



Spring Edition 2024

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Life

AND DIARY OF EVENTS

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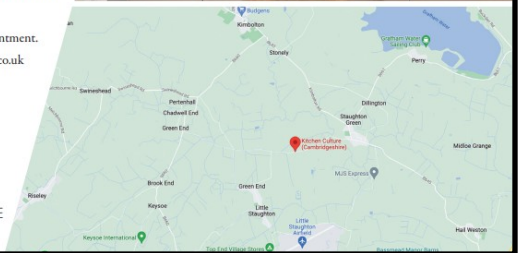
Showroom opening times: Tuesday - Friday, 9am - 5pm. Saturdays 9-4pm or by appointment.

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Tony Aldous

- Owner

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Contributions for every issue must reach the Editors by the 10th (10th Feb for the Spring Edition for example)

Handwritten/typed contributions are acceptable but emails are preferred.

Contact the editor to seek advice on the suitability of your content.

Advertising rates can be found on Page 39

This magazine is produced by volunteers. Running costs are met by donations from organisations, generous readers and advertising revenue. The Management and Editorial Committee do not necessarily agree with, or support, the views expressed in the magazine.



Dates for your Diary



March

- Friday 15th* : Kimbolton Community Cinema.....Page 25
- Saturday 16th* : Meet the Romans at St. Neots Museum.....Page 32
- Saturday 23rd* : Gt. Staughton Litterpick.....Page 9

April

- Friday 19th* : Kimbolton Community Cinema.....Page 25
- Friday 26th* : HEBRON: Live in concert.....Page 26

Future events

- Saturday August 24th* : Great Staughton HortSoc Show 2024.....Page 28

Please do keep us informed of any village events and activities taking place

Mobile Library 2023 /24- every fourth Wednesday of the month
Chichester Way, Perry 11:15am – 12:05pm. The Causeway, Gt Staughton 2pm – 2:30pm

Perry Parish Council Meetings 2024
 March 13th. Rest of year TBC
 7pm-9pm. At the moment all meetings to be held in the Grafham Water Sailability Clubhouse.

Great Staughton Parish Council Meetings 2024
 TBC

GREAT STAUGHTON PAVILION : Ideal for children's parties, small committee meetings etc. Use of kitchen facilities. Direct access on to playing field in summer. Children's parties/meetings: £15 for a 3 hour session. Sports' use - cricket club & football club - £26 per session.
 For information and booking, contact **Giles Brittain –07740 647322**

GREAT STAUGHTON VILLAGE HALL : Need a venue for that special event:- parties, weddings, bring & buy sales? Modest rates, good facilities, easy parking.
 For details, ring **Vicky Goldsmith : 07739 469243**

Editorial Natter...

Hello everybody,

The days are getting longer, the weather's getting a bit warmer, flowers are beginning to bloom, and here I am, welcoming you all to your Spring 2024 Edition of the Life Magazine.



We might have only just showcased photos from the 2023 Horticultural Society Show but now's the time to start thinking about this year's show. You'll find plenty of information on page 13, the show schedule on page 28 and the entry form on page 33.

Something I'm pleased to see is the return of the Kimbolton Community Cinema. There was uncertainty around this superb programme in the winter but those involved are trialling it again this spring to gauge interest. Please refer to page 15 and do help support it, and hopefully it can continue for many years to come.

I hope you enjoy this issue and I'll speak to you all in the summer.

This issue was edited by Rob

Great Staughton Parish Councillors

Robert Jewell (Chairman).....07812 725680
 Nicole Yates (Vice Chair).....860616
 Helen Glanville.....07745 920214
 Lorraine Goody.....07855 826096
 James Duberly.....01480 860305
 Helen Hopperton
 Giles Brittain.....07740 647322
 Will Mumford.....07741 645345
 David Moore.....861195
 Jo Russel (Clerk).....07887 481954
 Email: GtStaughtonParishClerk@outlook.com

Minutes of meetings plus other useful information can be found on the village website: greatstaughtonpc.org.uk

Perry Parish Councillors

Sheila Brighton (Chair).....819242
 Eleanor Abbs (Vice Chair).....07867 525551
 Jo Shirreffs.....07799 650319
 Chris Jones.....07561 108247
 Emma Prew.....700952
 Nigel Noon.....810368
 Eugene Smith (Clerk).....07789 513090
 Clerk Email: clerk@perryparishcouncil.org.uk

Minutes of meetings can be found on the village website: www.perryparishcouncil.org.uk

Perry Coffee Morning

We meet in the Harbour View Restaurant at **10:30 - 12 noon every Wednesday** for tea, coffee, and a good chat.



We have cars available if walking is too much We would love to see more people join us. **Call Joan Magee on 07785 221993** for more details.

A Note From the Editor

Please send content to both below email to ensure inclusion in future issues.

rj.young@live.co.uk & lifemagazine@outlook.com

Keep us informed of any changes to village clubs and activities, such as a change of contact details and group leaders. We want the magazine to be as up-to-date as possible, and that can only be achieved if you keep us in the loop.

Finally, if you'd like to place a 'For Sale' ad let us know when the item's been sold, so the ad can be removed for the next issue.

**Thank you,
Rob**

Treasurers Corner

Hello,

Welcome to 2024. 2023 was a turnaround year for Life and I am happy to say that thanks to our loyal advertisers, generous donors and you lovely contributors and readers, we are financially stable. POTs this quarter were a fabulous **£31.54**. Thank you to everyone!

Helen



FOR RENTAL

Land and small units at Little America Industrial Estate

Please contact

Asmita Hynes
077 610 62300

asmita.hynes@btinternet.com



GREAT STAUGHTON TENNIS CLUB



Anyone interested in joining the Tennis Club, please email nicolehyates@aol.com and an application Form can be sent to you.

Our annual membership fees for a junior member (under 16s) are **£5**, an adult member is **£10** and a family membership (for up to six members) is **£25**.

It has also come to the time when the current committee would like to hand over the reigns to others who have a little more time to invest in managing and developing the Club over the coming year and beyond.

Any current or new members interested in getting involved please do contact us using the email above.

We look forward to hearing from you!

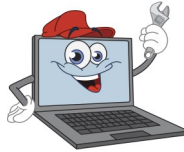
District and County Councillors

Ian Gardner - Cambridgeshire County Council,
email address is:

ian.gardener@cambridgeshire.gov.uk and phone
number is **07970 613498**.

Stephen Cawley - Huntingdonshire District Council,
email address is:

Stephen..cawley@huntingdonshire.gov.uk and
phone number is **07925 741167**



COMPUTING PROBLEMS?

Bytes Café is open 10am to 12-30pm on Mondays and Fridays in the Small Hall behind the Mandeville Hall, Kimbolton.

Our volunteers can help with your computing problems from the simplest to the more challenging.

We also print colour and black and white, enlarge A4 to A3 and laminate documents or posters at a reasonable price.

Drop by, have a coffee or tea, and see what is available.

Life Magazine is looking for a new co-editor

Would you be interested in editing the Life Magazine?

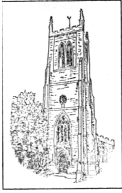
We're looking for a new co-editor to come on board in 2024 and help Rob put together the magazine.

You'd be editing two editions a year.

Full training will be provided but some experience using Microsoft programmes will be helpful.

Please email Editor Rob and Chairperson Nicole for more details:

rj.young@live.co.uk
lifemagazine@outlook.com



St Andrew's Church 100 Club Draw

November 2023

Prize	No	Name
£50.....	63.....	Mr. John Harrison
£25.....	86.....	Mr. Geoff Gilbert
£15.....	93.....	Mrs. L Lawe
£10.....	44.....	Mr. & Mrs. Bill Salmon

December 2023

Prize	No	Name
£500.....	1.....	Mrs. Jean Wilmer
£200.....	4.....	Mr. Peter Swain
£100.....	13.....	Mr. Jonathan Edwards
£50.....	53.....	Mr. Les Blignaut
£25.....	90.....	Mr. David Hoenig
£15.....	99.....	Mrs Mockford
£10.....	54.....	Lady Sally Duberly

January 2024

Prize	No	Name
£50.....	11.....	Mrs Barbara Lockwood
£25.....	8.....	Mrs Jan Williams
£15.....	49.....	Mr John Harrison
£10.....	74.....	Mrs L Rowe

February 2024

Prize	No	Name
£50.....	23.....	Mr Peter Swain
£25.....	36.....	Mrs J Kiteley
£15.....	72.....	Mr & Mrs Bob Eaton
£10.....	87.....	Mr Roger Brightman

Congratulations to all the winners!

**Great Staughton has a
defibrillator**

It's outside the village hall entrance.

It is alarmed which you need to ignore when you open it in an emergency. There is no code, it's always open (most have a code which you register with 999 so they can give it to a caller).

If in doubt, use it, it tells you exactly what to do, very clearly, it won't deliver a shock if one is not required.



Kym Valley Carpet Bowls Club

Gt Staughton Village
Hall

**Club nights Tuesday and Friday
7pm to 9.30pm**

The Kym Valley Bowls Club is as active as ever in the Village Hall on Tuesday and Friday evenings at 7pm.

If you've been a bit hesitant about the game you might be pleasantly surprised at the deceptive simplicity of the game.

Plus good company, a warm village hall, tea and biscuits and a bar of chocolate for the winners.

