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Showroom opening times: Tuesday - Friday, 9am - 5pm. Saturdays 9-4pm or by appointment. Book an appointment with us: 01480 861822, info@kitchenculturecambridgeshire.co.uk

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#### THE "LIFE" TEAM

#### **Editor:**

Rob Young - Tel: 01480 860799

#### **Editorial Email addresses:**

Rob: <u>rj.young@live.co.uk</u>

#### **Chairperson:**

Nicole Yates: 01480 860616

#### **Treasurer:**

Helen Glanville: 07745 920214 Fmail:

steveandhelen@hotmail.co.uk

#### **Correspondence to Editor:**

Rob: 2 Manor Close, Gt Staughton

#### **Treasurer:**

Helen Glanville: 61 Beachampstead Road, Gt Staughton, PE19 5DX

#### **Delivery team co-ordinators:**

Steve Bennett (Gt St.) Tel: 01480 861626 29 Beachampstead Rd Liz & Mike Dive (Perry) Tel: 01480 811636 - 6 Roundhouse Drive

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Mobile Library 2025 every fourth Wednesday of the month Chichester Way, Perry 11:15am – 12:05pm. The Causeway, Gt Staughton 2pm – 2:30pm

#### Perry Parish Council Meetings 2025

7pm-9pm. At the moment all meetings to be held in the Grafham Water Sailability Clubhouse.

#### **Great Staughton Parish Council Meetings 2025**

18 September and 13 November.

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: £30 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 everyone,

Well, here we are. After almost five decades, and nearly 600 editions, the *Great Staughton & Perry Life Magazine* is officially closing.



You'll notice this final issue is a bit bigger than usual, and all colour too. And I hope you like the special cover as well - it took me quite a while to put together! I knew it made sense keeping all those old magazine files...

I've written a proper goodbye letter at the back of the magazine, and we've had pieces from Bob Jewell, Anthony Withers, and a few little lovely messages from our contributors talking about *Life*.

I would just like to say here that I feel genuinely honoured to have played a little part in the history of this beloved magazine, and it was actually quite sad putting together this issue. I hope you enjoy reading this packed Autumn 2025 edition. It's lovely to see so many events happening in our 'Dates for your Diary'.

#### This issue was edited by Rob

#### **Great Staughton Parish Councillors**

-
Robert Jewell (Chairman)07812 725680 gtstaughtonparishchair@outlook.com
Nicole Yates (Vice Chair)860616
Helen Glanville07745 920214
Lorraine Goody07855 826096
James Duberly860305
Helen Hopperton07825 164588
Giles Brittain07740 647322
Will Mumford07741 645345
David Moore861195
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**

#### Eleanor Abbs (Chair)

eleanor.abbs@perryparishcouncil.org.uk

#### Sheila Brighton (Vice Chair)

Sheila.brighton@perryparishcouncil.org.uk

#### Kay Darby

kay.darby@perryparishcouncil.org.uk

#### **Chris Jones**

chris.jones@perryparishcouncil.org.uk

#### Nigel Noon

clerk@perryparishcouncil.org.uk

#### Emma Prew

emma.prew@perryparishcouncil.org.uk

#### Jo Shirreffs

jo.shirreffs@perryparishcouncil.org.uk

#### **PARISH CLERK - EUGENE SMITH**

clerk@perryparishcouncil.org.uk Tel: 077895 13090

Address: 2 The Drive, Perry, CAMBS. PE28 OSX (no personal callers please).

Minutes of meetings can be found on the village website: <a href="www.perryparishcouncil.org.uk">www.perryparishcouncil.org.uk</a>

#### 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.



Saturday 13th September 2025 10am -2pm

Meet all your neighbours and sell them your unwanted items.

Drop an email to <a href="mailto:clerk@perryparishcouncil.gov.uk">clerk@perryparishcouncil.gov.uk</a> by August 29th to include your address on the official garage sale map.

#### Treasurers Corner

Hello for the last time.

I can only thank everyone who has ever donated to our magazine or popped in those Pots.

Thanks to all the editors who have kept us going. It has been an honour and a privilege.

Take care everyone.

Helen



## 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 (must 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.



### Pick up for Perry

Please come along for an hour or so to help give our village a clean and keep it looking beautiful.

We will be litter-picking around Perry and along the footpaths between 11am and 12 noon.

Saturday 4th October 2025 Meet at 11am outside The Wheatsheaf pub \*\*Please note the later start time\*\*

Please bring your own gloves. Litter-picking sticks, high vis tabards and bin bags will be provided.

For any further information please contact Fay Wheatcroft, 16 Rose Croft, Perry on 01480 810734

#### **District and County Councillors**

lan Gardner - Cambridgeshire County Council, email address is:

<u>ian.gardener@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</u> 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.





#### St Andrew's Church 100 Club Draw

#### June 2025

Prize	No	Name
£200	21	Mrs Jo Reid
£100	31	Mr G Gilbert
£50	47	Mr G Westcott
£25	77	Mr Robert Gray
£15	72	Mrs S Fory
£10	16	Mr J Duberly

#### July 2025

		Name
		Sue Bream
		Johnathan Brown
£15	41	Kev Bream
£10	87	Janet Perrett

#### <u> August 2025</u>

Prize	No	Name
£50	71	Mrs Ivy Sturgeon
£25	23	Mrs Elizabeth Wetzel
£15	100	Jill Ackroyd
£10	28	Mrs L Rowe

Congratulations to all the winners!



#### 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

## Lady Gardener

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Please email: foodgardener@pm.me or call 0774 898 4536

## Life magazine – journey's end (sadly)

Ife Magazine has been the lifeblood of the village since it was founded nearly half a century ago.

It has kept us posted on events in the village, included reviews of various activities like the Staughton Stagers performances and the events organised by the Community Association (both of fond memory).

I have a special reason for remembering Life magazine: about 40 years ago I began submitting a column entitled *Snippets of History* which eventually developed into my book *Great Staughton and its People* (still available by the way).

None of this would have possible without the skill and commitment of our editors Rob and Shaun who did a magnificent job over the years of bringing out a packed magazine on time every month.

In short, *Life* was an indispensable guide to Great Staughton life.

Anthony Withers aw.staughton@gmail.com

#### **Martin Bowen**

Janet and family would like to thank everyone for their kindness following the sad loss of Martin to cancer in May.

Your cards, messages, calls and flowers meant a great deal to us all.

Thanks also to Great Staughton surgery for their care and understanding during this difficult time.

## **Brook Farm**

## Mushrooms, vegetables and microgreens

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email: foodgardener@pm.me

#### GREAT STAUGHTON VILLAGE BOOK CLUB



#### 'Autumn ... the year's last, loveliest smile' William Cullen Bryant

There's nothing quite like an Autumn fire, fluffy slippers, a blanket on the lap (with one of the cats curled up on it) and a book of course.

Our Summer choices certainly led to interesting discussions with some huge differences in our views of the stories they told.

'Doppelganger' by Naomi Klein was interesting but not particularly well received. It dwelt on who we are, how we perceive ourselves and how others see us.

In July, we read 'Undercurrent' by Barney Norris. It tells the story of Ed and how, as a child, he rescued a young girl who was drowning. As Ed muddles his way through life he meets the girl he once saved. Most of the group didn't enjoy the novel. I loved it.

Our August book, 'The Lost Bookshop' by Evie Wood was delightful. It is an enchanting tale full of magic and self-discovery.

Being part of a book club helps to expand my reading habits – there are certainly books I don't particularly like and others that are little jewels of all things wonderful but there's never a dull discussion.

## Books for the rest of 2025 September:

A Man Called Ove by Fredrik
Backman

#### October:

Lessons by Ian McEwan

#### November:

Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver



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#### 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 2025 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 <a href="hwwgg@yahoo.com">hwwgg@yahoo.com</a>

#### PERRY BOOK SWAP

Calling all bibliophiles. Perry Parish Council has 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!

## <u>Hail Weston Wildlife and Gardening Group - Programme for 2025</u>

Date	Title/ Speaker	Description
September 2nd, Tuesday 7.30pm Village Hall	Animal Safari	Safari STU will bring snakes, lizards, mini beasts and mammals for petting. Children will be welcome, at no cost when accompanied by an adult.
October 7th, Tuesday 7.30pm Village Hall	House plants	A talk from a representative of Notcutts. Raffle including £25 Garden voucher, Refreshments available for a donation.
November 4th, Tuesday 7.30pm Village Hall	Gardening with a Changing Climate	A talk by Geoff Hodge on Gardening in a Global Greenhouse.Raffle including £25 Garden voucher, Refreshments available for a donation.
December 2nd, Tuesday 7.30pm, Village Hall	Christmas Social	Open to members only



#### GREAT STAUGHTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



ardens are a bit like pets - requiring feeding, watering and attention. They are rewarding but a bit of a problem at holiday times. Some people get so involved that they are loathe to go on holiday at all but the key, certainly for garden care, is a watering system. I have a piped system attached to the outdoor tap which has worked pretty well for my potted plants but raised beds are another matter. My home allotment seemed doomed to shrivel up in the summer drought. Enter - the Olla! I came across the concept on a YouTube video. A smart young woman demonstrated her simple method. Take an unglazed terracotta pot, block the drainage hole with BluTack, bury it in the bed you want to irrigate, fill it with water and cover with a matching terracotta saucer. Refill as required. I buried a one litre pot beside my tomatoes/ courgettes and another one in the middle of my runner bean wigwam and the results have been spectacular. I've had a very healthy crop from all the vegetables using a fraction of the water that would have been required to keep the beds irrigated by normal methods. In fact it was almost impossible to water the raised beds which are simply a heap of compacted compost and manure. Water would just run off rather than being absorbed.

