



# **The Stoker**

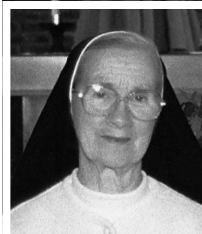
Including

## **Dadlington Matters**

April 2016

**150th Souvenir Edition**

**50p**





### *Note from the Editors*

Welcome to this 150<sup>th</sup> edition of The Stoker! That's 15 years of publishing 10 editions per year and still it remains a wonderful repository of news, giving a heads up on what's on and reviews of what has been happening in Stoke Golding and Dadlington. This is thanks to everyone who sends us items including our



regular contributors.

There is too much to list – maybe we should include a contents page –this edition includes news from all of the local Schools, Village Halls, Churches, Parish Councils, the Scout Group and more. We also have quite a few regular articles including Beth's corner, The Fool on the Hill, History courtesy of Michael Dix, WI and CASAG . These submissions are informative; often touching and/or humorous.

Additionally, the magazine gives the opportunity for local trade to advertise their wares and services. The adverts help support the Stoker and allow Stoker readers to choose local people if they wish.

We also have a fabulous Quiz and Crossword. (The editors especially like this crossword as it is one we can complete!)

We hope you enjoy the read and the selection of photographs we have put together from previous Stokers in the centre pages.

### **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 **May 2016** issue of The Stoker by **15th April** 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: A selection of photographs used on Stoker Covers over the years.*

## The Stoker Production Team 2016



**Standing L - R**  
Ella Orr  
Steve Smithers  
Michael Dix  
Jane White  
Jill Webster  
**Seated L-R**  
Rosemary Coll-  
lier  
Jan Pettyfer  
Beth Ellis  
**Insert**



Our happy Stoker Team of volunteers includes members responsible for advertising, finances, coordinating delivery, proof reading, secretarial duties, editing, delivering welcome packs, researching and writing copy. Producing The Stoker is a true team effort. We thought you might like to see photos of everyone involved. There is also a team of deliverers who make sure, rain or shine, that you receive your copy of the magazine.

## Coffee Morning Success for LOROS



the Stoker.

The coffee morning held on 5th March at Stoke Golding Club raised a fantastic £1,545 for LOROS . This will boost funds raised by Rob Watson who is cycling from London to Paris in 3 days in June in memory of his friend and neighbour Gary Bench.

You can still support Rob on his worthwhile venture by donating online at [www.doitforcharity.com/robertwatson](http://www.doitforcharity.com/robertwatson) or please contact



### **Laburnum Cottage**

I would like to express my SUPPORT for the development of land to the rear of Laburnum cottage. It may well be the last green space in the centre of Stoke Golding, but it is not open land visible to anyone unless they a) walk down the jitty from Hinckley Road to High Street or b) live in one of the houses that backs onto the land. Is there a connection there to the objections?

Developing this land may well open up the area a little. I haven't seen the plans, but if part of the jitty is converted into a proper road it will make the walk through from Hinckley Road much more pleasant. At the moment the jitty is often overgrown and quite creepy to walk down.

It is a sad fact that there is no one left alive to care for this land. Would those who are objecting be so pleased if it was left to grow wild, the fruits from the orchard falling and rotting on the ground encouraging vermin and insects to thrive?

There is open green space on the corner of Hinckley Road and Wykin Lane in front of the bungalows. If development was proposed there it would be detrimental to the area, but I do not see how building behind Laburnum Cottage will be detrimental to the village as a whole. I would welcome seven small starter homes that would be affordable for the children who have grown up in the village and find it hard to afford to stay here.

I am very concerned that the flyer that has recently been posted through the letterboxes of Stoke Golding residents might give a false impression. Despite the red arrow on the flyer the first impression some people have had is that the land referred to is the lawned area which can be seen from the road. Two points, this area is not as large as it looks in the photograph and secondly it is NOT the area in dispute. That is the orchard BEHIND the hedge, which is not visible to anyone apart from those living in the houses that back onto it and the jitty, where it is behind a wire fence.

*Pauline Edwards*



### **Laburnum Cottage**

In response to the letter in last months Stoker from an anonymous correspondent I would make the following comments.

Individuals and communities have always tried to prevent what is considered to be inappropriate developments in "sensitive areas". To assist local communities, National Parks, and conservation areas in cities, towns and villages have been established to control development. These are to ensure that any development does not have a significant impact on the area and that the development is sympathetic to the local buildings and landscapes. The land and building within these areas are almost all owned by private individuals. If there was no protection then areas like the Lake District, or towns like Bath could be ruined by inappropriate developments.

Conservation areas are not set up by individuals or groups such as the Heritage Group but are established using a consultation process, which involves the whole community. In Stoke Golding the Conservation Area was established following public consultation organised by the Borough Council in 2004. The conservation area was reappraised in 2013 and approved again following full public consultation.

The Borough Council is currently assessing a revised application for 5 houses on the land adjacent to Laburnum Cottage. The assessment is to determine whether or not planning regulations are being followed including whether the proposed development significantly impacts on the character and environmental importance of the site.

*Roy Mitchell* (Chair Stoke Golding Heritage Group)





## Ashby Canal Towpath

I'm sure I'm not the only user of the towpath by the canal between Stoke Golding and Sutton Cheney Wharf who is tired of slipping and sliding in mud up to my ankles and having to wash my wellies and the dog after every walk between October and March each year. This winter it has been particularly bad - enough for me to contact the Canal & River Trust to ask if they have any plans to improve the worst parts of the towpath, suggesting it was only a matter of time before somebody hurt themselves badly in an attempt to navigate it. Predictably, the response from the local Customer Services Supervisor was inconclusive and evasive, but did include these words:

"We are limited in the works we can do as part of the Ashby Canal falls into an area of Special Scientific Interest and this limits us to what work we can do. However we have got an ongoing programme of works and maintain the towpath according to priority and demand and in accordance with the surrounding areas."

We could perhaps affect the "priority and demand" if we all contact the Trust asking for improvements. Let's send regular emails asking for updates; if we pester them enough, perhaps they will chuck some gravel on the deepest patches of mud, at least! Most of the towpath is passable, but the sticky parts are deep with mud and are very slippery and dangerous. Please write to [Terry.Drake@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:Terry.Drake@canalrivertrust.org.uk) - Terry is Customer Services Supervisor for Central Shires Waterway, which is responsible for the Ashby Canal. Or telephone him on 0303-040 4040. I did email him back asking for more detailed information about when we could expect some improvement works, but unsurprisingly there has been no response.....

