

25th JUBILEE WEEKEND



OF STAPLOE PARISH

2nd June 1990 in Village Hall Duloe

2-5 p.m. - Exhibition
3.00 p.m. - Tribute to Noel Bates
3.15 p.m. - Tea
8.00 p.m. - Country Dance in Duloe Village Hall
Tickets £1

Entrance Free

Raffle - Sideshows - Produce for Sale
All this and more on June 2nd 1990
Please Come Along

On Sunday 3rd June a chance to
Walk the parish boundary
Tea will be provided for a £1

For 25th Jubilee Weekend
1990

DULOE, STAPLOE, HONEYDON

^{Hamlets}
The three Parishes at war 1939 - 45

Unlike the 1914 - 18 war the 1939 - 45 war came to the Parishes even before the declaration of war on September 3rd 1939.

On the first of September the Villages were taken over by evacuated school children from the Walthamstow area of London. They arrived at Manor Farm, Duloe on the Friday afternoon and were billeted around homes in the area. Some soon returned to London since no enemy action took place, others stayed until the end of the war. One young person was heard to say he had "never seen a house with hair on" referring to a thatched cottage. They settled in, and a large house in Eaton Socon became their own school, now Radio Links Company Limited.

The army camp on Mill Hill Road was now in use, being built for the conscripted soldiers, a measure which was introduced in 1939.

Search-light sites were set up to assist in the air defence, none were in the parish, but their beams of light swept the sky. There were sites at Weald Corner, St. Neots Common, Cross Hall and Wilden.

They were removed after about a year as they were not very effective. 'Black Out' was imposed and anyone showing a light after sunset was fined if caught. Car head lights were masked to reduce the light.

Some men of the village were called up for the Army, some as reservists and others conscripted. The production of food became a major concern, farm workers became a "reserved occupation" and few were called up for military service.

The winter of 1939/40 was one of the coldest. Little military activity took place, the river at St. Neots was frozen and we were able to skate from Eaton Mill to the Paper Mill at St. Neots.

The Phoney War was shattered by the Spring and the war started in earnest. France fell and the British Army was evacuated from Dunkirk.

By June, enemy aircraft were prowling the night and towns were bombed. The L.D.V. was formed, later to become the Home Guard, there was a real threat of German invasion. Barbed wire and road blocks were set up. Trenches were dug at strategic points. I remember armed soldiers collecting machinery and old cars to make up road blocks.

continued.....

It sounds dramatic but very real at the time. Dusk and Dawn patrols were established by the Home Guard to watch for parachute troops.

An air raid shelter was built at Duloe, in a hollow some 100 yards west of Manor Farm on the North side of the road. It was used from time to time but in the winter filled with water and soon abandoned.

One Saturday evening in August the real war arrived. We were standing on the grass outside the House watching search lights probing the low clouds, for a plane which was flying above them. I doubt if the pilot could even see the ground. He just let his bomb load go, the first arriving South West of the Two Brewers Pub on Bushmead Road, the last to the South West of Goodwick Farm. Some seven or eight bombs landed High Explosive, a Fire Bomb fueled by oil, and four which it was suggested were armour piercing. They must have exploded well below the ground and raised large mole heaps about four feet high, but no crater. I collected fragments of the casings and inspected the holes the next morning.

Little of the Battle of Britain was seen since it was out of range of the protective German Fighter. During October however, a single Dornier reconnaissance plane crossed over the Parish followed by three Hurricanes from R.A.F. Wittering. Firing was taking place and the Dornier was shot down west of the Crown Public House in Eaton Socon. Two airmen baled out and landed near Cobholden Farm and the other two died in the crash. We collected spent cartridge cases and clips from a field in Duloe, it made up some two feet of used ammunition belt from the planes.

A steady stream of German bombers passed to and fro over the parish on a night in November 1940. They flew in a western direction towards an orange glow in the sky. It was the infamous Raid on Coventry, it was a clear moonlight night, the planes could almost be seen themselves from the vapour trails they left in the sky.

