

The Hamlets' Voice

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

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Issue 28 – February 2020



Staploe, Duloe, Honeydon & Begwary Village Curry Night



Friday 6th March 2020 at 6.30pm

Location: Colmworth Village Hall

Drinks: Bring your own

Adults £15; Children 6-10 yrs £6

Children under 5 Free

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

Rice & Naan

**Please advise and pay by Friday 28th February
Ged 07790 958357 or Jane Thomson 07889 305754**

Village Hall Rebuild

After a 12-week consultation period, the Duloe and Staploe Village Hall Committee received a total of 33 responses to the questionnaire that was posted through the door of every house in the three hamlets.

Of those responses received, there was clear support for replacing the current village hall, with 26 respondents favouring the slightly larger option. We also received many offers of practical help and pledges of £1,500 towards the cost of the rebuild.

The Village Hall Committee will be meeting shortly to discuss next steps and will keep residents informed through the village website and newsletter.

Mark Crawford, Village Hall Committee

A428 / Black Cat and A1

During the summer of 2019, Highways England carried out an extensive consultation on a proposed scheme to improve the Black Cat roundabout and build a new A428 south of the existing route from the Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet. The feedback shows there is overwhelming support for both proposals. The new road and roundabout are due to open in 2025.

Some of you will remember that there were discussions about building a new A1 west of the existing road, which might have impacted our villages. There have been no further developments regarding proposed improvements to the A1. The last we heard was a couple of years ago when we were told that it was very difficult to justify the huge cost of building a new A1 and the focus would be on improving the A14 and A428. The Parish Council are hoping that the plans for an enormous new roundabout at the Black Cat mean that the A1 is likely to be staying in its current position for some time to come and that any improvements will be “in situ”.

Neighbourhood Watch Group

Mark Potts of Duloe has kindly offered to set up a WhatsApp group for the three hamlets - ‘3 Hamlets Watch Group’ - to share local information about suspicious behaviour, missing dogs etc. If you would like to join, please send your phone number to Mark on: 07930 718749

Road Names

The Parch Council has advised the Borough Council to name the road through Staploe “Staploe Lane” and the road through Duloe “Duloe Lane” as these were the majority votes in the last consultation. The Borough are still making some mistakes with road names in the parish but have been sent a list of all the addresses in the parish with the relevant road name, so hopefully this will resolve the situation.



Parish Website to Change

Cambridge Open Systems has offered all Parish Councils in Bedfordshire a free website on their dotcommunity platform since 2012. However, this will no longer be available to parish councils from March 2020 as they were unable to meet the new accessibility regulations for public bodies. Therefore we, along with many other parishes in Bedfordshire, have opted for a new website designed by Eyelid Productions and hosted by Cloudnext. The website development costs and first year of hosting (£500) have been met from the North Bedfordshire Ward Fund courtesy of our Borough Councillor, Tom Wootton.

Our new website is up and running but some further work is required (due to take place from mid-March). The new site, in its current format, can be found here: staploe-pc.gov.uk



The old site (www.staploeduloe-honeydonparishcouncil.bedsparishes.gov.uk) will continue to be available and both will be kept up to date until the end of March, at which point the old site will close in its current form.

Solar Farm

The Staploe end of the Solar Farm began generating electricity in December and the Little Staughton end of the Solar Farm is due to begin generating shortly. The Parish Council are due to receive £8,700 as a donation from the solar farm which we have agreed to put towards the demolition and potential rebuild of Duloe Village Hall.

Community Speedwatch

Don't forget to contact the Parish Clerk if you are interested in being trained for Community Speedwatch. We are still recruiting volunteers.

Shakers Way *by Frank Squire*

A long time ago in the days of my foolish youth I cycled round a roundabout the wrong way. A few hundred yards further down the road a police car drew up ahead of me and indicated that I should stop which I did.

“Did you cycle round that roundabout the wrong way?” he enquired.

“Yes,” I answered, knowing in those innocent times nothing of ‘no comment’ and the right to silence.

The policeman was somewhat taken aback by the frankness of my admission. He then got out his big telling-off voice and told me off, mentioning The Highway Code, the usefulness of roundabouts, a sound English invention, my ignoring the road signs and the fact that I had endangered myself and possibly other road-users. I hung my head looking suitably abject and remained silent, knowing that this was the best way to mollify policemen in high dudgeon.

The policeman concluded his telling-off by saying, “It wouldn’t do if everybody went the wrong way round roundabouts.”

I could not help myself. I could not resist the opportunity for a smart-alec (spell checker going bonkers) answer. “Well,” I replied, “if everybody went the wrong way round the roundabout that would become the right way!”

He gave me a hard, thoughtful look for some seconds and then his face broke into a smile. “Sod off,” he said laughing.

What has this got to do with Shakers Way? Well, nothing really. Perhaps just a little bit.

