

Winter Edition 2023/24

GREAT STAUGHTON & PERRY

Life

AND DIARY OF EVENTS

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"Excellent service throughout. I am so pleased we went with Kitchen Culture; Simon listened to what we thought we wanted and made some very helpful observations and suggestions... All the plumbers, electricians and fitters, were very professional and did an excellent job. We now have a tailor-made, lovely looking, high quality kitchen that has made optimum use of the space available. M Wayland

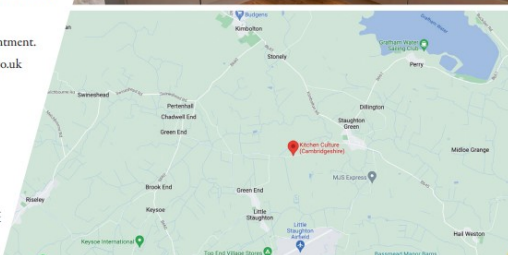
Showroom opening times: Tuesday - Friday, 9am - 5pm. Saturdays 9-4pm or by appointment.

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Tony Aldous

- Owner

Winter Edition
2023/24
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Contributions for every issue must reach the Editors by the 10th (10th Feb for the Spring Edition for example)

Handwritten/typed contributions are acceptable but emails are preferred.

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

Advertising rates can be found on Page 39

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



Dates for your Diary



December

- Sunday 17th* : Perry Baptist Church Carol Service.....Page 15
- Monday 18th* : Soup and Christmas Carols.....Page 15
- Saturday 23rd* : Gt. Staughton Santa Sleigh.....Page 26
- Sunday 24th* : Christingle at St. Andrew’s Church, 3pm.....Page 43
- Sunday 24th* : Midnight Mass at St. Andrew’s Church at 11:30pm.....Page 43

January

- Monday 1st* : Gt. Staughton New Year’s Day Walk.....Page 6

February - no major dates

March

- Saturday 23rd* : Gt. Staughton Litterpick.....Page 9

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

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

Perry Parish Council Meetings 2023 - 2024
 December 13th, February 14th, March 13th.
 7pm-9pm. At the moment all meetings to be held in the Grafham Water Sailability Clubhouse.

Great Staughton Parish Council Meetings 2024
 TBC

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

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

Editorial Natter...

Hello all!

It might not look like it from the beautiful cover picture, but you are indeed looking at the 2023/24 Winter Edition.



I was sent such a lovely collection of photos taken by Anthony Withers at the summer's horticultural show that I simply had to showcase them. You'll find a full write-up from the horticultural society on page 13 as well as some delightful colour (yes, colour!) photos on the centre pages.

It feels like a lot has happened since I last spoke to you all in the Autumn Edition, and to be honest, it has. At the end of September I got married, and then in October, my new wife and I spent a wonderful two weeks exploring Japan on our honeymoon.

But anyway, enough about me. I hope you all enjoy this issue and find it full of useful information for the coming three months in Great Staughton and Perry. And yes, we've got a few things about Christmas in here too.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas, New Year, January and February, and I'll see you all again for the Spring Edition in March.

This issue was edited by Rob

Great Staughton Parish Councillors

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

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

Perry Parish Councillors

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

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

Perry Coffee Morning

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



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

New Year's Day Walk

As I wrote this piece, I realised that I have been doing this New Year's Day walk for a good 20 years, a slightly sobering thought.

We meet as usual at the Sundial at 11 o'clock.

The walk is a non strenuous amble along the pleasant footpaths round the village. It usually takes about 1½ hours (the pace is very leisurely).

The walk is designed to be a pleasant, invigorating walk to celebrate the New Year.

Everyone is welcome.

Anthony Withers 861224



Treasurers Corner

Hello,

Pots this quarter of **£64.45**.

Thank you so much for popping all the change in the Pots it really all adds up.

Thanks again to all the donations from private individuals as well as the clubs and societies. It is lovely that a community magazine is supported so well by the community.

*Thanks,
Helen*



FOR RENTAL

Land and small units at Little America Industrial Estate

Please contact

Asmita Hynes

077 610 62300

asmita.hynes@btinternet.com



GREAT STAUGHTON TENNIS CLUB



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

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

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

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

We look forward to hearing from you!

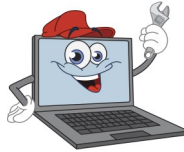
District and County Councillors

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email address is:

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

Stephen Cawley - Huntingdonshire District Council,
email address is:

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



COMPUTING PROBLEMS?

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

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

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

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

Life Magazine is looking for a new co-editor

Would you be interested in editing the Life Magazine?

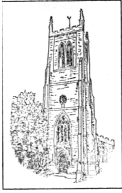
We're looking for a new co-editor to come on board in 2024 and help Rob put together the magazine.

You'd be editing two editions a year.

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

Please email Editor Rob and Chairperson Nicole for more details:

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



St Andrew's Church 100 Club Draw

August 2023

Prize	No	Name
£50.....	67.....	Mr & Mrs Kneeshaw
£25.....	24.....	Mr Roger Cunnington
£15.....	12.....	Mr & Mrs Dennis Clarke
£10.....	1.....	Mrs Jean Wilmer

September 2023

Prize	No	Name
£200.....	69.....	Mrs Margaret Richardson
£100.....	74.....	Mr Phil Yates
£50.....	41.....	Mr Mike Dudman
£25.....	86.....	Mr Geoff Gilbert
£15.....	65.....	Mr Karl Reid
£10.....	56.....	Mr Bob Jewell

October 2023

Prize	No	Name
£50.....	86.....	Mr Geoff Gilbert
£25.....	49.....	Sharon Billingham
£15.....	34.....	Mrs Barbara Lockwood
£10.....	8.....	Mrs Trish Richards

Congratulations to all the winners!

Great Staughton has a defibrillator

It's outside the village hall entrance.

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

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



Kym Valley Carpet Bowls Club

Gt Staughton Village Hall

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

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

If you've been a bit hesitant about the game (it's for oldies, innit? you might be pleasantly surprised at the deceptive simplicity of the game.

Plus good company, a warm village hall (save on central heating), tea and biscuits and a bar of chocolate for the winners. A wonderful way to dispel the gloom of winter.

**Anthony Withers
Chairman, KVCBC**

01480 861224

aw.staughton@gmail.com



Great Staughton
2024
Litterpick
Saturday 23
March from 9am

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

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

Nicole Yates

gtstaughtonparishvicechair@outlook.com

01480 860616

PERRY BOOK SWAP

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



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

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

Happy reading!

Christmas and New Year Waste
Collection Arrangement

Waste collection days will change over this period, which can be seen in the table below.

Residents can also download a collection calendar for their address at huntingdonshire.gov.uk/bins

Scheduled day of rubbish collection	Revised day of collections
Mon 18 Dec	Fri 15 Dec
Tues 19 Dec	Sat 16 Dec
Wed 20 Dec	Mon 18 Dec
Thurs 21 Dec	Tues 19 Dec
Fri 22 Dec	Wed 20 Dec
Mon 25 Dec	Thurs 21 Dec
Tues 26 Dec	Fri 22 Dec
Wed 27 Dec	Wed 27 Dec
Thurs 28 Dec	Thurs 28 Dec
Fri 29 Dec	Fri 29 Dec
Mon 1 Jan	Tues 2 Jan
Tues 2 Jan	Wed 3 Jan
Wed 3 Jan	Thurs 4 Jan
Thurs 4 Jan	Fri 5 Jan
Fri 5 Jan	Sat 6 Jan

**GREAT
STAUGHTON
VILLAGE
BOOK CLUB**



“In the Winter, she curls up around a good book and dreams away the cold.”
Ben Aaronovitch

It’s definitely time for a fire to blaze in the hearth, blankets placed invitingly on the chairs and sofa and a mug of warming tea / coffee / mulled wine (delete as appropriate) on the side table alongside a stack of books.

