

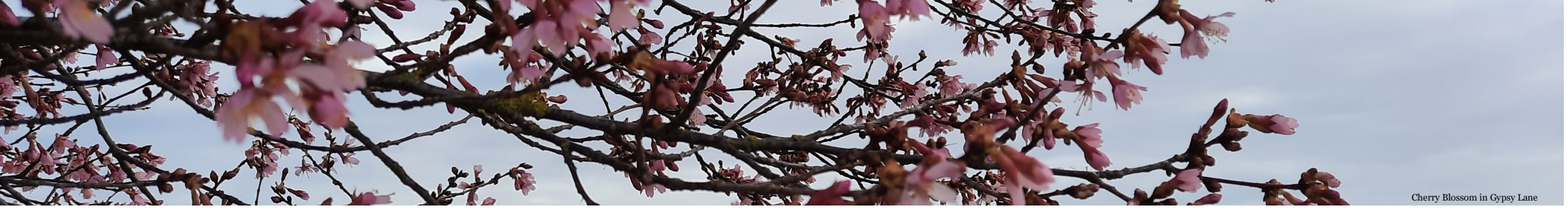
The Hamlets' Voice

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

Issue 34—March 2023



Photo: Thatched Cottage, 39, Duloe



Public Meetings

On Thursday 9th March there will be two public meetings in **COLMWORTH** Village Hall (please note the change of venue from Wyboston Village Hall).

1. 6.45pm-7.30pm Speeding and Speed Limits Meeting with Bedford Borough Council Highways Department.

- Would average speed cameras be a possibility in our parish and how could we get them?
- What is the best way to reduce speed limits in Duloe (and possibly other areas) without confusing motorists or making potential future average speed cameras ineffective?
- Are there other methods of reducing speeding in our parish we could consider?

IMPORTANT MEETING; PLEASE TRY TO ATTEND:

2. 7.30-9.30 Green Infrastructure Plan

- Public consultation to gather ideas and feedback on which green spaces, views and habitats are important to residents for our Neighbourhood Plan.
- This is a key part of our neighbourhood plan

For the full agenda please see our website www.staploe-pc.gov.uk

For further information please contact the Parish Clerk Lucy Crawford
clerk@staploe-pc.gov.uk 01480 471 526 / 07779 237 947

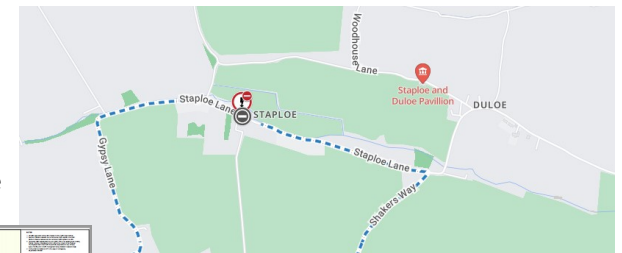
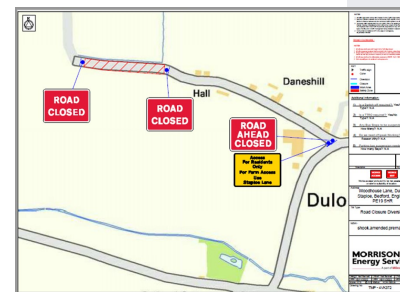
Tree Planting

We have 15 saplings from the Woodland Trust due to arrive between 6th March and 17th March. These are part of the Queen's Green Canopy and are to be planted on the boundary of the playing field to replace the gap in the hedge where the gate was fitted and to fill any other gaps. We are looking for volunteers to plant the trees on the weekend of 18th and 19th March and for people to offer to water them for us over the summer. If you would consider helping please contact the Parish Clerk on clerk@staploe-pc.gov.uk

Road Closures

There will be a road closure in Staploe outside Falling Water House in Staploe Lane 08:00 - 17:00 from 27th March 2023 to 31st March 2023 for electrical work.