**Anthony Withers
Chairman, KVCBC**

01480 861224

aw.staughton@gmail.com



Great Staughton
2024
Litterpick
Saturday 23
March from 9am

We meet at the Village Hall car park where equipment will be provided and a short safety briefing is delivered, before pairs of volunteers are assigned to one of the several routes into and around the village. We're usually finished by lunchtime if there are plenty of volunteers.

With thanks in advance for your attendance. Please feel free to contact me should you have any queries.

Nicole Yates

gtstaughtonparishvicechair@outlook.com

01480 860616

PERRY BOOK SWAP

Calling all bibliophiles. Perry Parish Council is pleased to announce a book swap for the village.



Here's how it works. If you have any books you no longer wish to keep, take them to the book swap containers, located inside the bush shelter by the village green. Put them in the boxes, and if anything catches your eye, take it!

If you have a large amount of books, collection can be arranged via the clerk, Eugene Smith (contact details can be found on page 5).

Happy reading!

Great Staughton
Neighbourhood Plan

There has been progress on the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) for Great Staughton, but we have not been able to reach the next formal stage. This is the Regulation 15 consultation.

There have been delays associated with both potential development sites in the NP.

A Strategic Environmental Assessment is necessary on the Brook Farm site. The process has begun but is not yet completed. This is to ensure that the neighbouring conservation area is not adversely affected.

The Environment Agency have required a flood risk assessment on the other site on the Green. There is concern that it may be liable to flooding and therefore affect the ability to provide additional housing on this site. The assessment has now been completed but its results must now be considered by the Parish Council before submitting any updates or changes to the NP prior to its consideration by the District Council.

Discussions are proceeding on the feasibility of siting a new Doctor's surgery on the Brook Farm site, progress is being made but there a number of issues to resolve.

Any comments, queries to

Bob Jewell

gtstaughtonparishchair@outlook.com

**GREAT
STAUGHTON
VILLAGE
BOOK CLUB**



'It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade.'

Charles Dickens

The first signs of Spring have already revealed themselves in all their splendour in the garden and along the hedgerows but, for now at least, there'll still be a stack of logs on the hearth for the cooler evenings. And, yes, of course there'll be a book half-read on the sofa.

Our January book, 'Brick Lane' by Monica Ali, was rather outshone by the fabulous Burns Night Supper we shared. I don't think I've ever eaten so much and I had my first tasting of haggis and whisky! (Both of which were delicious.) Even so, we managed to discuss life in London in the 1980s, memories of halls of residence, markets and what life must have been like for Nazneen to live in an area that was nothing like her village in Bangladesh. As she journeys towards self-realisation, we recognised the strength that she had in facing the control of her much

older husband, race riots and losing contact with her beloved sister.

February's book ('The End of the World Running Club' by Adrian J Walker) was also about survival. It tells the story of Ed, caught 500 miles from home whilst the earth burns. There's asteroids, devastated landscapes and other trials and tribulations to face as Ed tries to be reunited with his family. I enjoyed this book mainly because it's been a long time since I've read this genre. The Book Club certainly challenges us to read more widely!

Books for 2024

If you want to read along with us these are our upcoming books:

March: 'The Beekeeper's Apprentice' by Laurie R King

April: 'Hamnet' by Maggie O'Farrell

May: 'Bourneville' by Jonathan Coe

June: 'The House of Doors' by Tan Twan Eng

July: 'Lessons In Chemistry' by Bonnie Garmus

August: 'Brave New World' by Aldous Huxley

**Family Fun in St.
Andrew's Church, Gt.
Staughton**

**Every Friday 9am to
10:30am during term
time**



This is for all babies and toddlers accompanied by an adult. It Includes tea, coffee, juice and biscuits. Play time with a story and singing.

Please come and join in the relaxed atmosphere and get to know other parents while the children.

Suggested donation £1.

**Just turn up or if you would like more
information contact Sylvia on 01480
812022**

**Hail Weston Wildlife and
Gardening Group**

Meetings take place in **Hail Weston
Village Hall at 7: 15pm for a
7:30pm start.** Unless otherwise
stated events cost £1 for members and
£3 for non-members. Tea/Coffee/
glass of wine/biscuits are available at
meetings for a voluntary
donation.

See our 2024 programme on page 12.
We would love for you to come and
join us.

**For more information and to book
please email the
Secretary at hwwgg@yahoo.com**

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you soon.'
Hugh & Mary*



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Hail Weston Wildlife and Gardening Group - Programme for 2024

Date	Title/Speaker	Description
March 5th - 7:30pm at the Village Hall	Robyn Staddon from Little Paxton Nature Reserve	An informative talk on bees at Paxton Pits
April 2nd - 7:30pm - Village Hall	Diane Jarvis will give us a hanging basket demonstration	Diane is a good practical gardener and has run her own gardening business for the last 20 years
May 7th - 7:30pm - Village Hall	Colin Ward from Swines Nursery Farm at Market Deeping	Colin will talk about unusual plants and will bring a selection to buy.
June 7th - time TBC	Garden Safari. Details TBC	Our very popular tour of beautiful Hail Weston Gardens
July 2nd - Time TBC - £5 pp	Visit to the Cambridge Lavender Farm at Blunham	Wander the beautiful lavender fields. Entrance is £5 which includes picking a bunch of lavender or selecting a pre-picked bunch. An hour's lavender wreath making workshop can be pre-booked for £25.
August 6th - Time TBC - £5 pp	Visit to NGS Garden Molesworth House, Molesworth	Refreshments available (donations)
September 3rd - 7:30pm - Village Hall	The Raptor Foundation	A talk on the centres work and a flying display of 4-5 birds.
October 1st - 7:30pm - Village Hall	Rebecca Chambers from the Shopkeeper's Daughter Shop	The talk will be about house plants. Rebecca Will bring plants for sale.
November 5th - 7:30pm - Village Hall	Rosemary Buisseret a nursery owner and part of the Hardy Plant Society	Her talk is 'A Night Scented Garden' - the why, what and how.
December 3rd - 7:30pm - Village Hal	Christmas Social	Details TBC

GREAT
STAUGHTON
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY



I'm reading a book set in Iceland in the late 19th century. It's called *Burial Rites* by Hannah Kent and I'd really recommend it. The descriptions of peasant life through the seasons are graphic. We moan about the cold and dark of winter but we have it easy compared to people in a lot of the world. And thinking about conditions in times gone by - even in Britain - should make us ashamed of a single complaint.

But whatever we have endured, the joy of the first snowdrop, crocus or daffodil can't be denied. The prospect of blossom and new leaves is also intoxicating. What will we grow this year?

We also have to consider what we grow it in and I'm sure that most of us choose peat free compost. We've all been educated about the value of peat bogs as carbon repositories, flood control mechanisms and valuable ecosystems. Buying peat free is an easy contribution we can make to the greater good. However I was reading an article this morning about the considerable use of peat by some commercial growers. We simply have no information about what our mushrooms, salad leaves and pot plants are grown in.

We get all sorts of data on animal welfare, organic eggs, milk and other produce but the market place is silent on peat use. Time for a campaign

maybe? Our power as consumers is one of the few things that capitalism will respond to.

Another moral conundrum is terracotta or plastic pots. I've bought a lot of terracotta pots in my time - at considerable cost. I do like the look of them but they crumble and disintegrate with monotonous regularity. Do I simply replace like for like or "shock horror" buy plastic or glass fibre replacements? I suppose the best compromise is to try to find a material that can be reliably recycled. The ideal would be a plastic that can simply be used over and over again but I don't know if pots are available in that sort of material as yet.

It's exhausting trying to do the right thing! And for every direction taken there is probably an opposite one which is equally valid. One can only do one's best.

As to the Horticultural Society, it is coming to life for the new season and you are very welcome to become involved. The AGM is scheduled for Wednesday 6th March at 7.00pm in the White Hart. We'll be discussing the year's events, the first of which is the Plant Sale on Saturday 25th May at the Pavillion at 14.30. Even if you don't need any plants you can come and enjoy a cream tea.

The 2024 Show Schedule is ready and available for your perusal on page 28, with the entry form on page 33. Happy gardening!

GREAT STAUGHTON
W.I.



For our December meeting we all decamped to The Anchor in Little Paxton for our Christmas meal. We occupied two long tables in the restaurant and had a very enjoyable evening with good food and good company. It was a lovely way to begin the festive season.

At the beginning of our November 2023 meeting one of our members gave us a short talk about the re-unveiling ceremony of the Thinking Soldier statue in Huntingdon. The Huntingdon and Peterborough Federation of WI's held a special ceremony at the Grade II listed memorial on 11th November to mark the contribution that Huntingdon WI made in fundraising for the statue in 1923. This was because Lady Sandwich was a member of the Huntingdon WI and Lord and Lady Sandwich played a pivotal role in the creation of the statue. Our member said it was an honour for her to be representing Great Staughton WI (wearing, may I say, a very smart sash that she had made herself) at the ceremony. We then held a minute's silence.

We were then entertained by The Merrymakers singing group. There were seven members present who sang and one who operated the music and made sure it all went smoothly. They sang songs such as 'Putting on the Ritz', and songs from the sixties as well as an Abba medley. Some of the members sang solos and others paired up for a duet. During the interval we all enjoyed warm mince pies and mulled wine – including a non-alcoholic option for the drivers. The Merrymakers then performed again and ended with a rousing rendition of 'Sweet Caroline' which we all enjoyed in with. All in all, it was a very enjoyable evening.