Our Autumn book choices proved to be great reads. In September, we read ‘Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine’ by Gail Honeyman. The winner of the 2017 Costa Debut Novel Award, the book certainly lived up to ‘hype’. It was funny, intriguing and heart-breaking and certainly challenged perceptions on mental health, being a social misfit and building friendships.

Our October book, ‘All Quiet on the Western Front’ by Erich Maria ReMarque brought back memories of ‘O’ Level History lessons and follows three school boys who sign up in the early days Of World War 1. I found it extraordinarily moving and

challenging back in the 1970s and just as moving and challenging now.

In November, our choice ‘The Glass Hotel’ by Emily St John Mandel led to mixed feelings. The timeline shifts and a complicated plot mean that it’s not a book to try to read the night before the book club meeting! But it is worth the time and effort to discover what happens to a short-sighted woman called Vincent.

Books for 2024

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

January: ‘Brick Lane’ by Monica Ali

February: ‘The End of the World Running Club’ by Adrian J Walker

March: ‘The Beekeeper’s Apprentice’ by Laurie R King

April: ‘Hamnet’ by Maggie O’Farrell

May: ‘Bourneville’ by Jonathan Coe

June: ‘The House of Doors’ by Tan Twan Eng

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

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



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

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

Suggested donation £1.

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

**Hail Weston Wildlife and
Gardening Group**

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

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

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

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Friday: 12pm - 2pm. 6:30pm - 9pm
Saturday: 12 noon - 9pm
Sunday: 12 noon - 3pm

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you soon.'*
Hugh & Mary



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gilbertsbutchers@gmail.com

Hail Weston Wildlife and Gardening Group - Programme for 2023/24

Date	Title/Speaker	Description
December 5 7.30pm, Village Hall	Christmas Gardening Quiz	Quiz, cheese and wine and a Raffle including £20.00 gardening gift voucher. Non members £3.00 please confirm attendance by 1 st December
January 2024	No meeting	
February 5, 7:30pm Village Hall	Chris Field – Field Compost Ltd (Peat Free)	All you need to know about mulching, composting and much more. Membership is £7.00 per year and each talk is then £1.00 for members or £3.00 for visitors.

GREAT STAUGHTON PARISH CHARITIES

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

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

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

Singers

In recent years Perry has been pleased to invite well known singers to come to the church for the benefit of the wider community. In the past the church has invited singers who have performed with such groups as ELO, Manfred Mann, and Hermans Hermits.

They have not only sung but also spoken openly about the deep issues of their lives and how they came through them all. This policy is Continuing as we come into the New Year and as the time approaches more details will be revealed. The next evening of this nature will be in April. Please keep looking out for the news as the time approaches.

**GREAT
STAUGHTON
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY**



Another year heads for the exit and there have been winners and losers in the garden as ever. We haven't had such a wet autumn for a while. What a delight it is when the sun manages to break through. Dark and damp is nobody's favourite.

you'll find a reminder of high summer in the photos from the 2023 horticultural show from pages 23 to 25. It won't be long until the society's 60th anniversary which will be in 2025. The society exists to put on the show and because it makes a loss each year, other events are held to fund the deficit ie the plant sale on the last Saturday in May and the annual garden talk in the autumn. Through organising and taking part in these events the members of the society get to know each other quite well, they get satisfaction when things are successful, a warm feeling that they have contributed and often some excellent cake! Obviously it helps if jobs are shared out and there's not too much pressure put on anyone in particular. If that can be achieved it is the ideal community group. New members are always welcome.

I have to admit that before I got involved I thought the Horticultural Show was an outdated concept - reminiscent of the war time dig for victory campaign - and perhaps it does need some rebranding to attract wider interest. Part of the reason for my change of mind about the show was the ridiculous excitement I felt having entered items and having them judged. To actually win a prize was marvellous particularly for something I'd grown or baked. Perhaps it is a flashback to feelings from childhood and it's easy to observe the delight of children when

something they've made gets a prize or even when it is displayed.

Our show has traditionally been, and continues to be held on the last Saturday in August. Things have changed a bit in the last few years as specialist show growers have become scarce. Everyday produce makes up more of the entries and it is still very impressive but not quite as intimidating as the foot long carrots and perfect beetroot that we used to see. It would be wonderful if more people felt confident enough to have a go - especially now that "grow your own" is a byword.

There's so much more than fruit and vegetables; there are classes for flowers, house plants, flower arrangements, photographs, crafts, baking, preserves and alcoholic brews as well as fun items for children. It takes a bit of effort and planning to get one's entries in but what a wonderful contrast from the digital world that most of us are caught up in. The 2024 Show Schedule will appear in the Spring Edition of Great Staughton and Perry Life but before then please decide what to grow, and buy and sow some seeds.

Talking of seeds, you may remember my rather smug remark about the perfect sowing date for spinach. I haven't harvested a single leaf but the slugs have had a feast.

If you would like to get involved our next meeting is on **Wednesday 6th March 2024 at 7.00 at the White Hart pub.**

You'll be warmly welcomed.

GREAT STAUGHTON
W.I.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Lourie and Gisela Ferreira left the Project, he returned and remains a trustee. The project provides medical care for the local community, and offers help to

In September we held our annual Harvest Supper which was very well attended. So well in fact we had to raid other rooms to find more chairs! The ladies on the committee excelled themselves once again by providing a delicious array of food. We had salmon, chicken, ham, quiches, salads and salad potatoes to name just a selection of delights. This was all accompanied by a choice of cold drinks, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic. Afterwards there were a variety of desserts to choose from, including apple pie and strawberry tiramisu. A huge thank you to everyone for your hard work.

After we were all sated and everything had been cleared away, we played handbag bingo – with no one quite remembering the rules! We still had a very good time playing and the winners (my table) were rewarded with sweets which we shared with everyone. The committee had also very generously provided us with a free raffle and I must have been sitting on the lucky table as all the winners were seated at my table! Everyone had a fantastic evening.

In October we began the evening by celebrating the 90th birthday of one of our lovely ladies who was presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers accompanied by a tuneful rendition of ‘Happy Birthday To You’.

Les Blignaut, a husband of one of our members, was our speaker for the evening and he began by thanking us for inviting him to be photographed for our calendar and produced two oranges and a camera from a bag! He was obviously referring to the ‘Calendar Girls’ and got everyone laughing – a great way to start a talk. Using slides to illustrate his subject, Les spoke about the Kanjanji Project Zambia and told us how he retired from being a trustee of the charity, but when the Managers Dr

local women and children, especially with their education. Les explained how the 40 acres of land on the Zambeze river was given to Cecil Rhodes by the British and he gave it to the charity. It has no running water or electricity. Money is raised in various ways including a fund set up in remembrance of Mari Simon, a young girl who was killed on the river by a speedboat. So far over £100,000 has been raised in her name. There are also volunteers, including Paula from America who has helped to build houses. Les also collects items in the UK to be shipped out to Zambia, including polo shirts, shoes, bras and laptops.

