

The Hamlets' Voice

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

Issue 22 – August 2017

Welcome to the Summer edition of your local parish newsletter

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In this issue: an article from our local MP, the latest updates on Broadband, the A1 and the Black Cat developments, more news of Frankenfowl, and a parish walk for charity.



Hamlets quiz...the answers

Here are the answers to the February Curry Night quiz:

1. In which decade did the Gospel Hall in Staploe cease to be used as a religious meeting place? Answer: 1980s
2. Name one of the charities that the BegFest music festival has supported. Answers: Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust, DEBRA, MIND, Thomas' Fund, MacMillan, Wood Green, Keech Hospice, East Anglian Air Ambulance, Dementia Research, Samantha Dixon Brain Tumour Trust, 1st St Neots Scouts
3. Which family was associated with Upper Goodwick Farm in Honeydon for most of the 20th Century? Answer: Sheard family
4. Which of our hamlet names (or very similar names) can also be found elsewhere in the country? Answers: Duloe, Staplow, The Staploe Hundred (and also St Neot)
5. ... and where in the country are they? Answer: Duloe, Staplow and St Neot = Cornwall. The Staploe Hundred = near Newmarket. Comprises the parishes of Soham, Isleham, Kennett, Fordham, Snailwell, Chippenham, Landwade, Wicken and Barway.
6. When did the Parish Council first register the land around the Duloe village sign as a Common? Answer: 1975
7. On which day of the week does the public bus pass through the hamlets? Answer: Thursday
8. What used to exist at Mount Pleasant? Answer: cottages
9. Roughly how old is the round barrow near Hail Weston? Answer: 1 year
10. After which type of tree is the barrow named? Answer: willow ("Willow Row")

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A few words from Alistair Burt, MP

Thank you for asking me to make a contribution to the magazine. I am delighted to do so, as a further way of keeping in touch with what is a sizeable constituency, which extends from your parish out as far as Wrestlingworth in the East, Podington in the North and Arlesey to the South.



It's been quite a few months for politics, though this is not the place to dwell on party political issues. Suffice it to say that my life has changed quite a bit, as once again the unexpected turned up! I had not anticipated returning to Government service. I thought the Conservative Party would win the election handily, and that the PM would have a chance to ring the changes without former colleagues returning. I would then have coupled my local service for NE Bedfordshire with a Parliamentary role, examining the impact of Brexit and how we can make the best of the country's decision.

However, the opportunity of returning to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, as Minister for the Middle East, the role which I had enjoyed so much between 2010-13, was overwhelming. Sadly, little has changed for the better in the region these past few years, but the UK has much to offer to help resolve problems in company with partners. That the role was added to with responsibility as Minister of State for International Development in the Middle East and South Asia has been an extra bonus. We do extraordinary work abroad, from humanitarian relief to more advanced development, and to ensure that we combine the best quality work with best value for the generous contribution made by the British taxpayer is a prime personal objective.

I will be travelling more, but Parliamentary arithmetic means that getting away from Westminster during the week is hard. So, my travel will be over week-ends and our recesses from Westminster, which will impact a little on time in the constituency, though I will watch that carefully. In my first six weeks, I went from Washington and New York, to Baghdad and Burma via North Africa!

Locally we are all concerned with planning and infrastructure issues. There are local consultations continuing on the planning proposals of both Bedford Borough and Central Beds, not least those concerning Tempsford and Wyboston. The major road and rail proposals of the A428, Black Cat, A1, Oxford-Cambridge Expressway and East West Rail are all proceeding at much the same time, and the sequencing and consequences of each need to be very clear to constituents. I am working hard with my assistants and the parish councils on all these, for they have differing degrees of immediacy.

It's a busy few months ahead here, no matter what happens in Westminster or the rest of the world. I look forward to seeing or communicating with you at any time.

Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP

Facebook: @AlistairBurtforNEBedfordshire
Twitter: AlistairBurtUK
Web: www.alistair-burt.co.uk
Email: alistair.burt.mp@parliament.uk
Telephone: 01767 313385

Harvest Supper

Saturday 30th September at 7pm for 7.30pm in Duloe Village Hall.

Typically, adult tickets have been £5, children £2 and Shepherds' Pie and Apple Crumble have been served.

Look out for further details nearer the time.



www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/applecrumble_2971

Parish Council News

Keeping our villages tidy

We would like to thank Adrian Woolley of Staploe who kindly donated new materials and repaired the bench by the Hamlets Exchange in Staploe. It looks great now and is much safer to sit on!