During 1941 - aerodromes were being built, the nearest at Little Staughton with its bomb dump within the parish in Bushmead woods, still to be seen.

Farm work became the main industry within the parish. Fields which had become over grown with bushes and brambles were reclaimed. The supply of food became all important, tractors were imported from the U.S.A. By this time certain foods were rationed, petrol was only available for essential uses. Clothing was rationed and imported fruit was no longer available.

continued.....

By the middle of the year enemy air activity almost ceased when the Germans invaded Russia.

Late on Saturday night we were awakened by a screaming noise from the sky. It was a Junkers 88 bomber shot down by a night fighter just inside the parish, east of Colmworth. It blew up leaving a deep crater big enough to fill up with the remains.

During 1942 the U.S.A.F. started to arrive with Flying Fortresses at Little Staughton. By day and by night the sky became full of aircraft. The R.A.F., who soon took over Little Staughton, flew by night and the U.S.A.F. from other aerodromes passed over the parish by day. Vast numbers of planes gathered to avenge the Coventry raid with Compounded Interest.

By 1944 Combine Harvesters imported from the U.S.A. appeared in local farms revolutionising harvesting, crawler tractors became common place, and the pattern of farming had changed. Horses were declining and the tractor had come to stay.

Some of the events standing out

Were seeing flights of up to 75 Flying Fortresses assembling for day light bombing of Europe - damaged planes returning -.

Three Lancasters low flying, one flew under the high voltage cables by Mount Pleasant, between Duloe and Staploe. For many years the joint in the ~~power~~^{lower} cable marked the event. The plane flew on leaving a quantity of damaged parts spread around marking the spot.

Prisoners of War - German and Italian worked on local farms, many were taken prisoner in North Africa. They often lived on the farms or were taken out daily. The war was over for them, many were good workers and stayed on after the war and are still amongst us.

Taking the Salute - "I was standing by the houses in Duloe when some 50 A.T.S. girls came by on a route march from the Militia Camp in Eaton Ford. One sailor in uniform, as they went by a sergeant in charge gave an eyes right and I returned the salute". They were all whistling 'All the nice girls love a sailor', - when they had passed by I sheepishly looked around expecting half the village to be splitting their sides with laughter. Phew! not a soul in sight."

The war in Europe was over by May 1945 and one by one service men, women and others who were involved in the war returned. Some of those involved were still at school in 1939 but returned after the war having travelled over many parts of the world. There were possibly three who did not return and their names are to be seen on the War Memorial at Eaton Socon.

continued.....

Of those who returned, many attended a Welcome Home supper in the Old Institute at Eaton Socon. This was in 1946 and given by the British Legion

MOTORING WAR-TIME REGULATIONS

Lighting Restrictions. If you propose to drive during black-out hours you must have a mask fitted to one of your head lamps, and it is advisable to purchase one of the officially approved types. There are a number of these on the market and provided they are not tampered with you should be immune from police attention in this direction. The mask may be fitted to the near-side or off-side but not to both. The bulb must be removed from the one not being used. A headlamp mask must also be fitted in the case of a motor-cycle, and this must be a dual-purpose type.

During foggy weather it is permissible to use one of the headlamps *unmasked*, provided (1) the lamp is operated by a separate switch; (2) the beam is directed downwards towards the near-side; (3) it is used only when fog conditions really demand it; and (4) it is immediately extinguished when an air-raid warning is given. Should a police officer not consider the fog dense enough to warrant the use of the unmasked lamp he has authority to order the light to be extinguished.