Les informed us of a young orphan called Kelvin who was helped by the charity and gained a degree in Mathematics. We were shown a short film of Kelvin explaining his life and how important ‘Uncle Les’ was to him. He now runs the charity with his wife, Hope, and they have a baby girl. It was heart warming to hear how things have come full circle. Kelvin has started a small agricultural farm at the charity, growing produce which the community use themselves and also sell at market. This was a very interesting talk.

For our November meeting we will be entertained by ‘The Merry Makers’ and in December we will be going out for our Christmas meal. Our meetings are always held on the second Tuesday of the month, now at 7pm at Great Staughton Village Hall. If you would like to join us, you will receive a very warm welcome, a hot drink and maybe even some cake. For further details please contact our President, Barbara Wallis on 01480 214582.

Karen Larkins

Great Staughton Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan (NP) for Great Staughton has now completed its first formal stage – the Regulation 14 consultation. Leaflets were distributed throughout the village, walk in sessions were held, and emails sent to all statutory consultees and other potentially interested parties.

I thank everyone who sent in their responses. The responses have been recorded and are now being analysed, where appropriate and necessary, changes made to the NP. This will take a few weeks to complete. The revised plan will be put on the website and Facebook.

The revised NP will then be presented to HDC for the next stage, the Regulation 15 consultation conducted by the District Council. This then precedes the presentation to the examiner, subsequent referendum, and the making of the plan. Once 'made' it becomes a necessary document to be considered in any planning application.

Unfortunately, Historic England have suggested, and the District Council have concurred that a Strategic Environmental Assessment is necessary on the Brook Farm site identified in the NP. This will have to be completed before the Regulation 15 stage can commence. The process can take up to 4 months, but we will do everything possible to expedite it.

Any comments, queries to

Bob Jewell

gtstaughtonparishchair@outlook.com



Christmas

How are the
Christmas
celebrations



being carried out in the Perry
church this year?

A super Christmas seems to fit well with having free soup and carols. On **Monday 18th December at Midday**, following the usual twice monthly Drop In, there is an open invitation to the community to come for a free soup and lunch followed by the singing of Christmas carols.

In addition, the regular Christmas services will take place beginning with a **Carol service at 6pm on Sunday 17th December and Christmas Eve and Christmas Day at 10.30am**. If you have a favourite Christmas Carol you would like to be sung at any of these events please get in touch by 14th December by telephoning 01480 700810, or email **perrybaptistpastor@gmail.com**

Bedford
National Trust
Association



January Meeting

Talk by Chris Hilliard of Bedford and Milton Keynes Waterway Trust about the John Bunyan Community Boat.

Tuesday 16th January at 2.15pm in the Addison Centre, Kempston, MK42 8PN.

Plenty of parking available.

Refreshments available beforehand.

Talk to last one hour.

February Meeting

'To the Caribbean and Back'

How a pint of water, a picnic table and a force 11 changed my life.

Ann Jackson will tell the tale of a gullible young lady who agreed to follow in the footsteps of Christopher Columbus in a 31ft yacht.

An illustrated account of the 1989 4th Atlantic Rally for Cruisers (the ARC).

The preparation, the mishaps that occurred along the way and the more eventful return journey.

Tuesday 20th February at 2.15pm in the Addison Centre, Kempston, Bedford MK42 8PN. Plenty of parking available.

Everyone welcome. No need to book. Small charge payable.

For further information contact Betty Thomas on 01480 860 421

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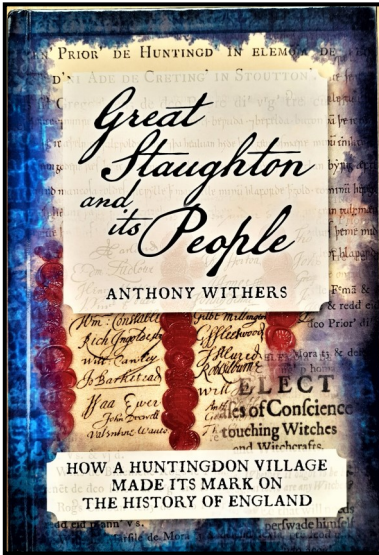
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Great Staughton and its People How a Huntingdonshire Village made its Mark on England's

History
By Anthony Withers



Staughton, one of the signatories of Charles I's death warrant? Then there is Rev. John Gaule delivering the sermons that helped bring down the Witchfinder General. If you seek a sea-going *Boys Own* adventure story, Richard Walter's account of Captain Anson's voyage is up there with Patrick O'Brian. And how was a highly respectable Victorian lady involved in the horrific Crimean war? There is lots more. Every chapter highlights a particular era and how people from this village played a significant role in England's history.

You can buy the book at the White Hart, hardback £20, paperback £15. (Cash only please). It's available on Amazon and also on sale at Waterstone's St Neots. The book can be ordered at any Waterstones quoting the ISBN numbers: 978-1-7394274-0-5 (Paperback) 978-1-7394274-1-2 (Hardback).

It's also available at the St Neots Museum and the Huntingdon Records Office. Or you can order direct from aw.staughton@gmail.com

This new history of the village was serialised over many months on the Parish Council website and now the book is available, amongst other outlets, on Amazon. The book was launched in September and was featured in the Hunts Post. Sales so far have been very encouraging. New residents may be surprised that a little village like Staughton could have such an enterprising history so here is a taster.

The book might have been entitled 'Adventures in English history' since it covers many of the major events that have made England over the past two millennia. Did you know that the first mention of the village is in a tenth century Anglo-Saxon will? Were you aware of the Staughton Manor Railway? And what about Valentine Walton, born in

The book is selling well, helped by a front page photo and article in the Hunts Post. There have also been quite a few orders from outside the village, many from the Staughton diaspora wanting to revisit their connection with the village. Comments about the book have also been favourable, so it's all very gratifying.

Anthony Withers 01480 861224



Perry WI
Every Second Monday of
the month at 7.30pm

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

delicious.

We were told that the gates
were locked but it has to be

told that one of our members (who shall remain nameless – we know who you are) managed to sneak out into the Abbey next door and take some photos – ssshhhhh, not a word!

Our visit ended with a seat in the midst of this tranquillity, a cuppa and a huge wedge of cake – now that's our sort of visit!

And September rolled round to see Mike Muncaster giving us a music-filled talk on the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company. Mike first encountered Gilbert and Sullivan as a 'horribly miserable' 11-year-old boy at boarding school. It was HMS Pinafore and he was hooked for life. He began by handing out libretti and informing us that he would punctuate his talk with recordings of the greats and that we were absolutely allowed to join in. I think a few people may have hummed along to one or two, I know I did having been in a sensationally bad production of *Patience* at Prescott Grammar School for Girls several hundred years ago. Ah the roar of the greasepaint, the smell of the crowd ...

