

The Hamlets' Voice

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

Issue 24 – June 2018

Welcome to the Summer edition of your local parish newsletter

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Village Hall

On 1st May the Village Hall Committee took the difficult decision to close Duloe and Staploe Village Hall for safety reasons.

The Committee and Parish Council have been investigating the possibility of rebuilding the hall and we commissioned an asbestos specialist to remove some cladding at the back of the hall to survey the condition of the timber structure which supports the asbestos panels in the hall. We had hoped that they would be in reasonable condition and we could reuse them in a rebuild project to help reduce costs. Unfortunately, we found that the timbers were rotten and unsafe. The asbestos panel at the back of the ladies' toilet was split from side to side which suggests it was bearing weight, the kitchen window was dropping on one side and tiles coming loose which also suggests that the structure was unsafe. In addition, there had been several leaks in the roof in the spring with one of them resulting in a significant sag in the plasterboard ceiling. Fortunately, this recovered when the rain stopped but the roof does have a lot of holes in it and can't be repaired as it is made of asbestos.

Discussions about any potential rebuild are ongoing and a questionnaire will be distributed shortly to all parishioners. It is vital that we can demonstrate community support for any project we undertake so please do respond when the questionnaire arrives – we do want to hear your views. Meanwhile recent meetings have been held in Wyboston Village Hall.

Local Plan

The proposed 'Garden Village' at Colworth, Souldrop has fallen through so the Local Plan will need to be redrafted. The Mayor is considering shortening the time period of the plan so that fewer houses need to be provided in this plan and a decision about which larger site to select can be postponed.

Speed Sign

A new mobile speed indicator sign was donated to the parish by Richard Squire. It was installed in Staploe for a couple of weeks and appeared to do a good job in slowing traffic. It was then moved to Honeydon to reinforce the new speed limits introduced in May. It will be moved to various locations around the parish. However, we can only mount it on specific locations. We can't use most of the telegraph poles for example. Data gathered will be published on the parish website.

A1/Black Cat and A428

Report from a recent meeting with Alistair Burt

A428 to Caxton Gibbet and Black Cat upgrade

The issues which have held it up have now been resolved. The route will be published by the end of the year. The Black Cat will be re modelled even if the route of the A1 is undecided as it will still give many years of upgraded use especially for local traffic. Businesses at the Black Cat have already been served with compulsory purchase orders but don't know when this will happen. They implied a possible start date of 31 March 2020 for the A428.

A1

From the strategic study carried out in 2016 the cost vs benefit did not warrant any work being done to the A1. BUT with the development of the Cambs - Oxford expressway and the 1 million houses proposed on that route, the case for economic benefit increases to that of making re aligning the A1 cost effective. "Ambitious plans for housing makes a more compelling case to invest in the roads."

Upgrading the A1 in its current position is not viable, and they are 99.99% confident that this will not happen. There has been too much development around it and they cannot effectively divert the current traffic flow while they carry out the work.

The re alignment will happen when the housing strategies are agreed and some of the local authorities feel they are being pressured into accepting large housing developments in return for a new A1M. For example, the proposed development that will join Biggleswade, Sandy and Pottton into one big town.

2035 has been suggested as a possible date when a new A1M might be up and running.

The team are not working to the original proposed A1 route, as the landscape has changed. Any new route would more likely be the same standard as the A1M (Peterborough). It was more likely that changes will be made to the Black Cat before changes to the A1.

Events

BEGFEST



Saturday 23rd June. Gates open 1pm – First act 1.15pm – Music 'til late

The festival is run by volunteers – with every penny raised going to charity. It's a great day out whatever the weather, so don't miss out! We hope you can join us and look forward to seeing you at Begfest 2018.

Tickets must be purchased in advance using a form that can be found at www.begfest.co.uk
Alternatively, email tickets@begfest.co.uk.

PARISH PICNIC



Sunday 15th July 1-3pm, Duloe playing field
(weather permitting).

Bring your own picnic and drinks and deck chairs
or picnic rug.

And - if you fancy a game of rounders come
prepared with your running shoes on, but you are
welcome to sit and chat if you prefer.

HARVEST SUPPER

Saturday 13th October 7pm. Colmworth Village Hall.

Tickets available from Lucy Crawford 01480
471526, Sam Bygraves 07776 228 026, Ged
Meola 01480 218 123, Jo Ibbet 07775 877659
and Jane Thomson 07889 305 754. Come and
share cottage pie and apple crumble with your
neighbours. Bring your own drinks. (Crockery
and cutlery provided.)



An Apology

I recently came across a hoard of old photographs from the late forties and fifties, mostly black and white but a few early colour ones too. Photographs of people picnicking in woods or meadows, the children staring at the camera, ancient aunts in their hats; a shoot with a man in plus-fours sitting on his shooting stick cradling his shot gun, his gundog at his feet; groups of women all wearing two-piece suits and hats looking elegant and demure; a small aeroplane with a local farmer sitting in the cockpit ready to go. There is even one of a woman wearing a black hat, a red coat, black skirt, high heels, clutching her handbag as she clambers up the wing struggling to get into the passenger seat just behind the pilot.