*Stephanie Sandiford*

*Since writing this letter Stephanie has had an email from the Canal & River Trust with information about their 'drop in' days where anyone can pop in to discuss concerns they may have about the rivers and canals they look after. The nearest one for us would be at Bosworth Marina from 4pm-7pm on Thursday 28th April.*

### THE METHODIST CHURCH

#### What's On in April?



SATURDAY APRIL 2nd at 7.00pm  
**Concert** by Gresley Male Voice Choir  
Admission £6.00 to include Refreshments



FRIDAY APRIL 15th at 7.30 pm  
**Fashion Show** by  
Edinburgh Woollen Mill  
Tickets £3.00 includes Refreshments



SATURDAY APRIL 23rd  
**SPRING FAIR** 10.00am-2.00pm  
Cakes & Preserves  
Books & Bric-a-brac  
Raffle & Tombola



# Dadlington Matters

## Dadlington Pancake Supper



Pancake Day, Mardi Gras, Fastnacht Day: depending on where you live, these are all names given to the day before Lent begins and, traditionally, Christian folk have always had a bit of a food fest before the strictures of Lent began. There was certainly plenty of excellent food available in Dadlington, the Saturday following Shrove Tuesday, when John and Jill Whitehead threw open their doors to welcome pancake lovers from near and far to their annual Pancake Supper.

About 40 aficionados of the batter based delicacy attended, and were able to sample both savoury varieties - smoked haddock, mince, vegetable and mushroom - alongside the more familiar sweet crepes suzette, all lovingly created by Jill, Caroline Fielden and Jill Webster. The bar, raffle and ticket donations resulted in £712 being raised on the night, these being divided between two village community buildings: St James' Church and the Village Hall.

### *Picnic for The Queen on The Green*

*Sunday May 22<sup>nd</sup> From 1pm*

*Bar, ice creams, tea and cakes and the usual Dadlington fun & games!*

*Bring your picnic and share in an enjoyable family afternoon.*

*No need to book - just pencil the date in your diary!*



### ST JAMES' CHURCH DADLINGTON

#### Flower Festival



Sat 30th April    Sun 1st May    Mon 2nd May  
12 noon - 5pm

More Information in the May Stoker

## **Sutton Cheney Parish Council March 9<sup>th</sup>**

### **Dadlington Notes**

- Dadlington's available 106 monies have been allocated towards levelling and landscaping the Green adjacent to the Village Hall, in order to provide an area to erect a marquee to extend the Hall when required, improve the space visually and to improve disabled access via a landscaped path.
- Quotes and advice to be obtained to deal with the oak tree opposite Ivy House on the North Western corner of the Green, which is now too large, with branches breaking off.
- There is increasing evidence of vehicles encroaching on The Green and damaging our valuable green space, which is prohibited under By-Law. Letters to be sent by the Parish Council to gently remind vehicle owners when a problem is identified.
- It was noted that on Council Tax notices recently received, the Parish Council Precept has not increased, in contrast to substantial increases from the County and Borough.

### **Taxing Times for Dadlington**

These days, there is a whole range of taxes that governments, local and national, use to raise money for the services they provide. However, the burden of taxation is something that has been around for a long time, as historical records for Dadlington show.

The earliest recorded tax appears in 1327, in what were called subsidy rolls. The tax was being raised by the newly crowned King Edward III to pursue war with Scotland. It only affected those with goods valued at more than ten shillings, so the poor (and the clergy) were spared. In Dadlington, ten men were named, John de Spignel having to pay the most at two shillings and sixpence, whilst Robertt. de Sibbesdon, Richard Sonenour and William Lynn got off lightly with just tuppence each to pay. The total amount raised was higher than that of Stoke Golding, which indicates a comparability in size and wealth at that time.

The highly unpopular poll tax of 1377, raised this time to fund a war with France, was levied on everyone over the age of 15. A groat, equivalent to four pence, was taken from each of the 50 residents of the village, although husbands and wives only had to pay the one groat between them. Further poll taxes in 1379 and 1381 are believed to have led to the Peasants' Revolt. The unfairness of the tax can be seen in the list of names: three maids were required to pay the same amount as the more wealthy land owners they served.

Over time, governments have come up with ever increasingly bizarre ways of raising tax. There are no records of how much window tax was raised in Dadlington, but the hearth tax of 1666 is fully documented. Seven householders were taxed on each of their two hearths whilst another five paid up for their one. However, 19 residents, including Michael Cox, the local constable, were excused, being labelled as very poor.

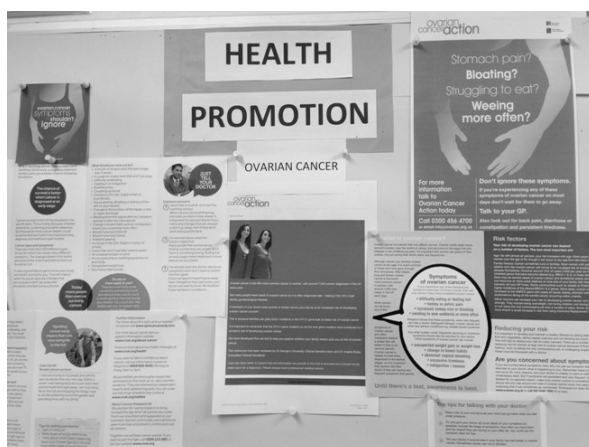
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(continued from page 7)

Not that the poor always got off that lightly. Tithes, a tenth of what your earned or produced, were supposed, at the risk of excommunication, to be paid to the church. In 1651 this amounted to £4 6s. 8d. for the Dadlington clergy. The record, at Lambeth Palace, shows that tithes were to be paid on "corne, hay, hemp, flax, woolle and lambs.' By 1843, a field tithe map with each field and property individually recorded (<http://dadlington-history.myfreesites.net/maps>) shows that total in tithes paid amounted to £23, a far cry from the thousands that will be accrued from current day residents!



### CASAG - this month's Health Promotion is on Ovarian Cancer



The Health Promotion resources are provided by Ovarian Cancer Action.

