On my first winter visit I was taken from Almaty airport to the Co-operative fur factory and presented with a marmot-fur shapka which I still wear on very cold winter days.

Talking of marmots, a large squirrel-like rodent, I once lost my voice, a serious condition for a person who spends much of his time lecturing, but I was told not to worry, there was a very good cure for it. One of the Kazakh staff went out and returned very quickly with a container containing round black tablets, rather like liquorice, which I was told to chew. Those around me smiled as I did so and then told me not to worry because the marmot droppings from which they were made were gathered from high up on the mountains and highly purified. They worked quite quickly, my voice was back to normal the following day and I was surprised and relieved that I hadn't been required to wash them down with the cure-all for every Soviet ailment – a very large dose of Vodka. I do have a few left over for anyone who might need them but I think it would be unwise to let them know at Castle Mead.

The Kazakh Co-operative movement also has eleven Regional "Technicoms" (Technical Colleges) and nine "Enterprise Secondary Schools" teaching trade skills such as retailing, book-keeping, cooking, baking and electrical maintenance, although I didn't see much evidence of the latter in the apartments I lived in.





The Technicoms I visited were seriously run down, badly maintained, poorly equipped and one I taught in during the winter of 1994 had been without heating for three years. I and my students, tutors from the Technicoms and managers from neighbouring co-operatives, kept our outdoor clothing on all day and huddled around a small paraffin stove in an adjoining room for our morning and afternoon breaks. Fortunately there was sufficient fuel to heat the ovens and we enjoyed the selection of bread, jam, cakes and pastries brought fresh and hot from them.

During my first meeting with the senior staff I asked them if they could briefly outline the main problems confronting the Technicoms. There were eight

people round the table and they answered with one voice, “Vuzhivanie!” (Survival!)

Bob Quinney

Mistress Hester Hodges Exhibition Foundation

At their November meeting, the Trustees make awards of small amounts of money to students.

To be eligible, the following conditions must be met:

- ◆ Two years attendance at St Margaret’s C of E Aided Primary School, Stoke Golding
- ◆ Resident in Stoke Golding
- ◆ Attained the age of 18 years or more and be undertaking further education in the academic year September/October 2020/2021

Application forms are available from September at 85 Hinckley Road or by emailing hstrhodges@gmail.com

All Application forms must be returned to:

85 Hinckley Road, Stoke Golding by 28th October 2020.

MIDDLE NAMES QUIZ (Answers on page 26)

1. FRANK ----- WRIGHT
2. MARGARET----- THATCHER
3. HENRY-----STANLEY
4. ROBERT-----SCOTT
5. ELVIS-----PRESLEY
6. FRANKLIN-----ROOSEVELT
7. JOHN-----KENNEDY
8. JOHN-----KEYNES
9. WILLIAM-----GLADSTONE
10. THOMAS-----EDISON
11. WILLIAM-----YEATS
12. THOMAS-----ELIOT
13. WILLIAM-----THACKERAY
14. RICHARD-----SHERIDAN
15. ARTHUR-----DOYLE
16. CLARISSA-----WRIGHT
17. PERCY-----SHELLEY
18. WINSTON-----CHURCHILL
19. DWIGHT-----EISENHOWER
20. ELIZABETH-----BROWNING

Litter Pick



Thanks to all our magnificent volunteers who covered Higham Lane, Wykin Lane, Stoke Rd, Hinckley Rd, Stoke Lane and Higham Fields Lane.

We cleared 12 bags of rubbish and we all had a good time in the process. Many thanks to The George and Dragon pub for refreshments afterwards.

The next event will be OCTOBER 3RD at 11 am meet outside the George & Dragon. All are welcome to join us.

Stephen Canessa



Kitchen Corner

SALMON WITH VELOUTE SAUCE

This sounds very 'posh' but is relatively simple and is truly delicious. This recipe serves two people, but can be doubled.

INGREDIENTS

2 Salmon fillets

Juice of ½ Lemon

1 tsp. chopped Dill(fresh if possible)

SAUCE

1oz. (25gms) softened butter

1oz. (25gms) Plain Flour

8 fl.ozs. (225ml.) Fish Stock

1tbls. White Wine

1tblsp. Lemon Juice

1 Egg Yolk

2tsp. Chopped Fresh Dill

METHOD

Pre-heat the oven to 180C or 350F or Gas Mark 4.

