



The Hamlets' Voice

Staploe, Duloe, Honeydon, Upper Staploe,
Bushmead and Begwary

Issue 31—March 2021

The Oil Club Group your oil order with others in the local area to save money www.oil-club.co.uk	Garden Chickens For Point-of-lay Pullets, Chicken Arks, Feeders and Drinkers. Rookery Road, Wyboston 07597029425	Tree Surgeon, Duloe Andrew Brightman 07970 546293
Gardening Services, Staploe Steve Smith 07908 857706	Woodfield Physiotherapy Centre School Lane, Colmworth 01234 378996 www.woodfieldphysio.co.uk	‘Just Ask’ Village Agents Scheme Teresa Moon 01234 771418



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The Hamlets' Voice | Issue 31 | March 2021
Editors: Lucy Crawford and Frank Squire | Email: clerk@staploe-pc.gov.uk



Editor

In the last edition of the Hamlets Voice we announced that Emma Thompson had stepped down as editor.

We are looking for a new editor to work with Frank Squire.

We feel it is particularly important for the newsletter to continue with all the current developments regarding housing, the A1, East West rail and the Luton airport stack. We no longer receive any local newspapers and so the newsletter is an important source of news.

Ideally the new editor would have access to Microsoft Publisher or similar publishing software but this is not essential. Please apply to the Parish Clerk. Contact details inside the back cover.

Duke of Edinburgh Volunteer

The Parish Council would like to thank Miles Thompson for volunteering his services to the parish under the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. So far he has collected huge amounts of litter, created a wordsearch for this newsletter —see p29, folded, stapled and helped distribute the first Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire and provided many of the photos for this newsletter.

Keep in Touch

Please subscribe to our website to receive regular updates about what is happening in the parish.

Go to www.staploe-pc.gov.uk and look for the “subscribe” box. Enter your e-mail address and you will receive updates of new posts to the website twice per week.

E-mail *

In addition there is a Parish Council Facebook Page, a Three Hamlets Facebook group and a 3 Hamlets Watch Group on Whatsapp.

To join the Whatsapp group send your name and mobile number to 07930 718 749. You can report suspicious behaviour, lost pets, free tomato plants etc.

For further information about anything in this newsletter please contact the Parish Clerk Lucy Crawford on clerk@staploe-pc.gov.uk or telephone 01480 471 526



Photos from snowy Staploe in January



Laurie
Bates me-
morial tree.

Photo cour-
tesy of Gill
Tagg

Staploe, Duloe, Honeydon & Begwary Takeaway Curry Night

Friday 9th April 2021 at 19.00

Optional Virtual Event with a Quiz

How the virtual curry night will work

Collect (delivery) of your curry between 18.10-18.45 from College Farm,
Duloe. Delivery available on request

Optional dial into a virtual event between 18.45-19.15

Where you'll be placed into a dining room (6-8 guests)
19.45-20.00 back to the main dining room for the quiz

Adults £15 – Children 6-10 yrs £6

Children under 5 – Free

**Menu – Onion Bhajis, Samosas, Chicken Korma & Lamb Bhuna,
Rice & Nan (Veggie option on request)**

**Booking and payment required by Monday 5th April. Please inform
us if you'll be joining us for the free virtual, Hamlets Event.**

**Ged 07790 958357 or Jane Thomson 07889 305754 or
jthomson@staploe-pc.gov.uk@gmail.com**

The Ham-
lets Ex-
change.
Photo
courtesy of
Caroline
Kent





Neighbourhood

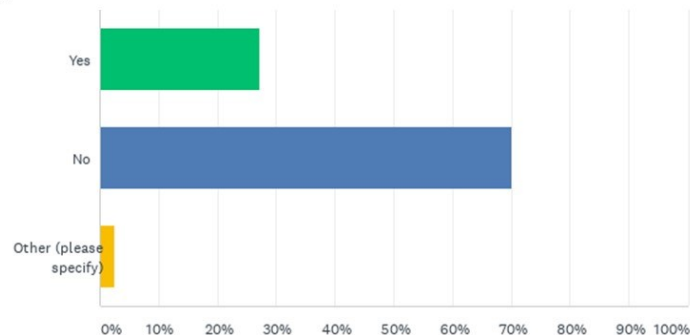
The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group would like to thank Paul Jolley for printing the questionnaire distributed it and the 78 people who responded to the first questionnaire. Two non-resident bus results are presented below. The full results are available on our website

<https://staploe-pc.gov.uk/our-parish-council/staploe-parish-council-neighbourhood-plan/>

The next step is to assess the local housing need so we have enclosed a Housing Needs Survey and

Q3: Do you work or own a business in the Parish?

Answered: 77 Skipped: 1



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“Other” referred to a business being registered at an address in the parish and someone working from home during the pandemic.

Newsletter Wordsearch

B	U	S	B	O	O	V	B	N	D	B	D	R	E	B	T	V	Y
A	E	D	A	E	M	H	S	U	B	H	A	F	K	R	L	I	Y
S	D	H	A	M	L	S	U	E	F	E	G	R	E	O	M	L	U
E	W	R	E	T	S	G	S	F	H	O	N	E	R	F	F	L	K
B	R	O	O	K	T	W	T	A	S	F	G	H	E	O	S	A	T
E	D	U	F	S	A	Q	P	A	R	I	S	H	E	A	W	E	Y
G	I	F	H	A	P	F	L	R	D	H	B	T	N	Q	W	S	B
W	S	S	H	U	L	E	R	G	U	O	A	V	I	L	L	D	O
D	H	B	D	H	O	R	V	C	L	N	S	M	D	P	B	I	O
K	H	A	M	L	E	T	S	K	B	E	G	W	A	R	Y	U	K
A	L	S	U	P	Q	W	R	D	P	Y	V	X	Z	D	D	V	E
G	C	S	G	K	S	A	U	R	I	D	U	I	F	B	C	P	X
S	G	M	J	F	T	L	I	N	K	O	Y	F	L	E	J	K	C
R	H	E	C	G	O	S	U	M	L	N	L	X	D	G	P	M	H
Y	O	A	G	E	V	I	L	L	A	G	E	H	A	L	L	O	A
K	O	D	R	Y	W	C	F	N	D	A	S	T	U	F	U	I	N
A	E	Q	S	T	S	E	V	R	A	H	Z	I	W	A	R	Y	G
H	A	D	V	H	E	X	V	B	M	H	A	R	V	E	J	K	E