The message to get across are the signs and symptoms of Ovarian cancer which often go undetected.

The signs and symptoms are: Stomach pain, bloating, struggling to eat and weeing more often. As well as back pain, diarrhoea and constipation and persistent tiredness.

You are advised to go and see your GP and/ or call the Ovarian Cancer Action on 0300 456 4700.

The next CASAG meeting is on 5th April, 2016. New member always welcome. If you are interested please contact Alison Ellis Practice Manager. Thank you



## Staffroom Memories 2: Maintaining Good Behaviour

When I was training to become a teacher, back in 1977, my tutor gave me some important advice about discipline: never make a threat that you don't intend to carry out. I put this to the test a few weeks later as I stood in front of a class of 10 and 11 year olds. Sally, I remember her name so clearly, would probably be diagnosed as being on the autistic spectrum today. Back then she was a 'difficult' child who would not stop poking other children with a pair of scissors in my art lesson. I'd already asked her to put them down two or three times when finally I snapped. "If you don't put those scissors down now, I shall... throw you out the window!" The words just came out of my mouth. The effect was electric: the whole class watching intently and praying that Sally would continue to defy me. Then I remembered the advice of my tutor and I quickly modified the threat to, "well maybe not throw you out of the window but I will be very cross." Cue mass disappointment from the other children, but also a downing of the scissors.

There is a popular myth, stoked by carefully edited fly on the wall television programmes and sensationalist newspaper headlines, that English schools are in a state of perpetual turmoil as children run riot and standards of behaviour plummet to an all time low.

After many years working in schools, the last 18 as a headteacher, I can say categorically that this is not the case in most schools. My favourite description of the behavior of children at my last school was this: The vast majority of children behave brilliantly the vast majority of the time. Of course some children break the rules and push the barriers – it has always been thus, as reading through old school log books and the personal recollections of people's schooldays will show you.

Another piece of advice given to rookie teachers is to refrain from smiling until Christmas. Whilst it is important to set your standards clearly with a new class (it's far easier to relax discipline than to ratchet it up), I could never manage the not smiling bit. My strategy was to build up good relationships quickly so that if there were digressions, a disappointed look was far more effective than a rant.

One headteacher I worked for told me that he thought the mark of a good teacher was someone who could take the children to the edge and then bring them back again. Sometimes, I put this theory to the test. One day, after a very rare heavy snowfall, I took my class outside for a fun snowball fight, as a reward for working hard all day. I divided the children into two teams and the battle began. I then decided to join one side, to help them out of course, and pretty quickly the children on the other side were directing every one of their snowballs at me. Then my side cottoned on and they too turned on their leader. My pleas of, "OK everyone, back to the classroom," were studiously ignored and under a heavy barrage I had to flee inside and beg a colleague to go and get my class back: to the edge – and over!

As a headteacher, I was very aware that I was the ultimate authority in the school. In my first school, a large proportion of the children were traveller children. This created some interesting situations as they grappled with two codes of behaviour. On their



site, disputes were often settled with a bit of a fight, but in school that wasn't the way we did things. The traveller parents were supportive of the school, telling their children that they had to follow the rules when in school, and they did – well, most of the time.

I was never keen to exclude a child from school but I had to on occasions, as much as to make a statement to the other children and their parents about where the line was drawn. All schools have challenging children, some more than others. The supportive way we dealt with them in my last school, especially those on the autistic spectrum, meant that we attracted children with similar issues whose parents were often in a state of despair and saw us as their last hope. It was immensely rewarding to hear how these children had gone on and succeeded in later life, when they could have easily fallen out of the system. When, in 2014, the Ofsted inspectors questioned the School Council about behaviour, one child explained, "Well, there are some children who find it hard to behave, but it's up to us to help them." The inspector was impressed and I was thrilled as it encapsulated the ethos my staff and I had built in the school.

Very occasionally, however, my approach to a problem and those of my staff differed. Jaden was a very emotionally disturbed eight year old. He would get very upset and take himself off. Staff were instructed to follow at a distance but make no attempt to try to catch him because that would give him the attention he craved, and he'd be more likely to repeat the behaviour. However, one day he went further than ever before, climbing over the high fence surrounding school just as the dinner ladies were going home. Their instinct to protect this vulnerable child, superseded any advice about not chasing and, rather like a herd of lionesses hunting down a stricken wildebeest, they encircled the child and then moved in for the kill. I stood helpless, some distance away, as he darted this way, trying to escape their clutches, until one of them finally nabbed him and he was returned to school. It wasn't the way I'd have done it, but then, he never ran out of school again!

*Michael Dix*



### **The Continuing Problem of Dog Waste**

Several residents, mostly dog owners themselves, have spoken to me recently about the increasing problem of dog waste being left on pavements around the village and on the rec. They ask what the Parish Council can do about it, and the answer is, not a lot.

All dog owners have a legal responsibility to bag their dog's waste and put it in one of the many bins provided around the village – any litter or dog-waste bin will do. If you are not prepared to do that, maybe you should think twice about owning a dog. There is no 'Poo Fairy' to pick up after you. Responsible dog owners are given a bad name by the few irresponsible ones.

Anyone who spots a dog owner failing to clear up after their dog can report it to the Neighbourhood Warden Team at [www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/dogfouling](http://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/dogfouling), or phone 01455 238141 to speak to a Customer Services Adviser, providing as much of the following information as possible:

- Date and time incident witnessed

- Exact location (street name and nearest lamppost number, village)

- Description of dog (breed and colour)
- Description of person with the dog

- If person is using a car, then the vehicle registration number.

*Ruth Fisher (Parish Councillor)*

## **Yet More Badges and Fun at the Scout Group**

The Beavers have been off doing their Adventure Challenge Badge by going on a muddy wellie boot walk around the fields in the dark - and it was wet and muddy. They are also off to Fox Covert camp site on an Easter egg hunt.

The Beavers celebrated St David's day by making a flag, playing dragon themed games and eating Welsh cakes. This event and going to Sweden (where amongst other things they will be making passports, flying there and eating meat balls) will contribute to their World Challenge badge. We certainly give the Beavers an International experience.



The Cubs have been finishing off the longest badge - the Skills Challenge. They have almost completed their Team Leader Challenge which culminated in a pack discussion forum on which badges to do next term. Even David Dimbleby might have had problems controlling this forum! The result was a majority in favour of the Athletic Badge, followed by Swimming Badge. Both will be sorted at the next leaders meeting. They also have a few bits and pieces to complete of their Fire Safety badge and are visiting the Nuneaton Fire station on the 11th of April.

