

The Hamlets' Voice

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

Issue 16

Welcome to the spring edition of your local parish newsletter



Now we are in the middle of spring, everywhere we look new growth is appearing in our gardens and surrounding countryside. The roadside verges that Lucy is promoting within this newsletter are full of promise, primroses and cowslips a plenty already and the verges of Honeydon welcome us with daffodils.

Yellow definitely seems to be the colour of these spring flowers, and by the time you read this no doubt the yellow of the oil seed rape will also be marking the season.

Julie Hunn

Remember Me

Remember me

Once we, like you, would laugh and talk

And run and walk and do the things that you all do

But now we lie in rows so neat

Beneath the soil, beneath your feet.

So read Richard Squire, chairman of the Staploe and Duloe Parish Council at the ceremony on 17th March to unveil the plaque placed next to the tree planted on the Duloe playing field to commemorate the commencement of World War 1.

I am not sure how Richard managed to read the words of Harry Riley's poem because the brief ceremony took place at the crepuscular time of day when the light thickens into darkness. Having read the poem Richard removed the handkerchief covering the small plaque and we all stood in silence for two minutes, before adjourning to the village hall for tea and cake.

It was a very English occasion, the bare sapling, the level football pitch, the grey sky, the low horizon, the pylons and the gentle chatter of local people as we waited in a semi-circle near the tree, then the brief ceremony followed by cups of tea.

It is important to respect and remember those who die in war: without that respect and remembrance few people would join the armed forces. But in a sense the dead can fend for themselves: it is at least as important to respect and honour those who are bereft by war and those who are injured or otherwise damaged.

Frank Squire.



Parish Council News

Proposed Upgrade to the A1

Since the last newsletter in December George Pinney at the Highways Agency has written to the Parish Clerk with the following information in response to our concerns:

"The A1 is one of our oldest trunk roads. It is a patchwork of different standards, from dual four lane motorway to elderly dual carriageway.

There is a proposed study, led by the Department for Transport, which will look at the stretch between the M25 and the north of Huntingdon, in particular the case for improving the non-motorway section linking the two parts of the A1 (M) to motorway standard.

It is intended that work should commence on this study in the summer of 2015, with completion by 2018, in order that any recommendations can inform the investment planning.

As we are at a very early stage of the scheme and consequently have very limited information available, I would be unable to confirm if and when a public consultation would take place. However a pre-scoping seminar will be held with local authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships in March 2015."

3rd March 2015

The Clerk has requested a copy of the minutes of the pre-scoping meeting.

Traveller Site

The application to allow the applicant and his family to reside at the Upper Staploe traveller site permanently or until they leave the site was refused by Bedford Borough Council in January.

A stop notice came into force on 23rd February and prevents residential use by any persons not already resident, the bringing onto the land of any further caravans, and any further engineering operations or operation development (works or buildings) except the permitted stable block.

On 19th February an enforcement notice was served on the land because the owners only had temporary permission to live on the site for 3 years and this expired in December. Their appeal was rejected in January and therefore the enforcement notice was served in February. The owners had the right to appeal until 25th March 2015. As of 26th March 2015 no appeal has been received by Bedford Borough Council and therefore the enforcement notice came into force on 26th March. A staged cessation of the use and restoration of the site is required by the notice. The mobile homes are then to be removed from the land 2 months after coming into force (i.e. May 2015), followed by removal of all equipment and paraphernalia 3 months afterwards (i.e. June), the gas and oil tanks 6 months (September), and the hard standing 9 months (December 2015).

Whilst the Planning Inspectorate have confirmed that no appeal has been received by e-mail they have a back log of postal mail so there is a chance that an appeal was lodged by 25th March by post. If this is the case we will add information to the website and Facebook.

Mean while both the caravans on the site were destroyed by fire in separate incidents in February.

Woodhouse Lane, Duloe

The Parish Council were given a grant by the North Bedfordshire Ward Fund to install a CCTV camera in Woodhouse Lane. The camera was installed in March and it is capable of reading number plates and so we hope it will act as a deterrent to those using the village hall car park and the end of Woodhouse Lane for antisocial behaviour and crime.

For any queries related to the CCTV camera, please contact the Parish Clerk on 01480 471 526.