The bulb used in the side and rear lamps must not exceed 7 watts in power and the reflector must be painted black or rendered non-effective. Light may be emitted only through a single aperture facing to the front or rear as the case may be, of not more than 1 in. diameter. Side panels must be completely blacked-out. Also, the aperture through which the light is emitted must be partially obscured by placing behind the glass, paper or some such other uncoloured material having a density equal to that of two sheets of newspaper, or by applying a thin coat of paint to the interior of the glass in such a manner that approximately the same effect is produced. The paper, paint or whatever material is used must cover the whole of the portion of the front glass through which light can pass and must not be treated in any way to increase its transparency. Also, rear lamps must not be fitted at a greater height than 3 ft. 6 in., except in the case of certain public service vehicles.

Stoplights may be used provided they are so masked that the aperture through which light is emitted is of an area not exceeding 1 sq. in.; the aperture must also be treated in the same way as the side lamps. Reversing lamps are *not* allowed.

Interior illumination which can be seen from the exterior of the car is prohibited.

Direction indicators may still be used provided they too are blacked-out and here the law requires that the light shall be restricted to a small arrow-shaped window. The exact depth of this arrow must not be more than $\frac{1}{8}$ in.

Anti Fifth-column Measures. When putting the vehicle away for the night the law demands that some action is taken to put it out of commission in order that it is not used by any unauthorized persons. In addition to the ignition key being removed and the doors locked, it is necessary to remove part of the mechanism.

Camouflage. This is not compulsory, but should you wish your vehicle to be camouflaged make sure you do not use any of the "Services" colour schemes.

Speed Limit. This is now fixed at 20 m.p.h. in built-up areas during the hours of black-out governed by lighting-up times.

Parking. It is compulsory to park your car or motor-cycle at the near-side of the road during black-out, and the lights must be left on. It is an offence to leave the headlamps switched on when the vehicle is stationary.

COUNCILLORS OF STAPLOE PARISH COUNCIL

TERM OF OFFICE

MRS K.M. DANIELS	1965 - 1984	
MRS E.M. GRAY	1965	<u>Still currently in office.</u>
MR I.W. COOPER	1965 - 1967	
MR D. CRISSELL	1965 - 1970	
MR R.A. DANIELS	1965 - 1984	<u>CHAIRMAN 1965-1969</u>
MR C.W.R. SPENSER THOMAS	1965 - 1984	<u>CHAIRMAN 1970-1984</u>
MR C.J. IBBETT	1965 - 1973	<u>CHAIRMAN 1969-1970</u>
MRS E.M. CLEASBY	1967 - 1969	
MR A.M. SMART	1970 - 1979	
MR W.W. NORMAN	1971 - 1987	<u>CHAIRMAN 1984-1987</u>
MRS P.M. PALMER	1973 - 1983	
MR P. SQUIRE	1979 - 1984 & 1988	<u>Currently in office</u>
MR.W.J. CUTTS	1983	<u>Currently in office</u>
MR R.D. MILLS	1984 - 1988	
MRS M.C. SHEARD	1984	<u>Currently in office</u> <u>CHAIRMAN From 1988</u>
MRS M.M. SMITH	1984	<u>Currently in office</u>
MR R.J. SLATER	1984 - 1988	
MR A.J. RAWLINGS	1988 - 1990	
MR C.H. THOMPSON	1988 - 1990	
MR E. MORLEY	1990	<u>Currently in office</u>

CLERKS TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

MR G. BEVAN	1965 - 1967
MR J. HAWKINS	1967 - 1989
MRS J. GREEVES	1989 Currently in office

Religion Section

This Stand showed photographs etc of Staploe Gospel Hall, St Mary's Church, Eaton Saxon, & Honeydon Methodist Chapel which was formerly Wesleyan.

Staploe The Gospel Hall was founded by Mr & Mrs Newman formerly of London Society, he was ordained into the Church of England, then became independent, bought a house in New St. St Neots, held services there until it became too small.

The first Gospel Hall was built in New St. St Neots later at Staploe, Southoe, Buckden, Gravelly & Lt Paxton. The Staploe ground was leased to Mr Newman for 99 years at £2.20 per year on 1st March 1884. (Photos of Mr & Mrs Newman)

Mr William Sharman of the Christian Brothers was responsible for conducting services, it closed in the 1980.