Part of the Fire Safety badge was an obstacle course in relays followed by the same course in the dark!!!! And of course a fire drill.

The scouts have been busy finishing off their Photography and Artist Badges. They competed at a recent shooting competition and did reasonably well. They are off on a treasure hunt around the village and have the traditional Egg challenge similar to the Cubs to finish off the term.

So, as you can see, an interesting and most of all fun and entertaining programme for all to take part in. The result is a full and happy Scout group with regular attendance each week so we must be doing something right!

*Jennifer Michie*

## **Pen Friend Wanted**

Mavis Ellis, who now lives in Sidmouth, Devon, would like to correspond with someone from Stoke Golding. Her parents, Arthur and Myra Dickens, moved to 105 Hinckley Rd, a new bungalow, in 1963 and Mavis was married in the same year. Her father worked for the National Coal Board based at Lindley Lodge. They left the village when he retired 5 years later. She remembers Anne Hemus, the Revd Moncur, and a Mrs Hanbury. She and her daughter recently discovered some old cine films taken by her father of Stoke Golding in the 1960's.

If you are interested in getting in touch with Mavis please contact The Stoker.

## Poems from Redmoor Academy

### Forest fire

Wet, tepid, moist  
The rain heaves hard on the outside.  
Depressing, shallow, grey  
The puddles expand horizons.

Green, long, gentle  
Trees drag their hands on the floor.  
Dark, sticky, brown  
The mud swallows the ground.

Cold, rash, raging  
The wind howled its cries.  
Soft, wet, feeling  
The moss makes easy piles.

Red, glowing, hot  
The fire surges forward.  
Silent, charred, black  
All fall back to death,  
They are silent.

### Teacher's Boy

Why can't every lesson be art?  
I look forward to it every day,  
I just like being messy,  
Why can't things be my way?

Even though I'm bullied  
Because I'm clever and smart,  
I love coming to school,  
But people treat me like a tart.

Why can't every lesson be I.C.T?  
I only have it twice a week,  
I just like all of the technology,  
But people think I'm a geek.

I look forward to the lessons,  
That I like,  
People think I'm weird  
So they call me 'brainy pike.'

I wish all of the lessons,  
Were ones that I enjoy,  
People have started calling me,  
The 'Teacher's Boy.'

## Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Plan (SGNP) – the latest news

### Update on selecting consultants to form the Neighbourhood Plan

In the last few months, three consultants have been short listed as candidates to assist in the preparation of Stoke Golding's Neighbourhood Plan: Planit-X, Your Locale and Kirkwells. Each consultant has been asked to make presentations at the February and March meetings and then answer questions from the Advisory Committee and all those attending the meeting. This provides an opportunity for residents to ask the consultants why they should be selected to take on this vital role.

Planit-X presented in February. Your Locale and Kirkwells are presenting in March. The Advisory Committee will select a consultant to recommend to The Parish Council to assist in the preparation of our Neighbourhood Plan.

Also at the February meeting, there was a summary of the progress towards confirming the actual geographical area that the neighbourhood plan will cover. This has to be carefully taken through various stages, so that it is fully legally compliant. Sadly this is a slow, but important process. At present the Neighbourhood Plan Area is due to be ratified by Mid-July.

*Continued on page 13*

*SGNP continued from page 12*

#### Further News.

The Advisory Committee would like to compile a list of Stoke Golding businesses and people who work from home, so they can have their say in future consultation. If you wish to be involved please contact Jim Hope: Email – [sgnpjimhope@btinternet.com](mailto:sgnpjimhope@btinternet.com) or text on 07531122498.

By the time you read this there will have been another meeting scheduled for Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March, so look out for another update in next month's issue of The Stoker.

*Ella Orr*

### **World Book Day at St. Margaret's**

We love reading at St. Margaret's. This was recently recognised in our fabulous Ofsted inspection, as well as being regularly commented upon from visitors in school and validated by us repeatedly winning the inter-school library challenge.

On Tuesday 1st March, children at St. Margaret's celebrated World Book Day. The day was a festival of reading. The children came to school dressed as characters from traditional tales and the teachers came dressed as aliens in underpants! We were extremely lucky to be visited by the well-known author Tom McLaughlin and he talked to the children about the books he has written, including 'Cloud Spotter' and 'The Accidental Prime Minister'. He also taught the children how to draw characters using basic shapes and turn many children in school into an *Accidental Prime Minister* for the day. The children learnt lots from Tom and were able to have their books signed and personalised. The children also took part in drama activities with our resident actor Mrs Carruthers, enjoyed reading their book in a bean bag and biscuits session with Mrs Yeoman's and got to partake in lots of craft and reading activities around school. What a fabulous day of reading!



*Philippa Tomkins*

### **Badminton Players Wanted**

We are a friendly mixed group who play social Badminton, mainly doubles, and meet at the Stoke Golding Village Hall from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. every Tuesday evening.

The subscription is £10 for 3 months which works out at 77p for 1.5 hours each week – good exercise, good fun and good value!

Please come along and join us (access is from the side door not the main door), we need new players – if you would like more information please call 212691.

*Colin Edwards*



## Regional showcase opportunity for two Stoke Golding artists



We are blessed in our little corner of Leicestershire to have some very talented artists and two of Stoke Golding's own, Diane Sinclair and Sarah J Robinson, are currently exhibiting work at Open 27, the 2016 Open Art Exhibition organised by The Leicester Arts & Museums Service. This is an annual showcase from artists who are invited to submit their work and Diane and Sarah are delighted to have had their paintings selected for the exhibition.

Now in its 27th year, the Open welcomes work from artists living or working right across the East Midlands region and all the exhibits are available for sale, providing a great opportunity to buy original

work at an affordable price.

If you'd like to take a look at Diane and Sarah's work and that of many of the region's talented artists, the exhibition runs until 8<sup>th</sup> May at the New Walk Museum and Art Gallery in Leicester.

*Ella Orr*



## Ten of a Kind (Answers on page 23)

As this is the 150<sup>th</sup> edition of The Stoker, all the questions are related to the number 150. See how many you can answer.

