

The Hamlets' Voice

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

Issue 25 – November 2018

Welcome to the Autumn edition of your local parish newsletter

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Road Names in the Parish

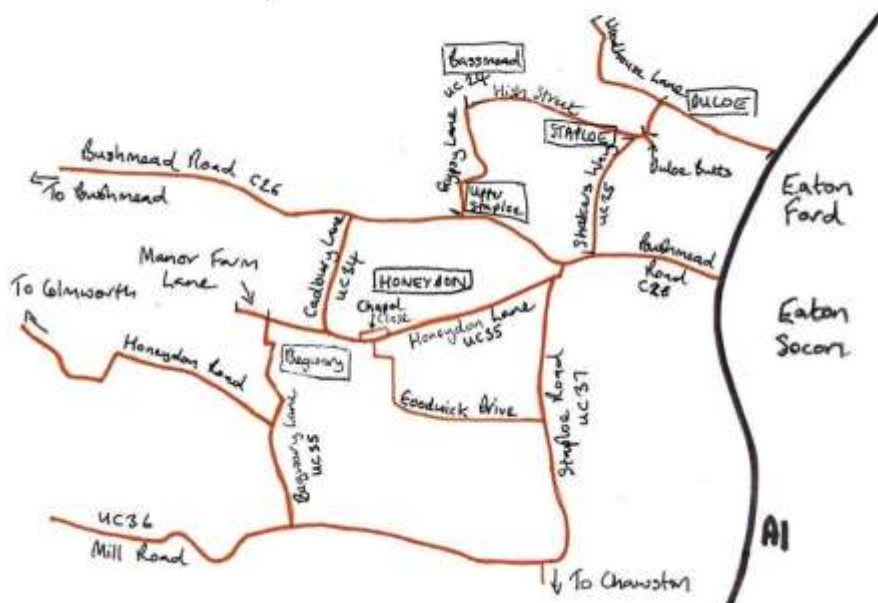
We have been asked to give the Borough Council the local names for roads in the parish. Most roads already have local names but the Borough have no record of them and there are no signs on the ground. The Borough Council's advice states:

"The name should not duplicate, or be similar to, an existing name or part of a name in the same Postal District or locality. A variation in the terminal word ("Road", "Close", "House" etc.) is not considered sufficient difference if the name includes a word already in use locally."

- The main road in Staploe is unnamed (as far as I know). I have referred to it as "High Street" on the map (following page), having heard some residents refer to it this way but would like to hear residents' suggestions for suitable names (or names which already exist that I am unaware of). We can't have Staploe Road as that is the name of the road to Chawston. Suggestions to date include: Brook Road, The Street, The Lane, Bassmead Road, Falls Lane / Road, No Name Street or continuing without naming the road.
- The main road through Duloe also has no name and cannot be called Duloe Road as there is a Duloe Road in Eaton Socon. Suggestions welcome.
- The road through Begwary is referred to as Begwary High Street by some but others have suggested this is unsuitable and have proposed "Dew Pond Lane" or Begwary / Beggary Lane / Hill.
- In particular the Borough Council have asked us to name the main road in Honeydon which goes past Chestnuts so that the new houses there have a sensible address. The road is currently officially known as "ZU35 from UC34 East to C26 St Neots at Honeydon". My map has this labelled as "Honeydon Lane" but to prevent confusion with Honeydon Road, road naming policy suggests a different name is used ie. not including Honeydon. Suggestions welcome. Chestnuts Lane?

We will be discussing this at our Parish Council meeting on 20th November; residents are welcome to attend and contribute during the Public Open Forum at the start. Or e-mail me on lcrawford@staploeipc.org.uk.

Road Names in Staploe Parish



Village Hall

A new Village Hall Committee has been formed; they are looking at several options for rebuilding the hall. The Committee members are: Mark Crawford, Joanna Ibbett, Emilio Meola, Susan Solomom, Kevin Pavely and Cheryl Hall.