Gilbert and Sullivan were instrumental in the formation of Richard D'Oyly-Cart's opera company in 1879, and until it

Ah, summertime, when the living was easy ... sort of. Hope your summer was fabulous and you enjoyed our marvellous English weather – when it could make its mind up!

We at Perry WI had a fab time in August when 15 of us (including two guests) went on a visit to Ramsey Walled Garden. Our WI speaker a few months ago was Jane Sills and it was she who was our guide that night along with two of her colleagues. The weather looked like it may turn against us but behaved long enough for us to have a very civilised evening strolling around the lovingly restored Victorian kitchen garden (see my entry in the last *Life* issue). Highlights for most of us included the myriad local varieties of apple positively dripping off the branches (yes, there were many mixed metaphors too!) and the amazing number of salvias and dahlias in full bloom creating magnificently coloured borders. So many ideas for our own gardens...

On her visit to us, Jane told us about the fruit and veg which the volunteers sell and many purchases were indeed made along with jams and chutneys, and you may have noticed the odd member with purple fingers to show those who had scrumped some mulberries –

eventually closed in 1982 the productions were ever the same. Gilbert as Director was insistent there was no deviation from what he wrote. Later his son and daughter established The Tradition and it continued thus, even down to the Principles teaching their successors when due to retire. With one exception, The Tradition held all that time - the exception was when a word which is now known to be derogatory and nasty was allowed to be changed – but it took them until 1946!

Gilbert was the quarrelsome, irascible one and Sullivan was the calm worrier but they were a team of great success. Mike played us a recording – the only one extant of the original Principles – from 1902. It was crackly and very 1902 (if you know what I mean) but to listen to something so old gave us a shiver – what history!

Gilbert wanted actors who could sing so he would audition an actor and if he approved would send the person to Sullivan to see if they could sing! The intended consequence of this is that the diction is extremely good and it had to be as some of the songs were horrendously fast. Mike played us a clip to illustrate the clarity needed. If you're in any doubt just google Gilbert and Sullivan fast songs!

Mike is a true fan and if you fancy it, he's doing a 10 week course at Buckden Towers on Gilbert and

Sullivan's Life and Times.

I asked him if he ever performed and he said he'd 'performed in The Mikado once, and thereby lies a tale...'

October saw us hearing some more history but more of that later. David Metson was given a metal detector 10 years ago and hasn't looked back since – actually he has looked back, way back to a Neolithic axe-head, a veritable shedload of buttons, buckles and several hundred coins (Roman, Medieval, Tudor etc), including a 30BCE Mark Antony denarius (allegedly made from Cleopatra's silver).

David is a gentle and engaging speaker who showed us pictures of the finds but had also brought a table full of boxes of finds including some of his treasures. Talking of treasures, we learnt about the Treasure Act of 1996 and what actually constitutes treasure, which includes being over 200 years old plus 10% gold or silver, or 'anything significant' (just so all bases are covered). The Act was amended in 2023 to close a few loopholes but David is a responsible treasure hunter who always gets the landowner's permission and very often gives any finds to the landowner to keep the artefacts in the family. He called those who hunt at night without permission Nighthawks – which is a romantic name for criminals, really.

It is the story behind the finds which is most fascinating – why was the Victorian sweetheart brooch broken (which incidentally he found in two halves over a year apart) – was it lost on a romantic walk or did she turn against her love, break it and throw it at his feet – ‘But Felicity, my darling, you are the love of my life!’, ‘No Rupert I saw how you were you talking to that hussy!’ ; a horse harness pendant which had 1320 on it along with the three mitres of the coat of arms of the Bishop of Norwich – why was an knighted emissary of the bishop passing through this field in the middle of nowhere all those years ago? A small collection of five Elizabeth and Mary (ie Tudor) groats which would have been a significant loss to the owner as that was a week’s wages.

Not all finds are unsolved mysteries however. David found a dog tag on a local WWII American air base, tracked down the airman back to America. The airman had died in 1980 but David sent the dog tag to his very grateful son.

One of the most beautiful artefacts that David brought was a tiny golden ring – it wouldn’t even fit on my little finger. It is barrel shaped and hollow with exquisite markings all around it (all the more astounding they would have been made without magnification in mere natural light). David is convinced that it is a hawking ring, put round

the leg of the hawk as proof of ownership. Only problem is that it has no name on it so no museum wants it. If they can prove it’s a hawking ring then it will be worth over £2,000.

Ah yes, I mentioned ‘hearing’ history again this month. David showed us a box of crotal bells hung around the necks of livestock to keep track of them. When cleaned carefully (usually just water and a toothbrush) very often the ball inside the bell is still there and they still work. David’s wife said that the first one he found is now a decoration on their Christmas tree and many did indeed have a very pleasant sound.

Thank you to our speakers and remember we meet once a month at the Sailability Hut at the Residential Centre. Please email Kerry (esteemed secretary) for details on perrywigroup@gmail.com.

Gentle reminder ladies – please remember donations for the Food Bank.

Life Magazine

Thank You!

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

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

**40-40-10
61458701**

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

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

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

Helen
Life Magazine Treasurer



Come and join the 1st Great Staughton Guides! Act now as we're filling up and soon will have a waiting list!!

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

Examples of what we're getting up to this term include: First Aid, movie & pizza night, pumpkin painting, baking, sewing (by hand AND with sewing machines), star gazing (just waiting on a clear night), arts & crafts.

It's open to all girls aged 10-14. Just go to www.girlguiding.org.uk and follow the links to 'Information for Parents - Register your daughter'. Fill in your details and one of our leaders will be in touch.

Or, for more information, contact **Lindy Bornman** at FGSGuides@gmail.com.

WELLBEING WALKS IN OUR AREA WINTER 2023/24



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DATE	TIME	WALK NAME	MEETING POINT
Friday January 12th	2pm	Dillington Stroll	Meet at Gt Staughton Village Hall Car Park
Wednesday January 17th	2pm	Grafham/Perry Walk	Meet outside The Wheatsheaf, Perry
Wednesday February 14th	2pm	Grafham/Perry Walk	Meet outside The Wheatsheaf, Perry
Friday February 23rd	10am	Grafham Lakeside	Meet at the Cinnamon restaurant, Grafham

Photos from the Great Staughton Horticultural Show
August 26th 2023







All photos kindly taken by Anthony Withers



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Great Staughton Santa Sleigh 2023

Santa and his Merry Elves will be making special deliveries to Great Staughton on Saturday 23 December 2023 from 4.00pm onwards.

If you would like Santa to bring a Christmas gift to your child(ren) please email greatstaughtonsanta2023@gmail.com with your child(ren)'s name(s), age(s), and the delivery address by Saturday 16 December. The Elves will then prepare Santa's route map and approximate times for his delivery schedule can be published.

You must drop your wrapped and clearly labelled presents into Elf Headquarters at 10 Lye Close, Great Staughton by no later than 9pm on Friday 22 December. The Elves ask that presents are no larger than a shoebox and do not contain high value items please.

The Elves can be contacted at greatstaughtonsanta2023@gmail.com and will try to answer any questions you may have.



Perry Parish Council Vacancies

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

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

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

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

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

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



KIMBOLTON COMMUNITY CINEMA

The Trustees of the Mandeville Hall have decided, reluctantly, to suspend the monthly Community Cinema for the remainder of this year.