Words to Find

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Parish ☐ | 6. Bassmead ☐ | 11. Book Exchange ☐ |
| 2. Staploe ☐ | 7. Barrow ☐ | 12. Begwary ☐ |
| 3. Hamlets ☐ | 8. Brook ☐ | 13. Villages ☐ |
| 4. Village Hall ☐ | 9. Honeydon ☐ | |
| 5. Harvest ☐ | 10. Duloe ☐ | |

You will have to find words in the grid that read; backwards, forwards, down and even diagonally!



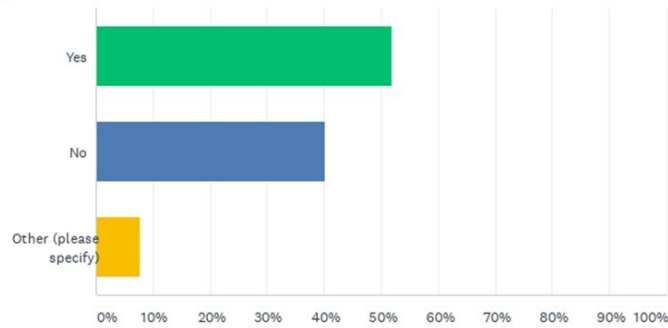
f Plan Survey

nnaire for us, Miles Thompson for folding and stapling it, a team of volunteers who
siness owners responded and the remaining 76 respondents came from 48 households. The

id we would be very grateful for your support in completing it.

Q4: Do you anticipate regularly working from home in the future?

Answered: 77 Skipped: 1



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“Other” referred to working partly from home and partly in the office.

“OK,” he said, ” no more dinner throwing or soup-pouring. And be kind to the other prisoners and be polite to my officers.”

“Next time I entered the dining hall there were the usual shouts of “Godzilla”. I picked up a dinner tray, smiled up at the officers in the Gun Gallery, smiled at the prisoners who had all fallen silent and I sat down and quietly ate my dinner.

“After that I never went back into the Hole. Getting bored with me smiling at them, my fellow prisoners dropped the “zillla” from my nickname and simply called me “God”. I didn’t mind that. I eventually took a degree in Personal Relationships , got paroled, got a job looking after young criminals and I pop in here from time to time to remind myself that even the worst situation can be improved.

“It’s a pity you are leaving tomorrow for Chicago. You could have come to my place to meet the wife.”

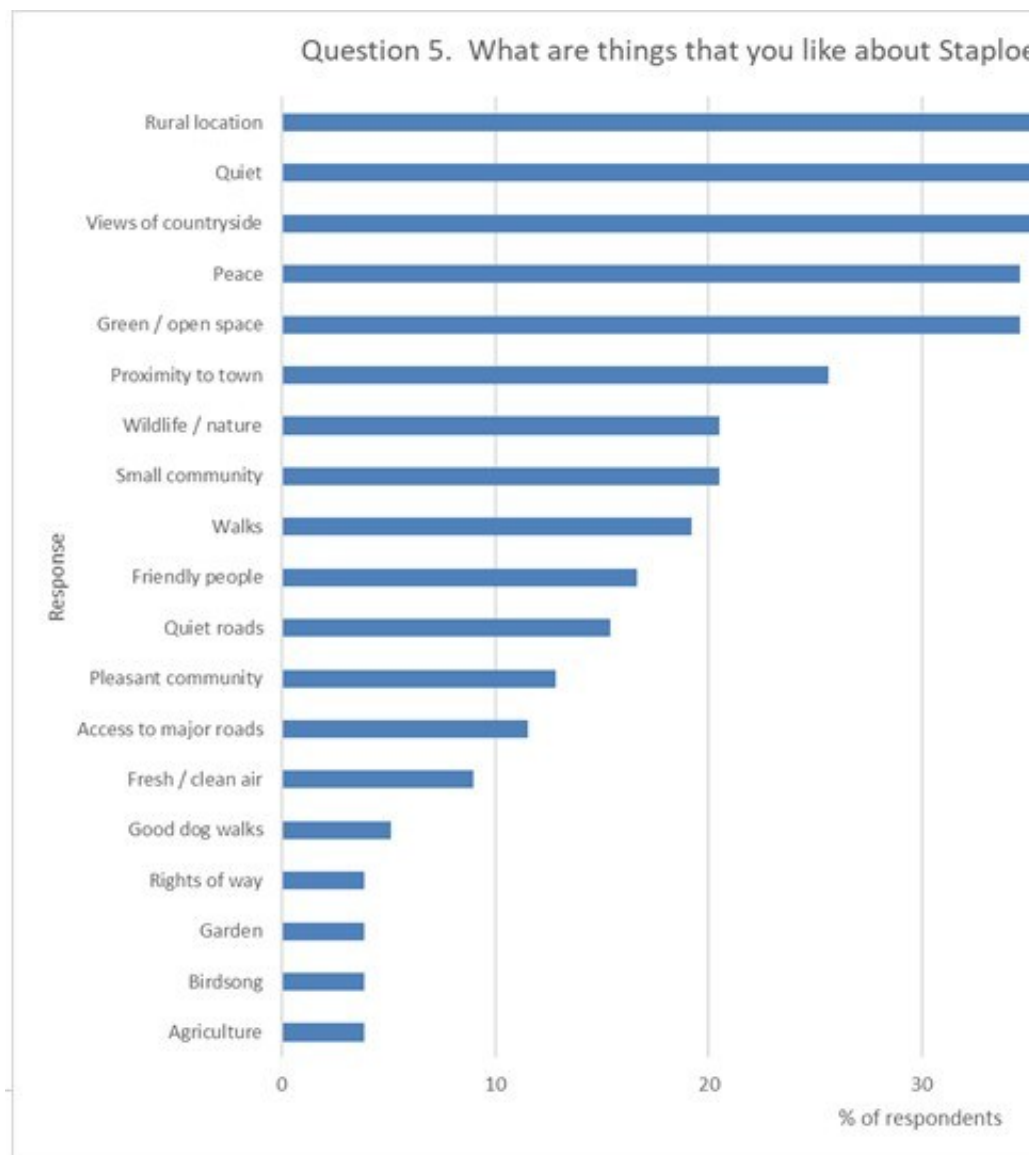
“Where do you live?” I asked.

