

The Hamlets' Voice

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

Issue 33—September 2022





Harvest Supper

Saturday 1st October at 6.30pm in Colmworth Village Hall

Come and enjoy cottage pie and apple crumble with your neighbours. Adults £8. Children £4. Bring your own drinks.

If you are able to provide a cottage pie or an apple crumble for 8 people you will get a £16 discount for each pie provided. This helps us to cover the cost hall hire and accompaniments.

For tickets please contact Lucy Crawford
clerk@staploe-pc.gov.uk 01480 471 526 / 07779 237 947





Credit: Richard Squire

Defibrillator and First Aid Training

Caroline and Steve Kent have kindly sponsored a half day of defibrillator and first aid training for members of our parish.

It will be held from 2-6pm on Saturday 8th October in Wyboston Village Hall. There are 12 places available which will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Tea, coffee and light refreshments will be provided and participants are asked to contribute £20. The actual value of the training is £80 per person so please do make the most of this fantastic opportunity.

To book your place on the course please contact the Parish Clerk on clerk@staploe-pc.gov.uk / 07779 237

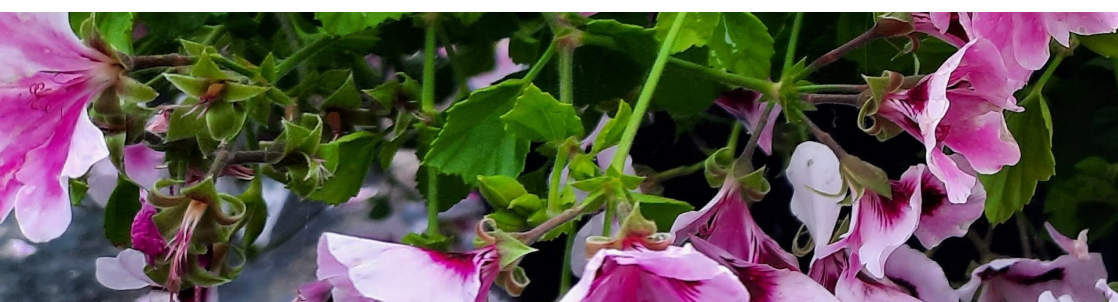


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Our defibrillator is mounted on the outside wall of the Old Chapel in Honeydon—see adjacent photo. To access it dial 999 and the ambulance service will give you the code.

There is another privately owned one at the wedding venue at Bassmead but this is located inside the bed and breakfast so if that building is closed knock on the Manor House door—there is usually someone in.





Luton Airport Stack

Some residents have been concerned about low flying aircraft since the Luton Airport Stack was introduced in February. If you are concerned about this I recommend you join the RELAS (Reject Luton Airport Stacking) Facebook group. They recommend complaining to noise@ltn.aero and copying in me, our Borough Councillor and our MP. E-mail addresses are as follows: Clerk@staploe-pc.gov.uk; tom.wootton@bedford.gov.uk; rich-ard.fuller.mp@parliament.uk

RELAS recommend that you include:

- Your name, address, postcode and nature of complaint. The date, time and location of the incident, what got you irritated and how it is affecting you. If possible use FlightRadar24 to get the registration number of the aircraft. For UK aircraft this is normally G- followed by four letters. FlightRadar24 will give you an idea of altitude although it may not be accurate as their website explains. Therefore, if you are able to take a photo with a reference point that is even more useful.
- At the end please state that you would like this to be treated as a single, independent complaint and that you do not want it to be grouped together with other similar complaints.

State that you want your complaint to be included in the Swanwick Airspace Improvement Programme - Airspace Deployment 6 (AD6), Stage 7 - Post Implementation Review and Data Collection stage, which runs from 1 June 2022 to 31 May 2023.





Community Cabins at Duloe Playing Field

Bringing Our Community Together



The Community Cabins at Duloe Playing Field (PE19 5HR) are available for hire. They contain a kitchenette, foyer, two changing rooms and two toilets.