There was a Sunday School of 41 scholars, had an evening service & fireside fellowship during the week, the customary S. School Anniversaries were held each year, Harvest Festivals, the children also entered for the Scripture Examination held each year by the St Neots & District Sunday School Union.

St Mary's Church Eaton Saxon

The enclosure map was shown where.

also & photographs of the side views of the Church with a wedding one showing the front view.

The monthly magazine Resurgan, which gave news of forthcoming events, the form of service for the Induction of Rev. Watson on in 1984, also the book printed about 'Eaton Saxon at work' about 60 years ago in the 1920's.

Honeydon

It is thought that the people here held services in their homes for over 20 years, as it wasn't until 1850 that Honeydon was taken on the St Neots & District plan for supplying local preachers. In March 1872 the quarterly meeting sanctioned the building of a chapel to seat 50 people, the cost was £92 all of

which was raised by the time it was opened in July 1872 or soon after.

Sunday School started on Feb.: 7. 1904 with between 15+25 scholars until 1918, then from 1923-29. the chapel was heated by coke stove, & paraffin hanging lamps.

The late Mr Spencer Thomas had the electricity put on in memory of his mother in 1951. Services were held weekly, then fortnightly, now the first Sunday in every month.

The chapel was full for the Centenary Service in July 1972, which was followed the next evening with a supper attended by 80 people held in a Barn at Upper Honeydon Farm. the home of Mr & Mrs Spencer Thomas, with the proceeds from the two events the seats & pulpit were taken out, replaced with chairs & table, there was also a full chapel for the Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth 2nd in 1977.

Sunday School was restarted in 1950 by Mr David Rudd of Eaton Ford & taken over by Mrs Mary Bressum formerly Jeffs just after her marriage to Mr Jim Bressum. both having been scholars at the original S School in 1925 + 1929.

From 1951 there were always around 16-20 children from 3-16 years, included in the school were a group of children from 11yrs upwards who belonged to the "Young Sowers League". which they found a certain verse in each chapter of the Bible in stages, first part gaining a certificate, second a New Testament, lastly when all 500 questions had been answered a zipped up leather covered Bible which was gained by Gene Simmons in the 3yrs he lived in Honeydon, & returned to the U.S.A when 16yrs. others who took part was Carol Bressum. Diana, Paul & Richard Stread Neville Stamford Toni & Annette Merrick, Sheila & Billy Simmons

on the stand were the registers from 1904 - 1977 & photographs of Sunday School 1925. 75. bradley roll Book, whose entries show baptisms of 28 children from 1959-89.

There were also Anniversaries, Harvest Festivals & suppers, Bazaars, Jumble Sales, special Christmas services by the children, & parties, also Carol Singing around the village by the children.

Mrs Mary Bressum left the village in 1977 2 yrs after the death of her husband to live in

Eaton Socon though she still continued as organist at the May 6th service in 1979 the Rev. L. Gaimster presented her with a silver wrist watch from the friends of Honeydon Chapel in appreciation of 25 yrs as S School Teacher.

At present there are only 3 young children maybe another school will be formed in years to come

Signed M. Chesbourn Mrs

Mormon from Honeydon.

Mary Fielding

Mary's parents John & Rachel Fielding came from Yorkshire to take over his 4th Uncle's Farm, called Manor Farm, she had 2 brothers & 2 younger sisters Ann married Timothy Matthews of Bolmworth, a cousin, both are buried in Bolmworth Church yard.

Mary emigrated to Canada in 1834 to join Joseph & Mary, and accepted to join the Mormon Faith in 1837. Moving to Ohio in Nov.: 1837 Mary married Hyrum Smith that Christmas, later to become a member of the first Presidency & Patriarch of the Mormon Church. Their son Jos. F. Smith became Prophet & President to the Mormon Church, years of trouble followed, her husband was abducted just after her son was born, she was ill, & was removed 200 miles away for fear of the anti-Mormon mob.