The plants' roots have found their way into the pots but the gradual leaching of moisture from the pot keeps the roots away from the surface.

Obviously if you are away you need someone to come in and fill up your Ollas but it is a relatively quick and simple task.

I'm not sure how long the BluTack will do its job but time will tell.

I know this isn't the Book Club section but I have a recommendation for you: "Raising Hare" by Chloe Dalton. I have always been intrigued by hares which I see regularly on my early morning walks, particularly up on Garden Farm. What happens to them during and after harvest? Where do they go? Some of the answers are revealed in this magical book along with a wealth of information about the lives of these magnificent creatures.

Ripe blackberries are everywhere. It's ridiculously early to be cropping them and presumably there will be a gap in the food supply for creatures that normally eat them later in the year. I've decided to make some jelly this year for the first time and have been warned that seven pounds of fruit is needed to produce one pound of jelly. My freezer is already straining with fruit. Perhaps one more outing will take me to my target. The wasps give a clue to the location of ripe fruit. It's so encouraging to see more of them around this year. I have memories of picking blackberries with my grandfather who would always have a crook with him to pull down the high branches. The best fruit always seems to be unattainable. A bit of a life message there!

Put a date in your diary for the Garden Talk at the Village Hall on 11th October at 7:30pm.

Geoff Hodge is returning to share some of his wisdom. Tickets £10.

#### Page 14



#### St Andrew's Church tour

After a successful series of church tours at the beginning of the year, the next tour will take place on Saturday September 27 starting at 11am.

The church is the oldest building in Great Staughton. Parts of it go back eight centuries and within it are the ghosts of people who lived through the unfolding tapestry of our history.

Our tour aims to bring to life the people commemorated in the

monuments and memorials of the church but also the role they played in the events that shaped England: the Tudor epoch, the Armada, the civil war, and the emergence of the British Empire to name but a few.

Their stories offer a fascinating glimpse of how this little village played its part in the development of our history.

The cost is a modest £5 and that includes tea and biscuits. Proceeds to the St Andrew's Renovation (StAR) Project.

Just turn up on the day to enjoy a journey through England's history, seen through the eyes of the extraordinary characters from this unassuming Huntingdonshire village.

Anthony Withers aw.staughton@gmail.com





#### **MacMillan Coffee Morning**

Many of us are familiar with the work of MacMillan nurses as they seek to care for tho e suffering with such things as cancer. Perhaps we have personally experienced their tender loving care as they cared for us and/or members of our families.

Now is an opportunity for us to repay that love to this charity. *On Saturday 11th October* there will be a MacMillan coffee morning held in *Perry Baptist Church between 10am and midday*.

There will be the usual tea and coffee and cakes. There will also be bacon rolls made available throughout the morning. Many of the things we do throughout the year are free, seeking merely to bring the community together. However this time will be different as we come together seeking to bring a donation to the MacMillan nurses. We look forward to seeing you all joining us.



This has truly been a year of reminders. Earlier in the year we remembered the 80th anniversary of VE Day and reflected on the joy that many experienced as they realised peace was coming to our land.

Yet that was not the end. The war continued in the east and the need for full peace was still being yearned for.
August has brought further memories.
It is 80 years since the horror of Hiroshima in Japan and then 80 years since the world marked VJ Day.

Not a moment to glorify the victory of one country against another, but more important the victory of Peace.

Now the World War was over. On Sunday the 7th September there is an opportunity to mark this anniversary of peace.

All will be welcome to join us in Perry Baptist Church on the *7th*September at 6pm in order that collectively we declare that peace is more important in our lives here and now.

#### Harvest

Yes, it is that time of year again. Harvest time has arrived, and its not just the farmers that have a vested interest in noting this time. We all have an interest as we enjoy the products that the farmers have made possible. It is the means of our nourishment being fulfilled.

On **Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup> September** we can celebrate the harvest in our Harvest service in the Perry Baptist Church. This will be held in the morning at 10.30am. The harvest display will later be donated to the local food bank, so those wishing to donate are requested to bring non perishable food. Even if you are not able to make such a donation you will all be welcome to join us as we give thanks to the Lord of the Harvest.

#### GREAT STAUGHTON WI

the WI INSPIRING WOMEN

or our May meeting
Anthony Withers gave us
a talk entitled 'Great

Staughton and its People – How a Huntingdonshire Village Made its Mark on England's History'. Anthony told us that in 1958-59 a Roman Villa was excavated in Great Staughton and the Romans were followed by the Anglo Saxons. Great Staughton is also mentioned in the Doomsday Book. Anthony went on to tell us about a few of Great Staughton's historical residents including Valentine Walton who married Oliver Cromwell's sister and was one of the 58 signatories consigning King Charles I to his death. Anthony was very admiring of Frances Isabella Locke, known as Fanny, who went to the Crimean War, witnessed the charge of the Light Brigade and recorded the details. There was also John Howey who came from a wealthy family and installed a model railway at Staughton Manor and went on to found the Romney Hythe and Dymchurch railway in the 1960s. This very informative talk brought to life the famous historical lives of Great Staughton residents and told us how important the village is to English history.

In June, Liz Houghton's talk was entitled 'A Poet for Hire'. Liz has been diagnosed with Parkinsons and read out some of her poems. She told us she started writing poetry during the pandemic and couldn't stop. Her subjects included the pandemic, Parkinsons, politics, the Post Office scandal and life generally. Liz managed to find the humour in all these situations, even when things felt bleak. In between her readings, Liz told us a little about Parkinsons and said it takes many months to receive a diagnosis and she feels that if the medics can't place the symptoms to

any other condition, they come to the conclusion that it must be Parkinsons. However, as there are over 40 different symptoms and each person could have

different ones, that is somewhat understandable. Liz belongs to a support group and they are campaigning for people who are diagnosed with Parkinsons to receive information and be seen within 18 weeks as, at the moment, some people are left for years wondering what is the matter with them. Liz said that exercise is important and she loves playing table tennis. She discovered that there is a Parkinsons tournament and she plays in the World Championships which makes her an elite athlete! We all thoroughly enjoyed listening to Liz's poetry and there were lots of laughs and applause all evening. Liz and her husband then enjoyed tea and cakes with us.

In July, Geoff Watts gave us a talk entitled 'Behind Closed Doors'. A lot of the ladies present knew Mr Watts as he had taught many of our children as he was a teacher at Ernulf school. He began teaching in 1973 aged 21 and spent 36 years at Ernulf school, ending up as Head Teacher of the Sixth Form. Geoff took early retirement in 1992 and works as a Magistrate in Peterborough, but also volunteers for the Independent Monitoring Board in the prison service. Geoff told us that members of the IMB ensure that prisoners are treated humanely and report to the Secretary of State. They also attend incidents; hear prisoners requests and grievances; observe meetings; attend courses and submit annual reports. Geoff began his talk quoting Nelson Mandela who said that 'it is said that no one truly knows a nation until one has been inside its jails. A nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens, but its lowest ones'.Geoff volunteers at Littlehey Prison, where sex offenders are sent, but

says he never feels uncomfortable when he enters the prison and regards it as the safest prison in the country. He explained that there is a separate wing for OAP prisoners, but the prison service regards those aged 55 and over as OAPs. All prisoners have a structured day and are able to earn some money by working in the garden or kitchen, or in the car repair shop, to name a few available jobs. Also, they are able to study subjects such as computers and arts and crafts. They are also able to do Open University courses, but have to pay for them themselves. They are able to spend the money they earn on extras from the canteen as the food they are served is very basic. It is worth mentioning that the OAP prisoners do not receive a state pension while in prison. We were also told that it costs £50,000 per year for one prisoner. If prisoners misbehave one of punishments is to have some money deducted from what they have earned.

This was a very informative talk and we were all very impressed with Geoff's dedication to his volunteering. He said that the IMB are always looking for volunteers and will be actively recruiting later this year, if anyone is interested.

As it is the summer holidays, our August meeting will not be held in the evening on the usual date, but will be a day trip on the Ladybird boat at the end of the month.

Our meetings are usually held on the second Tuesday of every month at Great Staughton Village Hall at 7.30pm. If you do fancy coming along you will receive a very warm welcome, a hot drink and maybe even some cake We also meet up for coffee mornings, lunches and outings during the year. For further details please contact our President, Barbara Wallis, on 07849272915.

Karen Larkins, Great Staughton WI

## Perry Remembers The Fallen Who Served Our Country

On Sunday 9th November 2025 at 10:45am.

By the Tommy at the memorial bench in West Perry, opposite the Wheatsheaf Pub

### Please join us

For the playing of The Last Post followed by two minutes of silence



## LEST WE FORGET

Anyone who would like to attach a poppy to the cascade display by the memorial bench from 1st November, please feel free to do so, and thank you





Arranged by the Perry Events Group, WI and Perry Parish Council

#### Hays Travel Lisa Drake

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#### **Kimbolton Bridge Club**

#### Have you ever played Bridge?

Even if it was many years ago, you are welcome to join us for friendly games of Bridge at Kimbolton Mandeville Hall on Wednesday mornings from 10am to 12pm.

We welcome all ages and abilities for social Bridge, tea, coffee and biscuits.

You don't need a partner as you'll always have someone to play with.

## You've never played Bridge and would like to learn?

Unfortunately, we do not offer Bridge lessons, but we can put you in touch with a teacher in Huntingdon.

We also recommend nofearbridge.co.uk for beginners, as you can learn the basics at home on a computer or tablet.