For our first meeting of the year in January we had a fun evening when Terry Rees came along to entertain us with his Music Quiz. There were three categories to the music quiz: General Music, Classical Trivia and Country Music Trivia. Terry also slipped in a page of Music and Movies Dingbats*. Although the ladies were originally going to be in groups of two, the questions proved rather challenging so to avoid too much embarrassment, we quickly decided that larger teams might be a better idea. One team did exceptionally well and others not at all so, including Ruth's team, but they did manage to redeem themselves a little by triumphing with the Dingbats quiz. The competition this month was a musical instrument and the winner had brought in a beautiful lute.

WI business included the annual Resolutions. Members voted for their selection from the four shortlisted resolutions. The resolutions process is at the heart of decisions about our campaign activity. Every issue that the WI campaign on stems directly from a resolution put forward by members and adopted at the Annual Meeting. WI members have a unique opportunity to turn a concern into a

national campaign every year, backed by the whole of the WI.

We also discussed our upcoming Annual Federation Day in April which will be held this year at the Performing Arts Centre at Hinchingsbrooke. It is a day we always look forward to and this year the main speaker will be TV personality Jeremy Spake.

And of course, we had a cuppa and some cake!

Our Programme of events for 2024 is as follows:

March 12th: Our 70th Anniversary and also our AGM, so the committee will be laying on suitable celebrations.

April 9th: A talk by Mike Johnson on 'Building a Garden for Hampton Court'

May 14th: A talk by Liz Dive entitled 'Shakespeare Groupie'

June 11th: A talk by Craig Fisher entitled 'Stranded in Gambo'

July 9th: A talk about Blood Bikes and the speaker is to be confirmed.

August 13th: Our summer daytime event which is to be confirmed.

September 10th: Our annual Harvest Supper where the food will be provided by the committee.

October 8th: A talk about Millinery Magic by Alison Cooper.

November 12th: We will be entertained by 'Marie and the Group' who are handbell ringers.

December 10th: Our annual Christmas dinner.

These meetings start at **7pm** at **Great Staughton Village Hall.**

If you fancy coming along you will receive a very warm welcome, a hot drink and maybe even some cake. For further details please contact our President, **Barbara Wallis on 01480 214582.**

Karen Larkins and
Ruth Easom
Secretary, Great Staughton WI

**GREAT STAUGHTON
PARISH CHARITIES**

We have been pleased to provide two full sets of home computer equipment to help local youngsters with their schooling but now that schools have reopened fully we realise that needs may have changed. If anyone finds they now have a need for a computer please contact us.

We are including people who may be training or re-training for work and need access to equipment.

Contact the Clerk:-
Mrs Eileen Gilbert
27 Beachampstead Road
Great Staughton
PE19 5DX
hedgehog27@btinternet.com

Bedford
National Trust in support of **National Trust**
Association



Next meeting

Tuesday 19th March at 2:15pm
in the Addison Centre, Kempston,
MK42 8PN

The speaker will be Nicky Perfect
on 'The Art of Communication,
Hostage and Crisis Negotiation'.

Nicky spent many years as
director of the UK Training of the
National Hostage and Crisis
Negotiation Course. She was the
first female to be posted to this
role and trained police officers to
deal with life and death situations
from crime in action to
kidnapping.

Everyone welcome. No need to
book. There will be a small entry
fee.

There is plenty of parking
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For further information contact
Betty Thomas on **01480 860 421**.

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Bats in The House

In summer 2020, we had been undertaking a renovation project involving replacing a flat roof, installing new windows, etc. Work was coming to an end and I was trying to clean up a weatherboard. Scrapping it did not work. A wire brush on an electric drill did not work. So, I decided to replace the board. I unscrewed the old board and a black thing flew out. The vapour barrier underneath the board was covered in bat droppings.

On 26th August I contacted the Bat Trust with the question 'I can hear a squeaking noise coming from behind the boards from time to time. Your guidance on monitoring this to ascertain if it is an active roost would be appreciated. And, if it proves to be active, your advice on maintaining it as a roost would also be appreciated.' That turned out to have been a very bad decision. They sent somebody round who pronounced that 'The bats were pipistrelles and very little was known about them.' He then went on to say that 'all work would have to cease as it would disturb the bats'. He refused to listen to me and I politely waited for him to leave, the man did not know what he was talking about. The work was finished over the next few days.

In 2021, the bats were back in their roost. I knew this by their droppings on the window sill and I could hear the chattering. So much for disturbing them! In August 2022, I got in touch with Cambridgeshire Bat Group somewhat nervously after the experience with the Bat Trust. This proved to be a much more helpful and positive group to deal with. I explained about the bat roost, they offered to 'arrange for a group member to come out to visit in April/May to inspect the roost'. I signed up as a member.

There were regular emails with links to events, training courses and reports in the bat world. There was one about a church cleaning workshop that I forwarded to Nicki to forward on to her church wardens. One that caught my attention was a Bat Walk from Grafham Village Church that was part of a BioBlitz. Then, Rachel came and visited us one Sunday Evening. We sat in the garden and she produced a bat detector and waited. Two bats appeared from the weatherboarding which she said were Soprano Pipistrelles. The two more appeared from next door. Just before she left, a fifth bat was recorded which she said was a Noctule.

After Rachel's visit, she recommended a bat detector that I duly purchased. I would walk out into the garden at dusk to see what was there. One night it was Soprano Pipistrelles by the house, then Common Pipistrelles as I walked down the garden then a Barbastelle and finally a Noctule at the end of the garden.

In late August, Rachel organised a transect survey at Monks Wood nature reserve. We volunteered and visited the reserve during daylight to familiarise ourselves with the route. On the evening, there were 4 groups. We recorded Barbastelle, Daubenton's, Whiskered, Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle. I recognised three of the five bats. We came away thinking it would be good to organise a transect survey in Great Staughton to see what bats live around us.

Roy Benford



Perry WI
Every Second Monday of the
month at 7.30pm

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

delighted to say, Marriott
Edgar's brilliant **The Lion and
Albert** ('*There's a famous
seaside town called Blackpool,*

**November, December '23 and
January '24**

It will seem strange in February, when you are reading this, to refer to the Armistice Day commemoration from last November, but that is what I'm about to do. We had a short but moving time with our new Tommy in front of our beautiful tree. Perry WI led the event with Ann giving us a short history of our glorious tree which was probably planted to commemorate the Crimean War. Our wonderful WI boss lady Jo made things happen, and Jean and Isabel (Annis' daughter) read quite beautifully. Andrew Bent of St Neots play the Last Post and Reveille to complete a proper, dignified celebration of thanks and commemoration for the whole village which was out in force.

Please remember that Jean needs any of your unwanted fabric for making V shaped cushions for women who have had breast surgery. Fabric can be given to Jean or left on Jo's doorstep – in fact any member of the WI will manage to get it to her if you leave fabric with any of us. Important work – thank you Jean.

Well, our November meeting truly was a barrel of laughs! We welcomed Alex Turner who regaled us with many a monologue, a bit of monologue history and a chat about his life. His first monologue was, I'm

That's noted for fresh air and fun' – that one . Don't know it? Google it right now, it's excellent). This great monologue was written in the 1930s for a colleague of the poet, a certain Stanley Holloway who added his own genius to make it the classic it is today. It's best done with a northern accent because of the content of the text eg 'grand little lad', 'Mother was vexed' etc. Incidentally, Alex told us that the lion was named after the poet's brother Wallace, who went to Hollywood, reversed his name and made his fortune. I can hear you working it out and those of you of a certain age saying 'Oo well I never knew that, I used to like his programmes.'

Alex told us a little about people going to the Music Hall before the advent of radio. So if an act did a weekly gig around approximately 500 Music Halls, it would take them 10 years or so before they had to change the act!

We heard of a few famous acts and monologues; the story of Mad Carew and the green eye of the little yellow god (I once heard the great Ken Dodd do that one); of Billy Bennett who would take a monologue and change it slightly, so *It was Christmas Day in the Workhouse* became *It was Christmas Day in the Harem*; of Joyce Grenfell '*Stately as a Galleon*'; Flanders and Swann; the sublime Pam Ayres and even *Ernie the Fastest*

Milkman in the West.

Thanks Alex, we had a fun evening listening to your excellent delivery of some of the classics.

December rolled around with our Christmas celebration which in Perry WI terms meant nibbles and wine and a right good laugh. Our brilliant committee had organised a *Prosecco or Cava or Nonsecco* competition (I have to admit I didn't care, they all tasted wonderful!), a *Guess the Name of the Christmas Crisps* competition (camembert crisps anyone? Pigs in Blankets? Deeelish) and a *Guess the Baby* competition. I only got myself correct so ended up guessing wrongly and had a lot of fun with 'guessing' Marie Curie (it was Chris), Kylie Minogue (it was Ellie) and Michelle Obama (it was Issy) – legends! We were each given a gorgeous little house containing our present involving chocolate and knitting from Ann (how long did 22 cute Christmas puddings take to knit, Ann? They are gorgeous and mine is already on our Christmas tree – minus the chocolaty contents obviously!). We finished off with our traditional Pass the Parcel and wasn't it strange that *everyone* managed to open a layer! There was a Christmas quiz question, a Quality Street and a humbug between each and it was amusing to see how many people passed their humbug to a friend! Our worthy winner was Ann who won a basket with Christmas mugs, drinking chocolate sachets and marshmallow snowmen on sticks. Is there anything better than festive chocolate!