1. Which book of the Old Testament has 150 'chapters', the most of any book?
2. The Professor's Cube is made up of 150 small coloured squares. It is a more complicated version of which mathematical puzzle that became a worldwide games sensation after its invention in 1974?
3. Born 150 years ago, what is the name of the author who gave us Peter Rabbit, Jemima Puddle-Duck and Squirrel Nutkin?
4. According to the Guinness Book of Records, is there any recorded evidence of somebody living to 150 years old?
5. If you were able to purchase one of £150 tickets for a 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party celebration on 12<sup>th</sup> June, where will you be sitting?
6. What is 150 in Roman Numerals?
7. London's metro system is the third longest in the world. New York's is the 4<sup>th</sup>. In which country would you find Guangzhou whose metro, at 150 miles in length, is the 8<sup>th</sup> longest?

*Continued on page 15*

*Ten of a Kind continued....*

8. Which film of 2000 and West End musical is set in the fictional mining village of Everington, based on the real life Easington, which lies 150 miles due north of Stoke Golding?

9. Loughborough University Staff Cricket Team hold the world record for the longest cricket match which lasted 150 days. How many universities are their in Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland?

10. 150 Regiment RLC is a British Army volunteer force who are responsible for moving equipment and supplies to support the fighting troops. What does RLC stand for?

### **A few Notable events in Dadlington and Stoke Golding since 2011**

**2011** Dog & Hedgehog reopens in Dadlington

S.G Village Hall celebrated 50th birthday

Campaign to 'get Thomas to America' begins

George & Dragon refurbishment completed

Stoke Golding's first Christmas light switch on

Book Club starts in the George & Dragon

**2012** Queen's Jubilee Celebrations in Dadlington and Stoke Golding

Building at St Martin's convent site begins

**2013** Bob Buckby awarded MBE

Solar panel farm approval

Middle Stores closed

Stoke Golding W.I. celebrated 50 years

**2013** First Adult Learners' Week

Convent Drive has first residents

**2014** Sehmbi Stores opens

Community Choir begins

Defibrillator for Stoke Golding

**2015** Richard III cortege passes through Dadlington

Neighbourhood Plan started in Stoke Golding

**2016** Morris Homes development begins

Beth Ellis launches her book "The Choice"

*We know we have missed a lot off this list - let us know what you think should be included and we will print your suggestions in the next issue. Eds*



## From St Margaret's Church

The days of Lent and Holy Week are over, and we have just celebrated the good news of Easter Day - the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and the promise of eternal life to all who believe and trust in him.

During the following days in April, we still celebrate the Easter Season in church, when we hear the stories of Jesus' appearances to his astonished disciples: How 'doubting' Thomas wouldn't believe unless he saw the marks of the nails; how Jesus stood on the shore while the disciples caught an enormous haul of fish; and how he told Peter to 'Tend my sheep'.

The Resurrection is not an event for us to celebrate one day and forget the next. Jesus walked from the tomb so that he can always walk beside us.

The Resurrection is a daily encounter with the love of God just as the freshening days of Spring are a daily encounter with new life and new hope. Each day can be full of resurrection and promise – opportunities for us to give thanks and to know that we are loved and valued; opportunities for us to take God's love into the world.

### *Easter Blessing*

*How beautiful is the blossom  
spilling from the tree,*

*the hidden primrose  
and the bluebell*

*ringing out the news.*

*He is risen*

*he is alive*

*we shall live*

*for evermore.*

*The dark winter is past,*

*the slow, cold, foggy days are over.*

*May the warmth of your resurrection*

*touch our hearts and minds*

*as the warmth of the sun*

*blesses our bodies.*

*(Kate McIlhagga, Iona Community)*

May the new life of April bring us all closer to the love of God and may all our days be days of resurrection. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Allelulia! *Linda*

*Revd Linda Blay*

*Fenn Lanes Benefice*

## Church Matters

### Church of England      April 2016 Services

#### St. Margaret's Church

3rd April	10.30am	All Age Worship
10th April	10.30am	Benefice Service Fenny Drayton
17th April	10.30am	Holy Communion
24th April	10.30am	Morning Worship
3rd April	9.00am	BCP Morning Prayer
10th April	10.30am	Benefice Service Fenny Drayton
17th April	9.00am	BCP Holy Communion
24th April	9.00am	BCP Morning Worship

### Zion Baptist Chapel April 2016 Services

3rd	6pm	Richard Cotton
10th	6pm	Bill McIntyre
17th	6pm	John Needham
24th	6pm	John Todd

### The Methodist Church April 2016 Services

3rd	10.30am	Mrs Gwen Coley
10th	10.30am	Mrs Pat Starbuck
17th	10.30am	Mr John Cooke
24th	10.30am	Mrs Sheila Grice

### 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.



## **Charlie, Matilda and the Witches at Saint Martin's**

'And above all, watch with glittering eyes the whole world around you because the greatest secrets are always hidden in the most unlikely places.' Roald Dahl  
It seemed as if we were all the lucky and proud winners of Golden Tickets last week – that is if you were fortunate enough to have one for the sell-out performance of 'Dahlights' – an inspiring and captivating musical based on 3 of the best-known characters and stories from the 'grandfather' of the best-loved tales known to children and adults alike, author Roald Dahl.



Directed by Mr Tim Clay and Miss Di Pape, this energetic and inspiring musical saw many commanding performances including Jack Dennis (Willy Wonka), Harry Wells (The Trunchbull), James Gamble (Mike TV), Becky Wilkinson (the Grand High Witch), and a stunning singing performance by Olivia McCabe (Matilda). With a cast of 70 from Years 7 to 11, students sang their way through numerous songs and

over 21/2 hours on stage.

Excited audiences of all ages whooped with genuine delight as Bruno took revenge and turned the witches into mice; the children revolted against Agatha in the Chokey, and Verruca Salt was turned purple before their eyes for disobeying Mr Wonka by eating his prototype gum. Departing, they were sad to leave behind the hidden gem of the school hall that had been transformed into the magical children's world of warmth, magic and love that is Dahl.

With support from all staff from set to front of house, parents for student lifts, support leaning lines and costumes, Year 9's delicious hand-baked biscuits, and the PTFA's generous interval beverages and snacks, it was a great example of genuine Saint Martin's teamwork. Principal, Clive Wright, said, 'I'm really proud of our pupils who put in a huge amount of effort to put on such a great production'.