If you know anyone who plays or has played Bridge before, please do you let them know about us.

For more information, contact John (07944 155576) or Sue (07484 619 277), or alternatively, come and visit us on Wednesday mornings

#### PERRY DROP IN

The Perry Drop In continues to be open to all twice a month.

On the first and third Monday of the month Perry Baptist Church is open between 10am and Midday for any in the community to drop in for coffee, tea or hot chocolate and biscuits or toast.

The Drop In is not intended to be a fund raising event but an opportunity for the community to come together and support each other.



We source local produce, support local business and invest in local people

We have a number of local butchers shops, including:

1 The Highway, Great Staughton, PE19 5DA, 01480 509788

2-4 New Street, St.Neots, PE19 1AE, 01480 210800



### GREAT STAUGHTON GUIDES NEED LEADERS!!

I am sad to report that due to personal circumstances, I am no longer able to lead the Great Staughton Guides and if we don't find a replacement, this group is doomed to close permanently.

There is huge demand in Great Staughton for Brownies (aged 7-10) and Guides (aged 10-14). It's a fantastic village, the girls are polite, and the parents very supportive of our small and friendly guiding group. We have strong support from the community and lots of resources to hand over to the next leadership team, so you can hit the ground running.

If you are interested in working with children and offering this valuable service, please reach out to Lindy Bornman at **FGSGuides@gmail.com** for more information.

Alternatively, for Brownies there are currently lots of spaces available at the Little Staughton Brownies. To register your interest, go to

<u>www.girlguiding.org.uk</u> and follow the links to 'Information for Parents -Register your daughter.'

Fill in your details and select the unit that is right for you and then someone will be in touch.



## WELLBEING WALKS IN OUR AREA AUTUMN/WINTER 2025

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 three miles and last approximately one 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 district (covering areas around St Neots, Huntingdon, St Ives, Ramsey and Yaxley), please visit:

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

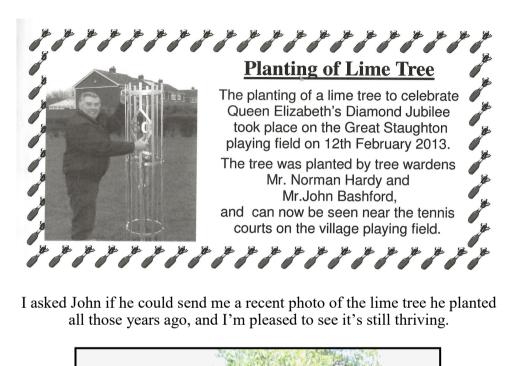
Here, you will also find downloadable booklets of all the walks, with maps and directions.

Copies of the current leaflet listing the full programme of walks are usually available from Great Staughton Surgery. And of course, you'll find the upcoming walks on the next page.

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DATE	TIME	WALK NAME	MEETING POINT
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> Aug	2pm	G.S MEADOWS	G.S Village Hall Car Park
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> Sept	10am	KYMSIDE SAUNTER	G.S Village Hall Car Park
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> Sept	2pm	GRAFHAM PERRY WALK	The Wheatsheaf, Perry
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup> Sept	10am	KIMBOLTON HILLS	Kimbolton School, High Street entrance
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	10am	BRAMPTON WOOD NATURE RESERVE	Wildlife Trust Car Park PE28 0DB
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	2pm	KIMBOLTON HILLS	Kimbolton School, High Street entrance
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> Oct	2 pm	G.S MEADOWS	G.S Village Hall Car Park
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	2pm	GRAFHAM PERRY WALK	The Wheatsheaf, Perry
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup> Oct	2pm	GRAFHAM LAKESIDE	Cinnamon Restaurant car park, Grafham
Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> Oct	10am	GRAFHAM PERRY WALK	The Wheatsheaf, Perry
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> NOV	2pm	KYMSIDE SAUNTER	G.S Village Hall Car Park
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> DEC	2pm	GRAFHAM LAKESIDE	Cinnamon Restaurant car park, Grafham
Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> JAN 2026	2pm	DILLINGTON STROLL	Great Staughton Village Hall Car Park
Fri 30 <sup>th</sup> JAN	10am	GRAFHAM PERRY WALK	The Wheatsheaf, Perry
NO FEBRUARY WALKS IN OUR VILLAGES — REFER TO THE BROCHURE or WEBSITE FOR OTHER WALK OPTIONS NEARBY			
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> MAR	10am	KYMSIDE SAUNTER	G.S Village Hall Car Park
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup> MAR	2pm	GRAFHAM PERRY WALK	The Wheatsheaf, Perry

I had Great Staughton resident John Bashford get in touch recently. He's reminded us all about a small article that featured in the March 2013 issue of the *Life Magazine*, which you can see below. It's been quite something to see how much the content has changed during that time.



I asked John if he could send me a recent photo of the lime tree he planted



#### Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan for the designated neighbourhood area of Great Staughton Parish will be subject to a referendum to be held on **September 4th.** 

The Independent Examiner concluded:

'The Plan should prove to be a useful tool for future planning and change in Great Staughton over the coming years.'

Andrew S Freeman

The Parish Council is recommending a YES vote for the following reasons:

Once a Neighbourhood Plan has been adopted for a village, it provides several potential advantages.

- It defines the extent and where the Parish would like to see development take place.
- The introduction of some controlled development supports local services such as the school, shop, pubs and clubs.
- It adds more protection to the heritage aspects of the village.

- It provides more protection to the environment and ecology surrounding the village
- The Parish Council receives a higher level of grant allocation under certain circumstances.

The final version of the plan and associated documents can be found at:

www.greatstaughtonpc.org.uk/ neighbourhood-plan

Paper copies are available in the village hall, doctor's surgery, church and other locations.

Any queries please contact the clerk:

gtstaughtonparshclerk@outlook.com

Please vote by post (if you have a postal vote) or in person

#### A YES vote is important to the future of the village.

Postal votes can be delivered on September 4<sup>th</sup> to the village hall in polling hours 7am -10pm.

## Perry W I Every Second Monday of the month at 7.30pm



And so to our speakers. In June we were visited by Celebrant Bev Barnes. Bev took us through the ins and outs of funeral and wedding celebrations, pointing out that

ello lovely people Of Perry and Great Staughton. Hope your summer is shaping up beautifully and your gardens are surviving without too much Anglian Water intervention — if you know what I mean. We've practically given up on the lawn in our house but the flowers are looking very gorgeous. Just shows how green-fingered my husband is (Americans say 'green thumb' don't they. I've always found that slightly strange).

Celebrants are completely different to Humanists (so if you want a hymn in your celebration, that's all fine). The whole point is that all celebrations are bespoke to each individual client.

So, Perry WI are thriving and having a fab time with splendid speakers (many thank yous to our inspired Programme Secretary, Garry) and lovely friendly chatty time with pals. We did a Fashion Show (if I knew how to send photos to Editor-Rob, you could actually see how brilliant it was, but I'm rubbish so you'll just have to imagine) with our friends at Eaton Belles WI. A marvellous evening was had by all and we made a very decent amount for our coffers. Many thanks to all who took part and hopefully it will be the start of a bit of thing, fingers crossed.

Bev is St Neots born and bred, hit 60 last year (she jumped out of a plane for charity to mark the occasion), and has a background in hotel management, retail, banking and being a courier and a doctor's receptionist. After her dad died, she did an intensive course and set up in business, courting funeral directors and going to wedding fairs etc to get herself known.

We've a few things to report – we (and others) have been invited to name the new MAGPAS mascot. Check out the website and have a go! You never know!

Talking about funerals, she pointed out that crematoriums have the facility to hold a Direct Cremation which means that it is unattended. However, Bev believes that we need to grieve our dead and a funeral or a Celebration of Life is vitally important in that process. It matters not where the Celebration is – the Village hall, outdoors at their favourite park bench or down at the Rugby Club – the important part is that it's an opportunity to raise a glass and celebrate the loved-one's life. There is no pressure as it is all tailored to the family's needs but Bev likes it if people put their hand up, stand and share a story about the loved one.

WI Annual Raffle. Get them raffle tickets quick – fantastic prizes etc and only a quid a go – you know you want to!

Bev explained a bit of the housekeeping which has to happen after a bereavement including who to tell: 'Tell us once', DVLA, Passport office, Electoral register, bank, pet insurance, tv, opticians, memberships (gym, golf club etc), social media (Facebook, Twitter etc) to name but a few. She passed round a Bereavement Support Guide and a book entitled 'The Book of Me – I'm Dead, Now What?' which had information in it such as passwords, significant possessions, insurance, financial details etc. Many of us were interested to see that such a sensible book existed (in several different formats apparently). She mentioned Power of

Also, we were asked to deposit our blister medicine packs (or is it medicine blister packs? Oh dear, I think I'm supposed to know) into the bin in the bus shelter over a two day period in July. It's gone now but Nigel in the shop told me that they'd had to empty it at least once. Go, Perry! Recycling is the future! Incidentally my 4year old granddaughter and I had a bit of laugh pouring ours in (I've been saving them for over a year so there was a shedload). Simple pleasures, my friends, simple pleasures.

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Attorney and said 'DO IT!' and above all, chat about what you want to happen when the inevitable inevitably happens.

Bev meets with family and gets to know the person they have lost through memories and stories. This helps her to tailor what she says to that specific person.

And on to marriage! She recommended that interested parties should research what they want. It is thought that Registry Office weddings are very expensive for what you get -generic, template-driven ceremony – which they are! However, if you do the simple legal stuff with the couple and two witnesses, it is a mere £60, then you go and do the fun stuff with a celebrant anywhere you want. A field, a folly! A beach, a garden! Anywhere.