Thank you to all those who came to clean and tidy at the Village Hall and Playing Field Containers on 3rd September. Rod Thompson kindly strimmed and treated the weeds around the hall, Mark Crawford and Emilio Meola dismantled the heaters in the hall to be returned for a refund, Mark Thompson swept the decking, Mark and Sue Potts vacuumed and cleaned the changing room container and Julia Willison cleaned the kitchen and store room container. Everyone helped move things from the hall to the containers. Later that week, Richard and Peter Squire and Ben Hall felled the dead tree in the hedge behind the hall.

As a result, it all looks much tidier and we will be able to show potential hirers / users of the field and containers around!

Street Lights

Staploe Parish has 21 street lights. These are old and inefficient and will be obsolete in 2020. The Parish Council have been saving to replace these with more efficient LED lights and we now have sufficient funds to do so.

Our options are: lights on full beam all night, lights that dim in the middle of the night, lights that go out in the middle of the night or to remove the lights altogether. Previous consultations have suggested that residents wanted lights on bends for road safety and in residential areas to prevent crime but we would be interested to hear your thoughts.

We are currently planning to replace the current street lights with either Indo Air 1 LED Lanterns (pictured left), which are the type of lantern installed in Hail Weston. Parishioners may wish to view the lights in Hail Weston to see if they are happy with them. Or Holophane S-line lights (pictured right), which our current lighting engineer recommends. The lanterns use 25 watts of energy and dim to 13 watts from midnight to 5.30am.



Our current lanterns use 65W so this would be a 70% reduction in energy. At current energy prices this would reduce our electricity bill from around £640 to £200 (including standing charges). This would clearly also reduce our CO₂ emissions. In addition, we would reduce our maintenance costs from £300 per year to zero. We are aware that LED lanterns produce a much whiter light but we cannot continue with the same yellow SOX lanterns as they will be obsolete soon and if the bulbs go out or the lanterns break, we will not be able to replace them. If you have any comments about street lights, please contact the Parish Clerk, Lucy Crawford, on lcrawford@staploe.org.uk or telephone 01480 471 526.

Broadband

Staploe now has its own green cabinet and 01480 numbers are now able to access superfast broadband. Check with your provider if you are not experiencing faster internet speeds.

Harvest Supper

Around 30 people shared cottage pie and apple crumble at the Harvest Supper, which was held in Colmworth Village Hall on 13th October.



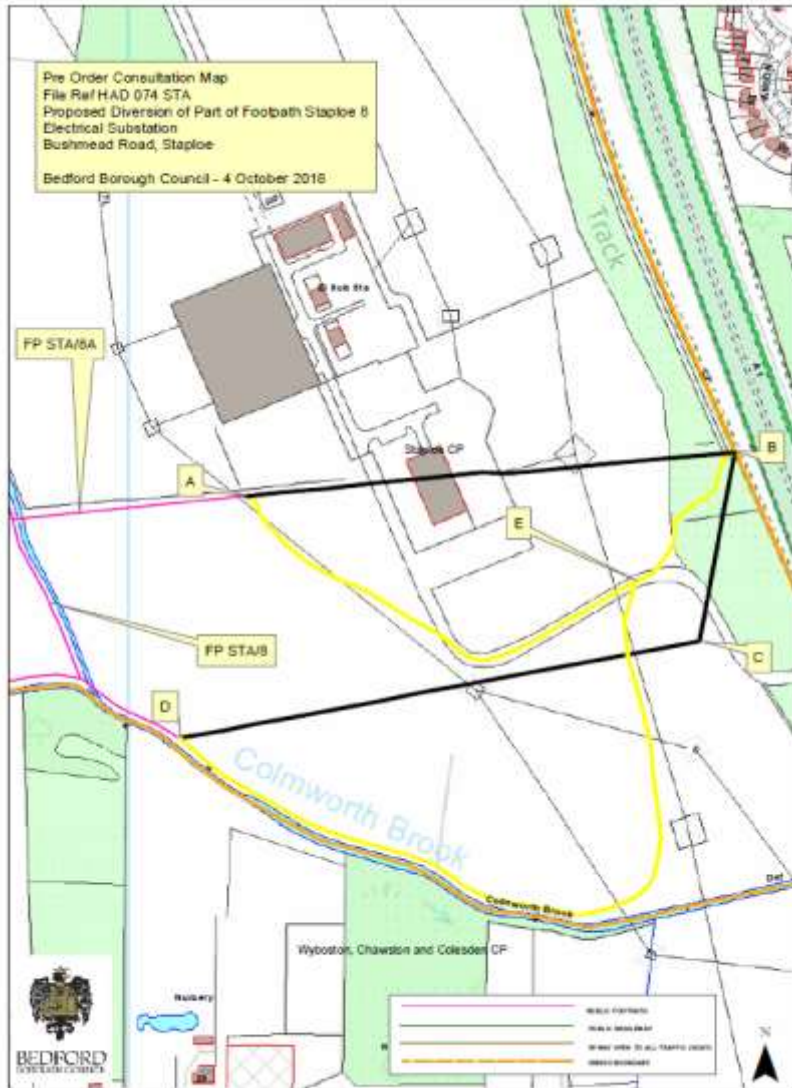
The children had a great time playing spotlight on the playing field. Richard Squire and Tom Tagg won the adults village quiz, while Hannah Thompson and Tacita Squire won the children's version.