We are looking for volunteers to help paint the railings in all the villages and paint the bench in Duloe. If you are interested please inform the Clerk.

The Parish Council would like to offer a gentle reminder in the interests of keeping our village tidy: could residents please put their bins away after they have been collected rather than leaving them on the verge. Thank you. Bedford Borough Council do not permit residents to keep their bins on the roadside for more than 24 hours after collection. Residents who are unable to move containers to the edge of the highway due to ill health or disability, and who are without any other able-bodied residents in the household to assist them, can be placed on the "Assisted Collection" register upon request to the Borough Council. Residents on the "Assisted Collection" register will have their waste containers collected from an agreed location on their property, emptied into the collection vehicle and then returned to that same location.

Broadband

The cabinet in Duloe has been connected to fibreoptic broadband and BT are now accepting orders for superfast broadband. This means that those on 01480 numbers in Duloe should be able to get speeds in excess of 12 mb/s. 01480 numbers in Staploe will get something akin to this at the eastern end of the village but nearer 4 or 5 at the western end. This is due to the distance from the cabinet and the presence of approximately 50m of aluminium cable between the newer houses in the east of the village and Falling Water House. Some residents of Staploe on 01480 numbers have been told they cannot get superfast broadband at all and are challenging this. If you are told this please could you talk to the Clerk as she is in conversation with Justine Ives at Bedford Borough Council regarding this issue. She has reported the slow speeds to Justine who has said that Staploe should be getting a new fibreoptic enabled cabinet in the village in early 2018 which should deliver significantly faster speeds.

Recent engineer visits to houses in western Staploe have thrown up the possibility of requesting 'Fibre to the Home' (FTTH) instead of the traditional copper wire based cabinet that is planned for 2018. FTTH would mean running a fibre cable right into each house, delivering true superfast speed of up to 300MBS - the fastest speeds available. The Engineers report that the investment from Openreach would not be significantly more than putting in the new cabinet in Staploe - but that if we want this, residents must push for this alternative. Apart

from faster speeds the lines would be more reliable and open up new services as they become available. This would make an enormous difference to families, businesses and those who work from home.

If you would support this please could you e-mail the Clerk, Lucy Crawford, to say that you agree with the Staploe Broadband Petition Statement:

“Our cabinet in Duloe has been upgraded to fibre broadband. However, despite the upgrade, as a resident of western Staploe, I am receiving very poor broadband speeds due to distance from the cabinet and the presence of 50m of aluminium cable between the newer houses to the east of Staploe and Falling Water House. I would like BT Openreach to explore the possibility of Fibre to the Home in Staploe, which your engineers have informed us would be a better option than installation of a new cabinet in Staploe.”

I will then e-mail the statement, with a list of names, to BT and the Borough Council.

Those on 01234 numbers are connected to Cabinet 6 in Colmworth which has also been upgraded to fibreoptic broadband recently. It is worth being persistent when calling BT because they seem to alter whether they are accepting orders from one day to the next on the same cabinet but we know that superfast is imminent for those connected to this cabinet. Honeydon and Upper Staploe are at the end of the line so may not get very fast speeds but it should be better than 0.5mb/s which some are reporting at the moment. Please keep the Clerk informed of any problems because Justine Ives is in regular contact with BT Openreach. We may need to have a petition for these numbers as well but I will need some feedback from those who have upgraded to the new fibre service before we do – it is possible that you fare better than the west of Staploe if you have no aluminium cables.

A1 / Black Cat news

The preferred route for the A428 and preferred option for the Black Cat will be announced soon after 5th September.

Further work is continuing to analyse the different packages for the A1 with a decision on the preferred package likely before a Stakeholder meeting in November. Package A is for a new road which we believe would be likely to affect our parish and Package B involves improvements in situ, removal of the roundabouts and local bypasses. The Parish Council have written to Highways England, Bedford Borough Council, the Mayor of Bedford, our MP Alistair Burt, Bedfordshire Association of Town and Parish Councils and our Borough Councillor Tom Wootton to express our preference for Package B. We have also written to other Parish Councils likely to be affected (Northill, Hail Weston, Wyboston, Roxton, Blunham, Great Barford and Colmworth) to explain our preferences and suggest that they write in favour of one or other package before the autumn. The Stage 3 report mentions severance of Ickwell Bury which is in Northill parish.