So happy Christmas ladies – even though it was yonks ago now!

January was a cracker! John Gibson finished his talk with 'We hope you'll never need us, but if you do we'll be there' and I don't doubt that there was a catch in every throat. John is an 11-year member of *Service by Emergency Response Volunteers* aka *The Bloodrunners*. You may have seen bikers with hi-viz jackets on with BLOOD on the back? Yep, that's John and his colleagues. Volunteers every one. Heroes every one.

SERV are a 24-hours a day, 365 days a year transport service which started out transporting blood, plasma and medicines between various hospitals. In 2012 human milk donations were added to the list and John reckoned it was a small step for them but I don't doubt that it has saved many tiny lives (in fact he told us that he had been part of the crew who had transported milk from a mother in hospital in Leicester to her baby in the Neonatal ICU in Peterborough for a while until baby was well enough to be back with Mum – now that's something unforgettable, eh). During COVID, oncology patients who were shielding had their prescriptions delivered by SERV, and also PPE to the many small clinics which needed them. In fact, demand for their services increased by 60% during COVID. And it all started because the NHS needed blood somewhere else and don't have a courier service from 7pm – 7am.

In our region (formed in 2010), they serve five hospitals, various hospices and the Air Ambulance (who get their blood fresh, keep it for one day and, if unused, return it to the hospital for use there). To date, the Suffolk and Cambs region has completed 16,524 tasks and last year alone travelled 157,486 miles. Wow. They currently have 120 members, 12 controllers, work a minimum of two nights a month (though usually more) and have training on product handling and navigation. Not only this but they pay for their own fuel and even though they can claim it back if it goes above £250 a month ... no one ever has. SERV has no government or NHS funding and relies totally on donations and members' goodwill.

As a controller, one of John's jobs is to organise journeys and handovers which are in eg Tesco car park in Royston or Bury St Edmunds, the Black Cat, in fact anywhere where they can swiftly and safely continue the items' journey to where it is most needed. He has recently had to liaise with five other regions to get a rare blood transferred to its destination to save a life.

Like I said, no funding apart from donations so why not go on their website www.servsc.org.uk and check out how to help. Money is always welcome (it costs £45,000 a year to run this region), but you can also donate eg teddies for the Teddy Tombola, and satnavs and hand held devices (don't forget to unlock them and wipe them clean of your data as

they are worth more). Check it out!

These wonderful people have won the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service and in the 2018 Autumn Budget were officially recognised as one of the UK's Emergency Services.

So I'll finish with a few quotes from Bloodrunners which John shared; 'I've done something today...'

'Jump on a bike and save a life...'

'We're locals so we know the roads...'

'We don't know who, but we know we make a difference...'

'We're a motley crew...'

'Sometimes when hospitals ring, you can just tell by their tone of voice...' John Gibson and the Bloodrunners, ladies and gentlemen.

Please get in touch with John at sjohn.gibson@yahoo.co.uk or phone: 07946797492 to book him for a talk. He's fun, informative and passionate about SERV.

Life Magazine

Thank You!

Following on from my plea, we have had a lovely response, so, thank you!

All these donations are very welcome. However, we still require more to continue. I have had a number of offers of help and will be taking those up now that I have moved and have time. If you would like to donate to the magazine, the account details are:

**40-40-10
61458701**

Please note my address for posting through the letterbox is **61 Beachampstead Road**. Thanks.

Do continue to use the advertisers in *Life*, mentioning where you found them. And, if any advertisers are considering using the magazine then please do, the magazine still really needs you.

If any business or individual feels that they can assist the magazine financially then please do contact myself at steveandhelen@hotmail.co.uk. Thank you. Your magazine still needs your help.

Helen
Life Magazine Treasurer



Get in quick if you want to join 1st Gt Staughton Guides!

Open to all girls aged 10-14. Our unit is currently full but we have a few older girls who will soon move over to other sections and free up spaces. So get your daughter's name on the waiting list for a chance to get in.

Why become a Guide? Because GIRLS CAN DO ANYTHING, and we make things happen! We give you the chance to explore, try new things, learn new skills, work as a team, and meet new friends. And above all, WE HAVE FUN!!

Recent events include first aid, pizza night, pumpkin painting, sewing, baking and star gazing. Upcoming events include fabric painting, fashion show, navigating, more crafts, more cooking, and fires!

To register your interest, go to www.girlguiding.org.uk and follow the links to 'Information for Parents - Register your daughter.' Fill in your details and someone will be in touch. Or, for more information, contact **Lindy Bornman** at FGSGuides@gmail.com

WELLBEING WALKS IN OUR AREA SPRING 2024



Our Wellbeing Walks programme consists of friendly group walks that can help you become and stay active around Huntingdonshire. You can enjoy the walk at your own pace, but with the added benefit of being in the company of other walkers and trained walk leaders.

The Wellbeing Walks are led by volunteer walk leaders who are also first aid trained. Most walks cover around 3 miles and last approximately 1 hour. Walks are free to join, and everybody is welcome.

There is no need to book; simply turn up at the meeting point 10-15 minutes before the start time.

For a full list of all current walks across the entire Huntingdonshire district (covering areas around St Neots, Huntingdon, St Ives, Ramsey and Yaxley), please visit:

www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/leisure/wellbeing-walks/

On this site, you will also find downloadable booklets of all the walks, with maps and directions.

In addition, copies of the current leaflet listing the full programme of walks are usually available from Great Staughton Surgery.

DATE	TIME	WALK NAME	MEETING POINT
Fri 22 nd March	2 pm	The Kymside Saunter, Great Staughton	Great Staughton Village Hall Car Park
Wed 27 th March	2 pm	The Grafham/Perry Walk, Perry	Outside the Wheatsheaf public house, Perry
Fri 19 th April	2 pm	Great Staughton Meadows	Great Staughton Village Hall Car Park
Wed 1 st May	2 pm	Grafham Lakeside Grafham	Cinnamon Restaurant Car Park, Grafham
Fri 17 th May	2 pm	The Dillington Stroll, Great Staughton	Great Staughton Village Hall Car Park
Wed 29 th May	2 pm	The Grafham/Perry Walk, Perry	Outside the Wheatsheaf public house, Perry



Huntingdon Grafham Water Lions Club



Huntingdon Grafham Water Lions Club sadly announces the closure of the Club, which came into effect from December 31st 2023.

Regrettably membership numbers have reduced to unsustainable levels for us to actively engage in the local community and the age of members plus some health issues have resulted in this decision.

The Lions Club has been active in the local area since its inception in 1976 as Grafham Water Lions Club. During this time many thousands of pounds have been raised and donated to local worthy causes as well as supporting Lions International Foundation which provides grants in the UK and around the world when natural disasters strike.

The local Club was for many years, known for the organisation of its Annual Safari Walk, a sponsored walk around Grafham Water, which was their main fundraiser, but this has not been restarted since the pandemic. Recently we have passed over responsibility for the Lions Adventure Club, which we ran in conjunction with Grafham Water Centre for 14 years, to them, to continue our commitment to the youth in the villages around the reservoir.

Our spectacle and hearing aid recycling service at those locations we currently deal with, will continue. Telephone 0345 833 7516 for information or collections.

Current President Lion Bernard Dable said we are sorry that we have to close but we have been unable to attract younger members to the cause and have to face the inevitable that we have reached the stage when our current members are unable to continue.

We will be disposing of our assets and funds during the time between now and the closure date and would like to send our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported us over the years and wish all those organisations we have supported all the very best for the future.

There are still a number of Lions Clubs around the area that will continue to support their local community and if you would like further information about Lions Clubs in general or to find a local Club go to www.lionsclubs.co

For further information contact Bernard Dable on **0345 8337516** or **hgwliions@gmail.com**

Life Magazine – Notes from the AGM held on Wednesday 27th December 2023, at Helen's house

Present: Helen Glanville (Treasurer), Nicole Yates (Chairman), Rob Young (Co-Editor), Eugene Smith (Perry PC).

Apologies: None

1. Accounts: The Treasurer produced the draft accounts for the year (2023), which showed an increase in assets of £603.45. We had produced four colour covers this year and one colour centre, in the quarterly magazine. The Collection boxes fund third an edition. The adverts have stayed stable throughout the year. Both the Parish Councils returned to their pre-quarterly donation amounts. The Committee expressed their gratitude to them. The Winter Edition in December, Spring in March, Summer in June and Autumn in September with the content being larger and more relevant and exciting continues to be a success.

2. Bank Account: The money held in the Life Magazine account was £3680.27 which was £603.45 up on last year. We use an HSBC Community account with Bob Jewell, Helen Glanville and Nicole Yates as signatories. Copies of all bank statements are available at any time to ensure visibility.

3. Printing Costs: Have increased to keep up with rising paper costs, but are still very competitive, still using Easiprint (now called Peterborough Print) for 2023 and into 2024.

4. Advertising Prices: The committee are grateful to those loyal advertisers for sticking with the Magazine. Rates are £96.00 for a whole page for a quarter, pro-rated. £120.00 for small cover and £75.00 for a small. These will remain the same for 2024.