“Over there in Berkeley,” he said, airily waving his arms towards the other side of the bay.

We walked slowly to the jetty where the ferry was ready to leave. He took my hand in his vast paw, held it for a moment, held my gaze for a few seconds, gave me a broad smile and he turned and trudged slowly back to the cell block.

Frank Squire

NB This is a fictional narrative derived from a visit to Alcatraz a long time ago.



away and I could hear him breathing. I held my breath for a moment thinking that if he could not hear me he would not know where I was amidst the darkness.

“Breathe,” he said, reading my thoughts and at the same time placing his hand on my shoulder. “One day in here would drive some men mad and I spent many days in here. But I had learnt from my use of the mumbo-jumbo man that however bad your situation, you could always improve it, if only a little bit.”

“Why didn’t you go mad?”

“I would improve the situation. I would rip off the button from my overall and throw it over my shoulder and then I would spend the next hour or two looking for it and when I found it I would repeat the process and so the time would pass purposefully. And when the time came for me to be let out there would be a prisoner with clean clothes and two gaolers with Tommy guns at the ready in case I had gone mad. Remember, there is always something you can do to improve the situation.

“One day after I had been in the Hole for a few hours I was called to the governor’s office. I wondered if they had dug up some other crime I could not remember committing. When I got to the office he sent the gaolers out and he sat me down in a chair and offered me a biscuit. Strange, I thought. Perhaps my mom’s died.”

“You are one of the worst of the worst of the worst,” he began,” but it does not have to be like this. For a start I want to stop people calling you Godzilla.” I told him that was not my fault, it was racist and it was his job to stop it.

“It is your fault because every time it happens you pour soup over the culprit or hurl somebody’s dinner into the Gun Gallery. Next time you feel like hurling dinner at my officers, just smile at the culprit and smile every time, just smile. The name-calling will eventually stop. They even bet on whose dinner will be flung. They are not angels here. This is not a good place to be but I can make it better for you. I will find somebody to teach you to read, somebody to teach you arithmetic, to play a musical instrument. There is a good library here, plenty of musical instruments. By the time you will have served your 187 years you will be a professor. Yes, I know 187 years seems impossible; I know the prison business wants to keep you in for the full 187 because you are their gold mine and they will make a huge profit out of you but there is parole and to a large extent that depends on me. What’s it going to be?”

I was overwhelmed. Nobody had ever spoken to me like that. I felt like blubbing.

“I’ll go for the professorship,” I mumbled.



end my lawyer managed to persuade the court that I might have committed lots of serious crimes but the one they were going to cook me for, the one I could not remember doing, I had not done. At least my memory was sound. I felt vindicated. It restored my self-confidence. I even got compensation for the years wrongly spent on Death Row.

“But I was real bad when I got here. Bad and made angry at being called Godzilla. Never to my face though! If I knew who was Godzillering me I would await my chance, perhaps tip my soup over him or confront him in the Broadway.’