I like the new road signs – visible, bright with clear lettering telling all those delivery drivers that have sprung up in the last few years where they are and where we are. Somebody asked me how the road got its name. Somebody else suggested it was so called because motorists stopped there to shake out the rubbish from their cars. (Don’t get me going on the subject of litter – nothing funny about it).

The consensus was that the road had been named after a religious cult The Shakers derived from a small branch of English Quakers who called themselves The United Society of Believers in Christ’s Second Coming. They got their Shaker name from their practices of shaking, shouting, dancing and whirling in the course of their meetings. Shakers believed that Christ’s second coming was near and with it the end of the world. Their teachings emphasised the equality of men and women and the need for simplicity and hard work. It was an important principle that members of the cult be celibate.

In the middle of the eighteenth century the head of the cult was Mother Ann Lee. Because of persecution in England Mother Lee and eight of her disciples decided to emigrate to America. The group benefitted from an independent revival movement that was sweeping America and within a few years the group grew to several thousand members. They became renowned for the beauty, design and construction of their barns, meeting houses and furniture. Shaker furniture is still much prized today. They were also technologically advanced having invented the water turbine and the circular saw.

Celibacy was perhaps acceptable for people who thought the world was going to end any minute with fire and brimstone but for those who did not have this belief, celibacy was an unattractive principle. The movement declined and by the beginning of the 21st century there remained only one Shaker village, Sabbathday Lake in Maine. It has fewer than 10 Shakers.

What have the Shakers got to do with me cycling the wrong way around a roundabout? Only this: when I told a friend that the Shakers required members to be celibate, she remarked, "It wouldn't do if everybody was celibate." This reminded me of my youthful brush with the law long ago concerning roundabouts. That's all!

BEGFEST 2020



A private music festival run by volunteers with every penny raised going to charity. It's a great family day out whatever the weather, so don't miss out!

Saturday 11 July Begwary. Gates open at 1:00pm.

Fully Licenced Bar, All Day Barbeque, Afternoon Tea, concession stands.

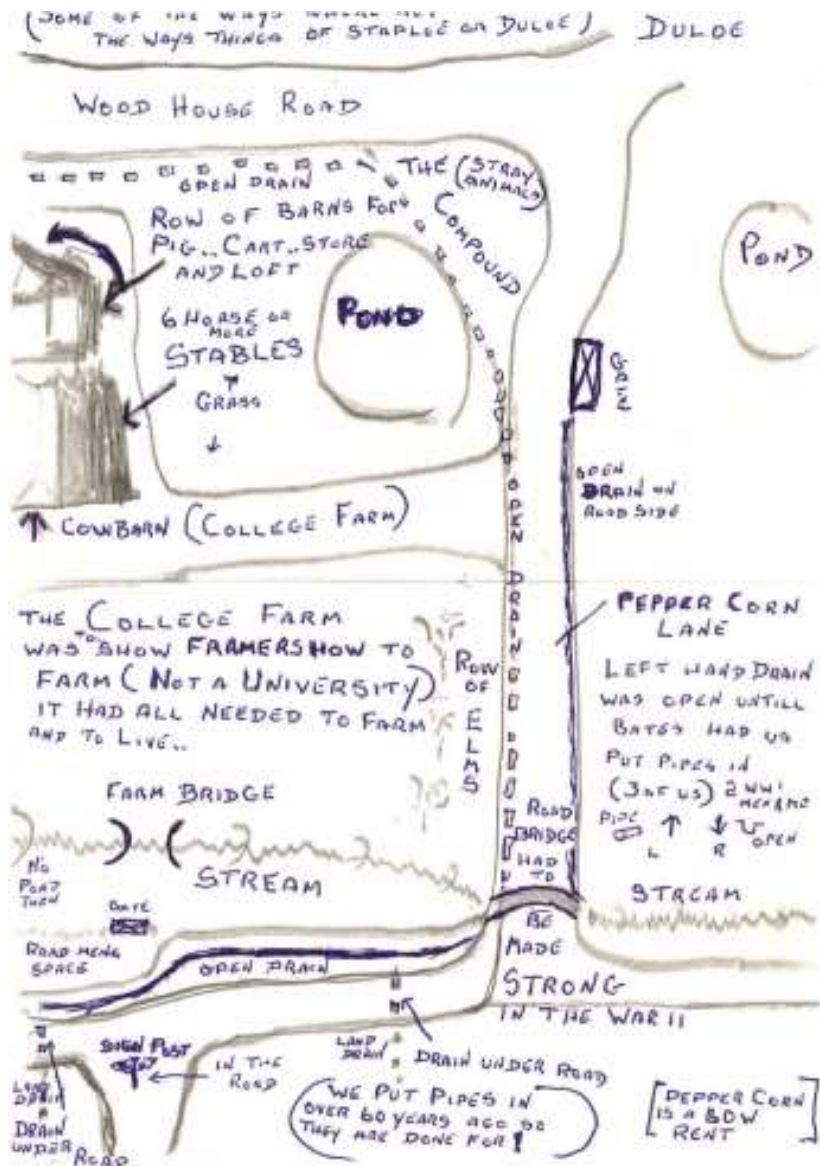
Tickets by invitation only. Adults £17.50; Under 18s (accompanied) £2.50; Babes in arms free.

