

The Hamlets' Voice

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



Issue 19 – May 2016

Welcome to the Summer edition of your local parish newsletter

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St John's Hospice Events

It's back, bigger and better than ever – Busk Till Dusk 2016

Following the amazing success of last year's event, we are pleased to announce Busk till Dusk 2016. This year's event promises to be even bigger and better.

We had some fantastic acts, some of whom are reappearing this year. The event takes place on August 13 at St John's Hospice, from 3pm to 10pm.



This festival-in-a-day really has something for everyone. From classical to rock, pop and everything in between you won't be disappointed. It's an event that you won't forget, while raising lots of money for your local hospice. It's going to be a superb day and one you won't want to miss. Last year we had a mix of visitors of all ages.

We welcome music lovers to bring their blankets, picnics and painted faces. There will be something for everybody including a variety of food traders and our very own St John's Bar serving real ales, cider and Pimms, with all profits coming to the hospice.

It's going to be a really fantastic day so bring your friends, family and anyone who loves to get down and boogie.

For more information or to buy your tickets go to: www.busktilldusk.com

Come and join us for St John's Starlight Walk - discount available until 1st June

Would you like to take part in this year's Starlight Walk and remember a loved one? Join us as we walk around the grounds and local countryside on the 24 September 2016, it's also a great way to raise money for your local hospice. Get those walking shoes ready and book early to receive your discounted rate: www.sueryder.org/stjohns/starlightwalk

The starlight hike will take place within the St John's Hospice grounds and surrounding countryside, and will include a shorter 5km option as well as the usual 10km.

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Parish Council News

Parish Council Meetings

The Parish Council AGM will be held on Tuesday 17th May at 7.45pm in Duloe Village Hall. Subsequent Parish Council meetings will be on Tuesday 19th July, Tuesday 20th September and 15th November at 7.45pm in Duloe Village Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Parish Council Accounts

The Parish Council Accounts will be available for inspection by appointment with the Parish Clerk from 6th June to 14th July, 1.30pm – 10pm Monday to Friday. Alternatively the accounts can be viewed online. Search 'Staploe Parish Council' in your search engine. Copies will also be available in the blue folder in the Hamlets Exchange (the phonebox) in Staploe.

Alistair Burt (MP)

Alistair will be visiting Alban Academy on 20th May and Pertenhall Young Farmers Rally and County Show on 21st May. He is holding surgeries at Bromham on 27th May and Biggleswade on 10th June from 4-6pm. For appointments please contact Katherine Arnold on 01767 313 385.

Police

Sadly we have lost our PCSO Paul Jones due to funding cuts. However, Nick Lyall the new Community Chief Inspector covering North Bedfordshire, has written to introduce himself.

Nick joined Bedfordshire Police in June 2015 having previously served with Northamptonshire Police for fourteen years. He has an extensive history in community policing and says: "I truly believe and value partnership working, and wish to build strong relationships with all of the Parish Councils across my area of responsibility. I fully understand the concerns that have been raised with me already about police visibility across the more rural parts of Bedfordshire and how as a result many of the Parish Councils have had limited interaction with their local Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers."

Nick has invited representatives of each Parish Council to a meeting on 13th June to discuss his plans for building better and stronger communication and engagement links with us. He can be contacted on Nick.Lyall@Bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk or by phone on 01234 842395.

Traveller Site, Upper Staploe

The mayor has made available £50 000 of council contingency funds to enable Bedford Borough Council's Planning Enforcement Officers to take direct action to secure compliance with the enforcement notice. Two parishioners have offered to buy the land from the Council if they decide to take possession of it. Contractors (working on behalf of Bedford Borough Council) started work on 4th May to clear the site of unauthorised development. This will involve large vehicles on site to carry out the clearance and is anticipated to take several days. A Council officer will be on site at all times whilst works are underway.

A1 Feasibility Study

There is no news on the outcome of this study to upgrade the A1 yet. Further news is expected in the autumn.

Clean for the Queen

Six volunteers in Staploe and Duloe and five in Honeydon collected a total of 18 bags of rubbish on Sunday 5th March as part of the Clean for The Queen event.

Thank you to all those who helped out!



Speedwatch

The Speedwatch team was out on two very chilly but sunny mornings at the end of April. We saw 89 vehicles in total in an hour between 7 and 8am on the Monday. We're sad to say that 18 were going faster than 35 mph in the 30 limit, 7 were going over 40 mph and 2 were doing 50 and 51 mph. We followed up on Tuesday morning between 7am and 8.20am, and saw 74 cars. 17 were going faster than 35 in the 30 mph zone, 6 of which were over 40 mph.

Considering there is a flashing slow-down sign and a 40 mile an hour limit prior to the 30, plus all the new white line painting, it is a bit depressing to continue to see the high number of speeders.