Vow Renewals are wonderful, according to Bev, as the couple are already married and are still here! She also does a 'Commitment Ceremony' when they are not married but want a celebration (maybe the paperwork of a divorce isn't through or maybe there is an illness so the ceremony is brought forward). So for everything from naming, marriage, bereavement to divorce and even genderswap, call the Celebrant! Thank you Bev, so very interesting and informative.

July came round and our dear secretary Kerry's dad arrived. Or should I say Major Michael McCarthy MBE of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. Mick was such an interesting speaker – he started off with the history of the Fusiliers and went on to tell us of his own career and job. So we learned that the Fusiliers were originally formed at The Tower of London (where Mick now works) in 1685 by the king who needed to increase his army due to national disquiet over his Catholicism. The name comes from 'the Fusil' – the flintlock musket which they used to guard the Ordnance (anything that goes bang) in The Tower. The musket was built slightly differently and didn't spark when fired (which was not a good idea around all that gunpowder etc). They were named by James II as 'My Royal Regiment of Fuzileers' and were the first regiment to use

bayonets. There were eventually four Fusilier regiments who were amalgamated on St George's Day 1968.

Mick showed us pictures of The Tower of London (his office is just a spit from The White Tower), the Museum and the Dining Room (hiring it out is one way of making money) and explained that the MoD doesn't pay for any of this so they have to fund raise. There is a Medal Gallery, the first room leading into the Officers' Mess (ladies were allowed in there but NO further until 1967!), the History Gallery which is mainly paintings of distinguished colonels and soldiers.

Mick explained that George V was Colonel in Chief but presently (and for a long time) the Duke of Kent is the Colonel in Chief, that 21,941 Fusiliers were killed in the First World War, that they raised 74 regiments in WW1, were the first to have a PALS regiment (including Battalion of Stockbrokers, Battalion of Sportsmen, Battalion of Bankers and many Jewish Battalions – mainly from the East End).

A few photographs were shown of famous fusiliers including JRR Tolkien, AA Milne, playwright Guy du Maurier, Billy Cotton and Sir Michael Caine (he fought in Korea) and David ben Gurion (a lance-corporal in WW1). And a few infamous fusiliers: the Krays – for three or four days before they were sent to military prison in Colchester, and Leslie Grantham (Dirty Den from *EastEnders*) who was convicted of murder and also did time.

In World War I, the Fusiliers were awarded 22 Victoria Crosses – including the first two and the last two in 1919 (the Armistice was signed in 1918 but the Treaty in 1919).

Mick joined in the 1970s after being in the Cadets in Paddington, in 1977 he was a 16 year old straight form school and during his career saw postings in Berlin, Cyprus and many other places. He told us the story of the night our secretary Kerry was born. He was on patrol in Belfast and was called to the hospital. Obviously he had to change out of his uniform but had forgotten to take his

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civvies. He therefore borrowed a mate's who was six inches shorter so the first time this dapper East End boy saw his daughter he was dressed as a short Yorkshireman! He saw five tours of Northern Ireland, also served in Afghanistan, he told us that the best, most exciting was the Liberation of Kuwait (where he was in a recon platoon who are the most forward team) and the worst experience was being in Bosnia as the Bosnians 'are very like us but did terrible things to each other'.

His job now is to handle Fusilier matters in London and the South: welfare, heritage, civic, ceremonial and commemoration duties alongside fundraising and Army Cadet Force support.

Mick was such an interesting speaker, so full of knowledge and pride in his regiment that we could have listened to him long into the night. Thank you Mick.

August is our Social Evening (in my head, it's 'Natter Night') so we sat on the veranda of the Sailability Hut and chatted, drank bubbles and laughed, ate nibbley bits and did a bit more laughing. All to the sound of the seagulls (no chips here, chaps) and the comment from everyone who arrived that there was no green slimey-weedy pong – you have to go to the Fishing Lodge for that!

Jo reminded us that there is a Garage Sale on 13 September (see the Parish Council website for details), 11 October is the MacMillan Coffee Morning at the church and 7 September is VJ Day celebration. Also that 17<sup>th</sup> December is Carols round the Christmas Tree.

So – to our Natter Night. I spent a lovely half hour chatting Shakespeare, (Exit Pursued by Bear) and which is best 'Comedy of Errors' or 'As You Like It' – I'll leave it you to decide which was chosen. We also discussed, very seriously, the madness of spending a summer with a GCSE and an A level student planning the next few years of their lives. I heard a snippet of a conversation which I'm sorry to have missed when a voice said 'Y'know Pete Postlethwaite, he was in that trumpet one ...' then a whole conversation

about spiders (how ugly they are, but you must never stand on them, how they like getting in your hair, but the ones with the long spindly legs are alright to grab and chuck out of the window).

Someone (I didn't recognise the voice so can't dob them in) admitted to being 'drunk in the summerhouse' – you go girl! One of our very well-dressed members was complimented on her lovely summer skirt then whispered to me 'St Neots Market, it's cotton you know'. We discussed what we read when we're away and the overwhelming answer seemed to be 'holiday tat' and a couple of magazines to save the Kindle from the heat/water – what sensible people we are.

There was talk of the Perseid Meteor Shower expected for the next two nights, with one friend saying 'See you at the crack of dawn' and another saying 'Percy who?' There was talk of gardening, baking (especially Jean's spectacular Victoria Sandwich Cake), jigsaws (Marmite) and someone sitting in the doorway revelling in a piece of glorious cake with the comment 'It was Slimming World today so I can have cake tonight'. That's one of the best comments about enjoying cake that I've heard.

And so we come to the *end of our Life Magazine* reports. I have thoroughly enjoyed sharing the life of Perry WI with you over the years and hope that we'll find another place to tell you about our adventures. A huge, huge thank you to Rob and the team – past and present – who have made this fantastic magazine what it is.



#### Reflections on the Great Staughton and Perry Life Magazine

hese are my memories aided in part by reference to old copies of the magazine.

I apologise if I fail to mention anyone specifically, but some names do stand out to me.

The first magazine I can locate is September 1984. Ena Van Win was the editor, Janet Howard the treasurer. It shows the activities in the village including the village week and gala day making £267.81 profit.

Great Staughton Parish council was chaired by Peter Willmer with Hugh Duberly as Vice Chair. Issues raised included traffic on the then A45, street lighting the new village sign and perhaps most interestingly the completion of the works to the village hall which provided new internal toilets. Advertisements in 1984 included Harry Pitt the milkman, Jock Croach the butchers, and HJ Odell and sons the garage.

In the January 1987 edition Ena is looking for volunteers 'ladies to come and help her collate' *Life Magazine* as at this time *Life* was produced on a Gestetner printer. For those of a younger generation – the magazine was typed on a typewriter on to a skin (corrections were very difficult), the skin was loaded on to the drum of the Gestetner, ink was placed into the drum and the copies were printed.

I am not sure if it was even electric in the early days or turned by hand. The paper sheets had to be collated and stapled into a magazine for delivery. It required at least 6 people for quite a few hours every month.

One of the 1988 editions record the closure with sadness of the borstal at Perry. By 1989 Jess Blanchflower was Chair of Life magazine and Hugh Duberly Chair of Great Staughton Parish Council. The 'new' proposed A1/M1 link (now the A14) was a significant point of interest as well as rubbish bags piled on the pavement for collection by HDC, Mr Staughton's diary appeared as a satirical entry soon to be followed by Mrs Staughton's diary.

In 1994 David Roberts was recording a new Doctor's digest. The new pavilion was under discussion with permissions being sought. The Parish assembly was actively discussing the 'new traffic calming on the Highway'.

Some of the first discussions were held on more affordable housing in the village. Interestingly the Great Staughton precept was £5,000 (now £23,000) made by the Parish Council.

By 2001 Mike Mockford had taken over as editor, Piglets pre-school was meeting in the new pavilion. The magazine had entered the competition for Parish magazines in Cambridgeshire and had been complimented on the magazine. In 2003 the GS Parish Council was once again pre-occupied with speed reductions along the Green.

The September 2006 edition records the end of an era with farewell to the garage and shop. In July 2007 Life had its first colour additions with photos of the church fete and Gala Day and the Earl of Wessex's visit to the Grafham Water Centre. A Dahlia display featured on the August 2007 edition from 2006 Horticultural show.

By 2013 a revolution had taken place. *Life Magazine* was no longer produced on what I think was called an offset Litho machine but had moved to A5 and more modern printing.

Rob Young had taken over as editor and it is much to his credit will also edit this last edition in 2025. Shaun Prince also acted as co-editor for many years from 2016 until 2023.

This is not intended as a history of *Life* or indeed does it include all the many people who have contributed over the years. If anyone is interested there are many copies of the Life magazine from 1984 to 2014 in the village hall and those from 2016 are on line on the Great Staughton website -

#### www.greatstaughtonpc.org.uk/

In mentioning the website this will be used in future to promote local events or issues and I urge you to send information to the clerk GtStaughtonParishClerk@outlook.com

**Bob Jewell** 

#### **Buckden Repair Café**

Buckden Village Hall, PE19 5UY from 13.30-16.30 Saturday 8th November 2025.

Bring along your stuff that's too good to throw away but needs fixing for a free repair (donations very welcome).

Bookings open October 1st at <a href="https://forms.gle/3NjojicPWCLyMcVQ7">https://forms.gle/3NjojicPWCLyMcVQ7</a> or email buckdenrepaircafe@gmail.com for more details.