We made a profit of £33 which will be donated to the Duloe Village Hall charity.

Footpath Diversion

We have received a proposal to divert footpath STA/8A and STA/8 at the electricity substation on Bushmead Road near Eaton Socon. In the map below, the black line will be removed and moved to the solid yellow line.



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Events

Staploe Parish Walking Group

There is an informal village walk every Tuesday for 1-2 hours leaving from the post box in Staploe at 10.00am. Please feel free to bring your dog along if you wish. Dogs may need to be

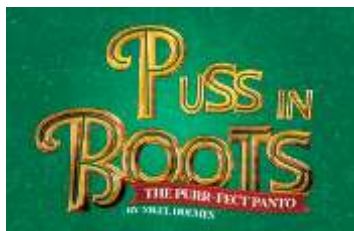


on a lead for some or all of the walk depending on the location. There is no need to book, participants can just turn up, suitably equipped for the weather and content to walk at their own risk. For further information please contact Caroline on 01480 476180. There may be occasions when no one is walking. If you'd like to join the Facebook messenger

group to find out who is walking each week, please call Caroline. (This is not a Parish Council event.)

Pantomime

St Neots Players are performing the pantomime *Puss in Boots* on Thursday 10th Jan 7.30pm, Friday 11th 7.30pm and Saturday 12th January 11am and 7.30pm. We would like to organise a parish trip to the pantomime on Saturday 12th January at 11am (but clearly residents are welcome to attend any of the performances).



If you are interested, please book tickets directly online: <https://stneotsplayers.co.uk/tickets>. Cost is £12 per adult and £10 concessions

Village Walk to the Sacred Stones Barrow

There will be a Parish Walk to the barrow at Sacred Stones in Hail Weston leaving from Duloe Village Hall car park at 10.30am on Saturday 26th January 2019. The Barrow will be open for viewing and refreshments will be provided. To assist with planning refreshments please let the Parish Clerk know if you intend to come.

Curry Night

Colmworth Village Hall at 6.30pm on Saturday 2nd March 2019 - see next page for details.

Stapole, Duloe, Honeydon & Begwary Village Curry Night

Saturday 2nd March 2019 at 18.30pm
Colmworth Village Hall



Menu

Onion Bhajis, Samosas
Chicken Korma & Lamb Bhuna
Rice & Naan
(Veggie option on request)
Bring your own drinks

Adults £15, Children 6-10 yrs £6
Children under 5 free

Please advise and pay by Friday 15th Feb 2019
To book, contact Jane Thomson 07889 305754 or
Ged Meola 07790 958357