With a live Year 11 band, and such talent being nurtured and harnessed both on stage, and backstage with the sound and lighting crews, Saint Martin's looks set to establish itself far and wide as a centre of the arts in no time at all.

*St Martin's Catholic Academy*

TREMENDOUS  
THINGS ARE  
IN STORE  
FOR YOU!  
WONDERFUL  
SURPRISES  
AWAIT YOU.

ROALD DAHL

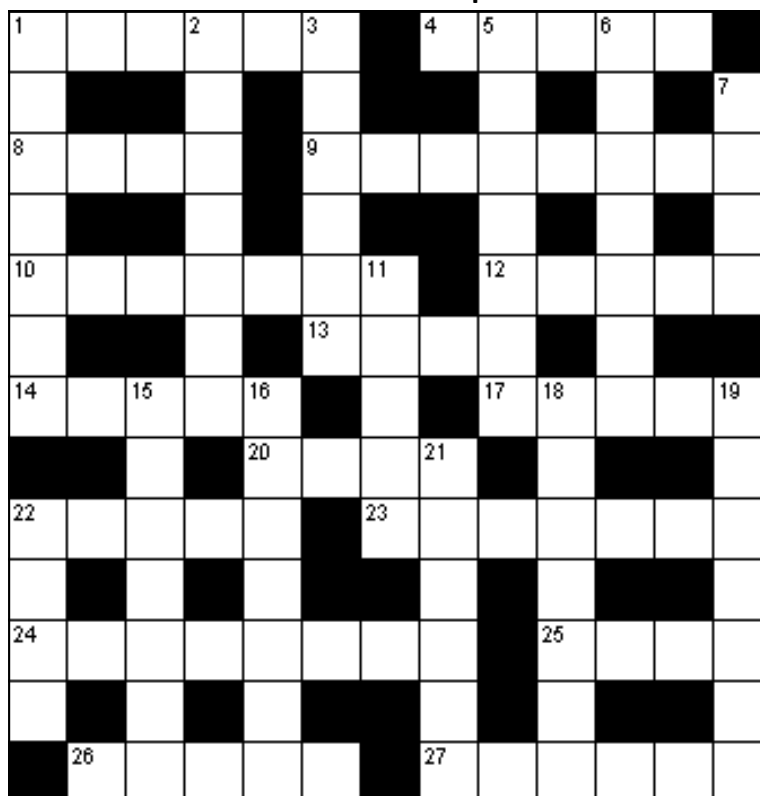
## **Dadlington History Website**

<http://dadlington-history.myfreesites.net>



# Crossword

## 400 Years Since the Death of Shakespeare



### Across

- 1 Shakespeare's longest play or a cigar (6)
- 4 Garment work to protect clothes (5)
- 8 Endorsement on a passport (4)
- 9 Play \*\*\*\*\* of Venice (8)
- 10 Much ado about \*\*\*\*\* (7)
- 12 Go into (5)
- 13 Too much of something (4)
- 14 Sword (5)
- 17 Animal's bony growths (5)
- 20 Pen points (4)
- 22 Base or foundation (5)
- 23 Betting odds term (4 & 3)
- 24 Sets of bones in the chests (8)
- 25 Ornamental braid (4)
- 26 Totalled one sum to another (5)

Answers on page 26

### Down

- 1 Cuban cigars (7)
- 2 Tanned hide (7)
- 3 Play \*\*\*\*\* of the shrew (6)
- 5 Shakespeare's shortest play (Scottish) (7)
- 6 Part of a book (7)
- 7 Main actor (4)
- 11 Shakespeare's London theatre (5)
- 15 What Shakespeare left his wife in his will "second \*\*\*\*\*" (4 & 3)
- 16 Trap (7)
- 18 Play - the husband of Desdemona (7)
- 19 Having timidity or bashfulness (7)
- 21 He was a strong man until he had his haircut (6)
- 22 Shakespeare was known as the \*\*\*\*\* of Stratford on Avon (4)

## The Fool on the Hill

## Dunces with wolves....

On a drizzly day in a beautiful English city, I chanced to see a pooch that had been temporarily parked outside Boots whilst its owner had popped inside for some, no doubt, urgently required cosmetic accoutrement.

If I may paint a little picture here, it was a dismal January day but not particularly cold and the little hound in question looked well fed and cared for. It seemed to me that a creature directly descended from wolves ought really to be able to cope with a little temporary exposure to the elements. I should point out that this particular canine had only the most tenuous link to its wild ancestors. In the part of the wolf this creature was as well suited to the role as, say, Dawn French playing Tinkerbell. It bore the resigned air of a husband parked outside the changing rooms in M&S whilst the other half tries on what seems to be the entire current stock plus most of the back catalogue. Beyond this, I gave the matter no further thought and continued into Boots to purvey their range of surgical appliances.

Imagine then my surprise when, having barely drawn breath at the truss section, I heard the following announcement on the stores public address system.

"Would the owner of a wolf (sorry, Airedale terrier) manacled outside the store, please return without delay to prevent further distress." I had seen this creature not three minutes since and although it did not have the look of full contentment, it was very far from exhibiting any signs of distress. My curiosity got the better of me and abandoning my search for contraptions to relieve the suffering that I have borne, without fuss, for many a long year, I popped outside to witness the tearful reunion between animal and master or rather in this case, mistress.

The lupine descendant was surrounded by what could only be described as a baying mob. When the hapless owner put in an appearance she was roundly set upon and I feel sure that had there been a Tumbril at hand, the poor woman would have been hauled off for a tryst with Madame Guillotine. Having been brought into this world with a very broad and well defined yellow streak, I was easily able to curb my initial thoughts of wading into the fray on her behalf. A baying mob is one thing but a baying mob of female dog lovers, already on the point of frenzy, is quite another.

If my eyes did not deceive me, I rather fancy that the little wolf impersonator was alive to the situation and playing to the gallery. I suspect that his limited canine brain had already established a possible correlation between the level of his owners discomfort and the size of his evening meal.

In an adjacent shop doorway, a bedraggled homeless man was observing the attention being lavished on the four legged imposter.

I doubt if it did much to restore his faith in humanity.