Elections

Along with the parliamentary election on 7th May there will be an election for Parish Councillors, Borough Councillor for Wyboston Ward, the Mayor of Bedford, and a referendum about an increase in the amount of the council tax charged to residents by Bedfordshire police force.

There will only be a contested election for the Parish Council if there are more nominations than vacancies (7). The closing date for nominations was 9th April.

Hamlets Helpers

A parishioner in Duloe would like to start a volunteering group to eg. Clean and paint benches, plant bulbs, litter pick etc. once per month or once a quarter. If anyone is interested in joining please let the Parish Clerk know on 01480 471 526 or lucy_crawford@hotmail.com

Duloe Football Club

Duloe Football Club have a new management committee. They have requested an increase in the age range of their club to include Under 16's and Under 17's and the Parish Council are currently considering this request. If any parishioners have views on this please inform the Parish Clerk.

Keeping Up To Date

If you would like to receive the latest information about matters affecting the parish, eg. The A1 proposals, the Traveller Site, and details of any social events in the Parish please send your e-mail address to the Parish Clerk Lucy Crawford at lucy_crawford@hotmail.com. The Clerk will not disclose your e-mail address to others without your permission and uses Bcc for all update e-mails to the village.

The parish also have a website:

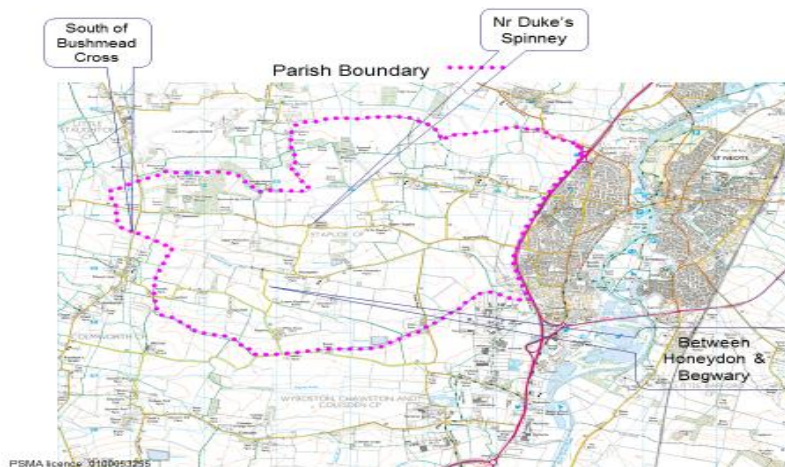
<http://www.staploeduloehoneydonparishcouncil.bedsparishes.gov.uk/> and a Facebook page. Search Staploe Parish Council.

Glass Recycling

We have been asked to remind parishioners where the nearest glass recycling points are in this area. Tesco Extra, Barford Road and the Recycling Centre on Cromwell Road St Neots, are available to all, however an alternative is to use the facilities at Top End Village Stores, Little Staughton. They are happy for customers to use their glass recycling facilities during shop opening hours. You will also be supporting an independent local business.

Roadside Nature Reserves

There are three Roadside Nature Reserves in the Parish. One at Upper Staploe Grid Ref TL134597 on both sides of the roads south of Dukes Spinney, one South of Bushmead Cross Grid Ref TL110595 – 111597 and one in Honeydon Grid Ref TL128582 – 1239588 between Honeydon and Begwary.



The roadside nature reserves contain, among other wild flowers, Spiked Star of Bethlehem, Sulphur Clover, and Crested Cow Wheat.

Spiked Star-of-Bethlehem (*Ornithogalum pyrenaicum*) also known as Bath Asparagus (but it is protected so please don't eat it!). It flowers in June.



As its alternative name suggests this is widely found around Bath and is believed to have been introduced by the Romans. Ours is one of the very few areas it can be found other than around Bath. It was widely cultivated near Bath with its edible flower shoots being eaten as an asparagus like vegetable. It is nationally scarce and protected so please do not eat it.

Image: Wiki Commons / <http://www.plant-lore.com/3396/spiked-star-of-bethlehem/>

Sulphur Clover (*Trifolium ochroleucon*)

Flowers June to July



Formerly a common plant of pastures, meadows, green lanes, churchyards and roadside verges on the chalky boulder clays of East Anglia it is now confined to road verges in a few areas.