There will be closures at the end of Woodhouse Lane for approximately 6 days in May / June for safety purposes while



they pull power cables across between pylons. The dates will be advertised in advance. Residents will be able to access their properties. If you have any concerns please contact Neil.Bennett@udpltd.co.uk



SOS Group

The Parish Council is aware that there are a number of residents who have first aid training or relevant medical experience who may wish to offer their services in the event of a medical emergency in the parish. Staploe SOS is a private Whatsapp group for residents of Staploe parish (which includes Staploe, Duloe, Honeydon, Begwary and Bushmead). It was set up by a resident. The purpose of the group is to alert those who may be able to offer assistance to any medical emergencies in the parish so that they can assist until an ambulance arrives.

The Parish Council will not vet or screen those who join. Requests for assistance and offers of assistance must be made at your own risk. Those offering assistance should be covered by the Social Action, Responsibility and Heroism Act 2015. The Parish Council takes no responsibility for the actions of those offering to assist.

Volunteers

We recommend that any volunteer offering assistance in a situation should:

- Offer their services on Whatsapp and wait for a reply before setting off – we don't want a traffic jam blocking access for ambulances
- Make it clear what help they can offer e.g. those without medical training may be able to help with non-medical tasks e.g. fetch a defibrillator or other equipment
- Consider their own competence and expertise
- Consider whether anyone else is better placed to assist, such as a currently practising /registered doctor
- Make clear what experience you have eg. first aid training, registered or retired off duty nurse / doctor/ paramedic (ideally keeping a copy of certificates etc. on your phone to show to the patient or carer on arrival).
- Follow the advice of the ambulance service on the phone

Please be aware that you may find it upsetting to attend an SOS – particularly if there is not much you can do to help. Please consider this before offering your services.

“Patients” and Carers

- Call the ambulance. The Whatsapp group is in no way a substitute for an ambulance
- Then send a message on the Whatsapp group explaining your location, the problem in brief and what assistance may be required. Eg. “heart attack at 143 Staploe. Need assistance at the scene and someone to collect the defibrillator from Honeydon – code is XXXXX” (The defibrillator cabinets have codes to access which will be provided by the ambulance service).
- If people respond offering help say yes to those you want
- Ask what training they have on arrival and ask to see evidence
- Give them the medical history and pass on whatever the ambulance service have advised you on the phone.

How Do I Join?

The process is the same for those who want to offer help and for those who may want to receive help.

Download Whatsapp on your phone

If you are already a member of the 3 Hamlets Whatsapp group you can send a message asking to join Staploe SOS

If you are not a member of the 3 Hamlets group ysend a message via text to 07930 718 749 asking to join.

If you are not on Whatsapp and don't have a smartphone but would like to be able to use Staploe SOS in an emergency then ask someone you know who does use Whatsapp if they could join on your behalf and call for you in the event of an emergency.

ALWAYS CALL EMERGENCY SERVICES FIRST—THE SOS GROUP IS TO SUPPORT RESIDENTS WHILE THEY WAIT FOR THEM TO ARRIVE



Planning Updates

Whatever happened to Dennybrook and Eaton Bank?

Residents frequently ask me what happened to Dennybrook and Eaton Bank and might they be developed in the future. These were two sites put forward as potential developments for Bedford Borough Council's Local Plan 2040. Bedford Borough Council has to build 27,100 homes between 2020 and 2040. Some of these homes are to be built on sites previously allocated but they needed to find new sites to build an additional 12,000 homes. In July 2020 they began discussing Issues and Options in which several options appeared to propose urban development in our parish. In September 2020 they invited landowners to offer sites for potential development. A number of large sites were put forward in our parish—the largest of which was Dennybrook which would ultimately have created a new settlement of 11,000 homes and Eaton Bank which would have created 4,000 homes. There were over 440 sites submitted for development in the Borough and the Borough Council assessed them all for suitability. A key issue in their assessment was the proximity to the transport network and in particular the sustainable transport network. Our area therefore became an area of interest due to its proximity to the proposed East West Rail, the A1 and the A421.