5. Posting Magazines Out of Area: The cost of posting copies to 'out of area' readers will remain at £7.50.

6. Magazine makeup: We have managed to run a one 44-page magazine and three 48-

page magazines. All have had a colour cover and one had a colour centre.

7. Advertisers: The policy, that advertisers who are slow to pay are invoiced twice and/or given one quarters grace with their advert, but then are removed from the Magazine, was reaffirmed. All community content and free ads will only remain for one edition and then be removed. If you want it to stay in then you need to let the editors know in order for it to remain. Also, if your advert changes then please remember to send the editors the new version as soon as possible to ensure you are giving correct information to the readers.

8. Editor's Payment: It was agreed to pay the Editors payment to Rob. The editors incur many costs and it was felt that even this token amount will help towards paying for some of it! The committee agreed to a rate of £175.00. It will be paid by BACS. Shaun left us to further his business this year but Rob has kindly agreed to continue editing. The rest of the committee truly thanked him and Shaun for their hard work. Our plea for new editors had a volunteer from GS but again no-one from Perry. Eugene will put in PC minutes and try to raise awareness. In the meantime he has kindly volunteered to undertake some Editor training. The Committee is very grateful to both volunteers!

9. Minutes to be Published: It was agreed to continue to publish these minutes on the Village website and within the magazine. The website minutes still have been well read and commented on.

10. AOB: We still have spaces on the cover for advertising. £75 for small and £120 for large for the year. We need more adverts so please tell your friends and family about Life and always mention Life if you reply to an advert. Photocopies and scans do not reproduce well enough to meet the printing requirements. Still, if anyone has any historical photos we would love to include those too. Any interesting pictures of the village would be really appreciated.

The committee would appreciate more input

from Perry to get more content for the magazine.

Finally, the committee is delighted to have been able to continue to produce the magazine throughout 2023 and thank everyone for their contributions.



**KIMBOLTON
COMMUNITY
CINEMA**

**7pm for 7:30pm start at Mandeville
Hall**

The Community Cinema is restarting in March for a trial period. If you want it to continue, please come along and support us.

**Friday March 15th
The Miracle Club (12A)**

**Friday April 19th
The Great Escaper (12A)**

Tickets: £5, over 60 £4, under 16 £2.50
On sale at Bytes Café, behind the main hall, 10am to 12-30pm on Mondays and Fridays and on the door if available, and online, with a small booking fee,
ticketsource.co.uk/mandeville-hall-kimbolton

For updates on upcoming films, please visit **e-voice.org.uk/themandevillehallkimbolton/community-cinema/**

Perry Parish Council Vacancies

Would you like to help decide what happens in Perry? The Perry Parish Council has vacancies for councillors. As a Parish Councillor you can make positive steps to improve the quality of life in your village. You will truly represent your community, and make decisions on everything from village events to street furniture. Here's a few frequently asked questions – and answers!

Is it political? No, your role is to act on behalf of your fellow residents. Politics simply doesn't come into it.

How much time will it take? The council has ten regular meetings each year.

What if I don't know anything about local government? Comprehensive, professional and free training (currently online) will be given. And don't worry about having to learn reams of rules and regulations – that's the clerk's job.

Are there age restrictions? You must be 18 years or over. There's no upper age limit – and quite rightly so.

If you'd like to find out more, including other eligibility requirements, please contact any of the Perry Parish Councillors (contact details near the front of this magazine), or clerk Eugene Smith (clerk@perryparishcouncil.org.uk). And why not come along to a council meeting (dates in this magazine) to see what happens for yourself? Become a Parish Councillor, make a difference, and truly speak for your community.



HEBRON: Live in concert

Perry Baptist church look forward to the visit of Hebron, a trio of singers that include Simon Elman, Chrissy Rogers, and not forgetting **Helen Shapiro**

Simon, a professional musician, was raised in a religious Jewish home in North London but is now a Christian.

Chrissy was born in Pittsburgh, PA, USA and was wonderfully saved in 1974.

Soon afterwards, the Lord called her into His fulltime service and placed a special burden on her heart for the Jewish people.

Helen Shapiro, whose hit songs 'Don't Treat Me Like a Child', 'You Don't Know' and 'Walking Back To Happiness' sent her soaring into the charts at the age of

14, was raised in a traditional Jewish home. After searching the Scriptures and studying the Messianic prophecies,

Helen discovered their fulfillment in Jesus, the Jewish Messiah and gave her life to Him in 1987.

In 2015, they released their debut album called '**For Such A Time As This**', featuring mostly original Biblical Messianic songs – in Hebrew and English - in a variety of styles, including Folk, Jazz, Blues, Bluegrass and Hebraic. With their close vocal harmonies and acoustic instruments (bass, guitars, ukuleles and banjo), Hebron's music will, no doubt, have broad appeal. In these 16 tracks, most of them original, Hebron endeavours to declare a simple and clear Gospel message so needed today.

**Hebron will be giving a concert at:
Perry Baptist Church at 7.30pm on
Friday 26th April**

**Admission: Free, by ticket only
A freewill offering will be taken**

**Contact:
01480 700 810**



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**CHURCH
SUMMER
CAMP 2024**



Tuesday 23rd to Thursday 25th July 2024

If you are a child aged 6 and above join us at the Grafham Water Activity Centre in Perry.

From 9.30am to 4.30pm each day. (open to families in Staughtons, Hail Weston & Perry benefice or with links to our churches)



website for on-line booking and payment
www.swhw.co.uk




THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Rev. Nicki Bland
St. Andrews Vicarage
Causeway
Great Staughton
Huntingdon, Cambs PE19 5BF
Phone: 01480 869485
E-mail: revlesnicki@gmail.com

CLASSES FOR THE YEAR 2024 HORTICULTURAL SHOW

Saturday, 24th August 2024

Plus:- Gt Staughton Primary School Exhibition (work by children of all ages)

(Maximum of 2 entries per person per class)

VEGETABLES

1. 5 Cherry tomatoes with calyx - can be Cherry Plums
2. 5 Tomatoes with calyx
3. 5 Runner beans
4. 5 French beans
5. 3 Onions (under 8ozs/227g) dressed
6. 3 Onions (over 8ozs/227g) dressed
7. 3 White potatoes
8. 3 Coloured potatoes
9. 3 Carrots (rounded or tapered; foliage trimmed to approx. 3"/7.5cm)
10. 2 Outdoor cucumbers
11. 3 Beetroot (foliage trimmed to approx. 3"/7.5cm)
12. A basket of salad items
13. 2 Courgettes
14. 5 Exhibition shallots
15. A collection of chilli peppers
16. Vegetables not mentioned elsewhere in schedule (at least 2 examples)
17. 2 Edible squashes
18. Collection of vegetables (minimum of 3 different varieties)



FLOWERS (Vases provided for all cut stems)

19. 3 Rose blooms
20. 1 Stem of cluster flowered roses
21. 1 Specimen rose bloom
22. 3 Cactus or semi-cactus dahlias
23. 3 Decorative dahlias
24. 1 Specimen dahlia bloom
25. 1 Dahlia not mentioned elsewhere in schedule, e.g. water lily, pompom
26. 1 Hydrangea bloom
27. 1 Spike gladiolus
28. 3 Stems of pinks or carnations
29. 3 Heads of geraniums - can be mixed
30. Vase of mixed flowers from your garden (excluding gladioli, dahlias, & roses)
31. 3 Spikes of gladioli
32. Vase of mixed foliage from your garden
33. A flowering orchid (must have been in your possession for 9 months)
34. Potted plant in flower (not orchid) Maximum pot size 9"/23cm
35. Cactus/succulent in a pot (can be 1 or more varieties in the pot)
36. 3 Flowers of the same colour, (must be different species)
37. 3 Sunflower blooms – any variety
38. 3 stems of sweet peas

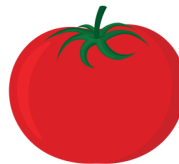


FLORAL EXHIBITS (Fresh flowers unless otherwise stated)

39. An autumn wreath for a door hanging (up to 18"/45cm diameter, can be fresh or artificial flowers, or a mix)
40. An exhibit depicting 'Olympics' (up to 18"/45cm width & depth, unlimited height)
41. A foliage arrangement for a novice (no flowers - up to 15"/38cm overall)
42. A pressed flower picture – any topic (max size A4 paper)
43. An arrangement using hedgerow material (maximum measurements 12"/30cm wide, 18"/45cm high)
44. A miniature garden made from plant material arranged in a container of damp sand (max size 12"/30cm circular or square)

NOVELTY CLASSES

45. Heaviest tomato
46. Longest runner bean
47. One flower, one vegetable
48. Heaviest squash
49. Largest pumpkin (by girth)
50. A truss of cherry tomatoes (can be part green)
51. Fresh culinary herbs in a jar (please name)
52. Plate of home grown fruit
53. A quirky/ugly vegetable



CAKES AND PRESERVES

54. 5 chocolate brownies
55. A Victoria sponge (raspberry jam filling only, dusted with castor sugar)
56. 5 cheese scones
57. 5 ginger biscuits
58. A small white loaf 450g – hand made not bread machine
59. A fruit crumble
60. Jar of jam
61. Jar of chutney (must be more than 2 months old) or relish
62. Jar of lemon curd
- 62a. Jar of marmalade



OPEN CHILDREN'S CLASSES (Up to 16 years.