F O T H



Anna Stasinska recently visited Stoke Golding W.I to explain to members the mysteries of tea making and all the different kind of teas that are available to us. Anna runs a tea shop near Melton where she provides all these teas and demonstrates tea making ceremonies etc, but that night she invited us all to partake in sampling these teas in our own village hall.

But first she explained how different aspects can make tea taste different even when coming from the same tea plantation, such as how far up the mountain it is grown, whether it is sunny at the time it is harvested and even the time of year that this takes place. How tea tasters can tell exactly where tea has originated from, usually Sri Lanka, India or China, although there are tea growers even in Great Britain now, and even which plantations they come from, and also to which markets different teas would be better received as different countries have different pallets.

Anna then proceeded to prepare three different teas Green Gunpowder, Darjeeling and Rose Congou, along with a camomile tea which isn't really a tea but an infusion, instructing us on the correct procedure on doing so as she worked. We were then invited to 'slurp' the teas so as to recognise the differences which were very noticeable.

A different sort of evening but certainly enjoyable and informative as being some of the 165 million people who enjoy a cup of tea in our country is was interesting to find out all the history and origins of our favourite drink.

Our next meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> April at the Methodist Hall is concerning the Confessions of a Country Vicar which I'm sure could turn out to be quite hilarious. Please come and enjoy yourself. You'll be very welcome.

*Val Hartwell*

### **Answers to Ten of a Kind (page 8)**

1. Psalms
2. Rubik's cube
3. Beatrix Potter
4. No, the oldest record is for Jeanne Louise Calment who lived until 122 years and 164 days old.
5. The Mall, London – the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> celebration
6. CL
7. China
8. Billy Elliot
9. Three: Loughborough, Leicester & De Montfort
10. Royal Logistic Corps

## BETH'S CORNER

## PEGGY HOLMES

It was reading 'The Trials of Miss Buckley' in last month's magazine, that caught my imagination. I even recognised some of my own Domestic Science lessons from schooldays, which made me chuckle. Reading about the '*rudiments of washing*' and '*Soap brought from home and painstakingly grated into the big copper and stirred with a long stick to make a good foam*', made me realise this was well before my time at school, but then I remember my grandmother's scullery and her big copper. The old mangle in the corner to get the worst of the water out before the washing is pegged out on the line under the old apple trees, in grandmother's small back garden.

My curiosity is aroused; I would love to meet this lady. An email is sent and returned from Peggy's daughter, explaining that her mother is 95yrs old, and will it be possible for me to visit at her home in Wykin Lane. "*Of course, I'd love to.*" Arriving at the front door I'm met by Christabelle, Peggy's daughter, who leads me into a large sitting-cum-dining room, with French windows looking out onto a long well-kept garden. The lawn has obviously only recently been mown. Sitting quietly on a two-seater sofa is the poetess I have come to meet. Realising Peggy has difficulty hearing, I make the decision to grab one of the dining chairs and sit opposite, so that we can see each other while we are talking.

Peggy birthplace was in Little Haywood a small Staffordshire village, which is where she and her two brothers went to the school presumably where Miss Buckley was the domestic science teacher. Coming from a farming background, Peggy left school at 14 and then went into service during the war. Her love for cooking and sewing and all domestic work were put to good use when she went to work for an aunt who kept a B & B, being responsible for cleaning, laundry and working in the kitchen. Her wage was 14/6d with a rise once a year. She was also cooking for the large canteens in the wartime munitions factories which meant that she was in a 'reserved' occupation, and never got the chance to perhaps enjoy being with a team of Land girls, working on the surrounding farms. It was when her fiancé Bob was sent abroad during the war that Peggy started writing her verses, both for him and also writing for the church. On Bob's return they were married at St. Michael's of the Angels in Colwich, and her days were filled as a full-time wife and mother, enjoying looking after her house, sewing all the clothes for both herself and Christabelle, as well as maintaining the wear and tear of all the household linen. One of her special loves was and is embroidery, and examples of her exceptional creative skill are all around us on the walls of the sitting room. Framed flower designs in many beautiful colours as well as philosophical texts, regarding every principle for daily happiness.

Peggy's husband was a car auctioneer in Measham for a time and, in his travels, came across Stoke Golding and bought this present plot 55yrs ago, building the family house where they have lived ever since. Christabelle lived with her mother and father until she was twenty-seven, and was then herself married at St. Margaret's church. In May of this year Peggy and Bob will be celebrating 70years of married life - congratulations.

Having met this lively 95yr old lady, I'll always read her verses with even more interest than before. Keep writing Peggy.

Best wishes      Beth.

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## **StokeArts@thevillagehall**



**“My Dearest Girls: The Letters Book”**, February's offering at Stoke Golding, proved to be a very different production to those normally performed in our hall but was nevertheless gripping entertainment.

This one-woman monologue was based on a letters book. The letters book contains the letters of six young women connected by schooling together in

Bridgnorth, Shropshire. Against the background of War, between 1917-1920, they keep in contact through round robin letters addressed to all. Francesca Millican Slater explains that the idea of the letters is essentially similar to a Facebook group, where one person writes to all of the people, sends it on to the next person, who writes and continues to send the bunch of letters on. We were treated to a wonderful insight of these women's lives through Francesca's warm and witty story-telling.

Audience feedback included the following comment, “Neither of us had any idea what to expect but we were prepared to come and support the event all the same.

Needless to say we had a great evening and thought that it was very original and beautifully presented. Now we are looking forward to the next one!

*Steve Smithers*



## **Notes from Stoke Golding Parish Council Meeting – March (not ratified)**

Richard Mugglestone of Midlands Rural Housing (MRH) addressed the meeting. “MRH is a specialist rural housing organisation; its aim is to help those who live and work locally to access housing which is affordable. MRH is carrying out independent strategic enabling work on behalf of local authorities across Leicestershire following the departure of the Leicestershire & Rutland Rural Housing Enabler. Principally this involves working with the Borough Council's housing and planning teams, Parish Councils, and local communities to carry out Housing Needs Surveys (HNSs). These are designed to establish the local housing needs, particularly affordable housing needs, of people in a parish (i.e. those who have strong connections such as living, working or having family in the parish). The evidence gathered in such surveys is used to inform Local Authority housing strategy and policy and to ensure that resources are being effectively targeted. MRH carry out surveys independently following procedures that are recognised by The Homes and Communities Agency and local authorities. The gathering of survey results does not indicate that a specific site will be developed.”