Refreshments, including homemade cakes and scones, available. Nothing to be mended but fancy seeing what is going on, then please join us for a cuppa.

#### **Touch Point Therapy**

is pleased to announce the addition of a new therapy

### The Feldenkrais Method (moving with awareness)

Feeling generally stiff and achey?
Re-discover easy movement with some simple moves!

Try a free movement lesson.

Choose from:

Easy Flexibility

A Healthy Spine

Aligning your Body

(all of these lessons are done in a chair)

To find out more or to book an appointment contact:

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Elizabeth Hughes
ITEC, MCThA, cert ECBS
07702 739968 or 01480 811369
All sessions are given in the comfort of
your own home
info@massagehuntingdon.com

www.massagehuntingdon.com



# St. Andrew's Church Fete The Old Vicarage, Great Staughton CASH PREFERRED

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September: 2.00 - 4.00







3 in a row



and more...



## *Life Magazine* editorial letters from the last 15 years

Seeing as this is our final ever edition of the *Life Magazine*, I thought it would be nice to delve into some of our old issues and take another look at the editorial letters myself, Shaun and Valerie have written over the years.

They act as a nice little snapshot into that particular time...

#### January 2010 - my second edition

So, here we are, 2010. Christmas is over, the 'Noughties' are over, another decade is over. Long live the 'Teenies!' It's been an eventful decade though, hasn't it. But instead of looking back, lets look forward to what 2010 has to offer. All I can think of at moment is the Winter Olympics in February and the World Cup in June.

But with a new year come the obligatory resolutions that usually last until around the third week of January. However, we at *Life* would love to know what your resolutions for 2010 are. Are you going to give up smoking or cut down on the booze after a heavy Christmas and new year? Or maybe even something completely different. Please don't hesitate to email either myself or Valerie with your resolutions and how you're getting on with them and we'll publish them in the coming months, hopefully helping you stick to them!

Also, all of us at *Life* wish Andrea, our ever-reliable recipe and gardening guru, a swift recovery and hope she's back with her regular features very soon. Get well soon.

I hope you all enjoy the first issue of the new

decade and I wish all our readers a very happy and joyful new year. I also look forward to my wonderful friends reading this editorial aloud, sarcastically, in The Wheatsheaf very soon!

This edition was edited by Rob

#### June 2012

At last we're into the big month of The Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, and I hope you will all find a celebration to go to in the villages. For those who are not really interested in that news (I'm sure there are some) the country is already gearing up for the Olympics! The torch is wending its way around the country and it's scheduled to come through Huntingdon. And I can't forget 'the Chelsea Flower Show' last month so although I've never been I loved this photo of June roses I've used on the cover. I can only hope now the weather will look at us kindly over those celebrations. We've got a really packed Life for you again, and I hope I've not forgotten anything! Thanks to everyone who sent us their input. Please don't forget we do want to hear your feedback about what we include, and you perhaps have other ideas. WE WANT TO HERE THEM....

I think— no I hope—we can look forward now to some real summer weather, but I don't want to dwell on this subject in great length—our weather forecasters are on a hiding to nothing, don't you think? At this point I want to thank Rob for stepping into the breach last month—I think he did a marvellous job. Again, we are entering Life Magazine into the Cambridge Building Society Magazine Awards this month, so perhaps we'll have some good news to tell you next time. To conclude I do hope you all have a happy "celebration" time, smell the roses and enjoy yourselves whatever you do.

#### Valerie edited 'Life' this month

### December 2013 - when the cover went colour

Did you notice anything different about this issue's front cover, besides the lovely festive scene? Yep, that's right, this Christmas we've gone colour! This is something we've wanted to do for a while now and we'll be producing a number of colour covers throughout the year, probably when we have a nice picture to show off!

Anyways, it's nearly Christmas, and I imagine I'm not the only one who's wondering where 2013 has suddenly disappeared to. I swear it was only the summer five minutes ago! Oh well, bring on 2014, I guess.

There's plenty going on in both Staughton and Perry this Christmas, just flick through the pages to see for yourself. But I'm especially pleased to see that, thanks to Piglets Pre-School, Father Christmas and his helpers will be doing the rounds on Sunday 22nd. It would've been a shame to see this tradition come to an end - lots of people have very fond memories of it from years ago, including myself.

I do hope you all have a lovely and relaxing Christmas and New Year and I'll see you all again in the February issue. You never know, there might be a colour cover.

This issue was edited by Rob

## January 2015 - Valerie's final edition

Hello everyone, for the last time from me! [no, please no hankies yet!] I think you all must know by now that I am handing over the co-editing to [we can unveil him now] Shaun Prince, from Gt Staughton, [sorry Perry!] However I do say on page 10 that I

shall still co-ordinate the delivery of the Perry magazines, receive magazine input on paper.

My decision to be editor: well apart from the computer malfunctions, breakdowns etc. it turned out to be one of the most enjoyable decisions I made at the time when 'hubby' and I had just moved here in 2001. Here I must mention my vey best 'buddy' Mike, who nursed me through the trials of the first few editions, and then every month we had a ball!!!! I must say thanks to all who contributed to the magazine, but it would be good to reinvigorate things such as book reviews, recipes or gardening tips (nudge to horticultural club!).

There's really no more I can say—I've enjoyed it all so much. Good luck to Shaun and Rob who continue with the joy of editing, and also to the rest of the team. I do hope that "Life", really does mean 'Life! Good luck for a good future ahead. Valerie

#### March 2015 - Shaun's first edition

Firstly, I would like to yet again thank Valerie for her years of excellent service to this magazine. You continually edited the *Life Magazine* to such a high standard and you will be missed dearly by both the Team and the readers. Moving forward, I hope to do as good a job as Valerie has done for years in editing this magazine.

Some of you may know me from the old Blades shop in Gt Staughton, and those who do will know how much both the villages and the Life magazine mean to me. We are so lucky to have a voluntary magazine full of local news, events and announcements and when I saw the magazine were looking for an editor, I jumped at the chance. As mentioned before, please ensure that all content to go in the magazine is sent to both myself (lifemagazine@outlook.com) and Rob

(<u>rj.young@live.co.uk</u>) ensuring we don't miss anything important.

March seems to have been a busy month with plenty of content for me to squeeze in, but I think after a lot of coffee I have cracked it! With 48 packed pages, this edition certainly makes for an interesting read...

This issue was edited by Shaun

#### **July 2016**

Welcome to July's edition of *Life*. I'd like to begin by first thanking my co-editor, Shaun, who decided to put a picture of yours truly on the cover of last month's magazine. If I had known it would resurface 20 years later I would have opted for longer shorts and a smaller t-shirt!

I remember that day well. To celebrate the opening of the new pavilion, and the second tennis court, I took part in a tennis tournament, hence the attire (I didn't win). I also remember the speed at which John Major's armoured Jag swung into the field through the old gates!

We continue our year-long celebration of our 40th year on page 24 with cuttings from the July 1994 magazine, and again on the cover, with a couple of snaps from the Highway flood from, I think, the early 1990's. They're not of the best quality, but I like to think that simply adds to the nostalgia! We've really enjoyed looking through old photos and reading lots of your stories. It seems like we've really inspired you all to take your own trips down memory lane! Please do continue to share them with us.

Enjoy the rest of summer and I'll speak to you all again in September!

This issue was edited by Rob

#### March 2018

Hello there, readers, and welcome to another issue. I'd like to talk to you all about the upcoming Parish Council Elections in May.

There's a lot in this month's magazine about them. You'll find all the important dates you need to know on page 9. On page 18, Great Staughton Parish Council Chairman Bob Jewell has written a short piece about the importance of a Parish Council. And on page 20, you'll see some more information about the elections from Parish Council Clerk, Jo Russel.

Over the years, *The Life Magazine* has provided a platform for potential Great Staughton and Perry Parish Council candidates - and current councillors - to state why they should be elected, or re-elected. And this year is no different. We will be publishing any statements we receive in the May issue. For more information on these statements, please refer to page 9. We look forward to reading them and sharing them with the community.

Enjoy the first spring issue of 2018, and I'll speak to you all again in May.

This issue was edited by Rob

#### February 2019

A Happy New Year to you all (seems strange saying it in February I know).

A smaller than normal edition this month, but still full of exciting content. Our AGM meeting minutes can be found within this edition, we are so grateful to all who support the magazine, advertise within it or send in content. We are always looks to expand the magazine, so please don't forget to send in any clubs or activities throughout the villages for a mention:)

This edition Pet of the Month is Jasper the

Hungarian Rescue dog - a resident of Gt Staughton. Jasper was rescued through the Hungary Hearts program in November 17 and judging by his outstanding dress sense I feel he is well looked after now.

I think that's more than enough waffle from me this month, enjoy the cold spell which is due to arrive soon and I will see you all in April:)

This issue was edited by Shaun

#### July 2020 - part of the Covid issues

I trust you're all well in what is now day 3,639 of coronavirus lockdown.

I joke, obviously. As I write this, life is gradually coming back to normal. Shops are reopening, we're able to (partially) see friends and family again, and importantly, football is back. I'm still unable to get back to the village and see my parents and my cats, but when we can finally stay overnight in other places, I'll be on the first train back home.

I'd also like to ask for your help, dear readers. I want to showcase the gardens of the villages on the magazine cover - the places many of you have been spending lockdown. Do feel free to send myself and Shaun photos of your wonderful gardens. I've kicked things off with a photo of my parents' garden. And with that, I realise the last three covers of the magazine have been in Manor Close, so some representation from other parts of Staughton and Perry would be very welcome.