Please state age on all entries)

63. An Olympic torch made using recycled materials
64. Hand written text - up to 6 years of age
65. Hand written text - 7 to 11 years of age
66. Hand written text - 12 to 16 years of age
67. A colourful poster to advertise the 2025 60th anniversary Show - A4 size, may be computer generated
68. A creature made from vegetables
69. Largest number of different items in a matchbox (only 1 of each allowed) boxes will be supplied please list items
70. A sports stadium made from Lego/Duplo - not a kit (maximum base size 12"/30cm square)
71. A decorated gingerbread man

The text for classes 64-66 is:

A creature of charm is the gerbil

Its diet's exclusively herbal;

It grazes all day

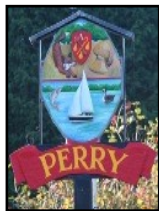
On bunches of hay

Passing gas with an elegant burble.

SUNDRY CLASSES (All photographs: Maximum 8"x 6")

72. A photograph 'gardener's delight'
73. A photograph of a religious building
74. A photograph 'happiness'
75. A black and white photo
76. A hand-made item (not knitted)
77. Handicraft by a senior citizen (65+ years)
78. A knitted item
79. A flavoured spirit e.g. Sloe Gin, Blackberry Gin
80. A home-made soft drink e.g. juice, cordial, ginger beer or lemonade.

**Anyone seeking advice, please contact the Show Secretary on 01234 376661/
email caroline_byrne@live.co.uk or the chairman on 07881621260**



MINUTED OF THE PERRY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held at 7pm on Wednesday 13th December 2023 at the Grafham Water Centre

Present:

Parish Councillors: Chairman Sheila Brighton (SB), Vice Chairman Eleanor Abbs (EA), Nigel Noone (NN), Emma Prew (EP), Jo Shirreffs (JS), Kay Darby (KD) [from item 23/104]. The meeting was quorate.

Members of the public: twenty-one
Clerk to the Council: Eugene Smith (ES)

23/102: Apologies: Parish Councillor Chris Jones' apologies were **approved** (proposed EA, approved unanimously). County Councillor Ian Gardener and District Councillor Stephen Cawley's apologies were received.

23/103: Local Highways Improvement Scheme: It was **resolved** (prop. EA, app. unanimously) to proceed with an LHI bid for a Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign (MVAS) and buffer zones. **Action:** ES to submit LHI bid, and also investigate Community Speedwatch activation.

23/104: Appointment of a Councillor: Kay Darby was **appointed** as a councillor of Perry Parish Council (prop. EA, app. unanimously).

23/105: Councillors' declarations of interest for items on the agenda: None.

23/106: Open forum for public participation: The possibility of creating cycle path from Perry to Buckden was raised. A potentially dangerous hedge near the junction of Chichester Way and the B661 was

discussed. **Action:** ES to investigate and report back on both matters.

23/107: Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the Perry Parish Council meeting held on 8th November 2023 were **approved** as a correct record (prop. EA, app. unanimously) and signed by the Chairman.

23/108: Clerk's report: ES stated that copies of District Councillor Stephen Cawley's December report were available.

23/109: Vote of Thanks: A vote of thanks was given to Perry Women's Institute for their work on the village Remembrance ceremony (prop. NN, app. unanimously). A vote of thanks was given to Ann Jackson for organising the daffodil planting along the B661 and Crow Spinney Lane (prop. SB, app. unanimously).

23/110: Parish / village matters: HMP Littlehey developments: No updates. Weeds: The possibility of a village weeding session was discussed. **Action:** ES to add to February's agenda, and to ask the village handyman to tackle the current weeds.

23/111: Events Working Party: JS provided a progress report.

23/112: Update on meetings and training attended: ES has continued to attend the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) training, and an Action Plan management course, both run by CAPALC.

23/113: Council administration: The amendment to Perry Parish Council's Standing Orders relating to seconding of motions was **approved** (prop. EA, app. unanimously).

23/114: Finance: It was **resolved** to suspend for one year the requirement for a three-year forecast of revenue and capital receipts and payments (prop. EA, app. unanimously).

The amendment to Perry Parish Council’s Financial Regulations regarding authority to spend was **approved** (prop. EA, app. unanimously).

The draft budget for the financial year 2024 – 2025 was **approved** (prop. EA, app. unanimously).

Setting the precept request for 2024 – 2025 at £19,846 was **approved** (prop. EA, app. unanimously). **Action:** ES to submit precept request to Huntingdonshire District Council.

The application for a Unity Corporate MultiPay Card was **approved** (prop. EA, app. unanimously). **Action:** ES to submit application.

The following payments were **noted**, and the payment schedule signed by SB.

- CAPALC training** (Action Plans 28/11/2023 and New Councillor Feb 2024).....**£115.00**
- PGM Signs** (Gaynes sign installation)**£150.00**
- Road Data Services** (traffic survey)**£594.00**
- Grafham Water Sailability** (PPC meetings April & Nov 23).....**£60.00**
- SLCC Enterprises** (Excel training 1st and 15th May 2024).....**£288.00**
- Ann Jackson** (remembrance bugler refund from chairman’s allowance)**£20.00**
- HMRC** (November income tax)..**£42.23**
- Colin Beesley** (November Handyman’s wages) **Confidential**
- Eugene Smith** (Nov Clerk’s salary **Confidential**

- Eugene Smith** (Working from home allowance Nov 2023) **£26.00**
- Eugene Smith** (milage to CiLCA training 22nd and 29th Nov 2023) (80miles @ 45p/mile).....**£36.00**
- Eugene Smith** (stationery and dog waste bags).....**£51.89**
- The Christmas Decorators** (Christmas tree for 2023).....**£2,400.00**

The reallocation of funds from general reserves to specific budget headings was **approved** (prop. EA, app. unanimously).

The payment of £150.00 to Banquet Inn Bars (coronation event deposit) on 17/04/2023 was **noted**.

The credit of £7,500.00 received from Huntingdonshire District Council (precept) on 27/04/2023 was **noted**.

23/115: Agenda items for the next Perry Parish Council meeting: Items must be received by the clerk no later than Monday 5th February 2024.

23/116: Date of next Perry Parish Council meeting: Wednesday 14th February 2024 at 1900 hours.

23/117: Motion to exclude the public and the press: Motion **approved** (prop. EA, app. unanimously).

23/118: Clerk’s salary and expenses The national pay award (effective from 01/04/2023) and changes to the clerk’s salary were **noted**. The correction of expense payments was **noted**.

Meeting closed at 20:45

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Family

Walks

Events

Exhibitions

GT. STAUGHTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY - 2024 SHOW
ENTRY FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

<u>VEGETABLES</u>	<u>FLOWERS</u>	<u>FLORAL EXHIBITS</u>	<u>OPEN CHILDREN'S CLASSES</u>
1.....	19.....	39.....	63.....
2.....	20.....	40.....	64.....
3.....	21.....	41.....	65.....
4.....	22.....	42.....	66.....
5.....	23.....	43.....	67.....
6.....	24.....	44.....	68.....
7.....	25.....		69.....
8.....	26.....	<u>NOVELTY CLASSES</u>	70.....
9.....	27.....	45.....	71.....
10.....	28.....	46.....	<u>SUNDRY CLASSES</u>
11.....	29.....	47.....	72.....
12.....	30.....	48.....	73.....
13.....	31.....	49.....	74.....
14.....	32.....	50.....	75.....
15.....	33.....	51.....	76.....
16.....	34.....	52.....	77.....
17.....	35.....	53.....	78.....
18.....	36.....	<u>CAKES & PRESERVES</u>	79.....
	37.....	54.....	80.....
	38.....	55.....	
		56.....	
		57.....	
		58.....	
		59.....	
		60.....	
		61.....	
		62.....	
		62a.....	



**ENTRY FEE: ADULTS 10P,
CHILDREN 5P. TOTAL FEE
ENCLOSED:**

.....

***Handing in this entry form
confirms that you have read all the
rules and agree to abide by them***



Deliver form to:
Emma Mumford
27 The Highway
Gt Staughton
PE19 5DA
Or email it to
hort.soc@btinternet.com
by **5pm on Thursday
August 22nd**

Alternatively, place in an
envelope and drop off at
Gilbert's Butchers by
**4pm on
Thursday August 22nd.**



PERRY HOG WATCH



My Hedgehog interest began about five years ago when I found one in my garden during the day time. I didn't really know what to do with it but put it under a bush out of the glare of the sun. After contacting Suzanne Tibbetts, an amazing lady who runs Hartford Hedgehog Rescue Centre, I quickly scooped it up and took it to her where she treated it for dehydration, round worm and lungworm, all fatal to a hedgehog if left untreated. After chatting to her about her work, I became a volunteer helper and signed up for a course run by The Vale Wildlife Centre to find out how to treat sick and injured hedgehogs. Last year I was able to advise various residents of Perry about hedgehogs they had found and took at least six of them to Suzanne and Cromwell Vets in Huntingdon. This coming year I hope I will be able to answer some frequently asked questions, encourage everyone to help create a Perry Super Highway for hedgehogs and give an update on all things hedgehog in Perry.