This decision has been taken following disappointing ticket sales in recent months, which has resulted in 'last minute' cancellations, disappointment to a number of our customers and makes the event not financially viable.

We would like to thank our customers for your earlier support for these events.

We will review the situation early in 2024 to consider the future of the Community Cinema.

A Note From the Editor

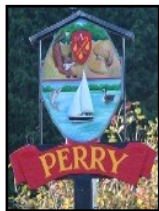
Please send content to both below email to ensure inclusion in future issues.

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

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

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

**Thank you,
Rob**



MINUTED OF THE PERRY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Perry Parish Council Meeting held at 7pm on Wednesday 4th October 2023 at the

Grafham Water Sailability Clubhouse

Present: Parish Councillors: Chairman Sheila Brighton (SB), Vice Chairman Eleanor Abbs (EA), Jo Shirreffs (JS), Chris Jones [as of item 23/71]. The meeting was quorate. District Councillor: Stephen Cawley (SC). Members of the public: six. Clerk to the Council: Eugene Smith (ES)

23/69 Apologies: Parish Councillors Nigel Noon and Emma Prew's apologies were approved. County Councillor Ian Gardener's apologies were received.

23/70 Report from District Councillor: SC delivered his report. EA asked if SC had heard anything regarding HMP Littlehey, SC hadn't but will make enquiries (see also item 73/76/a).

23/71 Appointment of a councillor: Motion proposed by EA and seconded by JS. Chris Jones was appointed as a councillor of Perry Parish Council by unanimous vote of the council.

23/72 Open forum for public participation: Arrangements for daffodil planting (minute ref. 23/6/d) were discussed. Action: ES to liaise with Ann Jackson. The possibility of replacing some of the trees on The Drive was discussed. Action: ES to contact HMP Littlehey. The Platinum Jubilee oak planted by Anglian Water has died. Action: ES to contact Anglian Water to ask if it will be replaced.

23/73 Councillors' declarations of

interest for items on the agenda:

EA declared an interest regarding item 23/81/e.

23/74 Minutes of the previous meeting:

The minutes of the Perry Parish Council meeting held on 13th September 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

23/75 Clerk's report

23/76 Parish / village matters: HMP Littlehey developments - the possible expansion and lack of consultation with or information to residents, and the associated upset and unease were discussed. Action: ES to write to the Governor.

Overgrown garden. Action: Contact to be made with relevant resident.

23/77 Events Working Party: JS provided a progress report. Summer 2024 event - the £250.00 deposit to secure Banquet Inn Bars was approved. Action: ES to book Banquet Inn Bars. The earmarking of £250.00 for a band was approved.

JS provided an update on arrangements for Remembrance Day (Saturday 11th November, observed on Sunday 12th). It was agreed that the parish council would purchase a poppy wreath.

23/78 Highways, pavements and traffic: Local Highways Improvement (LHI) - the procurement of a speeding survey was approved. Action: ES to procure. ES advised the council of the advantages of consultation. Action: ES to add to November's agenda.

Parking on Crow Spinney Lane - while the problems this cause were acknowledged, it was agreed that since the road is owned by the Ministry of Justice there is no productive action

parish council can take.

23/79 Update on meetings and training

attended: JS attended a CAPALC (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils) councillor training course in September. ES attended a Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) training course, run by CAPALC, in September.

23/80 Council administration: The resignation of Martin Wilson as a councillor of Perry Parish Council was noted. The following amendments to item 6.4 of Perry Parish Council Financial Regulations were approved:

From: Cheques or orders for payment drawn on the bank account in accordance with the schedule as presented to council or committee shall be signed by two members of council. A member who is a bank signatory having a connection by virtue of family or business relationships with the beneficiary of a payment, should not, under normal circumstances, be a signatory to the payment in question.

To: Cheques or orders for payment drawn on the bank account in accordance with the schedule as presented to council or committee shall be signed by two members of council. The council shall maintain three bank signatories.

23/81 Finance: The bank reconciliation for Quarter One (April – June 2023) was noted.

It was approved that EA would become a signatory for the Perry Parish Council Unity Trust bank account.

It was approved that JS would become a verifier of Perry Parish Council bank reconciliations.

A payment of £210.00 made to the British Legion on 20th September 2023 for the remembrance statue was noted.

The following payments were approved / ratified (signified by*):

Antony Abbs (Four Seasons, grass cut seven): £220.00
Eugene Smith (stationery, first aid and litter pick materials): £106.26
Grafham Water Sailability (clubhouse use for September's PPC meeting): £30.00
Perry in Bloom: £54.75
Eugene Smith (clerk's salary September 2023)*: confidential
Eugene Smith (home working allowance September 2023)*: £26.00
Colin Beesley (handyman's wages September 2023)*: confidential
HMRC (September 2023)*: £46.00

23/82 Agenda items for the next Perry Parish Council meeting: No additional items. Items must be received by the clerk no later than Monday 30th October 2023.

23/83 Date of next Perry Parish Council meeting: Wednesday 8th November 2023 at 7pm.

23/84 The motion to exclude the public and the press was approved.

23/85 Personnel review: The purchase of a mobile phone for the clerk's council business was approved. Action: ES to purchase.

Arrangements for the clerk's study time for the CiLCA course were agreed and a learning agreement was signed.

Meeting closed at 8:39pm.

END OF MINUTES

Great Staughton Parish Council

Great Staughton Parish Council held a public meeting on Thursday 9th November in the Village hall attended by many residents. As a result of representations made at that meeting, the following response was sent to the developers.

It has also been sent to our MP, Councillors and the Parish Council has asked James Duberly and Lorraine Goody to represent us on the inter Parish group opposing the development.

East Farm Solar Park

Response to Developer

Great Staughton Parish Council would like to make the following response to the proposals for solar Farms in Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire.

The Parish Council's response has been informed by a meeting of a large of number of residents on the subject.

There is an overall opinion that the Solar Farm development is excessive and disproportionately large and too close to villages. The Parish Council is generally very supportive of renewable energy projects as it has demonstrated in its support for projects such as the solar farms on Staughton Moor which are neither intrusive or excessive.

The Parish Council would make the following points in relation to its

Objections:

- The siting of the panels on site C in Gt Staughton would be north facing, which is suboptimal and would involve more land mass than necessary elsewhere (to prevent shadowing over the solar panels).

- The proposed location of East Park site C would destroy a very important view across the Kym Valley and of the village of Great Staughton including views of the ancient Manor and the Church. The footpath across the ridge on the Moor affords these special views. The Solar Farm would destroy this view and screening would only make it worse as the view would not be visible because of the screening.

- The walks designed around the village footpaths 23, 34, and 40 would be seriously impacted by solar Farms together with bridleway 7 into Hail Weston Parish. These walks were specifically designed in the 1990's with the co-operation of the landowners, Parish Council, and the community to provide easy access to the countryside for the residents of the Parish.

- The Parish Council has also identified in the exhibitions that there is a sub-station and battery depot within site C. These details are not reflected on the distributed literature nor on the website. We would like precise details of what is proposed in terms of these buildings in terms of size and shape.

- The area covered by Site C if

covered with solar panels may well not have the same ability to absorb rainwater as the current agricultural land. This could result in faster run off in water on to the river Kym and then downstream. This area is already subject to regular flooding resulting in properties being flooded near B645 bridge over the Kym. The road has also been closed on a number of occasions resulting from flooding. The Parish Council believes that these issues may well be exacerbated by the potential increased run off from the solar farm.