In summer 2021 the Borough Council produced a consultation in which there was a choice of four proposals. Three of the four included Dennybrook. In April 2022 Bedford Borough Council published their draft Local Plan 2040 and it did not include any development in our parish. It proposed development of new sites in and around Bedford and in Little Barford near the power station and close to the proposed new East West Rail station to meet the need for the additional 12,000 homes.

The proposed new settlement at Little Barford includes a small conservation area. This is compatible with the proposed new development and there is no reason to believe that it will prevent the development going ahead. This designation is referred to in the Local Plan.

The Local Plan 2040 was approved by Bedford Borough Council in January and submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination on 12 January 2023. If the examiner finds it to be positively prepared (meets the area's objectively assessed housing needs), justified (uses an appropriate strategy, taking into account the reasonable alternatives, and based on evidence), effective (deliverable in the time scale), and consistent with national planning policy then it should pass examination and come into force. The plan will then be used to determine planning applications and development strategy in Bedford Borough. If it is passed then Staploe parish will continue to be classed as open countryside and therefore only very limited new development will be permitted. E.g. conversion of agricultural buildings, homes for agricultural workers and extensions to homes.

Providing the Local Plan 2040 is in place and the Borough continue to be able to demonstrate that they have a 5 year land supply (enough land to build the houses needed for the next 5 years) then planning applications will be determined based on the Local Plan. If the Local Plan 2040 does not pass examination then Local Plan 2030 remains in place until Local Plan 2040 passes examination. At the moment the Borough have 6.2 years of land supply so there is no cause for concern.

If for any reason they were not able to demonstrate a 5 year land supply our parish might be at risk of speculative development ie. a developer might apply to develop land and because the Borough were unable to demonstrate that they had enough land supply the balance would tip in favour of the development and it might be approved. A neighbourhood plan can offer some protection against this situation.

Local Plans are reviewed and updated regularly—at least every 5 years. Therefore there is nothing to stop developers from re-submitting their sites (e.g. Dennybrook or Eaton Bank) for the next Local Plan in around 4-5 years time.



Neil Clifton

Neil Clifton of 2b, Staploe passed away unexpectedly on 26th December aged 72 following a heart attack. Neil and Sandra have lived in Staploe for over 50-years. They love the village, raised four children here, and Neil did everything he possibly could to keep it tidy. He cut the grass, swept leaves, tidied along the brook and made sure nobody was ever left without his support. Throughout his time in the village, he has been there for many neighbours, both old and new. Beloved husband to Sandra; devoted Dad to Sean, Lorraine, Tim and Emma; cherished Grandad and Great Grandad he will be greatly missed.



David Stead

David Stead of 50, Staploe passed away aged 60 on 31st December 2022. David lived in the village for over 30 years and brought up both his sons Jack and Tom here. He lost his beloved wife Julia in 2017. He ran a furniture restoration business at Falls Farm for many years and was very active in supporting the local triathlon club and competing in agility with his dogs. He was a well known figure; often seen walking his three dogs in the village. He will be much missed by his two sons and his brother Rob along with many in the village who knew him.



Elections and Becoming a Parish Councillor

The Mayoral, Borough, Ward and Parish elections will take place on 4th May 2023.

Our current Parish Councillors will all formally retire from their posts on Tuesday 9th May when the newly elected councillors take office. I am inviting residents to consider whether they would like to stand for election. The existing councillors may also wish to stand for election for another term. There are positions for 7 councillors and if we have more than 7 people standing for election there will be a contested election. If 7 or less then the nominees are automatically elected. The formal notice of election will be posted between 20th and 27th March and if you are interested in applying please inform me as Parish Clerk (clerk@staploe-pc.gov.uk) so I can talk you through the process and I can also deliver your nomination form to the Borough Council if you wish along with the other forms. The deadline for the nomination forms to be submitted is 4th April but I would like to deliver them at 2pm on 27th March so that we have time to make corrections if necessary.