Inside Alcatraz

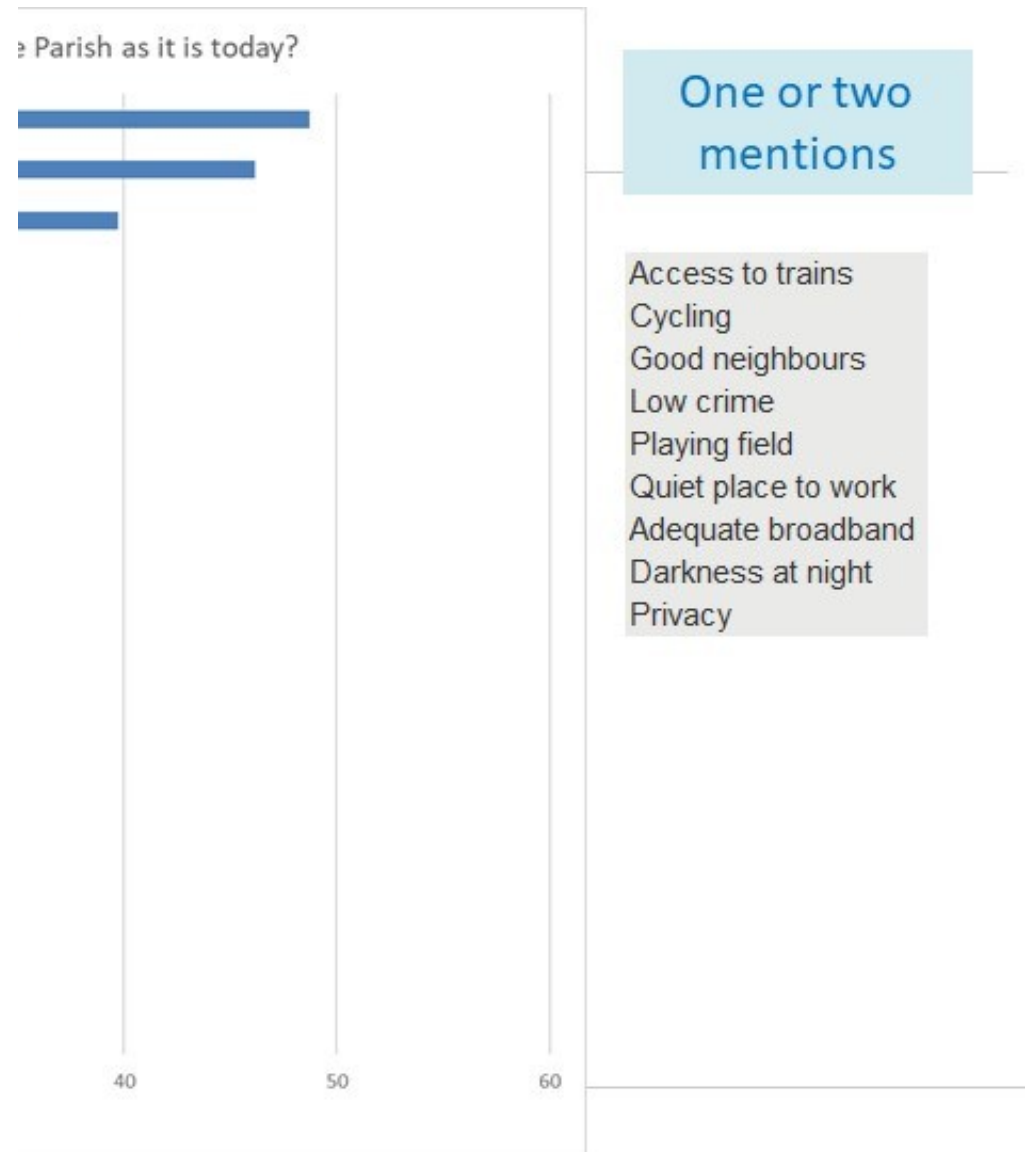
We passed some cells which had steel windowless doors instead of bars.

“This is the Hole. This is to punish you when you were bad. Come and look.” He heaved open the heavy steel door behind which was another windowless steel door which he opened onto a bare windowless cell.

“Are you claustrophobic?”

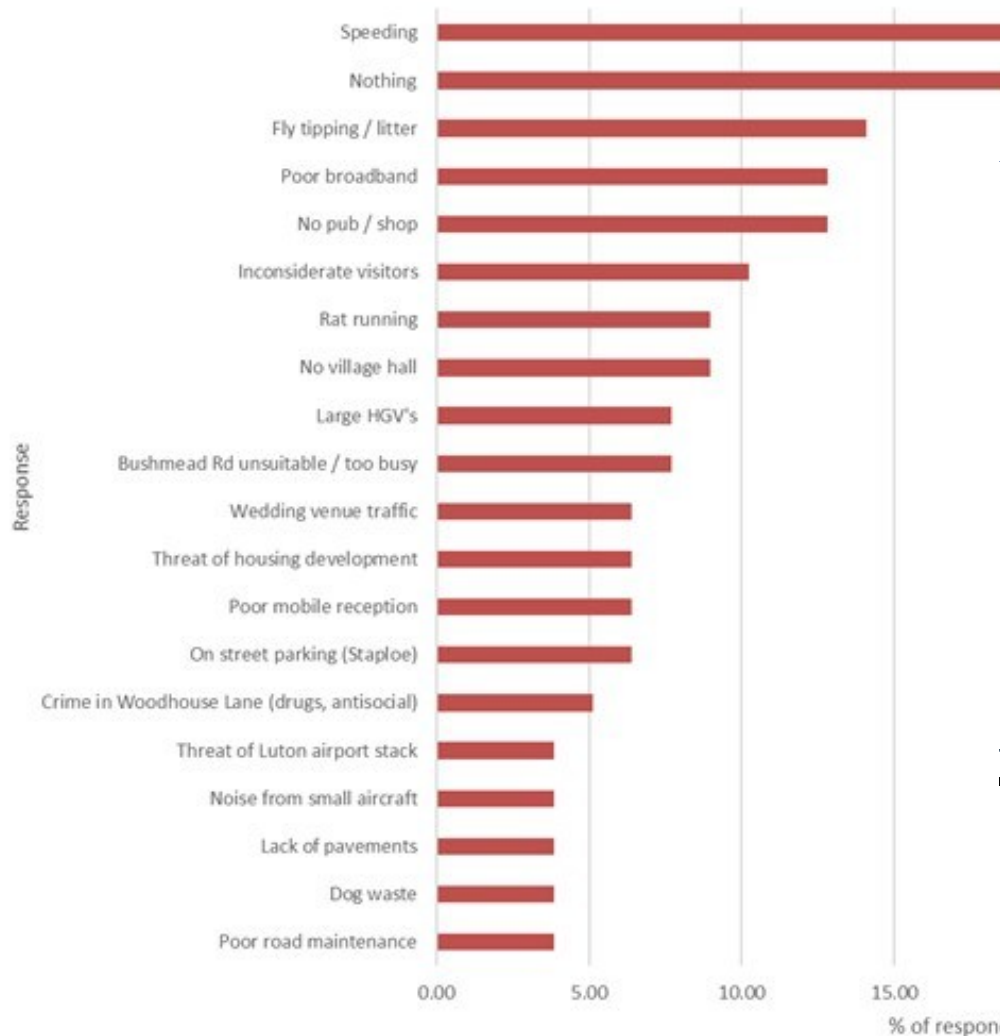
“No,” I said and with that he placed his great hand on my shoulder and gently pushed me into the cell shutting both doors behind him. Inside it was completely dark and completely silent. I could feel the heat from God’s body a few feet

Broadway, Alcatraz <https://www.flickr.com/photos/lloydml/6203361785>





Question 6. What are things that you do not like about living in



“Yes, to wind me up and it did.”