Mary Smith was in that great trek across (1,000 miles) the plains to what is now Salt Lake City which took her from Spring 1848 - Sept 23. 1848. She suffered persecution for her beliefs in the Mormon faith.

Mary Fielding who was born at Honeydon died on Sept.: 21st 1852. fifty years & ten months to the day she was born.

Her sister Mercy now a widow returned when an old lady in 1870 to visit their old home in Honeydon & her parents graves at Bolmworth, afterwards returning to the U.S.A.

DOVECOTES

Pigeons were bred for food as far back as Roman times but it is only after the Norman invasion that pigeon really became a major source of food in winter in Britain.

It is estimated that there were some 26,000 dove-cotes in England by the middle of the 17th century however, when the introduction of turneps, swedes and other root crops obliterated the wholesale destruction of livestock during the winter, the practice of breeding pigeons for food on a huge scale declined.

There was born the penchant for keeping just a few birds, turning from the common pigeon to more exotic looking species like the white, fantail pigeons or cooing doves.

There are seven known dove-cote locations in the Parish of Staple and are:-

Dunoi

At the corner of Woodhouse lane stands a dove-cote of 18th century origin, built of red brick, square with a low pitched roof of variegated tiles. A lantern or "glower" on the top forms small gables for the entry vents.

At the rear of Tanar Farm stands a dovecote of 18th century origin, it is square of built of red brick, the upper story is now missing.

Remains of another dovecote in Dovehouse Elm beyond the village hall.

ST JUANSTANS FARM

- Dorecobs in the yard orchard
- Dorecobs close to the farm on the soil

CHRISTNUTS FARM

- Dorecobs close to west of farm

MANOR FARM

- Dorecobs close to west of farm near river.

BUSHHEAD

- Dorecobs yard

BARMHEAD

- No remains, but weed of mangel only

MOLLY

JUNE 1990

PUBLIC HOUSES

There is considerable debate upon the number of 'pubs' that were in the 'Parish of Staploe' as today 1990 there are none. Local people talk of 13 pubs but we have only been able to find records of 6 with 1 possible. There appears to have been two types of 'pubs' - one named 'public houses' and 'beer houses', the latter supposedly selling only beer.

THE CHEQUES (DULOE)

Shown on the enclosure map of 1799 as being a public house owned by William Fowler the Elder who also owned several other public houses in Eaton Socon.

The Cheques was shown on licensing records of 1829 but appears to have 'closed' by 1841 on the census returns.

It would appear that this 'pub' stood where No 1 and 3 Duloe now stands but this is not confirmed.

THE ANCHOR INN (DULOE)

Licensed before 1822 although records show that the property itself was built before 1791. The property is still standing and has been tastefully modernised by the present owners of and Kevin Paveley & is the hotel house on the right from St Neots.

When auctioned in and at that time let to Mr John Redgood at an annual rent of £9-10-0, and was

described as:-

The House (brick, small part Plaster & Tiled) contains:

1st floor - 3 bedrooms
ground " - Taproom, sitting room, living room,
scullery, pantry and cellar.

near - brick, timber and tiled coal place,
3 timber and iron roof pigsties and
hen house, brick, timber and tiled
cart shed and stable, iron roof
closet, usual.
- yard

included is an orchard and a field of arable
land and two gardens, the whole containing
1 acre, 3 rods, 16 perches more or less.

THREE HORSESHOES (STAPLE)

licensed before 1822 and still standing as
an extension to the modern brick type property.
It still has the pub sign bracket hanging
on the end wall

THE ROYAL ARMS (BUSHMEAD)

licensed before 1822 but now completely
disappeared, originally standing on the
corner of Bushmead and Colmworth Roads
It was put under auction in 1881 and
the licensee was Mr Charles Brightman
at an annual rent of £34.0.0. and
described as:-

This property includes land containing 46 acres,
2 rods, 33 perches

THE TWO BREWERS (HONEYDOVE)

First licensed 1843 and still standing as
pubs properly on the corner of Shepherway
and Burnhead Road.