Crested Cow Wheat (*Melampyrum cristatum*)

Flowers from July – August



Cow-wheat seeds are transported by ants to new habitats. They have spiky glandular hairs at the base of the upper leaves which secrete nectar and tempt ants to open the capsule fruit to get at the ripe seeds. They are hemiparasites meaning that they can photosynthesise themselves but also extract nutrients from other plants.

Picture courtesy of Jouko Lehmuskallio, NatureGate from:

<http://www.luontoportti.com/suomi/en/kukkakasvit/crested-cow-wheat>

Lucy Crawford

.....

You are invited to:

Saturday 11 July

Doors Open @ 13:30

Begfest 2015

private charity music festival

All proceeds to:



Licensed Bar
Barbecue
Afternoon Teas
T shirts

Sponsored by



Tickets:

£5 until 15 May

£10 from 16 May

Under 18s free

(when accompanied by adult)

*Acts include**

Fabulous Tartan Dressing Gowns

Fred's House

Ben Smith Band

Monkey Sister

Phoenix Calling

Jasmine Rodgers

Small Print: *Acts & running order STC

For tickets contact Andy Girvan

Tel: 0789 105 2527

Email: andy.girvan@begfest.co.uk

Or at: Ward Cottages, Begwary, Beds MK44 2NX

Something to Consider.

The future of the Staploe and Duloe Village Hall is uncertain. An application for funds to dismantle the existing structure and build a new hall has been rejected and I understand the parish council will be submitting a new application in the new financial year. The cost of a new hall is likely to be around £750,000.

In the meantime I would like to consider an alternative venue for some of the events that the existing village hall is used for. There immediately springs to mind The Eatons Centre situated behind the Eaton Ford Co-op supermarket and less than 2 miles from the existing village hall. This is an attractive modern building with a garden area and ample car parking. The Eatons Centre has a main hall and two smaller meeting rooms. There is a kitchen and a bar. Pictures of the building can be seen if you type Eatons Centre into your search engine.

The rates for the hire of the Centre are set out on a notice adjacent to the front door of the Centre. The notice is dated 2013 and so I anticipate an increase shortly but at the moment the rates are current. I have extracted some of the rates which are set out below.

Main Hall Friday and Saturday evenings.	£46.00 per hour
Meeting rooms	£12.30 per hour
Kitchen	£10.25 per hour
Table Linen	£6.50 per cloth
Glass hire	£17.00 per 100 glasses.

For a harvest supper or similar event in the main hall to which people bring their own cottage pie, pudding and drink I calculate the cost as follows:

Hire of Main Hall (4 hours @ £46.00 per hour)	£184.00
Hire of Kitchen (4 hours @ £10.25 per hour)	£41.00
Hire of Glasses (per 100)	£17.00
Table Linen (8 cloths at £6.50 per cloth)	<u>£52.00</u>
Total	£294.00

Assuming 50 people attend this works out at £5.88 per head, say £6.00 to allow for contingencies. I am assuming the Parish Council has its own cutlery. Savings could be made by not hiring table linen although this is attractive for the sort of event I have in mind. Likewise it would not be strictly necessary to hire glasses but place settings on white linen with uniform glasses in place would add style to the occasion: paper tablecloths would have more or less the same effect. Also I have allowed four hours for the use of the kitchen. However if everybody were to bring their own cottage pie and pudding, the kitchen would be required only for keeping food hot and washing up afterwards so perhaps the charge for using the kitchen could be negotiated down.

The overall cost per person is not much more than we pay for a similar event at our Village Hall. I know that there is something appealing about the primitive nature of our Village Hall but its days are numbered and I suggest that we at least consider and discuss an alternative venue less than two miles away. Somebody said to me that nobody would come to the Eatons Centre. Well we could at least try it once and if nobody turned up with their cottage pie, then the Parish Council would be out of pocket only by £294.00. If the Village Hall ceases to exist and is not replaced there will be ramifications for the football club and that will have to be considered as well. And we should also bear in mind that if the parish council is successful in its application for funds, some other project somewhere in England will not receive those funds.

Frank Squire

.....

Duloe and Staploe Village Hall.

Duloe Village Hall can seat about 80 people.
Hire rates are £7 / hour. To book telephone: 07768 303373.