I look forward to seeing your snaps and I'll speak to you all again in the September issue. This issue was edited by Rob

#### April 2021

Welcome to the April edition of Life

*Magazine*, I hope you're all keeping well and staving safe.

We have another packed edition this month with lots of interesting content from both Villages. I'll let you flick through and read for yourself.

I'd like to take this opportunity to say a personal thank you to the Anonymous Perry Resident who made a tremendous donation to *Life Magazine* this month (more on Page 26). It's an extremely generous donation and we are very appreciative of the help and support this money will give us during these uncertain times.

I can't believe it's Easter already, time to get stuck back into the chocolate and put on a few more kgs. I'll see you all in June! This issue was edited by Shaun

### Winter 2021/2022 - when Life went seasonal

Welcome to a new era of the *Life Magazine*. Yes, this is our very first quarterly issue. Our hope is that over time, our new seasonal magazine will get bigger and better, with plenty of community-created content.

You can find out more about the decision as to why we have become a seasonal magazine, along with our new publishing timetable, on page 35. I would like to thank our advertisers for sticking with us, and our contributors who have been brilliant and sent us three months' of content to fill this issue.

As always, we're on the look out for more advertisers, so for the first time, we've included our advert rates to make the process much easier. You'll find this important information on page 45.

I do hope you all enjoy this magazine and have a lovely Christmas, New Year, and, well,

#### Page 34

rest of winter. Shaun will be on hand to edit the *Spring Edition*, which should land on your doormat at the end of February/start of March, and I'll be back for the *Summer Edition* in June. See you then! This issue was edited by Rob

#### Spring 2023 - Shaun's final edition

Welcome to another jam packed edition of *Life Magazine*!

I'm happy to say you have a full magazine this month with lots of content from around both villages. The Horticultural Show Schedule and Entry Form are both included, along with lots of content from the W.I, Book Club and some interesting parish council minutes.

There is also an entry from Phil Yates about the Gt Staughton Village Hub on Page 37 which makes for sad reading.

We are proud to say as a magazine that thanks to your generous donations we made a small profit last year and that we are able to keep the magazine running on our new seasonal rotation. Thank you all so much.

Enough waffle from me, I'll catch you later...

This issue was edited by Shaun

### Summer 2023 - the first issue where Rob was the sole editor

Welcome to the Summer Edition 2023.

I'm going to kick things off by thanking my now former co-editor Shaun Prince, who, after eight years, has decided to step down from the *Life Magazine*. Shaun has been brilliant in his time editing the magazine and I couldn't have asked for a better co-editor over the years. He's left a nice note for everyone on page 6 so go and give it a read.

So, for the rest of the year, or the Autumn and Winter Editions, I'll be editing solo. But myself and Chairperson Nicole would like to invite anyone interested in coming on as our new co-editor to reach out to us. We can provide more detail over email.

Please also be sure to continue emailing both rj.young@live.co.uk and lifemagazine@outlook.com addresses to ensure no content is ever missed. I hope you all enjoy this issue, and have lovely summers, and I'll see you all in September for the Autumn Edition. This issue was edited by Rob

#### Autumn 2024 - Lorraine's first Edition

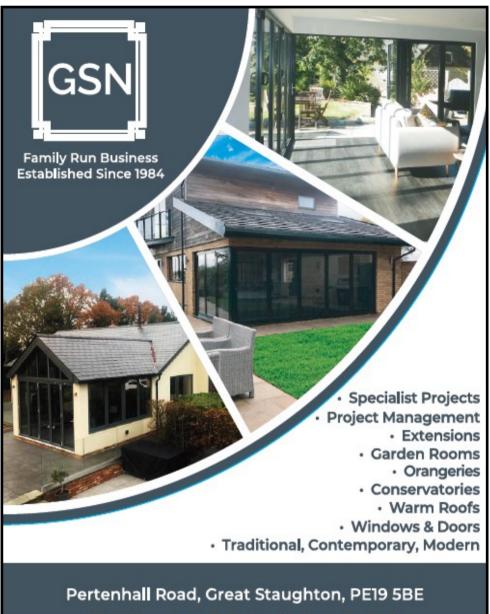
Welcome to your Autumn 2024 Edition of the *Life Magazine*. This is my first (and hopefully not my last!) attempt at editing Life so please be kind to me. Thank you to Rob for all your support and wisdom: I'm looking forward to working together.

Please use my personal email address (lorrainegoody@sky.com) if you have any content to share with us, be sure to send it to both Rob (rj.young@live.co.uk) and myself.

Here's hoping that Autumn is indeed 'full of mellow fruitfulness', apple bobbing and homemade cider.

I hope you all enjoy this issue, and Rob will see you all again in the Winter Edition.





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Funded by the Energy Industry Voluntary Redress Scheme, see



# KIMBOLTON ROMANITY CINEMA

7pm for 7:30pm start at Mandeville Hall

Please come along and support us.

#### Friday September 19th The Penguin Lessons (12)

Based on a true story, a disillusioned Englishman who goes to work in a school in a divided Argentina in 1976 finds his life transformed when he rescues an orphaned penguin from the beach. Starring Steve Coogan and Jonathan Pryce.

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.

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

#### Confessions of a Baptist Minister

Last September, local Baptist Minister, Jon Magee, had his third book published, entitled *Confessions of a Baptist Minister*.

However, that is not the end of it all. This latest book is intended to be the first of a series of three on the same subject - life in the ministry.

The second in the series is due to be published soon. For those looking for further information please contact Jon Magee at 01480 700810.

## Oaklands GARDEN MANAGEMENT



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#### MINUTES OF THE PERRY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held at 7pm on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at the Grafham Water Sailability Clubhouse

Please note that minutes are formal records of official acts and decisions. They are not verbatim reports of discussions or decisionmaking processes.

#### **Present:**

**Parish Councillors:** Chairman Eleanor Abbs (EA), Kay Darby (KD), Nigel Noon (NN), Emma Prew (EP), Pat Reynolds (PR). The meeting was quorate.

County Councillor: Ian Gardener (IG). District Councillor: Stephen Cawley

(SC).

Members of the public: six. Clerk to the Council: Eugene Smith (ES).

**25/44 - Apologies:** The apologies received from Vice Chairman Sheila Brighton and councillors Chris Jones and Jo Shirreffs were **approved** (proposed EA, approved unanimously).

25/45 - Councillors' declarations of interest for items on the agenda: None.

25/46 - Reports from County and District Councillors: IG and SC delivered their reports,

25/47 - Open forum for public participation: See item 25/50/b.PR raised issues with wheelchair access through the barriers on the footpath connecting Rosecroft and the B661.

Action: ES to contact Cambridgeshire County Council to see what can be done.

25/48 - Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the Perry Parish Council Annual Meeting held on

11<sup>th</sup> June 2025 were **approved** as a correct record (prop. EA, app. unanimously) and signed by EA.

**25/49 - Clerk's report:** Attached as appendix three.

#### 25/50 - Highways and green space:

- Chichester Way line painting: No updates.
- Highway obstructions: It was **decided** to take no action beyond providing appropriate contact details. Various areas of overgrown vegetation were identified throughout the meeting. **Action:** KD and ES to collate areas, ES to contact owners / arrange pruning as appropriate.

**25/51 - Publications:** NN suggested Little Staughton's newsletter as a template. **Action:** ES to research.

25/52 - Planning permission consultation: Proposal: Variation of Condition 2 (approved plans) of 24/01701/FUL for the construction of 3no. dwellings and alterations to existing vehicular access. Site Address: Land Adjacent 26 West Perry, Perry. Reference: 25/01070/S73. Approval was recommended (prop. EA, app. unanimously). Action: ES to inform Huntingdonshire District Council.

25/53 - Update on meetings and training attended: ES has requested that Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils hold new councillor training sessions in this district, and they have agreed to run some in autumn.

**25/54 - Events Working Party:** Fay Wheatcroft provided an update, including the following dates:

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September – garage sale Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October – litter pick (starting at the later time of 1100 hours) Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November – Remembrance ceremony

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas event.

**25/55 - Finance:** The following authorised and regular payments for June 2025 were **noted**:

**Eugene Smith** (clerk's salary for June): **confidential** 

Eugene Smith (working from home allowance for June): £26.00

Colin Beesley (handyman's wages for

June): confidential

HMRC (May income tax): £207.54 ASK IT (Antivirus renewal 2025 –

2026): **£22.20** 

Grafham Water Sailability (clubhouse

use June): **£30** 

HMRC (June income tax): £207.54 Unity Trust Bank (service charge): £6 Lloyds Multipay card: £8

(SMARTY mobile phone fee May: £5. Monthly fee May: £3)

25/56 - Appointment of a parish

Councillor: David Gent was appointed as a councillor of Perry Parish Council (prop. EA, app. unanimously). Action: ES to arrange paperwork completion etc.

25/57 - Agenda items for the Annual Perry Parish Council meeting (10<sup>th</sup> September 2025): NN suggested a scheme of gardening assistance. Action: ES to research and create a proposal for September's meeting. Additional items must be received by the clerk no later than Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025.

Meeting closed at 7:55pm.

#### APPENDIX ONE – REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR IAN GARDENER

Parish Council County Council Report – July 2025

Following the County Council Elections the Council is now Liberal Democrat-controlled, the make up of the authority is: Liberal Democrat - 31 Conservative - 10 Reform - 10 Labour - 5 Green - 3 Independents - 2

Following the election I will sit on the following Committees, for the ensuing year.

- Highways and Transportation Conservative Spokesman
- Planning
- Staffing and Appeals
- Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Fire Authority.