“What did you end up being called?”

“Well, they shortened Godzilla to God. You too can call me God too if you like, in fact I would prefer it if you are happy with it.”

“Hello God,” I said and he drawled, “Hello Frank.” And laughing we shook hands.

“Can I ask what you did to get here?”

“Yes of course. I was the worst of the worst of the worst. When bad men required muscle I was Mr Muscles. When people we was robbing saw me coming they would hand over their money, their keys, their wives, open their safes and generally settle down. I was never violent. I was just there. I prevented violence. I ended up in San Quentin on Death Row awaiting electrocution for a murder that I don’t remember doing. My lawyer said that the reason I could not remember doing the murder was because I hadn’t done it.”

“How did you feel about being on Death Row?”

“I don’t recommend it, It kept me awake at night to be honest. The trouble was you never knew on which day

you were going to be cooked. A day would be fixed for your cooking and then it would be cancelled. I always asked for the priest on my last day because it is not nice to be alone on the cooking day. I felt sorry for the priest. He would go through all that mumbo-jumbo and then it would be called off and a week or two later your new cooking day would be fixed and the mumbo-jumbo man would have to do the mumbo-jumbo thing with you all over again. One evening I even ate my last supper. In the

ncisco-via-magazine-shutterstock-213395542



Alcatraz

Many years ago while staying for a few days in San Francisco I took the ferry to the island of Alcatraz. This island lies in San Francisco Bay just over a mile off-shore. From 1934 to 1963 it was a maximum security federal prison and it housed only the most serious and dangerous criminals, 'the worst of the worst'. Prisons in America are a highly profitable big business and Alcatraz was closed down in 1963 because it became too costly to run. By the time I arrived in Alcatraz it had been turned into a museum and some former gaolers and a few ex-prisoners acted as ushers showing visitors around.

Picture of Alcatraz Island

When I turned up there were only two or three visitors and we each had an usher to ourselves. My usher approached me, a huge elderly grizzled black man bursting out of a prison officer's uniform which had the word Gaoler imprinted on the jacket, front and back. Smiling benignly, he towered over me.

"What's your name?" He asked. I won't even attempt to portray his deep, rumbling, southern drawl so brilliantly depicted by Margaret Mitchel in her novel *Gone with the Wind*.

"Frank," I said.

"You can call me Godzilla."

He paused. "That's what they called me first when I arrived here. I was a prisoner here. They called me Godzilla to wind me up which it did initially. I was always in trouble because I was so angry. Come this way." We walked down the corridor called Broadway – cell after cell with thick steel bars right across the front. "No privacy here," said Godzilla.

"You say you were initially called Godzilla by your fellow prisoners when you first arrived here."

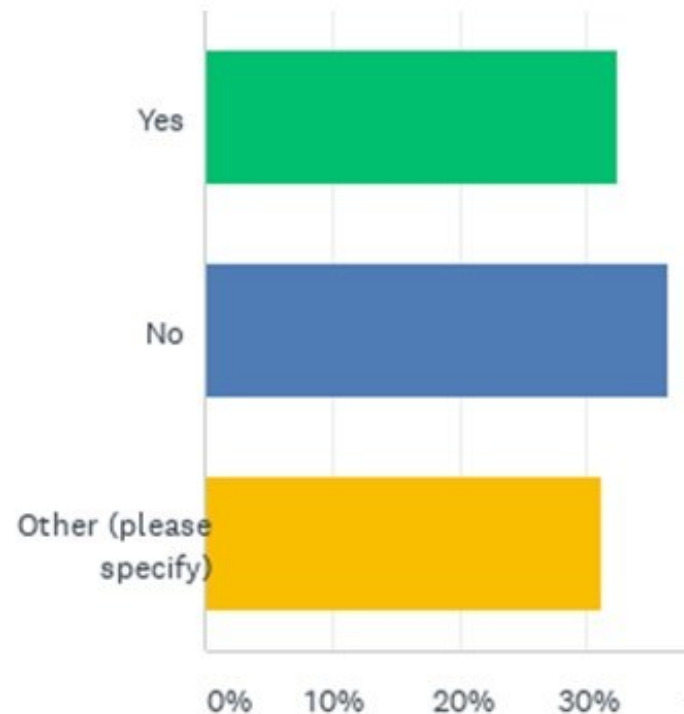
Alcatraz Island. [alcatraz-island-tour-san-fra](#)





Q10: Do you feel there is a need for new

Answered: 77 Skipped: 1

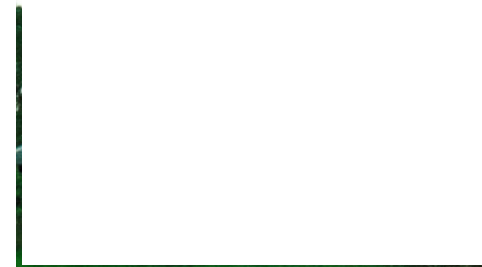


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ies). There was access also, inside the house, under the stairs. The stairs and landing are a circular style, with an overhead glass structure, to let in the light. The cellar was filled in in the 1960's because of the creeping damp into the non-damp-coursed walls. There were bars at all lower floor windows until after the war.