In support of Duloe Village Hall

Honeydon Bus Shelter



Staploe, Duloe and Honeydon Parish Council assumed ownership of the bus shelter in 2012. The roof is made of asbestos and is in poor condition. We are currently considering whether to remove the asbestos (£315) and demolish the shelter or whether to replace the roof at an additional cost of £325. If you have an opinion about this please let us know. We will make the decision at our next meeting on 20th November 2018 and we will put a notice in the shelter as well. Contact: lcrawford@staploepc.org.uk / 01480 471 526

Empty Homes

Bedford Borough Council is urging residents to report any homes that are unoccupied and disused. Empty homes continue to be a massive waste of resources and a blight on neighbourhoods across the country and can also have a negative impact on the environment. Nearly £3million has been allocated by the Council to fund the compulsory purchase of properties where owners fail to take action to bring their empty property back into use. The actions enabled by this funding have already resulted in a drop of a third in the number of properties that have been empty for five years or more.

CLlr Colleen Atkins, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Regulation said “We’re working hard to reduce the number of empty homes in the borough. If you own one of these empty properties, please come and talk to us to discuss your options and see what help we can provide.”

“If you know about an empty home, please report it to our Housing Strategy team”

www.bedford.gov.uk/emptyhomes

The Ghost of Bassmead Manor

I do not approve of articles which contain references to ghosts because the word is one of those words or expressions like 'UFO' or 'Flying Saucer' which because the word or expression exists, makes us think there must be some of them out there. Not so! It is a word of mischief generating superstition and unreason. So why am I writing about ghosts? Read on and you will find out.



A long time ago, I used to live in Bassmead Manor. In those days it was not the grand house it has now become; on the contrary it was somewhat dilapidated with rotting window frames and missing roof tiles. When it rained, which it did all the time in those days, the ceilings leaked and rainwater ran down the stairs. It was a damp and dismal place.

Upstairs, running almost the whole length of the building, is a long corridor connecting the bedrooms, bathroom and stairwell. At the time I am writing about, my bedroom opened onto one end of this corridor and at the other end there opened the doorway of another smaller bedroom not in use at the time so that emerging from my bedroom I could see directly into the bedroom at the other end.

On this particular day, far from being one of those dank and dismal days it was a bright September day, the slanting September sun streaming through the broad sash windows at the front of the house. As I emerged from my bedroom onto this corridor heading for the stairs, I saw movement in the doorway of the bedroom at the other end. I looked again and there fluttering in the doorway was a ghostly figure, man-size, white, shroud-like. More than anything it looked like one of those 'ghosts' that occasionally appeared in the popular children's comics of those days *The Dandy* or *The Beano* which featured such characters as Korky the Cat, Keyhole Kate, Lord Snooty and Desperate Dan.

Curious to meet this apparition I rushed along the corridor and arrived in the doorway just in time to see a piece of ceiling paper, having detached itself from the damp ceiling a moment ago, settle itself gently onto the floor.

I can't help wondering what Keyhole Kate would have done, if on peering through a bedroom keyhole, her eyes had met those of a ghost. Would she have run out into the farmyard screaming blue murder, giving the house a bad name, making it out to be haunted? Desperate Dan would have known what to do!

Frank Squire

Schools

Kymbrook and Thurleigh Vacancy for Primary School Governor

There is a vacancy for a school governor. For more information please telephone: Kymbrook 01234 376266 or Thurleigh 01234 779049

Starting School

If your child was born between 1/9/2014 and 31/8/2015 he or she will start school from September 2019 so you need to apply for a school place by 15th January 2019. You can apply online at www.bedford.gov.uk/onlineadmissions

Keep in touch with Parish News

WEBSITE <https://www.staploeduloehoneydonparishcouncil.bedsparishes.gov.uk>

EMAIL The Parish Council send out regular news updates by email. If you would like to receive these, please e-mail the Parish Clerk.

FACEBOOK Search Facebook for 'Staploe Parish Council'. There is also a community Facebook group where parishioners can post: www.facebook.com/groups/325908041268638/

Parish Clerk Lucy Crawford
33 Staploe, St Neots, PE19 5JA
Tel: 01480 471526
Email: lcrawford@staploepc.org.uk

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	