Speeding

The parish council have requested data recorders be installed near Manor Farm in Duloe, just west of Orchard Cottage between Duloe and Staploe, and near the Hamlets Exchange phone box in Staploe. These will only be in place for a few days but should give us a picture of the amount and speed of traffic in Staploe and Duloe.

We are also considering whether to invest in mobile speed indicator devices which record traffic and speeding data which can then be downloaded and analysed so that we can target our police checks / speedwatch checks to the most effective times and we can also help build up a case for further interventions to prevent speeding. The devices also flash up a warning for those exceeding the speed limit and can be moved around so people are less likely to get used to them. They cost around £3000.

Either average speed cameras or speed bumps would cost around £50 000 and only benefit one hamlet. Therefore, these mobile speed indicators might be a more affordable option which could benefit the whole parish. However, they do not have any power of enforcement as they don't capture number plates. The Parish Council would be interested to hear your thoughts about whether you feel this would be a good use of Parish Council funds.

If you notice vehicles speeding please call the police on 101, ask for Bedfordshire and report it. If you are able to capture the number plate then please pass this to them as well. If you notice any businesses with identifiable logos on their vehicles speeding then please also pass the information to the Clerk with dates and times so that the Clerk can write to the company concerned. We are always looking for Community Speedwatch volunteers so if you are interested please let us know.

Local Plan 2035

A consultation was held from the 24th April - 9th June on the Bedford Borough Council's Draft Local Plan 2035. The draft proposed that new housing development be allocated to urban areas, edge of urban areas, and the old brickworks at Stewartby. In addition, it proposed development of one or two supersites rather than allocating development to smaller villages. Group 4 villages such as ours would not have any development allocated to them but could allocate sites for development through a Neighbourhood Plan. Because no development has been proposed in our parish the Parish Council have decided not to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan at the moment. However, the draft Local Plan proposed including a policy to permit small amounts of development if supported by the local community for small scale residential development which is required to support local facilities or to meet an identified local need. Development would have to be adjacent to current residential areas and would only be granted where all of the following criteria are met:

- i) The need for the development is evidenced by an up to date study which clearly identifies the nature and scale of the local need, or the local facility which is threatened with closure,

- together with evidence to show how the development would maintain that facility; and
- ii) The application is made by or fully supported by the Parish Council or other properly constituted local body which fully represents the local community; and
 - iii) The application is supported by evidence that a majority of the local community is in favour of the proposal; and
 - iv) Evidence is provided to demonstrate that the scale of the development is limited to that necessary to meet local needs or to support local facilities; and
 - v) The development contributes positively to the character of the settlement and the scheme is appropriate to the structure, form, character and size of the settlement.

The Parish Council responded in support of the draft Local Plan. They felt it would be easier to provide the necessary schools and infrastructure in urban, edge of urban and larger sites than in smaller villages. They expressed a preference for Thurleigh and Clapham supersites rather than Wyboston because the former are brownfield sites. They also felt that these sites were closer to Bedford than Wyboston so would stimulate the Bedfordshire economy more than Wyboston which would be more likely to use St. Neots. However, they did express concern about secondary school provision as this did not seem to be mentioned in the draft plan.

Ward Fund

The Parish Council bought a projector and screen to use in the village hall with Borough Councillor Tom Wootton's Ward Fund money last year. This year £1000 is available for the parish again and the Village Hall have requested this be used towards replacing the heaters in the hall.

New Editor Sought

Now that Margaret Smith has left the village, the Hamlets Voice is in need of a new editor to assist Emma and Frank with the Hamlets Voice newsletter. A resident with knowledge (and experience!) of parish history as well as more recent developments and events would be ideal.

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PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Clerk

Lucy Crawford

Address: 33 Staploe, St Neots, PE19 5JA

Email: lucy_crawford@hotmail.com

Tel: 01480 471526

Website: www.staploeduloehoneydonparishcouncil.bedsparishes.gov.uk

Parish Walk to Bushmead Priory

As I sat enjoying Sunday lunch listening to the rain falling hard outside I wondered just how wet we would all get on the walk from the Village Hall to Bushmead Priory!

To my great surprise after lunch the sun shone down on us and the rain blew away. Although the sky was covered in threatening clouds it stayed dry for the team of people from across the Parish as we set out on our walk.



Mostly on farm tracks and footpaths, we managed to avoid getting too muddy. We progressed along Woodhouse Lane then past Mount Pleasant, on along Fishers Lane, passed by a blushing bride and her groom posing for their photographer at Bassmead. As we walked the bridleway between the Hook Wood and a hedge the sun shone strongly, it was very warm, and dragonflies flitted in front of us hunting for food. We skirted around Little America, the basic concrete and asbestos roofed buildings left over from Little Staughton's World War 2 airfield.