Nomination packs are available from the Parish Clerk clerk@staploe-pc.gov.uk or available on our website www.staploe-pc.gov.uk

Fly Tipping

If you spot fly tipping please report it online if possible and inform the Parish Clerk.

<https://www.bedford.gov.uk/environmental-issues/keeping-bedford-borough-clean/fly-tipping-dumped-rubbish>

If you do not have access to the internet please telephone the Parish Clerk on 01480 471 526 / 07779 237 947



History

Historic death in Honeydon AD 1675

Bedford Archives have details of the following sad event.

Agricultural labourers Arthur Keetch and Oliver Young were mowing together in July 1675 and Arthur somehow cut Oliver's leg with his scythe. Unfortunately, the cut was severe and Oliver died from the wound. I guess that the scythe cut an artery; since it was July and they were mowing, the weather was probably warm, Oliver was not well protected by his clothing. Perhaps too much beer had been drunk at lunchtime?

Various statements were taken to decide whether Arthur should be indicted, and he had to pay 'recognisance' of £10 to guarantee his appearance at court. According to the National Archives, £10 at that date was the equivalent of 142 days wages for a skilled tradesman. A considerable sum for a labourer.

Arthur appeared before the Coroner (Thomas Paley, gent.) on 23 July 1675 and it was recorded that " [Arthur] ... saieth that hee knew not that hee had hurt the said Oliver Young till hee heard him say Lord, Arthur thou hast undone mee, and this examinant [Arthur] answered no I hope, and helpt to lead him while he died".

Witnesses Robert Rolt and William Flanders were mowing with Arthur and Oliver, and both went to help the injured man. Robert's testimony added that he "doth verily believe the said Arthur did it accidentally" and William said he "believes it was donn accidentally, because the said Oliver and Arthur were very good friends".

The authorities accepted the witness statements and no further charges were made against Arthur.

Reference: Bedford Archives (HSA1676/W/13; HSA1676/W/22; HSA1676/W/7)

Contributed by Andrea Whitham

Neighbourhood Plan Update

Our Neighbourhood Plan is progressing. We are gathering evidence about our parish and about the views of residents within it. The latest building block of the plan is the green infrastructure review. This will enable us to identify areas / views that residents may wish to protect or preserve and ambitions that residents may have for future green spaces / habitats. Please do attend our **public meeting at 7.30pm on Thursday 9th March in COLMWORTH Village Hall** to contribute your thoughts to the process.

Having a made neighbourhood plan can offer valuable protection from speculative development in the event that the Borough Council were to lose their 5 year land supply for housing development.

It can also help us to ensure that the local community have a say in development in our parish eg. over what type of development occurs and where.

Please do support us by responding to our surveys. Thank you.





The Prefurred Choice for Grooming

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By Appointment Only

07510 841 431



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 e-mail notifications of new posts to the website.

E-mail *

Subscribe

In addition there is a Parish Council Facebook Page (open to all), a Three Hamlets Facebook group (send a request to join), and on Whatsapp there is a 3 Hamlets Watch Group and a Staploe SOS group. To join the Whatsapp groups send your name and mobile number to 07930 718 749.

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 / 07779 237 947



Credit: Andrea Witham, Honeydon



Sunrise in Honeydon, courtesy of Andrea Whitham

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
Briquettes for Wood Burners Available from Paul Giles at the Two Brewers, Bushmead Road 07973 687 620	Woodfield Physiotherapy Centre School Lane, Colmworth 01234 378996 www.woodfieldphysio.co.uk	‘Just Ask’ Village Agents Scheme Teresa Moon 01234 771418

The Parish Council does not accept responsibility for claims made in advertisements and their inclusion should not be taken as an endorsement. To advertise please contact the Parish Clerk. We only advertise businesses based in the parish or in neighbouring parishes in Bedfordshire.