Know your hedgehog - Some basic facts and tips

Hedgehogs don't have hibernation calendars! There is no guaranteed date that hedgehogs will hibernate. It varies year on year depending on weather conditions and temperature. Usually in late November/Early December they start to find and build a nest. However, some have been up and about on milder days all winter which is why we must try to put food and water out all year.

Were you given a Hedgehog House for Christmas?

It's not too late to put it out or to buy or make one! If the temperature goes up hedgehogs will wake up to refuel and then go back to sleep not necessarily into the same box which is why yours is so important, as it might be just what they are looking for. Site your Hog House in a nice sheltered corner away from a North /North Easterly wind, rain and snow. Place under bushes not out in the open, they like to feel

hidden away. The house needs to have a waterproof roof and slightly raised up off the ground. Put hay inside and a few leaves though they do like to choose their own materials. Leave plant pots turned on their side full of hay (dust free type) and a variety of leaves. Straw tends to be a bit harsh and can give hoglets paper type cuts to their delicate skin. **Don't** put food and water in the nest house. Keep it just for sleeping. A simple feeding station can be made from a plastic container and placed nearby.

Spring

A hedgehog usually needs help if out in the daylight however a hedgehog during the day moving purposefully along a fence or a wall in your garden may be a female looking for nesting materials. If the garden is shady and the weather overcast, to a hedgehog this looks like dusk due to their very poor eyesight and so they may be seen out earlier than expected in the evening.

If you see any of the following though it is in need of urgent help

- A hedgehog collapsed in the open
- Sunbathing – Hedgehogs **do not** sunbathe
- Spinning in tight circles
- Flies buzzing around it
- Wounds or dragging its legs
- Wobbling
- Asleep in the open – Hedgehogs will always find somewhere secluded to curl up and sleep.
- If you accidentally disturb a nest - cover it back up immediately and seek advice as the mother may abandon the babies or even kill them.
- Hoglets - If they are out during the day without an adult or squawking they need help. There may also be others nearby so please check.

Remember hedgehogs do not get exhausted whilst trying to find somewhere to sleep or even sunbathe. They do not go to sleep on a pavement or by the side of a road. Any hedgehog found out during the day lying in the open is sick or dying. If you find one pick it up using gloves or an old towel to avoid infection and put it in a high sided box. You can offer it a drink of water but don't force it. Please don't offer any food. Take it to a

rescue centre or a vet as a last resort as soon as possible.

Contact: Hartford Hedgehog Rescue: 07782 398235

Shepreth Hedgehog Hospital: 07947 361187

Peterborough Hedgehog Hotel 07592 040113

**Heathers Hedgehog Hostel, Chatteris
07827751083**

Cromwell Vet Huntingdon or look for other rescue centres at www.helpwildlife.co.uk

Online help: www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk
www.hedgehogstreet.org

Top tips for now

DO Leave a dish of water and a dish of kitten biscuits out for them. (Wet cat and dog food is OK too)

Do not feed them Meal worms - they die an agonising death.

Do not feed them peanuts, raisins or dried fruit, bananas, fruit, bread, milk, eggs, sunflower seeds, raw meat of any kind including chicken, dog and cat treats.

Perry Hog Watch

Recently people have told me they haven't seen as many hedgehogs as in previous years so to try and gauge the level of hedgehog activity in Perry, please can you help me gather information by reporting to me any hedgehogs you may see out at night in your garden or elsewhere. I need to know where you saw it, date and the time which is important as they do roam about. In addition, any dead hedgehogs you may have been seen.

Next time

What you can do to help create a Hedgehog Super Highway. Why we can't feed them certain things?

**Ann Jackson Contact:
a.jackson292@btinternet.com**

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A History of Amphibian Conservation

The Huntingdonshire Local Group of the Wildlife Trust is pleased to welcome Arnold Cooke on Wednesday 13th March at 7.30pm at Brampton Memorial Hall.

This is our final indoor talk for the winter season and Arnold will describe the development of amphibian conservation from our local and national perspectives. Arnold moved to Huntingdonshire in the late 1960s and has been involved with amphibian conservation and research since that time, including working for the national nature conservation agencies. Since leaving English Nature in the late 1990s, Arnold has continued to pursue his interests in amphibians, reptiles and birds. He has published widely in these areas, including on the status of Britain's amphibians and reptiles, pollutants in birds and the environmental impact of the introduced species of deer.

Everyone is most welcome to attend. Booking is not necessary. The charge is £3.50 and payment is by cash or card. We meet at Brampton Memorial Hall, Thrapston Road, Brampton, PE28 4TB. For more information please contact George (01480 450809 or georgecottam@virginmedia.com)

Spring Walks – April 2024

The Huntingdonshire Local Group of the Wildlife Trust invites you to come along to the following walks in April.

The first walk will be at Portholme Meadow on Saturday 20th April beginning at 10:30am. Dr. Pat Doody will lead this walk and will focus on one of Portholme's specialities, the snakeshead fritillary. We also hope to see and hear corn bunting and skylark. Please meet at the entrance to the meadow at **Godmanchester Lock, TL241704.**
What3words: amused.finishing.bulky.
Nearest postcode PE29 2NB.

This will be followed by our annual bluebell walk at Brampton Wood on Sunday 28th April at 10:30am. The walk will be led by George Cottam and other Wardens, depending upon demand. We will look at the rich variety of spring flora, focusing on the bluebells. We also hope to see and hear the wonderful birdsong at this time of year. Please meet at the **Visitors' Barn, near Brampton Wood Car Park, Grafham Road, Brampton, nearest postcode PE28 0DP. GR TL 184699.** **What3words: skinning.rhino.headboard.**

Both walks take approximately 2 hours. Please note that paths at both sites are very uneven and likely to be wet. Everyone is most welcome to attend. There is no charge, but donations are welcome. For more information please contact George (01480 450809 or georgecottam@virginmedia.com).



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riverportwi@btinternet.com

Huntingdonshire Community Group

huntingdonshirecommunitygroup@gmail.com

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Life Magazine is distributed throughout Great Staughton and Perry four times a year:

Winter Edition: Dec, Jan, Feb - content deadline Nov 10th

Spring Edition: March, April, May - content deadline Feb 10th

Summer Edition: June July, August - content deadline May 10th

Autumn Edition: Sept, Oct, Nov - content deadline Aug 10th

Please email all content to both addresses:

Rob: rj.young@live.co.uk

lifemagazine@outlook.com

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St Andrew's Vicarage, The Causeway, Great Staughton

CHURCH WARDENS: Mr Bryan Kitchen
Mrs Janet Perrett, 38, Beachampstead Road, Gt. St. 860703



Dear Friends,

Every year the days seem to fly by, but this year with Easter being so early, it really seems that having only just celebrated Christmas and we are now looking to Easter.

Please look at all the services we have to offer for Holy Week including the annual Egg hunt and Good Friday Walk. We are also looking at finalising numbers for camp so please get your requests in as soon as possible.

So, March begins in the middle of Lent, and it is this time of year that we often try and give up certain things or give of ourselves in some way, because Lent leading up to Easter is a penitential season and associated with repentance and forgiveness. Society tends to see temptation as an external source of provocation rather than an inner struggle of right and wrong. In Jesus' temptations we see clearly temptations that all humankind has in common. The temptation to look for an instant solution, the temptation to take control, the temptation to seek instant power. The temptation is often hidden and subtle, hitting us at our most vulnerable moments. Of course, a temptation in itself is not wrong, it is when we give way to it that the problem occurs but in Christ's strength, we can overcome it. When we fail, and we will, we Christians know that he will always be there to forgive us if we repent.

March ends with Holy Week and for those of us who attend a service each day that week we live the ups of downs of it remembering what it must have been like for those who were close to Jesus. Then we arrive at the Easter Morning alongside those closest to him, experiencing the awe, the wonder and the disbelief of encountering that empty tomb.

Many wonder and many have doubts, not only about the resurrection of Jesus but of their own resurrection in the fulness of time. But we need to remember those words of a man in Mark's Gospel 'Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief.'

The disciples struggled after Jesus had been resurrected and Thomas refused to believe until he had seen Jesus for himself but their doubts were overcome as Jesus met with them, walked with them and broke bread with them, the reality of his living presence instilling a sure and certain faith in them that we know after he ascended could not be shaken.

'Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe' John 20:29

*With love and prayers,
Revd Nicki Bland*

Mobile: 07805078992
Parish email: revlesnicki@gmail.com

CHURCH SERVICES

Please visit our new website on www.swhw.co.uk to find out more about the services.

All 10:30am services can be accessed via Zoom ID 4184055563
Password 022067.