Take a square of Aluminium foil and brush a teaspoon of oil over the centre.

Place the salmon on the foil and squeeze the lemon over it and then sprinkle the chopped dill on top. Now make a parcel of the foil to enclose the salmon completely. Place the parcel in the oven

for 15 minutes. Meanwhile make the sauce.

Melt the butter in a small pan and then add the flour, using a small whisk, incorporate the flour into the butter to form a 'roux'. Over a low heat, cook gently for one minute, now add the fish stock a little at a time, whisking well each time until you have a smooth sauce. Add the white wine and lemon juice and stir to combine. Take the pan off the heat and whisk in the egg yolk and chopped dill. Remove the salmon from the oven and place one portion on each plate. Serve with vegetables of your choice and the sauce on the side.

If you haven't got home-made fish stock (who has?) Use ½ stock cube dissolved in boiling water.

To make the sauce for a chicken dish, substitute the fish stock for chicken stock and the dill for chopped parsley.

Avis Raynor

Kitchen Corner Cookery Book



Avis (Kitchen Corner), with the help of the Stoker team, is completing a cookery book for the Stoker to be sold at Christmas. This book will contain all of her interesting and practical recipes, including many previously published in the Stoker.

50% of any profits from this venture will be donated to The Little Princess Trust featured in last month's Stoker. Do you remember, 8yr old Mia donated her hair?

Look out for more information in November

Church Matters

From St Margaret's Church



Wholeness

We are still facing the worries and consequences of the Coronavirus. It completely fills news bulletins. Clearly, it has involved those in the NHS and other professional carers to an enormous extent; we remain very much in their debt. Therefore one area of our common life that has almost taken over all else is that of 'Medical and Caring' matters. And, of course, you are reading this in a church magazine; thus a second area of our communal lives is that of 'Faith'.

Is there a day which marks both of these two enormous concerns and joins them together? Yes! Sunday 18th October is St. Luke's Day. Firstly, Luke was a doctor and, secondly, he wrote two books in our Bible – The Gospel According to Luke and the Acts of the Apostles.

Although as a man of his time Luke would have practised fairly primitive medicine, from his writings we can see that he is a cultured man, well read, and writing in beautiful New Testament Greek. Therefore it is fair to suggest that he stands as a flat contradiction to those who see faith and medicine at opposite poles.

Luke was what we would call today a 'liberal' thinker. He alone relates the parable of the Good Samaritan. This story of Jesus suggests a foreigner is more loving to a man needing treatment after being beaten up than two 'religious' people who just walked by. He also is the only one who describes Elizabeth, mother-to-be of John Baptist, as she is visited by Mary, mother-to-be of Jesus. In an age of few women's rights, Luke is the Gospel containing the greatest mentions of women.

Luke portrays Jesus as having a broad, open view of the world – including others – and being obviously keenly interested in healing the sick. He suggests wholeness of human experience – including medicine and faith.

May I sincerely wish you every blessing and a safe and healthy October - and a happy St. Luke's Day.

Alan Davis

The Methodist Church October Services

At the moment we can only hold short services without hymn singing

4th	10.30am	Mrs Pat Starbuck
11th	10.30am	T.B.A
18th	10.30am	Mr John Cooke
25th	10.30am	Patricia Mukorombindo



Obituaries



Keith Rowley

Keith Rowley, of Stoke Golding, passed away peacefully on 11th August, 2020. Beloved husband to Patricia. Loving dad to Caroline and Stephen and father in law to Chris and Claire. A wonderful, loving grandad to Georgia, Evie and Sia. Donations in memory of Keith may be sent to The British Heart Foundation, c/o G.Seller, Funeral Directors, Upper Bond Street, Hinckley.

Robert Arthur Randle

Robert Arthur [Bob] of Stoke Golding, passed away on 29th August, 2020, aged 72 years. Dearly loved husband of Janice and much adored father of Craig. He will be greatly missed. Donations in memory of Bob can be made c/o A.J.Murray, Funeral Directors, Lower Bond Street, Hinckley.