The house remains virtually unchanged except for the insertion of an office into the old dairy and the bedroom above.

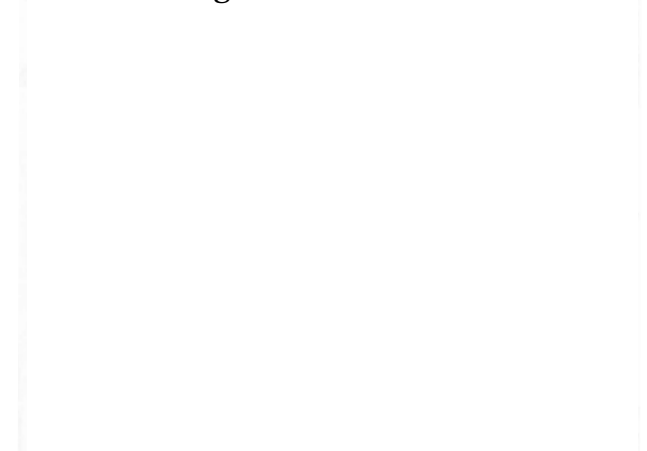
Picture of Octagonal House



Copyright IoE Mr Norman D Chappell. Source: Historic England Archive ioe_01_02694_19

Goodwick farm in Honeydon since 1914, and it has remained in the family ever since.

Plan of Octagonal House





Tythe Farmhouse

Tythe Farmhouse is an octagonal house on Staploe Road which leads from behind Two Brewers on the Bushmead Road to Wyboston.

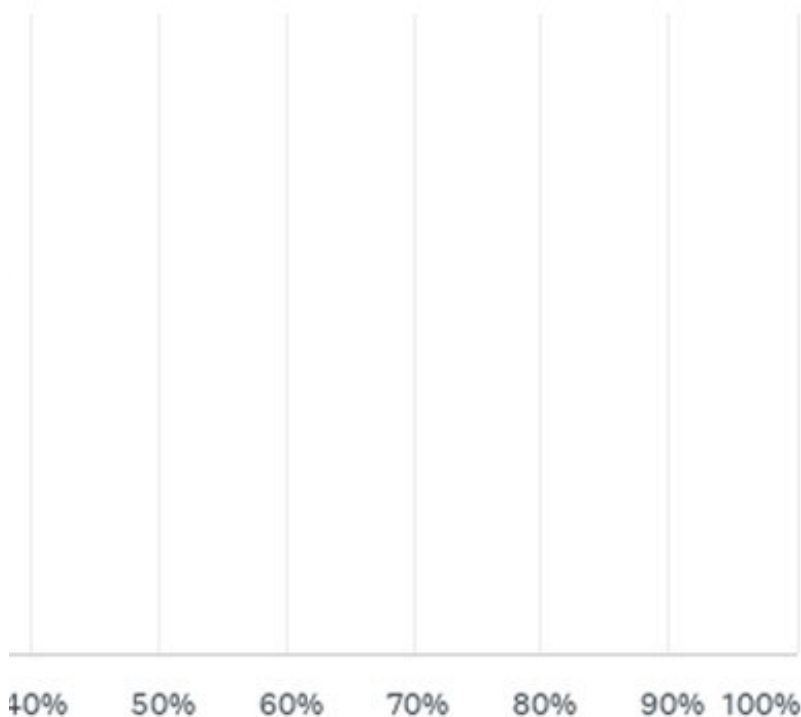
The Dukes of Bedford were Lords of the Manor of Eaton Socon from the eighteenth century until the middle of the nineteenth. They were men with an interest in promoting the good management of their lands and were receptive to the changes that took place in agriculture. The greatest of the eighteenth century changes was, beyond doubt, the enclosure of the parish which changed the old, open field system which had been operating since time immemorial. The Eaton Socon Enclosure Act passed through parliament in 1795.

Not only did enclosure bring in a new structure of small enclosed fields, but also a new class of farmers, keen to increase the productivity of their land and to improve the quality of their stock. It was also a time when a number of old farm houses were replaced with buildings of a more modern design. Francis, the 5th Duke, who held the title from 1771 until 1802, was described as "an enthusiast for agricultural experiment". His surveyor from 1790 onwards was Robert Salmon and he was given the task of designing an experimental octagonal farm house to be built at Honeydon in the parish of Eaton Socon. It was claimed by Thomas Batchelor in his book on Agriculture in Bedfordshire [1808] that this bore "an advantageous comparison in point of strength and cheapness, with a house of the usual square form, and of equal area. The octagonal plan was reckoned have cost £671 as opposed to the £733 that a traditional square-plan would cost.

Tithe Farm still stands today, and others were built by the Duke of Bedford to the same design, notably at Cople, but the fact that the idea was not taken up more widely suggests that the saving of about 10% on building costs was not sufficient to make it generally popular. The house was begun in 1799 and finished in 1801.