It was auctioned in _____ and the licensee
was Mrs Wildman at an apportioned annual
rent of £17. and described as:-

The House (brick, slated and tiled) contains.

- 1st floor - 4 bedrooms
- ground " - Taproom, sitting room, living room,
kitchen, cellar.
- at the rear - timber and tiled hen-house, cast iron
coal place, brick and tiled stable,
chaff place, closet and pigsty.
- yard
- FARM YARD, containing large timber and
tiled barn and open shed (3 bays)

Small paddock of pasture and field of arable
land, the whole containing by enclosure
money 3 acres, 0 r, 6 perches.

THE TALLY HO (BURNHEAD ROAD)

First licensed in 1844 and still standing
at the corner of Burnhead and Upper Staple
Road of white rendering of stark appearance.

It was auctioned in _____ and the licensee
is Wm Infield at an annual rent of £20. and
described as

there are 8 acres of land included

THE RAN (DULO)

Unable to find any records of this having been a public house or beer house of which the latter is most likely.

It is a delightful small cottage with modern extensions and was originally thatched but the two-gable roof has been in use, it is now privately owned.

Monk

JUNE 1990.

The Parish of Staploe

lying in the north west corner of Bedfordshire and celebrating its Silver Jubilee in 1990 after being severed from the original Parish of Eaton Socon that can trace its boundaries back to Doomsday.

The three hamlets of Staploe, Duloe and Honeydon along with the two settlements of Begwary and Burthmead contain the entire population of Staploe Parish totalling approximately 130 households.

STAPLOE pronounced with a long 'a' has had many spellings over the years namely, STAPELHO, STAPILHO, STAPYLHO, STAPULHO, STAPLO, STAPLOWE and STAPLEHOW and dates back to the 13th century. The name means a 'hill' or 'marked by some post or pillar'.

DULOE as in dew not dull, has over the years had many spellings such as, DIVERHO, DYUELHO, DUUELHO, DEUELHDO, DEVELHO, DIVERHO and DEWLOWE and dates back to the 13th century. The meaning of the name has proved to be difficult and probably means 'peg' or 'plug', typographically this is not impeccable and certainly would not ~~appear~~ to be associated with any individuals of a similar name.

HONEYDON has again has had many spellings over the years HUNEDEN, HONYDEN, HONIDEN, HUNIDEN, HUNYDE, HONYDON, HONYDENE and dates back to the 15th century and would appear not to be as old as Staploe or Duloe. The name means 'honey-valley'.

BEGWARY and BUSHMEAD also date back to the 13th century but the latter has not carried out - as yet, any investigation into these two settlements.

The location of STAPLOE is in the centre of the parish with ~~Dorset on higher ground to the north~~ parallel with Begwary brook, and to the north on higher ground is Duloe flanked on its east side by Duloe brook. Honeyden is in the south of the parish again alongside Begwary brook. Both brooks are west bank tributaries of the Great Ouse that flows through St Neots that lies just outside the parish boundaries on the east.

The soil is rich loam and the subsoil gravel in most parts, the remainder of the soil being mixed and the subsoil clay. The principal crops produced are wheat, barley, oats, beans and now rape seed and a small flourishing market garden.

There are a number of listed buildings
dating from 1790 to 1940 and even
ancient earthworks at Burlmead.
In Dulac there is:-

The anchor inn
thatched cottage no 39
Darecote at no 51
Dwellho cottage no 53

Moneyden has:-

Chestnuts farmhouse
Daisy farmhouse

Slaplog

The cottage no 35
Old farm cottage
Barnmead park cottage
" manor farmhouse
Edton Titho farmhouse

Fuller information on the above are described
elsewhere in the booklet.

Monh 51
Jan: 1990



Spalding Farm