- The loss of important reasonable quality agricultural land is exacerbated by the North facing aspect.
- The Parish Council feels that the solar farm site C impacts on the

heritage aspects of Great Staughton exemplified in the Conservation and listed buildings area along the Highway and the Causeway along the Southern perimeter of site C.

- The Parish Council would also like to establish whether there is any noise pollution from the proposed solar farms.
- The Parish Council does not see any provision for how the construction vehicles would approach the sites along the very rural roads. If constructed it is vital that the construction traffic is routed away from existing rural roads and villages.



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Minutes of the Great Staughton Parish Council Meeting held on 14 September 2023 – 7.30pm

Present: R Jewell (BJ), G Brittain (GB), L Goody (LG), N Yates (NY), W Mumford (WM), H Glanville (HG), H Hopperton (HH), J Duberly (JD), Ian Gardener (IG), Stephen Cawley (SC), J Russel – Clerk

NY chaired the meeting as although BJ was present he had had an operation the previous day.

Apologies for absence: David Moore (DM)

Declarations of Interest: JD re planning application Place House

Resident's Forum: Kathy Cairns attended regarding the planning application at 43 The Highway. Kathy objects to this application and had sent an email to the PC prior to the meeting. Kathy states that there are some problems/inaccuracies with the application. There are no concerns from the PC at this stage and HDC will make a decision regarding Kathy's issues in due course. Kathy states that the application is a major intrusion on her property and that privacy is an issue. Carla Young - Carla was pleased that the flashing lights were now working and stated that it had made a difference. The hedge opposite Green Close still has not been cut but this may be due to the time of year as the resident has been contacted. Paul Young can assist if necessary.

Reports from District and County Councillors:

Ian Gardner: He was very pleased to report that GSPC had been successful in its application for the 20mph speed limit in the village. There will be a meeting in October and the decision is provisional until then. There were 76 applications for 20 schemes. Ian reported that the raised crossing in Kimbolton had several complaints about noise. Ian had asked the highways engineer to look at GS's proposals which Ian circulated at the meeting. The raised crossing would cost in excess of £35k as it would be a LHI complex scheme. There would need to be a

consultation. CCC may fund £25K and PC would have to fund the rest. A further flashing MVAS sign could form a non-complex LHI bid. Signage painted on the road to slow traffic would cost £2000.

A new Public Rights of Way Officer has now been appointed and will commence the post in October.

Sharon, the current Highways Officer, is leaving her post and her replacement starts in October. Ian will have having regular meetings with the new officer.

Gully cleaning – GS is about to be visited.

Weeds - CCC has stopped weed killer spraying as of February 2023. There is an online petition to complain about this.

Congestion charge – CCC have stated this is not going ahead now but could be revisited in the future.

LHI bids – scheme opens in October 2023. Panel will consider applications in June/July 2024.

Planning application 5 Acres – CCC has granted more time to prepare reports. This application is a waste scheme so it is being dealt with by CCC and will eventually go to planning committee.

BJ informed the meeting that he has asked Highways to replace the 30mph sign – the red lights are not flashing. Swarco were supposed to be doing this in July. IG will chase.

WM wanted to pass on thanks to IG for his constant support for the Parish. BJ then gave a Highways Update – he had previously emailed this to the PC. The current LHI Bid submitted by the PC had been successful. This was for the flashing signs. The school crossing lights are now working. There is also increased visibility around the crossing. Options included more signage, an MVAS sign could be placed on one of the lampposts and the existing speed sign shifted. Unfortunately, due to a cost of nearly £100k it will not be feasible to install at pelican crossing. There are also problems with a raised hump as this could cause disturbance to residents. The hedge owners have all been contacted and will cut the hedges in September/October.

Stephen Cawley: The Green Bin subscription is going ahead despite objections. SC had previously circulated his planning email to the PC. He will also raise with the Landscaping Officer at HDC the trees that need cutting back in Beachampstead.

Minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2023:

Approved.

Matters arising:

Blocked footpath (40) near 5 Acres Salvage yard – see above

Replacement of parish streetlights - this work is now complete. Clerk authorised to pay the invoice.

Gigaclear – still no response. Clerk will chase. HDC Electric Vehicle Pilot – BJ will apply for this.

Attendance at other meetings: LG attended Care Together meeting which is for over 65s. This is a new initiative from CCC to help adults live happily in their home for longer. LG is going to email the PC with further details. This sort of holistic care is already provided in the village, however.

Highways:

Current LHI bid 23/24 – our bid has been successful. This is for a MVAS sign and solar panel. The PC will need to pay a small contribution. We need to decide the location. It was agreed that the best location was coming into the village via Kimbolton Road. BJ will email Highways to confirm location and contribution.

Blocked drains – Green Lane and The Green/The Highway – these are now cleared. Remove from agenda.

Blocked highway in Perry – c/f

Footpath from Dillington to The Green - the cost for a pavement would be in the region of £140k. Clearly this is outside the resources of the PC.

20mph speed limit – our application was successful – see above

Speed Sign data – remove from agenda. WM has reported seeing speeding vehicles travelling at 100mph through the village. He will call 101 to report if he witnesses this again.

Potholes/Laurel trees – the new HO will look at this once they are in post.

Pedestrian crossing and potential finding – IG had previously circulated an email after his discussion with the HO as to what could be done to improve on road safety. Now we have been successful for a 20mph speed limit the PC was to consider what else was necessary. The road controls suggested by Ian Gardiner

would be considered in the context of an LHI bid. Road markings were noted to be £2000 which could be done separately or included in an LHI bid. Clerk will ask IG whether the £2k cost is for one or two signs.

Bethmar – hedgerow damage - The residents in question had not yet contacted Bethmar themselves about this issue. It was agreed that they should do this first and the PC may get involved if no response was received.

Planning:

- Staughton Moor planning enforcement – ongoing
- 21/01016/FUL – Little America, Moor Road – 8 business units – still pending
- Wyboston Garden Village/developments in Beds near A1 – ongoing.
- Appeal Against Enforcement Notice 21/00092/ENUCO – 11 Little America Industrial Estate - ongoing
- 22/00807/CLED Lawful Development Certificate B2 for Car repair - refused
- Appeal Consultation 22/00730/HHFUL and 22/00725/LBC – 1 The Green – single storey flat roof extension to rear. Appeal dismissed.
- 23/01305 Place House Cottage – window installation – no comments/objections
- 22/01813/FUL Land East and West of Little Staughton Solar Farm – comments submitted re Rights of Way
- 23/01422/HHFUL – The Old Coach House – solar panels – no objections/comments
- 23/01390/HHFUL 14 the Highway – garage – no comments/objection 23/01423/LBC The Old Coach House – solar panels – no comments/objections
- 23/01485/HHFUL 43 The Highway – conservatory removal – non comments/objections

Cashbook: approved.