The domestic part of the house had a large kitchen, and half-sunk dairy, a cellar beneath the hall and a scullery, with an open hearth and access via the back stairs to one bedroom, probably the nursery. There were four further bedrooms on the first floor and the backstairs also led to two garret rooms, stated in the plans, to be for male workers. Access to the cellar by trapdoor was under the Lord's Room window (presumably he could keep an eye open when the trap was lifted to receive deliver-

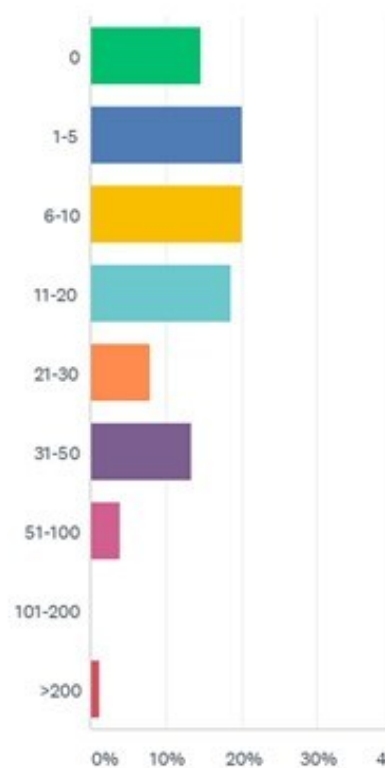
housing in our Parish?





Q11: How many new houses would you like to see built in the parish?

Answered: 75 Skipped: 3



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Our vision is to use them to enhance the playing field, the children's play equipment and the future Village Hall. We want the Community Cabins to promote health and well-being and bring our community together. Last, but not least, we want them to look good!

So, we're looking for volunteers. We have pulled together a list of all the jobs that need doing, which you can find and sign up to here: <https://staploe-pc.gov.uk/community-cabins>. Tasks include cleaning, moving chairs and tables, taking some things to the tip, painting etc. Alternatively you can contact the Clerk on 01480 471 526 / 07779 237 947

So, if you're bored of lock down and feel like you need a new challenge, or if you'd just like to help and give something back to the village community, please click on the link and sign up!

PS. Anyone who's appeared on George Clarke's Amazing Spaces is especially welcome!

Farewell Duloe Village Hall



Duloe Village Hall was demolished on 25th February having been closed since May 2018 for safety reasons.



Help Turn Our Shabby Shipping Containers Into Chic Community Cabins VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

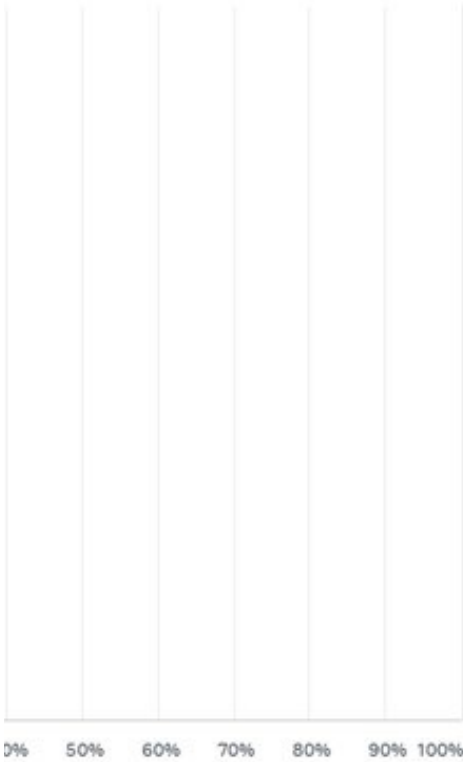
You’ve probably seen the two shipping containers in the corner of Duloe playing field. The time has come to get them ship-shape!

As you know, the village hall has been demolished. We have planning permission to rebuild it and the committee are working on costs before raising funds. In the meantime we are going to renovate the two shipping containers. The Parish Council purchased these containers from the football club in 2018 and the plan is to turn them into match-fit, chic/boutique ‘Community Cabins’ with a much needed community make over so that they can be used and hired out to local residents and groups.

The cabins are powered by newly installed electricity and will be connected to the mains drains thanks to a government grant from the Violence and Exploitation Reduction Unit. They contain a storage room, a kitchen, two toilets, two changing rooms one other small room. There is also a decking area with some picnic benches.



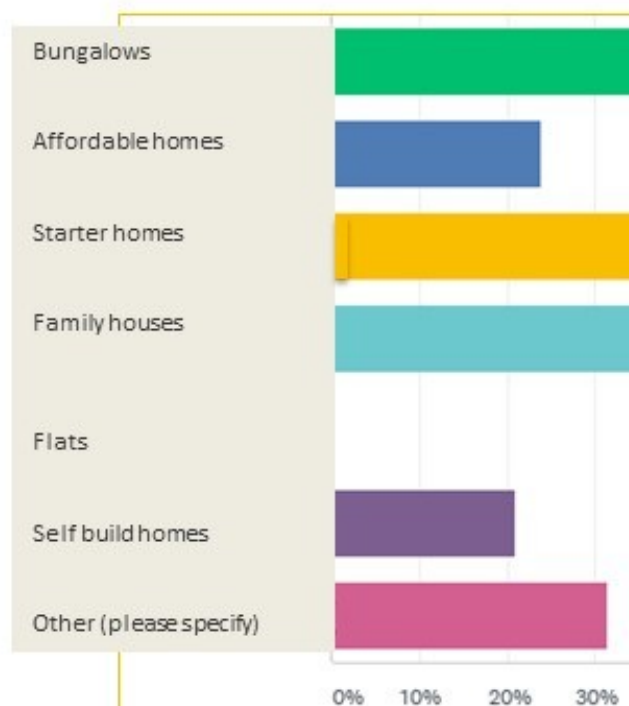
be willing to support in our





Q12: If you think there is a need for new would you like to see built?

Answered: 67 Skipped: 11



Affordable homes are available for rent or purchase at 20% below market value. They are subsidized by the government.