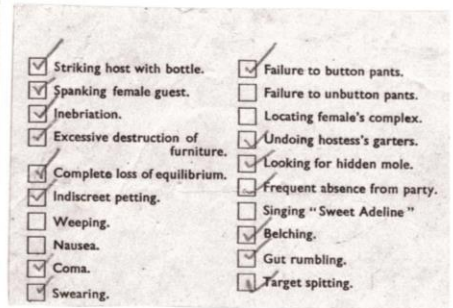
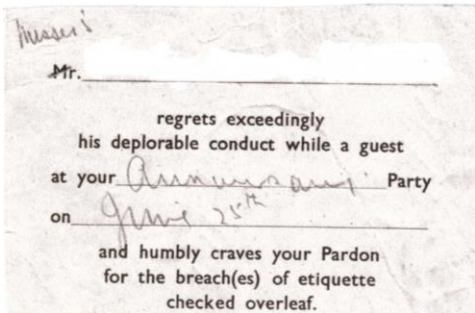
There are several of my father looking mischievous; a photo of me aged about 10 sitting on a small tractor drawing a harrow. I remember that field and how it used to take ages to get from one end to the other with nothing much to do except to drive in a straight line; the St Neots carnival queen in her horse-drawn carriage, the floods in St. Neots High Street; me on my new bike; women in long fur coats; an ex Battle of Britain pilot who survived the war and became an agricultural machinery salesman; young girls on their ponies; my brother and I in school uniform standing next to our car with its long bonnet, sticking out mudguards, sticking out headlights and a proper chrome bumper.

There is one of the pub in Staploe, The Three Horseshoes, with the foxhounds and huntsmen ambling past. Hunt meetings in those days were popular rural occasions. There is one of a local farmer famous for his capacity to drink alcohol, now long dead, dressed in his horse-riding kit, enormous jodhpurs ballooning around his thighs.

Among the photographs there is a lunch-party menu for 29th November 1952 from The Bridge Hotel, St Neots, then a Whitbread's house, with the names written on the back of the 21 attendees, all men. There were 6 courses— grapefruit, soup, smoked salmon, pheasant, ice-cream, cheese and biscuits and coffee. Each course was described in verse e.g. the pheasant course:

*For many moons this chap did fly
Until we shot him from the sky.*

And then hidden among the photographs I found a card the size of a business card with an apology on one side and a list of breaches of etiquette on the reverse. Here it is (pictured on the following page). In order to protect their reputations, I have deleted the names of the long dead apologists. Say no more!



Were those the days?

Frank Squire

RAIDIUS Funds

Many will remember the action group that the village set up to help and object to the illegal traveller site which had been set up in Upper Staploe; for those of you new to the village, R.A.I.D.I.U.S was derived from Residents Against Illegal Development in Upper Staploe! As we had to employ legal help and professional services we were donated and fundraised money to help towards these costs.

We have a balance left in the RAIDIUS account: approximately £700, which is community money. At the last Parish Council meeting, there were a number of suggestions were put forward for ways in which to use it:

1. Save the funds as the field is still in the hands of Travellers and may again need us to act against it.
2. Put the funds towards the demolition and rebuilding of the village hall
3. Put the funds towards purchasing the new street lights
4. Fund a village social event

If you would like to help our decision, please write to Lucy at lcrawford@staploepc.org.uk stating which option you would prefer to see the funds used for, or to suggest another perhaps?

Thank you,
Veronica.

Keep in touch with Parish News

You can keep in touch with news in the parish in the following ways:

WEBSITE To find the website, you can search 'Staploe Parish Council' or go direct to: <https://www.staploeduloehoneydonparishcouncil.bedsparishes.gov.uk/>. If you become a member (click at the top of the home page) then you will be notified of news items as they are posted on the website.

EMAIL The Parish Council send out regular news updates about news items relevant to the parish via e-mail. If you would like to sign up to these e-mails please e-mail the Parish Clerk on lcrawford@staploepc.org.uk and ask to join the parish news distribution list. These e-mails are sent out using Word mail merge so your e-mail address will not be seen by anyone else and your details will be kept secure.

FACEBOOK We have a parish Facebook page (but only the Parish Council can post on this). Search Facebook for 'Staploe Parish Council'. There is also a community Facebook group where parishioners can post. It can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/325908041268638/>

Parish Clerk

Lucy Crawford

Address: 33 Staploe, St Neots, PE19 5JA

Tel: 01480 471526

Website: www.staploeduloehoneydonparishcouncil.bedsparishes.gov.uk

Change of E-mail: Please note that the e-mail address for the Parish Clerk has now changed to lcrawford@staploepc.org.uk Councillors e-mail addresses will be changing to a similar format shortly so keep an eye on the parish website where I will update contact details as Councillors move to their new e-mails.

An ode to barking dogs

It's 2am in the morning
 It's 15 degrees outside
 The windows are all wide open
 From the heat there's no-where to hide
 So sleeping becomes an issue
 At last you manage to nod off
 But then from the darkness around you
 There comes a resounding WOOF

The barking continues constantly
 Still going at half past three
 I stick my head under the pillow
 There's really no sleep for me.
 Now I have no problem with doggies
 I have one of my own, its true
 All I ask is you stop yours barking at night
 For your neighbours it's the least you can do.

Anonymous

THE OIL CLUB Group your oil order with others in the local area to save money www.oil-club.co.uk	THE WOODFIELD PHYSIOTHERAPY CENTRE 01234 378996 www.woodfieldphysio.co.uk	TREE SURGEON, DULOE Andrew Brightman 07970 546293
 WATERWAYS PET AND AQUATIC CENTRE www.waterways-direct.com Tropical and Coldwater Fish All the Equipment you need for your Pond Dog, Cat, Small Animal Food & Accessories Expert Advice From Specialist Staff With Goods At the Right Price MILTON ERNEST GARDEN CENTRE RADWELL ROAD, MILTON ERNEST BEDFORD MK44 1SH 01234 823567		
GARDENING SERVICES, STAPLOE Steve Smith 07908 857706	'JUST ASK' VILLAGE AGENTS SCHEME Teresa Moon 01234 771418	

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