To book please contact the Parish Clerk
 clerk@staploe-pc.gov.uk / 01480 471 526 / 07779
 237 947

Hire rates are £5 per hour for regular hirers of the Community Cabins. Regular hire means they are hired at least once per week for 4 consecutive weeks. Or £6 per hour for one-off hire.



Terms can be found on our website:

<https://staploe-pc.gov.uk/the-parish/community-cabins-duloe/>





An Unusual weather year?

As I write this it has started to rain and today we've had 40mms (just over 1 ½ inches). It wasn't forecast until yesterday and the previous forecast said there would be no rain this week! The fields are so dry and hard it will need a lot more yet to get the drains running properly some main ditches have been dry for the first time in many years and will remain so for a while yet.

Being an island nation with a temperate climate it appears to be difficult to predict our weather anywhere beyond 3 days ahead. Often it's not even possible to predict what will happen tomorrow. I am beginning to lose faith in the old sayings such as " Rain on St Swithins day (15th July) and it will rain for 40 more days or if it is fair 40 more of fair weather . Then there's "rain from the east, 3 days at least." They no longer seem to run true; perhaps they never did.

My only observation which may still work in the winter is; "If it is very bright with a sunny clear sky at daybreak with the wind in the south west it will be raining by lunchtime !"

Now this is before we get into the fact or hearsay that rain follows rivers. Gt Staughton gets less rain than Staploe but Eaton Socon with the river Ouse nearby gets more rain than Staploe. Once Grafham water filled up in the 60's local rainfall changed there to. Hail storms are more frequent at Hail Weston and several farmers including myself have lost significant amounts of crop to hail in the past.

In my memory I think of English weather as a few days of rain and a few days of sunshine then a few more days of rain etc..., perfect for growing crops. About 25 years ago an old boy told me the weather was changing and we were going to get blocks of weather. I think he was right; we do seem to get several weeks of the same thing either wet or dry and less of the varied pattern I believe we used to see. Another person has suggested that the Jet stream around the top of the globe has slowed down and rather than driving changing weather patterns across the Atlantic. It now meanders across the top of the world and loops down over the Atlantic like an Ox bow lake and stops changing weather patterns from getting to the UK hence the same conditions either sun or rain are blocked over us.



I was fearful that this year we would have a very poor harvest however we were saved by the Queens Platinum jubilee weekend which brought 50mm (2 inches) of rain on Bassmead. The crops have performed to just below a 5-year average yield, so I was quite relieved especially as harvest was started so early. The usual start date is 4-7th August for winter sown wheat. This year we had finished by 30th July and the winter beans and Spring Barley were in the shed by 5th August. Last year's peculiar damp August meant we didn't finish harvest until 12th September. The last such early finish was the drought year of 1976 which had an appalling harvest. This was caused by a lack of rain during the whole growing season as it was dry all through the winter and spring of 75-76.

In 1921 the year that TS Eliot wrote the Wasteland, there was also a great drought and one of the last wells in the area with water in was at Sharpes Barn (even though it seems to be on top of a hill) and the nice thing is the well is still there.

I have been plotting rainfall here since 1994. The spring and June rainfalls are most important to combinable crops and we have had some unusual springs recently. There is an optimum combination of rainfall timings, heat and sunlight hours which will create perfect crop growing conditions for very high yields. I don't know what it is but to get it I need to move to Northumberland where Mr Lamyan held the world record in 2015 for wheat yield. He gets longer days than here, so more daylight in the spring and summer and more rain too. Although now the record holder is in New Zealand with 17.3 tonnes/ha which is over twice the UK average yield of 7.8t/ha.

I measure the growing season from September to August of the following year. Over 27 years we have averaged 574 mm (22.5 inches) of rain. The last 5 years average is 626mm (24.6 inches). Least rain fall season 1996 -97 was 386mm (15.2 inches) It rained a lot in June so harvest was OK. The year with the most rain was 2006-2007 with 742mm (29.24 inches)

I believe and worry that the weather is changing but that's the thing about weather no year is the same and in truth there is no such thing as a normal year!