Following the Government's decision to proceed with Local Government Reorganisation, the Leaders of the Seven Authorities within Cambridgeshire have come up with 3 proposals for 2 Unitary Authorities, which will undertake all services currently provided by the County & District Councils.

Each proposal sees different groupings of Local Authorities, which are based on District council boundaries and Peterborough City.

The proposals are –

Proposal A

Unitary 1 – Peterborough City,
Huntingdonshire and Fenland.

Unitary 2 – Cambridge City, East Cambridgeshire and South

Cambridgeshire.

Proposal B

Unitary 1 – Peterborough City, Huntingdonshire, Fenland and East Cambridgeshire.

Unitary 2 – Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire.

Proposal C

Unitary 1 – Peterborough City, East Cambridgeshire and Fenland Unitary 2 – Cambridge City, Huntingdonshire and South Cambridgeshire Business Plans for all three proposals are currently being drawn up. The financial viability of each proposal must be met in order to meet government's requirements. It is recognised that each option has different strengths and different implications for services, our local communities and businesses. Consultation on Local Government reorganisation has begun it is anticipated that residents, businesses and other stakeholders across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will be asked to express their views on the future of Local Government more broadly and not just the three options identified above and lasts to 20th July.

The final decision as to which proposal if any, becomes the governments preferred option, is that of the government.

Regarding Perry's successful LHI Bid for Buffer Zones. I can confirm the order has been placed and that it's anticipated that the work will be carried out within this quarter.

The County Council is going to designate the Grafham to Brampton Road as a Quietway. It has been agreed to keep the road open to all road users – cars, cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders and not to close the road to vehicular traffic. The proposed speed limit for the Quietway will be 20mph.

Cllr Ian Gardener Alconbury & Kimbolton Division

#### APPENDIX TWO – REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR STEPHEN CAWLEY Parish Council Update – July 2025

## Expiry of Postal Votes and Reapplication Process

Following a change to the law as part of the Elections Act, postal votes can no longer apply indefinitely. They now expire after a maximum period of three years.

Postal voters can still register to vote by post for a particular poll, but they can no longer hold a postal vote for longer than three years.

Due to the timing of the reapplication legislation, around 16,500 Huntingdonshire postal votes are due to expire at the end of January 2026.

It is vital that we ensure voters respond to the communications and engage with the process to prevent electors being disenfranchised due to the new requirements

#### **Council Reorganisation**

11 June Council leaders announced they have identified three preferred options for creating new unitary councils across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The announcement has been made in response to a national government requirement to replace the current district, county and city councils with simpler unitary councils, instead of two tiers of local government.

## Proposal A – North-West/South East Option

- Unitary 1: Peterborough City Council, Huntingdonshire and Fenland District Councils - along with County Council functions
- Unitary 2: Cambridge City Council, East Cambridgeshire and South Cambridgeshire District Councils along with County Council functions.

#### Proposal B – North/South Option

- Unitary 1: Peterborough City Council, East Cambridgeshire, Fenland and Huntingdonshire District Councils - along with County Council functions.
- Unitary 2: Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District - along with County Council functions.

#### **Proposal C – East/West Option**

- Unitary 1: Peterborough City Council, East Cambridgeshire and Fenland District Councils - along with County Council functions.
- Unitary 2: Cambridge City Council, Huntingdonshire and South Cambridgeshire District Councils along with County Council functions.

#### **Food Collection Service**

Following the government's amendment of the Environment Act in November 2021 and the introduction of Simpler Recycling requirements in May 2024, all Councils in England - unless granted transitional Arrangements - are required to implement a separate, weekly food waste collection service for households by 31 March 2026.

#### **Street Pride Team**

In April 2025, the HDC Street Pride Team was launched as part of the Council's strategy to improve areas that need extra care, ensuring they contribute to the vibrancy of our district's economy and quality of life.

So far, the team have visited Stonely, Kimbolton, Tilbrook, Stow Longa, Spaldwick, Catworth, Ellington, Keyston, Grafham, Perry, Great Staughton, Hail Weston and some areas of St Neots and Huntingdon.

They will get to every town and village so if you have any areas you wish to bring to their attention or any other queries about what the team are doing please contact them

CRM Ops@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

#### APPENDIX THREE - CLERK'S REPORT

- The pill packaging recycling scheme will be piloted at the end of this month, households will be receiving a flyer soon, details also on the website and noticeboards. Thanks to the Perry Events Group for delivering these flyers.
- The new defibrillator cabinet will be installed over the summer, there is also a new case for the machine itself.
- Huntingdonshire District Council will be taking over parking enforcement from the police in August as Civil Parking Enforcement.

### Visit the Great Staughton Parish Council website

Keep up with news & events Have your say!

Sign up & be emailed weekly updates

Including exclusive content not featured in Life Magazine

#### www.greatstaughtonpc.org.uk



News | Council Business | Events | Planning | Parish Info Local Walks | Clubs & Societies | Archive of Life Magazine



## THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST ANDREW GREAT STAUGHTON AND PERRY

Rector: Revd Nicki Bland - Tel: 869485

St Andrew's Vicarage, The Causeway, Great Staughton St Neots. PE19 5BF. **Tel: 01480 861215** 



#### **CHURCH WARDENS:**

Mr Bryan Kitchen & Mr Robert Manderson

#### Dear Friends,

s I write this final newsletter to you all, my heart is filled with gratitude for the incredible time I have had in these parishes. It has been my profound privilege to serve alongside you, to witness your faith in action, and to be part of this wonderful community.

My final official service will be held at St Andrew's Great Staughton on Sunday 7th September at 10am. I hope many of you will be able to join me for this special farewell service as we celebrate together and give thanks for all God has done among us. But the goodbyes don't end there! You'll have one final chance to see me quite literally in the stocks – at St Andrew's Village Fete at the Old Vicarage on Saturday 13th **September.** This will be my last day with you, and what better way to end than with some community fun and perhaps a bit of good-natured justice! I will be travelling back and forth to my own house and emptying this one until 6th October, when I will officially hand over my keys to the Diocese.

As I reflect on our time together, I am reminded of the words from

Ecclesiastes: "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1, NRSV). This is my time to say farewell, but it is also a time to celebrate all that God has accomplished through our shared ministry. You have taught me as much as I hope I have taught you. Your faithfulness during difficult times, your joy in celebration, your willingness to serve others, and your genuine care for one another have been constant sources of inspiration to me.

Though I will be leaving my official role, I carry with me countless precious memories and the knowledge that God's work will continue powerfully among you. As Paul reminded Timothy: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7, NRSV). Together, we have fought the good fight, and I am confident that you will continue to do so.

Thank you for your trust, your patience, your laughter, and your tears. Thank you for allowing me to share in your joys and sorrows, your celebrations and your struggles. Thank you for being the body of

Christ in this place. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all, now and always.

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace" (Numbers 6:24-26, NRSV).

#### 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 022 067.

#### **Services for September 2025**

#### **Great Staughton St. Andrew's**

Sun 7th: 8am - BCP Holy Communion 10am - Benefice Communion

Sun 14th: 10:30am - Parish Communion

Sun 21st: 10:30am - Parish Communion

Sun 28th: 10:30am - Parish Communion

6pm - Benefice Evensong

#### **Little Staughton All Saints**

Sun 7th: 10am - Benefice Communion at St. Andrew's

Sun 21st: 9am - Parish Communion

Sun 28th: 6pm - Benefice evensong

at St. Andrew's

#### Hail Weston St. Nicolas

Sun 7th: 10am - Benefice Communion at St. Andrew's

Sun 14th: 9am - Parish Communion

Sun 21st: 3pm - Creative Communion

Sat 27th: 6pm - Harvest Festival

**Sun 28th:** 9am - Parish Communion 6pm - Benefice Evensong

at St. Andrew's

#### **Services for October 2025**

#### **Great Staughton St. Andrew's**

Sun 5th: 8am - BCP Holy Communion 10:30am - All Age Worship

Sun 12th: 10:30am - Harvest Festival

Sun 19th: 10:30am - Parish Communion

Sun 26th: 10:30am - Parish Communion 4pm – Benefice Evensong

at All Saints

#### **Little Staughton All Saints**

Sun 5th: 9am - Harvest Festival
Sun 19th: 9am - Parish Communion
Sun 26th: 4pm - Benefice Evensong