Current account: £40,241.04

Business account: £21,795.40

Expenditure:

ACH Windows.....	£10,587.85
Lancaster Electrical.....	£2,221.92
Phil Yates.....	£169.75
Phil Yates.....	£151.75
Bradgate.....	£259.20
J Russel.....	£459.85
J Russel.....	£459.85
SLCC.....	£101.00

Phil Yates.....	£123.75
Bradgate.....	£259.20
Kitchen Culture.....	£3,500.00
Phil Yates.....	£111.25
Kitchen Culture.....	£500.00
Numbers Quarter.....	£180.00
Life Magazine.....	£600.00
Church.....	£400.00

Correspondence: Letter from Janet Bowen regarding maintenance in the village. It was agreed that the following actions would be taken: a notice would be put in Life and on the website and Facebook asking people to cut back hedges to their boundary line. Phil Yates would be asked to spray weed killer. CCC/HDC had already been asked to look at the trees and said they would look at these in September/October. Regarding the potholes the new HO will be asked to look at this.

Neighbourhood Plan: Approval of Draft plan for Regulation 14 – there had been a couple of minor amendments to the document previously circulated. HDC have improved the maps and the document now has a front cover. A strategic Environmental Assessment is now been deemed necessary in respect of the proposed Brook Farm development as a result of a report from Historic England. A surface water risk assessment in respect of Land at 29 The Green should be completed with local wildlife groups. It is hoped these can be undertaken alongside the Regulation 14 Consultation. The steps to be taken now are as follows:

- Agree Plan at this meeting
- Send notification to all interested parties on 15 September
- 20 September to 2 November 2023 is the consultation period.
- A leaflet will be distributed to the village
- Responses to the consultation will be published on website
- Two drop in sessions and paper copies of the plan held at church, village hall, Doctors, the clerk and BJ

Approval of Consultation approach by Parish Council – all Parish Councillors agreed the Draft Plan and to the Consultation Period taking place between 20 September to 2 November.

BJ wanted to pass on his thanks to Natalie Elsworthy at HDC for all of her assistance.

Reports from:

- Village Hall Committee – HG reported that they no longer had the child from CCC using the hall but that finances were healthy with £38k in the bank.
- Playing Field Committee - NY reported that the kitchen was completed and the larger room had now been decorated. The first lunch session took place last week and hopefully the pavilion will now receive more bookings. NY has made an application to the Parish Charities for a grant towards the new play equipment They meet in October.
- Speed Watch – no report.

Parish Matters: WM wanted the doctor’s surgery to clarify their new patient policy as he had received a complaint that a resident in the village could not join the surgery as it was full. But people living outside of the village had joined the surgery as a new patient. HG – footpath impassable Moor Road– Crown Farm are responsible. BJ will send the clerk details.

GB - has noted that cars were parking on the road when the football matches were on. The village hall car park is available for these cars to park rather than use the road.

NY – there has been a delay to the Life Magazine delivery but hopefully DPD are delivering these tomorrow. MJS want to provide the Santa Sleigh this year. This is fun for the children in the village and it does not need to raise money.

Meeting dates for 2023: 9 November.

Meeting closed at 10pm



Accepting donations now...

Our aim is to collect at least 250 redundant laptops and tablets i.e. iPads from the local Community and Businesses in our area. Our Partners will refurbish and test the devices before being distributed to our local schools within Huntingdonshire. Now more than ever this project is of the highest priority to support our children's education.

Project in partnership with:



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anna@ramseyneighbourhoodstrust.org

Riverport WI (St. Ives)
riverportwi@btinternet.com

Huntingdonshire Community Group
huntingdonshirecommunitygroup@gmail.com

St. Neots Community Support
Call: 0333 335 5344



Visit our Website for further information including how to reset your device to factory setting before donating:

www.dreamdropschildrenscharity.org/donating-your-device/



**Wildlife Trust for
Beds, Cambs
& Northants**

Huntingdonshire Local Group

Part of the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire.

Registered Charity No 1000412

An Introduction to British Ants - December 2023

The Huntingdonshire Local Group of the Wildlife Trust is pleased to welcome Brian Eversham, the Chief Executive of Beds, Cambs and Northants Wildlife Trust. Brian's topic will be An Introduction to Ants and the talk will be held on Wednesday 13th December at 7.30pm at Brampton Memorial Hall.

Brian will introduce us to the habitats and behaviour of ants, explaining that they have some of the most complex and elaborate behaviour of all insects. We will discover their social structure, their complex interactions with other animals and plants, plus their foraging and defensive tactics.

Ants are the most accessible and easily identifiable of the social insects, with only about 50 species, a handful of which can be found in our gardens. Brian says that this is a group that anyone can get to know and careful observations can add to our understanding. Everyone is most welcome to attend.

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

Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust - January 2024

The Huntingdonshire Local Group of the Wildlife Trust is pleased to welcome Jo Thomas on Wednesday 10th January at 7.30pm at Brampton Memorial Hall. Jo has worked for the Wildfowl and

Wetlands Trust at Welney since July 2022 and prior to that she worked for Natural England, the RSPB and the Wildlife Trust where she was based at Grafham Water for 8 years.

Jo is Waterscapes Manager at the WWT and she tells us that her aim is to bring about positive changes by supporting landowners, farmers and community groups to enhance, restore and create new wetland for biodiversity and other benefits such as flood management, drought resilience, carbon storage and improved water quality. The Welney site is renowned for its influx of Whooper and Bewick wans and pochard over winter and it is also a haven for hare, among many more wildlife. Jo's talk tonight will illustrate how her concepts are already benefiting the wonderful wildlife in our region.

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

Winter Walk - January 2024

Our winter walk will be held at Lady's Wood, Upwood, on Sunday 21st January at 10:30am. The walk will be led by our own Martin Baker, who is the warden of Lady's Wood, as well as being a long serving committee member. The aim is to look at trees in winter and Martin will guide us on how to identify them, when many of the more obvious clues are no longer available! This is intended to be a family walk, with Martin also filling us in with snippets of

general information on the history and management of the wood.

Everyone is most welcome to attend.

Booking is not necessary. Please meet in the car park at the end of Meadow Lane, Upwood. GR TL251825.

For more information please contact George (01480 450809 or georgecottam@virginmedia.com)

The Great Ouse Valley Trust - February 2024

The Huntingdonshire Local Group of the Wildlife Trust is pleased to welcome Graham Campbell on Wednesday 14th February at 7.30pm at Brampton Memorial Hall.

Graham is Chair of the Great Ouse Valley Trust and he will explain that the Trust was formed for the benefit, conservation and enjoyment of the landscape, wildlife and heritage of the Ouse Valley and its environs in Cambridgeshire.

This is a wonderful resource on our doorsteps, in one of the fastest expanding areas of population and infrastructure in the UK. The area contains protected landscapes and nature reserves rich in biodiversity, plus stunning historic buildings and immense social history. Goosander, shoveler and wigeon are amongst our winter visitors. Otters are also frequently seen year round and the Spring and Summer provide a rich flora.

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

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2023/2024**



The rates for advertising in the quarterly *Great Staughton & Perry Life Magazine* are:

Standard	1 Quarter	Annually
¼ page	£24.00	£96.00
½ page	£48.00	£192.00
Whole page	£96.00	£384.00
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Life Magazine is distributed throughout Great Staughton and Perry four times a year:

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

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

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

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

Please email all content to both addresses:

**Rob: rj.young@live.co.uk
lifemagazine@outlook.com**

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Local Walks | Clubs & Societies | Archive of Life Magazine

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Rector: Revd Nicki Bland - Tel: 869485
St Andrew's Vicarage, The Causeway, Great Staughton

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



Dear Friends,

Christmas is fast approaching and, in the days, and weeks before, there are plenty of opportunities to sing carols and Christmas songs.