Current activities being held at Village Hall.

Callanetics Classes:

Saturday Mornings 9.30-10.30 am

Monday Evenings 7.30- 8.30 pm.

First 2 classes are free, normal price £8.00 if booked/paid up front. £10.00 on the door.
Please contact Caroline to book.

Email: cc@callanetics.co Mobile: 07787 447930.

.....

Collection of Bulky Waste.

Please take your domestic waste to the following locations on Sunday 17th May 2015:

Entrance to Falls Farmyard, Staploe 1.00pm until 2.00pm

Entrance to Woodhouse Lane, Duloe 2.00pm until 3.00pm

Chestnut Farmyard, Honeydon 3.00pm until 4.00pm

Times are approximate to allow for travel between sites.

PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE RUBBISH AT THE SITE IF THE COLLECTION VEHICLES ARE NOT THERE.

.....

The Dust Bin Song

Dust bin day, dust bin song

Dust cart rolling along

Dust bin day, dust bin day

Take all the rubbish away.

Hen nonny no,

See the rubbish go.

Dust bins out, dust bins out

Dust bin men are rushing about

Rubbish all gone

Sing the dust bin song

Dust bins away

After dust bin day.

Hey nonny nin,

Bring your dust bins in.

.....

Superfast Broadband

Jo Tester, Community Engagement Officer, Bedford Borough Council has asked us to circulate the following information to you.

Superfast Broadband Connection Vouchers now available across Bedfordshire and Luton

Bedford Borough is now an eligible area under the Government's Connection Vouchers Scheme.

This means that small and medium sized businesses, registered charities, social enterprises and sole traders can get a superfast broadband connection with a voucher worth up to £3,000, to help them get connected. And they can club together to make their vouchers go further.

Off-the-shelf and bespoke packages can be purchased from a wide range of registered suppliers.

See www.destinationdigital.info/vouchers for information about the scheme including eligibility and how to apply. Destination Digital has been set up by Cambridgeshire County Council and is running the scheme locally for Bedfordshire and Luton.

It's a first come first served scheme operating till 30th March 2016, finishing sooner than this if the national pot of money runs out, so if you are interested, the sooner you apply the better.

You can contact Jo at Borough Hall, Bedford, MK42 9AP.

Tel (01234) 276204 Ext: 44204

www.forms.bedford.gov.uk/cemapping
www.bedfordboroughpartnership.org.uk
www.bedford.gov.uk



Staploe Gardens

Group Opening.

Our parish has two gardens open for charity this year. Old Farm Cottage is a regular which many of us will already have had the pleasure of visiting and look forward to visiting again. Flower gardens surround the lovely thatched house, plus orchard, grassland, young woodland and a lovely wildlife pond. The tea and cakes I can also recommend.

Falling Water House is opening its gardens for the first time this year. It promises a mature woodland garden, with century old trees. There is kitchen garden potager, herbaceous borders and plenty more to offer. [Julie Hunn](#)

Classified Ads

THE WOODFIELD PHYSIOTHERAPY CENTRE

- 01234 378996
- www.woodfieldphysio.co.uk

PADDIE PAWS

- Professional Dog Grooming
- Qualified and Quality Service
- Call Jayne Pavely 07833 594670

STEVE SMITH

- Gardening Services, Staploe
- 07908 857706

ANDREW BRIGHTMAN

- Tree Surgeon, Duloe
- 07970546293

TERESA MOON

- 'Just Ask' Village Agents Scheme
- 01234 771418

MEADOWCRAFT

- Upholstery, furniture restoration, wood finishing & door stripping
- 01480 215705
- www.meadowcraft.co.uk

SIMON GREEN MOTORSPORT

- For all servicing, MOT preparation, Tyres, Exhaust's and Automotive repairs - 10% discount for all readers.
- Specialists in full car rebuilds and restorations - contact for details.
- Tel: 01234 378838 Mobile: 07771 392993
- Email: simon@simongreenmotorsport.com.

Issue 16

Editor

Sub Editor

Email

Phone

Spring 2015

Julie Hunn

Frank Squire

hamletsvoice@outlook.com

01234 378130

Keep up to date with parish news, events, parish council minutes and more on the parish website – just type Staploe Parish in your search engine and it will come up.

.....