We need to carry out more Speedwatch sessions; to do this we need a few more volunteers to help in the early hours between 7 and 9am. Please could any volunteers contact the Parish Clerk.

PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Clerk

Lucy Crawford
33 Staploe
St Neots
PE19 5JA

Email: lucy_crawford@hotmail.com
Tel: 01480 471526

Website

www.staploeduloehoneydonparishcouncil.bedsparishes.gov.uk

NGS Open Gardens 2016

Saturday 11 June and Sunday 12 June 2016
13:00 to 17:00 Open for charity

Combined admission £3.50, Children free. Home-made teas.

Old Farm Cottage: flower garden surrounding thatched house (not open), with 3 acres of orchard, grassland, young woodland and pond maintained for wildlife.

Falling Water House: a mature woodland garden, partly reclaimed from farmland 10yrs ago, it is constructed around several century old trees including three Wellingtonia. Kitchen garden potager, courtyard and herbaceous borders, planted to attract bees and wildlife, through which meandering paths have created hidden vistas.

Staploe PE19 5JA

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The Queen's Birthday

It is a ritual - thousands of years old - for villagers to stand around a bonfire to celebrate an important event. So it was in Staploe on 21st April when we locals congregated on Mount Pleasant to celebrate the Queen's birthday. There was a chill east wind; next to us - at the zenith of its sharp yellow brightness and giving off its fragrant perfume - was a huge field of oil seed rape in full flower. Down below us, our little brook and the winding road and the houses alongside. And the pylons. (One day they will be subject to a preservation order.) To the east you could see the headlights of the lorries slowly plodding up the A1, and beyond there was the glow in the darkening sky from the lights of St Neots.



It was all very jolly on our own little mountain. There were hot dogs and cakes supplied by the parish council and quite a lot of my hot dog sausage was not burnt to a cinder. If you were very lucky you got a glass of Milly's extraordinary home-made red wine. I am not a wine buff but this was how - from a very early age - I had always imagined wine should be. I think after all these years of sobriety I might be hooked.



The fire was lit and, with the east wind blowing, it was soon a blazing inferno and in unison we broke into song and sang Happy Birthday to the Queen. I am not quite sure what the Queen stands for. With her silver hair neatly permed, her pearl necklaces and her warm smile she looks like everybody's ideal granny. But she is much more than that and it always amazes me

to see her on the television at some major event, this little old woman under a colourful hat walking slowly along being saluted or bowed to by all those big men in their smart uniforms or crisp dark suits. She says little in public and the less she says the more she is liked. She commands a mystical reverence.



Charles I



James II



George V

It was not always so. Charles I had his head chopped off; James II was forced to run away to France; when Queen Victoria became a virtual recluse following the untimely death of her husband, there were republican mutterings; George V - our Queen's grandfather - became so concerned about the survival of the monarchy that he changed the Germanic sounding family name to Windsor and he refused to provide sanctuary for his cousin Tsar Nicholas of Russia who, as a result, together with his family was murdered by the Bolsheviks. Even our present Queen faced enormous hostility when, following the death of Diana, she remained away from London for a few days.

My friend Flint was not at Mount Pleasant. He is a staunch republican. While he has nothing against the Queen personally - in fact he suspects that behind the façade she is waspish and fun - he loathes the institution of monarchy seeing it as undemocratic and based on privilege and vast sums of inherited wealth. When anybody says in his presence, "She's never put a foot wrong" he becomes apoplectic, banging the table and shouting that she only has to walk slowly about, smile a bit and then wander off to have a lobster salad for lunch. He says he could do that at a fraction of the cost.

Another friend, Henderson, also a republican, takes a different view. He says monarchy is a form of institutionalised cruelty directed at a hereditary victim family. Each act, utterance and indiscretion of the family members is subjected to the minutest scrutiny by the world's mass media and at every opportunity members of the family are publicly ridiculed and mocked.

All that aside, a big thank you to the Parish Council for organising another fun event: jolly, sociable and mystical.

Frank Squire

Living History

STAPLOE | DULOE | HONEYDON | BUSHMEAD | BASMEAD | THE BUTTS | BEGWARY

All these place names mean the homes we live in. They also tell us much about our local history, if we care to think about their meanings and origins.

Living history is all around us. Many of the immediate place names of this district are of Anglian derivation. This includes Eaton Socon, St. Neots, Eynesbury and Croxton. In Old English they would be mostly recognisable. There are plenty of Danish names too: Grafham, Toseland, Yelling and Toft, which confirms that this area was under dispute in times long ago.



The name Staploe in the times prior to the seventeenth century was written as Stapelhoe. In fact this alteration makes little difference to the meaning. 'Stap' could be from staep in Anglian - meaning steep or a hill; the 'le' or 'el' bit is from the word 'dale', which also means a hill. And, what do you know: the

'loe' bit means a ridge! So the whole word is a bit repetitive! Steephillridge! There are two alternatives. 'Stap' might be someone's name: so Step's hilly ridge; or it might mean 'lush': so lush hilly ridge. My money's on the first idea, especially as it could explain the long 'a' sound in the name.