A discussion followed and concerns were raised about how this survey would be perceived by residents, and that it may also undermine the Neighbourhood Plan. It was suggested that the Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee would need to be consulted and Richard Mugglestone offered to attend one of their meetings. He will report back to the Borough on the PC's concerns.

*Declarations of interest on items on the agenda:* Cllr Goodsell declared that she was an adjoining landowner to Laburnum Cottage.

Borough Cllr Reg Ward reported on the following:

Budget increase will be £5 per household and £24 for brown bin.

Empty private properties to be identified for refurbishment, then let/sell.

Small Brownfield sites to be identified to provide low cost sites for small developers.

Barwell SUE negotiations still continue, 106 agreement still to be agreed.

*Matters arising from February's meeting*

*Crime Report* - 1 anti-social behaviour near Hall Drive.

*Bench Press* - Wicksteed has carried out the proposed modification at no cost to the PC and apologise for the inconvenience.

### ***Planning Applications:***

#### ***New applications***

The White Swan, 47 High St – display of 2 illuminated fascia signs, 3 non-illuminated fascia signs and 1 illuminated hanging sign.

#### ***Permission granted***

St Margaret's C of E Primary – erection of cycle shelter and associated works.

47 Wykin Lane – two story rear extension and erection of porch.

Basin Bridge Farm, Basin Bridge Lane – construction of 5MW solar farm with associated infrastructure.

4 Greenwood Road – single storey front and rear extension.

#### ***Amended***

Laburnum Cottage – erection of 5 dwellings and formation of access (outline-access and layout).

David Goodsell spoke on behalf of the Heritage Group. Both the Heritage Group and the PC are opposed to the amended application. The PC is not in favour of adopting

additional land that will be of little practical value to the village and will increase pressure on the ground maintenance budget.

*Ground maintenance – review of contract and performance*

Cllr Pegg has carried out a review of performance and found all work to be satisfactory. It was agreed that the PC should continue with the three year contract for ground maintenance. Cllr Pegg to meet with Daniel Britton on 3<sup>rd</sup> March to discuss potential funding for work to Church Walks. Cllr Goodsell reported that ironwork around a family plot at St Margaret's Churchyard is unsafe. It was agreed that the PC should carry out necessary work to make safe.

*Site Allocations Document - main modifications*

Following the examination hearings of the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document in September and October the planning inspector has proposed a number of 'main modifications'. The Borough Council has now published these modifications which confirm that the remaining residual housing need for Stoke Golding is nil and no further sites have been put forward for development.

*Neighbourhood Plan*

One consultant has given a presentation and two more will be given on 16<sup>th</sup> March. Depending on the outcome a consultant may be recommended for approval at the PC meeting in April. Higham on the Hill PC has formally approved NP area option 2 at its February meeting. The minutes of this meeting will be formally approved at its next meeting. Once this is done the formal submission document can be approved at the PC meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> April and those minutes will be approved on 4<sup>th</sup> May. The application for NP Area Designation can then be submitted to HBBC.

*Play equipment*

It was agreed that Cllr Fisher should obtain prices for an outdoor table tennis table. This could be funded from 106 monies.

*Sport in Stoke Golding*

Cllr Pegg has been in contact with the Cricket Club and Adult FB Club and he should soon have their development plans. He will then meet with Graham Chilvers and also Prohelp. Drainage issues were discussed. Cllr Goodsell suggested that along with the pavilion project all drainage work should be completed.

*Communications received by the Chairman*

Possibility of a ramp at the Post Office had been discussed with Liz prior to the meeting and unfortunately is not possible due to access to Church Walks and the siting of the BT phone box.

Street naming for land off Hinckley Road - suggested names were Ryelands and Ridgeway. The field name is Ryelands and the field had an ancient ridge and furrow system.

*Any other business*

Cllr Mitchell has reported that one of the VAS batteries needs replacing at a cost of £59.00. Cllr Fisher requested £40 for a new sign for the wildflower mini-meadow on Bennett Close.

Thanks had been received from a resident for the new trees on Sherwood Road.

**Next meeting:- Methodist Church Hall, Wednesday 6th April 2016 at 7pm**

### High praise once again for St. Margaret's Primary

It was inspection time again at St. Margaret's School in early February. On this occasion it was the SIAMS inspection (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) which focuses on the distinctiveness of the Christian ethos of the church school and the effect that has on the children and young people who attend it. The school was delighted to maintain the Outstanding grade which it achieved at the last inspection five years ago. The inspection report said:

- ◆ The strong Christian leadership of the head teacher, deputy head teacher, religious education (RE) co-ordinator and governing body is central to the distinctiveness and effectiveness of this unequivocally church school.
- ◆ The school's Christian vision is underpinned by rigorous strategic planning, ensuring this church school remains highly effective and enabling pupils of all faiths and none to thrive.
- ◆ Strong partnerships exist with local clergy and other church representatives who are fully involved in the life of the school ensuring its Anglican foundation is honoured and promoted.
- ◆ Partnerships between staff, governors, parents, the churches and village communities are valued by everyone resulting in mutual support based upon distinctively Christian values.
- ◆ Christian values are embedded in all aspects of school life, resulting in pupils who are confident and well equipped to contribute to life in a diverse society.

This is well deserved recognition for all the care, dedication and hard work that takes place at St. Margaret's. Congratulations to all at the school..

*Ella Orr*

#### **CROSSWORD ANSWERS** (from page 19)

ACROSS 1 Hamlet, 4 Smock, 8 Visa, 9 Merchant, 10 Nothing, 12 Enter, 13 Glut, 14 Sabre, 17 Horns, 20 Nibs, 22 Basis, 23 Each way, 24 Rib cages, 25 Lace, 26 Added, 27 Nooses

DOWN 1. Havanas, 2 Leather, 3 Taming, 5 Macbeth, 6 Chapter, 7 Star, 11 Globe, 15 Best bed, 16 Ensnare, 18 Othello, 19 Shyness, 21 Samson, 22 Bard

**COPY DEADLINE for May 2016 ISSUE: 15th April**

**Send to Jane White: [janewhitesg@gmail.com](mailto:janewhitesg@gmail.com)**

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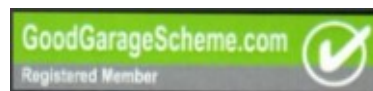
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