Richard Squire



Cracks in the ground.

Credit: Richard Squire



Football on Duloe Playing Field

The Parish Council are delighted that the Under 14 girls team of St Neots Town Youth Football Club will be using Duloe Playing Field and the Community Cabins as their base for training and matches in the coming year. We feel that use by just one team will be appropriate for the size of the field and the roads in Duloe.

They will be training on Tuesday and Thursday evenings in August, September and again when it gets light in the evenings in April and May. They will also use the field and cabins for their home matches from September to May. No football will be played in June and July. They will be making a contribution to the parish council which will assist with grass cutting, and insurance and maintenance costs for the cabins. Any additional cuts needed to maintain the field to match standards will be met by the club.

When not in use by the football club the playing field will still be available for use by members of the public and the cabins will still be available for hire.

We wish the team every success in the coming season.

A link to their fixture list can be found on our website:



<https://staploe-pc.gov.uk/the-parish/playing-field/>

It is subject to change so best to check the website if you need to know whether the playing field will be in use. However, the current plan is for home games to be played in Duloe at 10.30am on 1st, 8th & 22nd October, 5th, 19th and 26th Nov, 10th Dec, every Saturday in Jan, 25th Feb, 11th March and 22nd April.

St Neots Town Youth Football Club Under 14 Girls

Credit: Annabel Chetwynd-Talbot

Humphrey Chetwynd-Talbot

Humphrey passed away peacefully in Hinchingsbrooke Hospital on 2nd August aged 92. His daughter Annabel writes:

“Dad was born in Surrey on January 11th 1930. He met Mum when he was at university in Oxford. They married in 1953 and would have celebrated 70 years of marriage next April. He worked for ICI for most of his working life, based first in Liverpool, then in St Albans where we all grew up. They moved to live with Kate in Colmworth in 1991 and then to the Three Horseshoes in Staploe in 1993. They developed a beautiful garden and were well known for their enjoyable Open Garden events. He was chairman of the Parish Council for many years and was always ready to help others in the village and to introduce people.



Humphrey

Credit: Annabel Chetwynd-Talbot

Over the years, Mum and Dad had a total of 9 poodles, and frequently looked after ours too! His twice daily dog walks with Pete, sometimes with bicycles, were a regular sight. Recently he would take an afternoon walk in the village with his rollator, and really appreciated people stopping to talk with him on his route. Dad's hobbies included beekeeping, woodturning, dog training and bell ringing. He was very committed to St Denys Church in Colmworth where he was churchwarden for 10 years and tower captain for 30 years. He loved taking part in village and church events.

All the family are so grateful to people in Staploe for the help and support they have given our parents and for the lovely feedback we have had from them. Dad loved being part of this community and was delighted that they were crowned King and Queen of the parish at the Jubilee weekend. Thank you to everyone who was able to come to Dad's funeral at St Denys. 120 people attended, which we feel was a testament to how many people he knew and made an impression on".

Annabel Chetwynd-Talbot

Queen's

Beacon

On the evening of Thursday 2nd June there was a Jubilee Beacon at Mount Pleasant (on the tracks north of Staploe / west of Duloe). At least 50 people attended. Our thanks go to Richard Squire for building, lighting and hosting the beacon for us.



Earlier in the day it was lovely to see a "street party" in a front garden in Staploe.

Community Luch

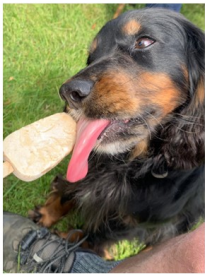
On Saturday 4th June there was a barbecue / picnic community lunch on Duloe Playing Field. Jane and Roger Arnold did an excellent job catering for us and a team of kind volunteers helped set up and decorate the tables, cabins and field. Thanks also to Emilio Meola for donating wine from his vineyard.