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Our Rare Moth

In spring 2019 we spotted some unusual cobwebs in some of our hedgerows. A moth specialist from the RSPB came to look and discovered that they are Small Eggars moths which have become very rare in the UK. You may have seen a moth enthusiast standing on our footpaths after dark with a light box attempting to attract an adult moth as they fly in February and March. The caterpillars spend up to three years in the cobwebs so hedge pruning is thought to reduce their populations.





Toad Migrations

Those of us who have lived by a brook in the parish will have noticed toads migrating in spring. There are times when the road in Staploe has up to 20 crossing the road at one time. They typically start migrating into the brook when night temperatures are consistently above 6°C, at dusk when temperatures are around 7-8°C and it is damp and drizzly. Sadly we often find them squashed on the road and toad numbers are falling around the UK. Please do look out for them over the coming weeks and try to help them across the road if you come across them.

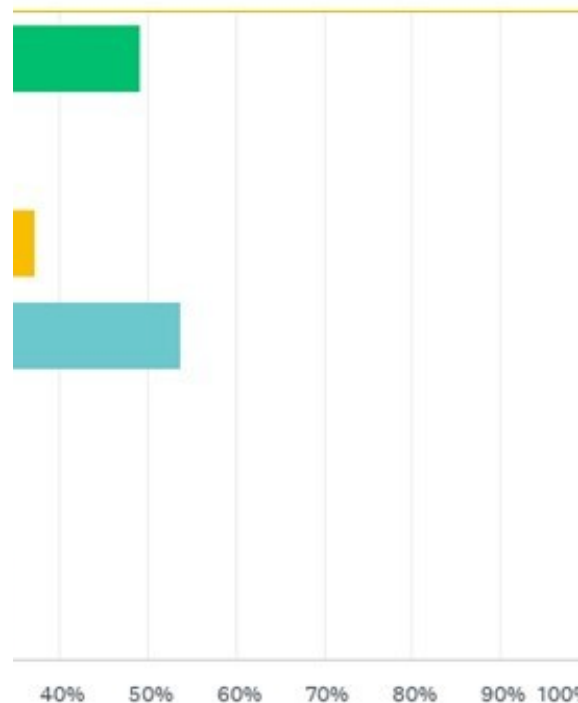


Bath Asparagus

Our rare wildflower Bath Asparagus will be coming out in the verges in June. The leaves are spikey and grass like. It is protected by our roadside nature reserves and these must not be cut until mid August to allow it to set seed.



housing, what type of houses

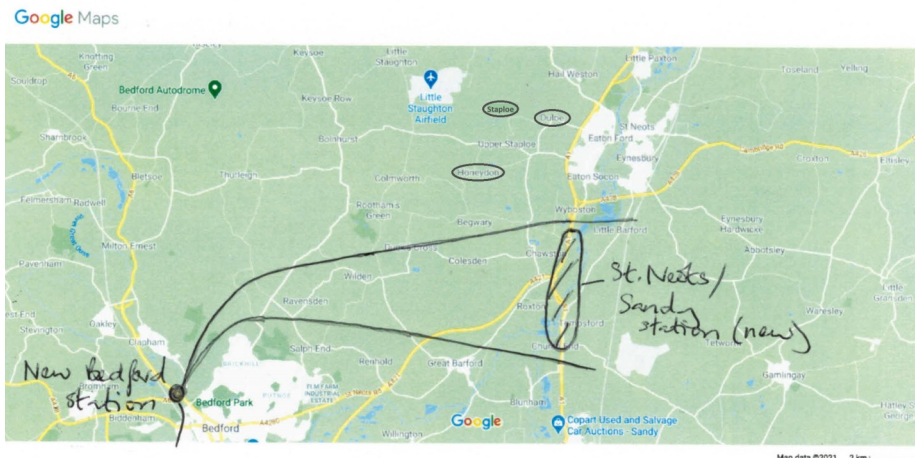


market value and starter homes are a type of affordable by the sale of other homes at full market value.



East West Rail

As you will be aware there is a proposal for a new East West rail route to go north of Bedford crossing the A1 somewhere between Wyboston and Blunham. The current preferred route is shown as a broad sweep but the most northerly range shown passes just south of Mill Road / Staploe Road south of Begwary. There are some concerns that the line may carry a large amount of night freight and that this was a more expensive route than other options. There is a website: bfare.org.uk/ and a Facebook group “Bedford for a Reconsultation” which may be of interest. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/bfare2>



Bedford Borough Local Plan Review

The next consultation from the Borough Council will be in July–September 2021. This will be the only meaningful consultation on the plan before the decision is made about where new development will go so please do look out for it. We will publicise it on the website, noticeboards etc.

Luton Airport

As a reminder there is a proposal to create a new stack above St Neots and Grafham for aircraft approaching to land at Luton Airport. There is a website and facebook group for the campaign against this which may be of interest. <https://www.againstlutonairportstack.co.uk/>

Little America

It has come to the attention of the Parish Council that two sites on Staughton Moor are currently attempting to establish what could become large-scale waste facilities. These sites do not appear to have any planning permission. There is some concern that the types of activities that can be undertaken by these sites have the potential to cause harmful pollution which could affect surrounding land including the water courses of our parish due to surface water run-off into the local ditches and streams, as well as the risk of a large increase in heavy traffic in the local area. In addition there is some concern about the effect on local wildlife and habitats. An Environment Agency permit has been issued under WE820AA/AA01 for a 75,000 tonne end of life vehicle de-pollution facility (car breaker), the licence covers an area on the Little America Industrial Estate and also an area of open countryside known as Robin's Hanger. The 5 Acres site is already well advanced and has put up large industrial buildings and concreted much of the site including the upgrade of other infrastructure. The operators of 5 Acres have obtained EA exemptions under WEX261839 with activities including tyre shredding and waste processing.