We offer our condolences to the family and friends of Keith and Bob

Battlefield Journeys 3

As my eldest son and family live in Leeds, we spent many happy hours travelling up and down the M1 past the city of Wakefield where a battle took place in 1460. Deciding to break our journey one day, we stopped off at Sandal Castle, a stronghold of Richard, Duke of York, and the scene of his demise. Weak King Henry VI had bequeathed his throne to cousin Richard, much to the annoyance of Henry's wife Margaret and their young son. Queen Margaret fooled Richard into leaving London to put down a rebellion and for reasons that historians still can't fathom, Richard was tricked again to leave the relative safety of Sandal Castle to attack a much larger Lancastrian force. It didn't turn out well and both Richard and his second son Edmund lost their lives. The castle is now in ruins but it was still possible to climb over the walls and look out onto the fields where the fighting took place. Despite sending disparaging texts to her friends about having to go round a 'boring' battlefield, Sue showed an uncharacteristic interest in the castle and the scene of battle. After a drink at the cafe and visitors centre, we drove a short distance to a monument erected where Richard was killed and then to a bridge over the River Calder where Edmund was murdered as he tried to escape. There is a medieval chapel on the bridge, one of only six in the country although it was closed to the public which was disappointing. (The others are in Rotherham, Derby, St Ives, Rochester and Bradford on Avon - perhaps I need to pay them all a visit!)

A few months later, I set off alone to the battlefield of Towton, a few miles east of Leeds and scene of the bloodiest battle on English soil. Historians estimate that 28,000 perished on a bitterly cold day in 1461, roughly about one percent of the population at that time. There was a marked trail from a lay-by which took me to a ridge overlooking a steep valley. Beneath was an innocent looking stream which had been in flood on the day of the battle. With Richard of York dead, his son Edward had inherited the title and after declaring himself King Edward IV in London, he made his way north to confront the Lancastrians under Queen Margaret. The action started in Ferrybridge which I was to visit on another occasion, as the Lancastrians attempted to stop Edward crossing the River Aire. They then set up their army on the rolling fields south of the village of Towton, protecting their backs and one side from Yorkist attack by the flooding river. The battle raged all day in a howling snow storm. I was able to stand where the Yorkist archers had fired their arrows, the wind carrying them easily into the Lancastrian ranks. Of course when the Lancastrians returned fire, they were shooting into the wind and their arrows fell short. The Yorkist archers duly collected the Lancastrian arrows and fired them back at them! The result of the battle was in doubt until an additional Yorkist force arrived late in the day. With the Lancastrians now fleeing, the swollen river turned from protector to barrier and the call by Edward to take no prisoners resulted in the carnage that followed. On a quiet misty day, it was hard to envisage the chaos that engulfed the area no matter how hard I tried. I did visit the churchyard in Saxon where one of the

Lancastrian commanders, Lord Darren, was buried, allegedly in an upright position, still mounted on his horse which is buried beneath him.

Michael Dix



As the population of Stoke Golding creeps up, I have noticed more and more that what used to be a peaceful village is no longer the case. People don't have any consideration for their neighbours anymore, whether it's power tools or chain saws on a Sunday morning, dogs barking all day or night or ice cream van chimes at 120db- it's all noise pollution.

If you are affected by noise, you can contact Environmental Health at HBBC on 01455 238141

Steve Day

Fly-Tipping

Sadly, there has been an increase in fly-tipping in recent months. The photos below were taken by Ruth Fisher during a recent bike ride along Fox Covert Lane. HBBC responded very quickly and, by the next day, the rubbish had been removed.





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Middle Names Quiz Answers

1. Lloyd, 2. Hilda, 3. Morton, 4. Falcon, 5. Aaron, 6. Delano, 7. Fitzgerald, 8. Maynard, 9. Ewart, 10. Alva, 11. Butler, 12. Stearns, 13. Makepeace, 14. Brinsley, 15. Conan, 16. Dickson, 17. Bysshe, 18. Spencer, 19. David, 20. Barrett

Answers to 10 of a Kind

1. One
2. Catherine Parr
3. Dead people
4. 6 swans, 4 calling birds, 3 French hens, 2 turtle doves and 1 partridge = 16
5. Tessellation
6. Italy
7. Steve Austin played by Lee Majors
8. Syria
9. Raise both arms in the air
10. Biannual

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