#### Hail Weston St. Nicolas

Sun 5th: 10:30am - Morning Praise

Sun 12th: 9am - Parish Communion

**Sun 19th:** 3pm - Creative Communion

Sun 26th: 9am - Parish Communion

4pm - Benefice Evensong

at All Saints

#### **Services for November 2025**

#### **Great Staughton St. Andrew's**

Sat 1st: 4pm - Memorial Service

Sun 2nd: 8am - BCP Holy Communion 10:30am - All Age Worship

Sun 9th: 10:45am - Remembrance Day

Service

Sun 16th: 10:30am - Parish Communion

Sun 23rd: 10:30am - Parish Communion

Sun 30th: 11am - St. Andrew's Day

Service (Benefice

Communion) with Kimbolton 4pm - Advent Carol Service

at St. Nicolas

**Little Staughton All Saints** 

Sun 2nd: 9am - Parish Communion

Sun 9th: 10:45am - Remembrance Day

Service

Sun 16th: 9am - Parish Communion

Sun 30th: 11am - St. Andrew's Day

Service (Benefice

Communion) at St. Andrew's 4pm - Advent Carol Service

at St. Nicolas

Hail Weston St. Nicolas

Sun 2nd: 10:30am - Morning Praise

Sun 9th: 9am - Parish Communion with

Act of Remembrance

Sun 16th: 3pm - Creative Communion

Sun 23rd: 9am - Parish Communion

Sun 30th: 11am - St. Andrew's Day

Service (Benefice

Communion) at St. Andrew's 4pm - Advent Carol Service

#### **Services for December 2025**

**Great Staughton St. Andrew's** 

Sun 7th: 8am - BCP Holy Communion 10:30am - All Age Worship

Sun 14th: 10:45am - Parish Communion

**Sun 21st:** 10:30am - Parish Communion 6pm - Benefice Carol Service

Wed 24th: 3pm - Christingle

11:30pm - Midnight Mass

Thu 25th: 10:30am - All Age Communion Sun 28th: 10:30am - Benefice

**Little Staughton All Saints** 

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

Sun 21st: 9am - Parish Communion

6pm - Benefice Carol Service

at St. Andrew's

Wed 24th: 4pm - Christmas Nativity

Service

Sun 28th:10:30am - Benefice

Communion at St. Andrew's

Hail Weston St. Nicolas

Sun 7th: 10:30am - Morning Praise

Sun 14th: 9am - Parish Communion

**Sun 21st:** 3pm - Creative Communion

6pm - Benefice Carol Service

at St. Andrew's

Wed 24th: 5pm - Christingle Sun 28th: 10:30am - Benefice

Communion at St. Andrew's





# Hate admin? Have no time? Worried about a mother/father/ grandparent and their affairs?

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Based in Great Staughton. Active member of the community as Treasurer of the Village Hall and Life magazine. DBS checked.

Please contact me to have a chat – helenglanville2@gmail.com



#### Mobile Post Office in Great Staughton

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situated at Brook Farm car park (the former Blades car park) on The Highway in Great Staughton. The times will be:

> Mondays 14:30-15:30 Wednesdays 11:15-12:15

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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,

It is with sadness that we are now coming to the end of the Life Magazine. I have not been in the locality long enough to know the full length of its history, but I have been here long enough to know that many have appreciated it coming through their letterbox, initially monthly and more recently seasonally.

As such we cannot come to this last edition without saying thank you to the editorial staff and the many volunteers who have made each edition possible. Thank you, the memories will not end.

However, on a more positive note we cannot let this moment pass without a reminder of another possibility of Life. Revelation chapter 22 is the final chapter of the Book of Revelation, and the New Testament. It describes the River of the Water of Life, the Tree of Life, and the New Jerusalem. In the previous chapter we read that there was no sea. This river of life never came to an end

because there was no sea for it to find its completion.

We may mourn the end of the *Life Magazine* but in the bible we can discover a promise of hope, for Jesus promises new life, life that is abundant, as eternal as the river that will flow through the New Jerusalem. Jesus is saying to each one of us, trust me, let me be one with you, and the promise of eternal life is there for each of us. His gift for us.

A powerful verse about life is John chapter 3 verse 16: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.". This verse speaks to the gift of life through faith in **Jesus** and the promise of eternal life.

Offering hope to you all

From the Perry village Pastor, Jon Magee

#### Life Magazine editorial sign-off

still remember how I came to become a co - editor the *Life Magazine*.

It was around summer 2009. I was 22. Mike Mockford was, after many years, stepping down from editorial duties. So a replacement was needed to help share the magazine's editor role with Valerie Downs.

I had recently moved back to the village after finishing university. Well, I say 'recently', I'd actually been living back at home for about year, juggling freelance writing work with regular shifts at the Grafham Water Visitor Centre. My dad, Mervyn Young, who at the time was a Great Staughton Parish councillor, had heard from the magazine Treasurer Helen that *Life* was looking for a new editor. His response was something along the lines of: 'Oh my son has a degree in journalism, he'd be perfect to take over, and I know he's not very busy' (to be honest, he was right. It was tough trying to break into journalism and the job offers were few and far between)

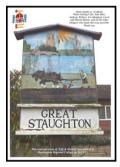
Fast forward a few weeks, emails, phone calls and meetings later, and I was sitting with Mike in his study, learning all I needed to know about editing the village magazine. I watched carefully as he put together one of his final issues. I watched as he meticulously printed out every single page to proof-read. I watched him take pride over every piece of content filling the pages. I watched him save the completed A4-sized magazine to a CD, and I accompanied him to the printers at Huntingdon College to drop it off.

And then came the November 2009 edition — my first issue (under the supervision of Mike and Valerie). Sadly, I don't have the original file saved, but I remember the cover was sky blue (because we used a different colour of card for the cover pages each month) and featured a grainy photograph of fireworks.

Over the next few years, Valerie and I took it in turns editing the magazine, taking alternating months and having monthly meetings at her house. We'd go over the previous month's issue, take out old content so it's back to bare bones ahead of the next issue, and have a good natter over a coffee. And this continued for several years.

At the end of 2012, I put together a very special, full-colour edition of the magazine to celebrate not only the Diamond Jubilee year, but the history of Great Staughton and Perry. Thanks to everyone who helped, the souvenir issue was full of old photographs, and several from Staughton's own Jubilee celebrations. This is a magazine I am still immensely proud of, thirteen years on.





In February 2013, the magazine underwent one of its biggest ever changes. We'd switched to a new printers (who will be printing this final magazine) and with that, we switched from an A4-sized publication to a smaller A5 magazine with full colour, glossy cover pages. The reason behind this was, firstly, inspiration from our commemorative magazine. Secondly, to modernise our look and keep us more in line with other village magazines. And thirdly, it helped us save some money.

From a more personal point of view, I was pleased with this change. I had recently moved to London after getting a job as a staff writer at Sky. I was worried how I'd be able to continue editing the magazine if I was having to still deliver it, saved on a USB stick, to Huntington College every other month. Our new printers thankfully gave us the option of sending them the PDF of the magazine digitally, meaning I could live anywhere and still be an editor. Phew!

Two years later, in January 2015, we waved goodbye to Valerie as she edited her final edition. In March of the same year, Shaun Prince became my new co-editor and put

together his first magazine, and what a fine edition it was too. Over the next few years, Shaun and got into a good groove of alternating editing duties and adding our own little flourishes to our editions.

Just a few months after meeting the woman who I would go on to marry, the entire planet was faced with the challenges of Covid-19. I don't need to remind you all that it impacted every single one of us. While editing this final edition, I've been going back through and all the old magazines I have saved on my laptop to help jog my memory. I found my editorial letter from the May 2020 edition of the magazine I feel it sums up that time pretty well, so I thought I'd share it here:

#### 'Hello everybody

This is strangest issue of The Life Magazine I have edited in my ten years in the job. It's been a bit tricky putting together a community magazine when we haven't had any community events to talk about. But you'll find fewer village notices and more activities to encourage us all to stay indoors during lockdown. We also have a new feature on page 28 called 'My Quarantine Routine' that hopefully you like. And if you would like to contribute to it, do email myself and Shaun.

As you can see from this month's cover, I am pleased Great Staughton is involved in the global Teddy Bear Hunt. People around the world are putting stuffed toys in windows to give kids a fun activity to do while out on walks with their parents. In fact, it's great to see Staughton and Perry coming together as a community during this challenging time and helping out those more in need. With that in mind, I'd like to thank all our deliverers who are helping ensure you still get to read this magazine. I hope you enjoy this month's issue and find something in it useful. Please stay safe and I'll speak to you again in the July magazine'

The pandemic was tough on all of us, we all struggled, and the *Life Magazine* was no exception. Despite a lack of activities and events happening in the villages, but thanks to some generous donations, Shaun and I were able to continue providing you all with a monthly magazine through all of 2020, and

the majority of 2021. But we were still struggling, and something had changed. With Nicole, Helen and Shaun, we made the decision to become a seasonal magazine. By going from twelve issues a year down to four, we would be able to save a lot of money. I'm pleased to the say the magazine is a far better position now, financially, that it has been in a long time. This is what makes it so hard for us to close the magazine and 'shut up shop'.

For more than 15 years, the *Life Magazine* has been a huge part of my life. In the time I've been editing the magazine, I've moved to London (first to Clapham, then Tooting, then Richmond, and now West Drayton) gone from a junior writer at Sky to Deputy Head of Social Media at a national newspaper (with many other jobs in-between – so I did eventually make it in journalism!), become an uncle, got married, been lucky enough to travel the world, and bought, and gradually renovated, a house. All the while, this magazine has been ticking along nicely in the background.

But now, it's come to the point where it's becoming harder and harder for me to put the time, effort and dedication into producing a quality magazine for you. I wouldn't want to put out a rushed, inferior product because the villages deserve better than that.

So, as I end this, all that's left for me to say is a huge thank you to everyone I've had the pleasure of working with over the years on the magazine. Mike Mockford, Valerie Downs, Shaun Prince, Helen Glanville, Nicole Yates, Bob Jewell, Lorraine Goody, Kat Moir, Eugene Smith and anyone else I might have missed. I would also like to thank all the contributors, advertisers, printers and magazine deliverers. It's you who have kept this humble little village publication running for almost half a century. Finally, I'll thank my dad for pointing me in the direction of the magazine all those years ago.

It's been a privilege

Rob Young
Gt. Staughton & Perry Life Magazine
Editor
2009 - 2025

Clubs & Activities :	Telephone Prefix: 01480
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Perry WI:Em	
St. Andrew's Bell Ringers – 1st & 3rd Mon of the month	Bryan Kitchen: 07804 753087
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support to represent the interests of those over 65 years, & help to obtain the services they need.

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