This year's charities will include the Ollie Foundation, Teenage Cancer Trust and Small Steps. Begfest has raised over £37,000 for local Charities! Your donations really do make a difference.

For more information, see www.begfest.co.uk. Contact: enquiries@begfest.co.uk or call Andy on 07891 052527

Memories of the Parish

A map of Duloe, south of Woodhouse Lane *by Arthur Rose.*



East-West Rail

On 2nd February, the Secretary of State for Transport, the Rt. Hon. Grant Shapps MP, announced the preferred route option for East-West Rail, between Bedford and Cambridge.

The Preferred Route Option links existing stations in Bedford and Cambridge with communities in Cambourne and the area north of Sandy, south of St. Neots, and was chosen following detailed analysis over several months. This route option:

- would represent the best value for taxpayers, returning the most benefit for every pound spent
- was the most popular option with people who responded to our 2019 consultation
- would deliver the best opportunities for supporting and enhancing the environment

This route was known as Route E in the 2019 consultation



Key benefits of the Preferred Route Option would include:

- A new station for the growing population at Cambourne
- A new station in the area around Sandy and St Neots connecting with services to towns including Edinburgh, Peterborough and Doncaster
- Easy access to Bedford town centre, supporting plans to regenerate the town and enabling connections to communities across the midlands
- Simple access to Cambridge city centre, and connections onto communities across Anglia and Norfolk

Go to eastwestrail.co.uk for more information.

Broadband

Joan Squire (The Lodge, Bassmead Drive, Upper Staploe) has agreed to advocate for better broadband for Upper Staploe on behalf of the residents. She delivered a letter to the residents of Upper Staploe in January. Could all residents please give Joan your contact details and current speeds tested (using Fast.com) as soon as possible. Thank you. This issue will be discussed at a meeting with the Borough Council on 24th February.

Broadband issues continue to frustrate Honeydon residents. The latest we heard from Bedford Borough Council was on 16th January:

"We have been told for several months that a date for works within Honeydon had been agreed for January. However, as you are aware, we are at the mercy of the information that we have been given by OpenReach. It appears from the latest call that OpenReach experienced some supplier issues in the weeks prior to Christmas, and they were not told that their Contractor's subcontracted poling gang were previously unable to commit to the timescales scheduled. We were completely unaware of this until last week, when our Highways Department finally received a request for a further road closure to complete poling works in Honeydon.

There is usually a notice period of 3 months, meaning that the poling works will be completed in March. It is anticipated that the poling works should take 2-3 days with some supplementary works to complete the build - which should take around a week once they are scheduled. Please note that works may not be scheduled until the poling is complete.

Given the previous unforeseen circumstances and delays, OpenReach are now aiming for the physical works to be completed by the end of this quarter (31st March). Once these works are complete, there is a period of commissioning therefore we expect the service to go live and you to be able to request an order by the end of April 2020. We are working hard with Openreach to improve this timescale and we will of course keep you up to date, once the poling is completed and we have a final completion date.

*You can raise a high-level complaint with Openreach directly: 0800 3289393/
hlcopenreach@openreach.co.uk.*

Justine Ives

Team Leader Economic Projects and Place

Tel No: 01234 276254

Mob No: 07468 472570

Bedford Borough Council, Borough Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford MK42 9AP"

Staploe Open Gardens



Falling Water House

This year, the gardens of Falling Water House and Old Farm Cottage will be open for charity on Sunday 26 April; Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 June; and Sunday 4 October.

The April and October openings are a new venture; the two gardens will be open for visitors to walk around. The June weekend will include teas and plant sales.



Old Farm Cottage

More information about the National open Garden Scheme can be found at ngs.org.uk

Father's Day Tea and Cake Competition

The Parish Council will host a Father's Day Tea with Cake Competition and cake sale on Sunday 21st June at the Playing Field.

Jane Thomson is arranging the tea and cake competition and would like five volunteers to help set up the marquee and make tea, as well as lots of volunteers to make cakes. Please let the Parish Clerk know if you can help. Further details to follow nearer the time.



Keep in Touch with Parish News

CURRENT WEBSITE www.staploeduloe-honeydonparishcouncil.bedsparishes.gov.uk

NEW WEBSITE (under development) staploe-pc.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	GARDEN CHICKENS For Point-of-lay Pullets, Chicken Arks, Feeders and Drinkers. Rookery Road, Wyboston 07597029425	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	THE WOODFIELD PHYSIOTHERAPY CENTRE 01234 378996 www.woodfieldphysio.co.uk	'JUST ASK' VILLAGE AGENTS SCHEME Teresa Moon 01234 771418

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