Jubilee

Dog Show

On Saturday our community lunch was followed by a fun dog show. Thank you to Phil Y and Steve Kent for judging for us; to Andrea , Dave and the Zwetsloots for donating fencing, and agility equipment; and to Caroline Kent , Andrea and Julia Willison for donating prizes.



King and Queen of the Parish

On Sunday 5th June Anne and Humphrey Chetwynd -Talbot were crowned King and Queen of the parish for their many years of hard work for the parish. Humphrey for years of service on the Parish Council and Anne on the Social Club committee. Both have always been keen to welcome newcomers to our parish and help others in their community.





Survey About Duloe Speed Limits and Closure of Woodhouse Lane

Staploe Parish Council would like to reduce the speed limit to 20mph in Duloe (Duloe Lane and Woodhouse Lane) and reduce the speed limit between Duloe Butts and College Farm Duloe (where the current 30mph starts) to match the speed limit in the rest of Duloe. Therefore, it would become a 20mph if the rest of Duloe became a 20mph zone or it would become a 30 if the rest of Duloe did not change. The roads in Duloe are narrow with parked cars, and bends. There is a playing field, Community Cabins, children's play area and no pavements so Councillors feel that 20mph would be a more suitable limit in Duloe. In addition, a lot of pedestrians walk between Staploe and Duloe and the stretch between Duloe Butts and College Farm in Duloe is particularly hazardous because the road is narrow, visibility is poor and there are steep banks so nowhere for pedestrians to go if a car is coming. Councillors feel that 40mph is far too fast for this stretch of road.

We would also like to close Woodhouse Lane to vehicular traffic after the bungalow (61, Woodhouse Lane) which is just beyond the playing field. We hope this would be to reduce the incidence of anti-social behaviour.

We would look to install a horse friendly gate such as this and we could give a key to any farmers who needed access:



PSMA licence: 0100053255



Finding Fungi

In March 2021, I started a new job with the British Mycological Society, a scientific society for the promotion and support of fungal biology research, conservation and education. I've always held a distant fascination for fungi: who couldn't be drawn to the colours, shapes and textures of these beautiful and sometimes strange-looking organisms?



Fly Agaric (*Amanita muscaria*), an iconic toadstool. Credit Emma Thompson

There has been an upsurge in interest in all-things-fungi in recent years and there are now more popular science books, radio shows, tv documentaries and technological developments than ever before. Fungi have always been there; we're just beginning to recognise their significance and impact on our lives. Many people mistakenly think fungi are plants and, until fairly recently, scientists working with fungi could only be found at small desks in the corners of plant research laboratories. Now, a general awareness that fungi are not plants nor animals but have their own kingdom of nature is increasing, and whole university departments are dedicated to fungal research.

From blue bread mould and dark, spotted damp on your walls, powdery mildew on your prized vegetables, to dainty umbrella-shaped toadstools on your lawn and dinner plate-sized brackets on tree trunks: fungi are all around us. Some fungi cause diseases in animals, including humans:

conditions such as athletes' foot and nail infections are caused by yeasts or moulds and you may also have heard of more serious infections caused by *Aspergillus* or *Cryptococcus* fungi, which affect the lungs.

We use a whole host of fungi to produce our foods (beer, bread, cheese, chocolate and coffee, to name a handful) and fungi have given us medicines, helped improve industrial processes and are natural stores of carbon. Furthermore, 90% of plants rely on



Plate-sized Horse Mushroom (*Agaricus arvensis*)
Credit: Emma Thompson.



Tremella mesenterica - commonly known as Yellow Brain Fungus
Credit: Emma Thompson.

associations with fungi to obtain nutrients for growth and survival. And have you thought about lichen: the coloured blotches you see on walls, or grey-green tufts on branches and rocks? Lichen are not plants and also not single organisms: they are a stable association between fungi and algae.