With the name Duloe, there are also a few possibilities. It could mean black: 'Dul' - ridge, with the same 'loe' ending as before. 'Dul' could be from 'dill' which means reeds. So we get Reedy Ridge. The least hoped for is a derivation from 'Devilhoe'! The least likely is a Celtic name where Duloe means the place between two rivers. Mainly because there are few Celtic names around here. There is a mystery though, which will be seen later.



Honeydon also refers to a hill. That's the 'don' bit. 'Honey' could be 'lush' again! Or it might be actually a place of bees and honey. 'Hun' is also an Anglian name. So: 'Hun's Hill.

The Anglian settlement was between the sixth and eighth centuries. The Danish were taking over districts in the ninth to eleventh centuries. So here are some lesser names and their origins:

- Basmead is from a person: Basa's Meadow.
- Goodwick is Godfreda's farm-where wick is a farm.
- Bushmead is Bishop's Meadow.
- The Butts probably (partly through passed down memory) is the place where the local youths were taught to use bows and arrows. This was a legal obligation in each district from the Middle-Ages until the spread of firearms in the mid sixteenth century. Yet the word 'butts' derives from the agricultural system, where in the open fields, the butts were the corner ridges where one person's holdings joined or 'butted' another's. So, again you can pick your favourite.
- Begwary is the most recently settled of all these places. By recent we are still in about 1150 A.D.! The meaning could be from Beguary which meant an outlying farm on an estate. Alternatively it could derive from Begging: a building a long way from any other places. Sounds like it hasn't changed much!

Now for the name-alikes: there is a Staploe near Newmarket. Goodwick is one of quite a few. Honeydon and Basmead are unusual. Bushmead is one of two. I can't find a way of describing many of the -utts that isn't rude! There are many. Begwary appears to be unique.

Now for the question: Where else in Britain can you find a Staplow, a Duloe and a St. Neot in close proximity to each other? The answer provides more questions!

Margaret Smith

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Village sign photos from Cambridgeshire Community Archives Network
www.ccan.co.uk

Recommended Recipe

Gin & Tonic Cake

Recommended by Tess, Duloe.

Ingredients for the cake:

- 3 eggs, weighed in the shells
- Whatever the eggs weigh, weigh out the same amount each of butter, caster sugar and self-raising flour
- Zest of 2 lemons
- Juice of 1 lemon
- 3tbsp gin

Ingredients for the drizzle icing:

- 150g caster sugar
- 3tbsp gin
- 1tbsp tonic water
- Juice of 1 lemon



Method:

Pre-heat the oven to 180C. Cream together the butter and sugar with a whisk until light, fluffy and pale. Add the eggs and beat until mixed in. Sieve in the flour, then add the zest of both lemons and fold in. Stir through the lemon juice and gin, then pour into a lined, 1kg loaf tin. Bake for 45 minutes. Remove from the oven and set aside while you make the topping by mixing the sugar, gin, tonic and lemon juice in a bowl. Prick the surface of the cake, then pour your boozy mixture over the top.

And Tess adds grated lime zest to the top of the cake for extra zing!

A Nadia Swahala recipe featured in Food magazine. Image from Food magazine.

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Saturday 9th July

You are invited to:

Doors Open @ 13:00

Begfest 2016

Private charity music festival in Begwary

All proceeds to:



Tickets:

£10.00 – Adults

£2.50 over 5 yrs*

Under 5s free*

(*when accompanied by adult)

Licensed Bar
Barbecue
Afternoon
Teas
T shirts

Sponsored by



Acts include*
Fabulous Tartan Dressing Gowns
John Verity & Band
Adiescar
Ethan Ash
Red Soul Stealer
And many many more...

Small Print: *Acts & running order STC

For tickets

email: tickets@begfest.co.uk

Contact Andy Girvan on mob: 07891 052527
at Ward Cottages, Begwary, Beds MK44 2NX

Bulky Waste Collection

Bedford Borough Council have apologised that the bulky waste collection did not arrive as advertised on Sunday 1st May. **The collection has been rescheduled for Sunday 22nd May.**

Duloe and Staploe Village Hall

The Village Hall can seat around 80 people. Hire: £7 per hour. To book, call: 07768 303373.

Current regular activities

Mondays 7:30-8:30pm Callanetics and Barre Concept - core strengthening exercise classes. Tel: 07787 447930 | www.corefit.co | Email: me@corefit.co

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TREE SURGEON, DULOE Andrew Brightman 07970 546293	PADDIE PAWS Professional dog grooming Qualified and quality service Jane Pavely 07833 594670	'JUST ASK' VILLAGE AGENTS SCHEME Teresa Moon 01234 771418
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