Over the tracks of Crown farm and then with special permission we made a small path through some brambles and nettles. Over a little bridge then we came out from under the low boughs of an English oak and set back in a mown grass field on a slope above us was a stunning view of the Priory.

Sandy and Kay Wade-Gery were fabulous hosts and provided a very welcome and delicious tea,

sandwiches, scones and cakes. A few more people joined us and we all sat in the sunshine enjoying the tea and each other's good company.

Sandy took us on a fascinating tour of the Priory. The priory was founded around 1195 by William, Chaplain of Colmworth and slightly later in about 1215 it became an Augustinian priory.

All that is left of the original priory is the refectory as at King Henry VIII's reformation the Priory was abandoned. There were other buildings that were either left to fall down or taken down and the stone reused elsewhere. When - in the 1540s - Bassmead Manor, about 2 miles away, was rebuilt in a very Tudor style, the fireplace (which is Norman and dates from around 1200) is supposed to have come from Bushmead Priory! Recycling at its best.

The Priory has fine examples of Crown Post roof trusses, rare survivors from this period of history. One thing that nearly survived was the stained-glass windows, until in the mid-1600s Oliver Cromwell's men came around and poked all the stained glass out. When English Heritage and the Wade-Gery family refurbished the priory in the 70s they found some of the broken shards in the soil beneath the windows. The glass pieces have been put back in some of the windows all be it in a haphazard way as there were no complete designs found, but the windows and - indeed - the whole building is a lasting record of how times change and gives a tantalising glimpse into the past .



We raised £151.60 for the Macmillan charity. After a lovely time and thanking Sandy and Kay for their very kind hospitality, the walkers set off back to Duloe and escaped the rain once more.

Richard Squire

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Frankenfowl lives!

Recent reports that Frankenfowl2 (FF2) had gone to dinner with Mr and Mrs Fox have proved to be untrue for I have seen him with my own eyes, a distant silvery-grey blob, sunning himself in front of the green hedge at the edge of the field in front of my house. You may recall that my last sighting of FF2 was when I drove into my drive one late winter evening to find picked out in the headlights FF2 scuttling away into the undergrowth, like a frightened ghost. On that occasion, he was accompanied by a retinue of hen pheasants but on my most recent sighting he was alone. Perhaps he has grown reconciled to the solitary bachelor life. As the poet said: *"They are not long the days of wine and roses."*

Danger always lurks for FF2 because while he safely roosts in a tree at night, he spends a large part of his day on the ground noisily foraging among the leaf litter where Mr and Mrs Fox also sometimes lie in ambush.

There may be more turmoil to come for there are tentative plans to acquire a new harem for FF2. Unfortunately determining the sex of a guineafowl is a skill known only to other guineafowl and a handful of oriental mystics so this new harem if it ever arrives may contain rival males as well as females. But again, as the poet said: *"They are not long, the weeping and the laughter, Love and desire and hate"*

Frank Squire

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They Are Not Long - Ernest Dowson

Vitae summa brevis spem nos vetat incohare longam.

They are not long, the weeping and the laughter,
Love and desire and hate;
I think they have no portion in us after
We pass the gate.

They are not long, the days of wine and roses,
Out of a misty dream
Our path emerges for a while, then closes
Within a dream.

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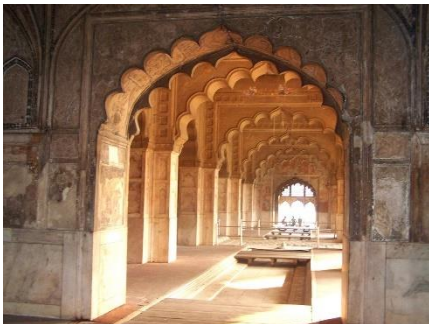
Litterati

A perfect day, 19th March, for a community litter pick, sunny spells, scudding clouds, a blustery west wind, a mad March day. Nineteen volunteers organised by our parish council attended the village hall to collect their high visibility jackets, their blue plastic bags and their pickers before dispersing to their chosen belittered patch. It does not sound like a whole lot of fun crouching in a brambly ditch bagging the abandoned detritus of our modern civilization - empty bottles, drink cans, greasy fast food wrappers - but it was something like fun. (*Irony Alert*) I don't want to make it sound too attractive otherwise we will have hordes of (*Oxymoron ahead*) public-spirited litter rats disgorging the contents of their dustbins in Shakers Way so that we can have the pleasure of another community litter pick. (*Irony Over*)

In case there is any doubt, littering in Shakers Way is an absolute disgrace, particularly in the ditches adjacent to the passing places. In my section of the ditch I found amongst the usual debris a cache of 12 empty vodka bottles. How can that happen? It will take many hours to clear these ditches.