The most noticeable part of a fungus - for those of us not peering down microscopes or working in research laboratories - are mushrooms and toadstools. These colourful structures, so fascinating as to often feature in folklore and children's stories, are the fruiting bodies of a fungus.

Beneath the ground is the mycelium, a thread-like network of fungal cells that grows and spreads and, when the timing is right, produces its fruitbodies to disperse spores - the equivalent of plant 'seeds'. Next time you are in the woods, consider that a patch of woodland soil about the size of your thumbnail is home to around 10 metres of fungal mycelium. And the largest living organism in the world by area is a Dark Honey fungus (*Armillaria ostoyae*) with a mycelium growing under the ground of the Malheur National Forest in Oregon, USA, that spans around 8.9 square kilometres (2,200 acres)!



Fungal mycelium in the soil.

Credit Wikimedia Commons



Lichen on coastal rocks, including tufts of Sea Ivory lichen (*Ramalina siliquosa*)
Credit Emma Thompson

To inspire everyone about the wonders of the Fungal Kingdom, the British Mycological Society organises, supports and promotes events and activities running concurrently across the UK on 'UK Fungus Day'; this year, it's Saturday 8th October. Before starting my job, I hadn't heard much about this annual event, but now I'm heavily involved in the planning and advertising, so I must tell you a little about it...

The first UK Fungus Day took place in 2013, when groups of volunteers got together and invited the public to join them on their excursions to find and record local fungi. It has grown significantly since then: alongside the many local groups running events, and



universities and museums showcasing their research and collections, UK Fungus Day provides opportunities to discover more about fungi through art and performance, online talks, crafts and creations, blogs, quizzes and competitions. If you enjoy taking photos when out on a walk, there's a fungus photography competition opening in September. And a fun, fungus-themed 'pub quiz' is happening online in the evening of Friday 7th October, open to all. To find out more about UK Fungus Day, see the website: www.ukfungusday.com.

As a biologist but not a fungus specialist, the past 18 months surrounded by research scientists, fungus experts, volunteers with deep connections to mycology, conservationists and hobbyists who enjoy fungi in nature has intensified my interest and made me more aware of just how widespread and significant these intriguing organisms are. I hope you feel just a little more intrigued too...



Aptly-named Jelly Ear (*Auricularia auricula-judae*) on rotting branch of elder (Staploe)

Credit: Emma Thompson.

About 70 species of fungi are bioluminescent - they glow in the dark. Around three quarters of these light-emitting mushrooms are saprophytes, feeding off dead organic matter and recycling carbon and nitrogen into the soil. Scientists have not yet found out exactly why they glow...



Glowing Bitter Oysterling (*Panellus stipticus*)

Credit: Wikimedia Commons

Emma Thompson (Staploe)

Credit: Jane Arnold

Battery Energy Storage System

The Parish Council have received notification of a planning application for a battery energy storage system at Cobholden Farm on the Bushmead Road (near Eaton Socon electricity substation).

Application number : 22/01828/MAF

Type of application: Major Full and Change of Use

Application: "Installation of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) comprising; self contained battery modules on skids; transformers; Power Conversion System Modules; Control Building; electrical connection compound including substation; control and storage containers; underground cables and conduits; access track; security fence; acoustic fence; temporary construction compound and associated infrastructure; bunded drainage basin, planting scheme and other associated works."



Battery Energy Storage System

Credit: Cambridge Power

Location: Land South Of Bushmead Road Staploe

Deadline for comments: 27/09/2022

Some members of the Parish Council met with the developers Cambridge Power to discuss this application. The notes of our meeting and further information about the proposal are available on the parish website <https://staploe-pc.gov.uk/major-planning-application-for-battery-energy-storage/> Alternatively please contact the Parish Clerk for more information.

The Parish Council will be discussing this application at our next meeting on 15th September.



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Keep in Touch

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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 *

Subscribe

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 / 07779 237 947



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.