Please note that Morning and Evening prayer is held on Zoom at 8:30am and 5:30pm respectively, on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

Services for March 2024

Great Staughton St. Andrew's

- Sun 3:* 8am - BCP Holy Communion
10:30am - All-Age Worship
- Sun 10:* 10:30am - Parish Communion with Ingrams Choir Kimbolton School
- Sun 17:* 10:30am - Parish Communion
- Sun 24:* 10:30am - Palm Sunday Parish Communion
- Tues 26:* 7pm - Compline
- Fri 29:* 10am - Good Friday walk with egg hunt and refreshments
2pm - An hour at the cross—service of hymns, prayers, silence and readings.
- Sun 31:* 10:30am - Easter Day All Age Benefice Communion

Little Staughton All Saints

- Sun 3:* 9am - Parish Communion
- Sun 17:* 9am - Parish Communion
- Wed 27:* 7pm - Compline
- Sat 30:* 11:30pm - Easter Vigil with Communion and refreshments

Hail Weston St. Nicolas

- Sun 3:* 10:30am - Morning Praise
- Wed 6:* 10am – Morning Prayer
- Sun 10:* 9am - Parish communion
- Sun 17:* 3pm - Creative Communion with baptism
- Sun 24:* 9am - Palm Sunday Parish Communion
- Mon 25:* 7pm Compline
- Thurs 28:* 7pm -Maundy Thursday Communion
- Sun 31:* 9am – Easter Praise

Services for April 2024

Great Staughton St. Andrew's

- Sun 7:* 8am - BCP Holy Communion
10:30am – All Age Worship
- Sun 14:* 10:30am Parish Communion followed by APCM
- Sun 21:* 10:30am - Parish Communion
- Sun 28:* 10:30am - Parish Communion

Little Staughton All Saints

- Sun 7:* 9am - Parish Communion
- Sun 21:* 9am - Parish Communion

Hail Weston St. Nicolas

- Wed 3:* 10am – Morning Prayer followed by coffee
- Sun 7:* 10:30am – Morning Praise followed by APCM
- Sun 14:* 9am - Parish Communion
- Sun 21:* 3pm - Creative Communion
- Sun 28:* 9am - Parish Communion
4pm – BCP Evensong

Services for May 2024

Great Staughton St. Andrew's

- Sun 5:* 8am - BCP Holy Communion
10am - All age Worship
- Thurs 9:* 7:30pm - Ascension Day Communion
- Sun 12:* 10:30am - Parish Communion
3pm - Rogation Walk
- Sun 19:* 10:30am - Pentecost Parish Communion
- Sun 26:* 10:30am - Parish Communion led by Pamela Salt

Little Staughton All Saints

- Sun 5:* 9am - Parish Communion
- Sun 12:* 3pm - Rogation Walk
- Sun 19:* 9am - Parish Communion
- Sun 26:* 6pm - BCP Evensong

Hail Weston St. Nicolas

- Sun 5:* 10:30am - Morning Praise
- Sun 12:* 9am - Parish communion
3pm - Rogation Walk
- Sun 19:* 3pm - Creative Communion
- Sun 26:* 9am - Parish Communion

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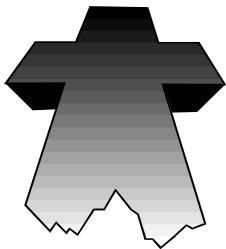


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Perry Baptist Church

Secretary Tony Whitlock 01480 810906

Minister: Rev Jon Magee 01480 700810

Services each week at 10:30am in the church
Services also available on our website and Facebook page
www.perrybaptist.org.uk

My dear friends,

“When its spring again, we’ll bring again, tulips from Amsterdam”

The words of a song well known to each of us, and following from the lyrics we all know that tulips come from Amsterdam. Or do we? Some years ago I visited Amsterdam. I wanted to see Anne Frank’s house, I was intrigued to see the background of one of the millions of victims of the persecution of the Jews during World War II. Leaving the house I discovered another attraction.

Across the canal I came across a museum of tulips. What on earth can a museum reveal to us about tulips? Quite a lot it seems. Apparently tulips did not originate in Amsterdam after all. They started off in the Himalayas and were then taken to Turkey. At the time the Dutch had an international reputation as good business men. Discovering the tulip bulbs they decided to use them as a currency to invest in just as many invest in Stocks and shares today. As time went by the “tulip bubble” burst. Overnight the bulbs became worthless. What on earth could these business people do? The bulbs were buried underground and from these worthless bulbs came a new

treasure with the beauty of flowers, the tulips, from Amsterdam!

They got it wrong as they looked for the wrong kind of treasures. People still make the same mistake as the bible remind us there is a better investment with our lives, one that lasts eternally. The bible says “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” One day the material bubble will burst but God has something better for us as we trust God with our lives. May we each discover the most beautiful investment possible, the longest lasting investment that will see each one of us being transformed for the better.

*In Jesus comes our greatest hope.
May you know new hope as we
continue into the spring, from your
village Pastor*

Blessings to all of you

Jon Magee

Clubs & Activities :

Telephone Prefix: 01480

Great Staughton W.I.....Barbara Wallis: 214 582
 Perry WI:Email: perrywigroup@gmail.com
 St. Andrew's Church Bell Ringers (Mondays 7.30).....David Cope: 869322
 Great Staughton Book Club.....Margaret Sare: 860963
 Horticultural Society.....Mike Keeble: 860855
 Email: m.keeble855@btinternet.com
 Rotary Club: Kimbolton Castle.....Phil Howard: 861201

CHILDREN'S CLUBS/SCHOOLS

Gt. Staughton Guides.....Lindy Bornman: 07746 192351
 Gt. Staughton Primary Academy.....Head Teacher's Office: 860324
 Gt Staughton Youth Club.....gsync2014@gmail.com
 Kimbolton Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.....1stkimboltonscouts@gmail.com
 Kimbolton Rainbows.....Alison Newell: 07941 894455
 Kimbolton Brownies.....Esther Crook: 07713 165935
 Kimbolton Guides.....Zoe Sheffield: kimbolton.guides@outlook.com
Great Staughton Family Playtime.....manager@pigletspreschool.org.uk
Every Friday during term time 9-10.30am at St Andrews Church, Gt Staughton

SPORTS CLUBS

Great Staughton Badminton ClubDavid Giddings: 07926 135455
 Kimbolton Cricket Club.....Kevin Fisk: 07875 602919
 Gt. Staughton Tennis Club Committee.....Nicole & Phil Yates: 860616
 Kym Valley Carpet Bowls.....Anthony Withers: 861224
 Grafham Water Sailing Club.....Club Office: 810478

VILLAGE GROUPS/SERVICES

Grafham Wildlife Group.....Sam Malt: Day:810844 / Eve: 811654
 The Highway Community Car Scheme07786 520540 4-7pm weekdays
For all your transport needs, charged at 30 pence per mile
 Parent Teacher Association (PTA).....Jill Tickle: 01480 860324
 Patient Participation Group Gt St).....Melanie Dingemans: 01480 860770
 Email: greatstaughton@nhs.net
 Village HallVicky Goldsmith: 860005 / 07739 469243
 PavilionGiles Brittain: 07740 647322

USEFUL & EMERGENCY NUMBERS: Telephone Prefix 01480 unless otherwise shown

POLICE NON-EMERGENCY 101 POLICE EMERGENCY 999;
Crime Watch Management 456 111. **VICTIM SUPPORT: www.victimsupport.org.uk :**
An independent charity helps victims and witnesses of crime **confidentially & free.**
Support services: 0845 389 9523 To volunteer: ring 01480 4553000

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

PERRY : Sue Astle 811121, Jason Harper 07779 123125

Gt. Staughton Surgery: 860 770
Buckden Surgery: 810 216

Kimbolton Surgery: 860 205
HINCHINGBROOKE HOSPITAL: 416 416

NHS NON-EMERGENCY: 111

PALS: [Patient Advice & Liaison Service]:
0800 279 2535

AGE UK CAMBRIDGESHIRE offer a range of information and services on matters of concern to older people and their carers e.g. issues on benefits, home care, aids and adaptations, safeguarding and going into a care home. Also practical help: home help, visiting schemes, day centres and warden schemes. **The advocacy service can offer support to represent the interests of those over 65 years, & help to obtain the services they need.**

We are available 9am - 3pm Monday to 'Friday on 0300 666 9860

**CONSUMER DIRECT : www.consumerdirect.gov.uk - Practical help and advice for consumers with queries/problems with goods/services. Telephone : 08454 04 05 06 - Charge 4p pm.
Minicom users: 08451 28 13 84: Mon to Fri - 8.00 am to 6.30 pm. Sat. 9.00 am to 1.00 pm**

CAMBRIDGESHIRE HEARING HELP: Charity to assist people with hearing loss.

Tel: 01223 416141 / www.cambridgeshirehearinghelp.org.uk

We hold drop-in Hearing Help sessions for basic maintenance of NHS hearing aids, cleaning and re-tubing of hearing aids, supplying free replacement batteries and offer free advice. No appointment is necessary.

The Surgery, 57 The Highway, Great Staughton, PE19 5DY.

Every 3 months: June 5, September 4, December 4 2019 - 2.00pm – 4.00pm.

DISABILITY CAMBRIDGESHIRE. www.disabilitycambridgeshire.org.uk

Adviceline: 01223 569 600—charity for disabled/older people and carers in Cambridgeshire.
Provides free, confidential and impartial information and advice on disability and access issues.

Email: info@disability-cambridgeshire.org.uk

THE LIBRARY AT HOME SERVICE : (formerly THE DOORSTEP SERVICE)

FREE home delivery service for people who can no longer get to a library. Call 0345 045 5225

HIGHWAYMAN CAR SCHEME: Ring: 07786 520 540.

For residents of Gt Staughton, Hail Weston, Kimbolton, Perry and surrounding area.
Volunteer drivers provide transport for social and medical purposes. Can undertake journeys to visit friends and family in hospital and outpatient appointments.

[Supported by Cambs CC (Transport Services) and Care Network]

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