(*Warning: Old Curmudgeon Ahead*) I remember when I was at school, to be seen eating in the streets was an offence met with serious punishment. Nowadays you can scarcely walk a yard in town without being bumped into by somebody carrying a cardboard coffee mug or eating a burger. How come modern people eat and drink all the time? God knows what Headmaster Septimus Philpot would think were he to venture forth onto the streets nowadays. He would be lashing out with his cane in all directions. He would have had no time either for mobile phone texting. He used to say to us that if someone offended you, you should immediately write them a letter and then place the letter on your writing desk until the following morning when you should tear it up. Dear old Septimus!

I have a dream (*Unintended allusion to Martin Luther King's most famous speech*), not so much a dream, more a nightmare; not a nightmare, more a daymare (*spellchecker hiccupping*) that we will all be buried under a dense layer of plastic rubbish, greasy cardboard, broken bottles



and cardboard coffee cups. Please don't let me wake up one day to find it has come true.

I remember visiting The Red Fort in Delhi, India, once the main residence of the emperors of the Mughal dynasty. (Incidentally, designed by the same architect who designed the Taj Mahal.) The imperial apartments consisted of rows of airy marble pavilions connected by a water channel known as *The Stream of Paradise*. On a

slab of marble were inscribed the words: “If you seek a paradise it is here, it is here, it is here.”

I know the countryside here is not the Cotswolds, not Tuscany, the pylons are not the Taj Mahal but it is our countryside, with its wide grassy verges, its neatly trimmed roadside hedges, its little brooks, its rolling fields and gentle hills and wide skies. It is our paradise and the only one we are going to get. Let’s look after it.

Litter League Scoreboard 19 March 2017: *(misspelling/silly pun ahead)*
Litterati: 48 bags | Litter Rats: Nil

Frank Squire

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Parish events and dates to note

Regular parish events and dates to note:

January / February	- social event
March	- litter pick - Annual Parish Meeting
May	- bulky waste collection (Sunday in early May)
June	- Parish accounts available for inspection
July	- Begfest www.begfest.co.uk
August / September	- summer social event
October	- Harvest Supper
December	- Christmas event / social event

Local achievement and a big thank you

We are very pleased to offer our congratulations to **Alice Brightman** of Duloe who graduated from Cambridge University this summer with a BA Honours degree in the History of Art. We wish Alice continued success in her career!

And huge thanks to **Margaret Smith**, previously co-editor of *The Hamlets’ Voice*, particularly for sourcing articles of interest and providing written contributions. Margaret lived in Staploe for over 30 years and is moving to Australia to join her daughter, Beverley. Best wishes to Margaret for happy times in Oz!

Eaton Socon Charities

Once again, the Eaton Socon Charities are able to consider giving donations later this year. Formed from various charities that once gave out coal and bread to people in the parish who might benefit, the Eaton Socon Charities now distribute funds and hampers near Christmas time.

These donations are available to people living within the Eaton Socon parish area which includes Eaton Ford, Cross Hall, Duloe, Staploe, Honeydon, Begwary, Tythe, Basmead, Bushmead, Goodwick and Wyboston.

If you would like to be considered for a donation please ask at the Eaton Socon Post Office for an application form. Forms will be available from 1 October, closing date 24 October. If you have any queries please telephone Joan Squire, 01234 378894.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES TO WIDEN ACCESS TO PHYSICAL ACTIVITY FOR ALL AGES

Interested in setting up a new opportunity for physical activity?

or

*Wanting to expand opportunities in a particular activity area
in which you are currently involved?*

**Bedford Physical Education Old Students' Association
may be able to help you with funding.**

Further information and an Expression of Interest Form can be found on the BPEOSA website: bedfordpeosa.org.uk and can also be obtained by writing to:

The Eileen Alexander Legacy Fund, c/o Ms. J. Mckeown The University of Bedfordshire,
Polhill Avenue, Bedford MK41 9EA. Please enclose a SAE.

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