There is a Benefice Advent Carol Service on Sunday 3rd December at All Saints, Little Staughton at 10.30 am and then on 17th December there is a Benefice Carol service at St. Andrew's, Great Staughton at 6.00 pm and then in all three churches there are All Age services on Christmas Eve afternoon.

Midnight Mass and Christmas Day All Age Benefice Service are in Great Staughton, but everyone is invited.

In addition, in Hail Weston there is Carol singing around the village and a carol concert by the Mondays.

I think that Christmas carols are part of our lives, we hear them played in shops, we expect to hear the Salvation Army in the streets and hear carols at Children's nativity plays.

It is thought that there were carols as early as Saxon times, but the first carol to be recorded was written in the 13th century by an Italian, Friar Jacopone, called 'Il Presepio,' 'The Crib' and just as a piece of added information, Jacopone died on one Christmas Day.

By 14th century Franciscan Friars were writing happy little carols to accompany their Nativity plays. They were catchy and easy to dance to. The word 'carol' comes from an old French word meaning 'ring dance'.

They were loved by the people because they

could understand them as they were written in French not Latin, but the Pope in Rome disapproved. Because of this many of all the hundreds of carols written in the next 400 years were lost but some reached England in the 14th century and they were written in English.

'Deck the halls with boughs of holly' is an old Welch carol from the 16th century and 'Away in a Manger' which is still a firm favourite with children and adults alike, was thought to have been written by Martin Luther for his own child.

There was the English Collection of carols published in 1521, but it was the Victorian hymn writers who made carols part of Christmas in Church. There are so many carols that have a story behind them like Good King Wenceslas and Silent Night, but it is often the tunes that we love as we sing them over and over again anywhere and everywhere, in the bath, in the car and as we are preparing our meals that resonate with us. I pray that as you sing these well-known tunes you will remember the baby Jesus who is the reason behind all these carols, and also the reason we celebrate Christmas. I also hope that I will see you at one or more of the services over Christmas so that we can join in the celebrations and the singing of carols together.

I wish you all a blessed, safe, and joyful Christmas.

*With love and prayers,
Revd Nicki Bland*

Mobile: 07805078992
Parish email: revlesnicki@gmail.com

CHURCH SERVICES

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

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

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

Services for December 2023

Great Staughton St. Andrew's

Sun 3rd: 8am - BCP Holy Communion
Sun 10th: 10:30am - Parish Communion
Sun 17th: 10:30am - Parish Communion
6pm - Benefice Carol Service
Sun 24th: 3pm - Christingle
11:30pm - Midnight Mass
Mon 25th: 10:30am - All Age Communion
Sun 31st: 10:30am Benefice Communion

Little Staughton All Saints

Sun 3rd: 10:30am - Benefice Service with Advent carols
Sun 17th: 9am - Parish Communion
Sun 24th: 9am - All Age Communion
4pm - Christmas Nativity Service with carols and puppets

Hail Weston St. Nicolas

Sun 3rd: 3pm - Service of celebration and thanksgiving for new extension followed by refreshments
Wed 6th: 10am - Morning Prayer followed by coffee
Sun 10th: 9am - Parish Communion
Sun 17th: 3pm - Christmas Creative Communion
Sun 24th: 5pm - Christingle

Services for January 2024

Great Staughton St. Andrew's

Sun 7th: 8am - BCP Holy Communion

10:30am - All Age Worship
Sun 14th: 10:30am - Parish Communion
Sun 21st: 10:30am - Parish Communion
Sun 28th: 10:30 am - Parish Communion

Little Staughton All Saints

Sun 7th: Parish Communion
Sun 21st: 9am - Parish Communion
Sun 28th: 4pm - Benefice Evensong

Hail Weston St. Nicolas

Wed 5th: 10am - Morning Prayer followed by 10:30am - Coffee
Sun 7th: 3pm - Plough Sunday
Sun 14th: Parish Communion
Sun 21st: 3pm - Creative Communion
Sun 28th: 9am - Parish Communion

Services for February 2023

Great Staughton St. Andrew's

Sun 4th: 8am - BCP Holy Communion
10:30am - All age Worship
Sun 11th: 10:30am - Parish Communion
Wed 14th: 7:30pm - Ash Wednesday communion service
Sun 18th: 10:30am - Parish Communion
Sun 25th: 10:30am - Parish Communion
4pm - Benefice Evensong

Little Staughton All Saints

Sun 4th: 9am - Parish Communion
Sun 18th: 9am - Parish Communion

Hail Weston St. Nicolas

Sun 4th: 10:30 am - Morning Worship
Sun 11th: 9am - Parish Communion
Wed 14th: 10am - Ash Wednesday Communion Service
Sun 18th: 3pm - Creative Communion
Sun 25th: 9am - Parish Communion

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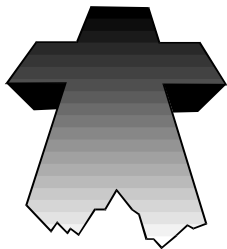


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Minister: Rev Jon Magee 01480 700810

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www.perrybaptist.org.uk

My dear friends,

December seems like a busy month for many of us. It is a month of partying, shopping for presents, decorations being displayed for the season, special Christmas events, carol singing. Yet what is the reason for the season? Is it about a busy schedule or should our thoughts be toward Peace? Jesus was called the Prince of Peace. The very word CHRISTmas is a clear indicator of Jesus CHRIST and the message of peace He brings to our lives. Throughout winter and into spring and beyond.

Yet how do we put this peace into practice? When times get tough, it can be difficult to find peace. And most of us are going through some challenges and hard times right now, even if it is a sense of anxiety at the state of the world. It can be difficult to find peace of mind.

Jesus said "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11 verse 28) Jesus is offering to carry the burden and do the work in order to lead those who come to Him to the Heavenly Father. Jesus gave a personal and astonishing invitation. Come to Me,

He offers to all who are weary and heavy-laden. Whatever we face ahead we do not need to walk alone. The Prince of Peace promises to walk through it all with Him.

As we move through Christmas and beyond into the coming year my prayer is that each of us discovers peace in our lives with a confidence we are not walking alone.

Wishing you all a very Blessed Christmas and a fruitful year as we face the year of 2024.

*Sharing with you in the love of our
Lord.*

Blessings to all of you

Jon Magee

Clubs & Activities :

Telephone Prefix: 01480

Great Staughton W.I.....Barbara Wallis: 214 582
 Perry WI:Email: perrywigroup@gmail.com
 St. Andrew's Church Bell Ringers (Mondays 7.30).....David Cope: 869322
 Great Staughton Book Club.....Margaret Sare: 860963
 Horticultural Society.....Mike Keeble: 860855
 Email: m.keeble855@btinternet.com
 Lions Club (*Hunts Grafham Water Branch*).....Bernard Dable: 810704/07969 207227
 Rotary Club: Kimbolton Castle.....Phil Howard: 861201

CHILDREN'S CLUBS/SCHOOLS

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

SPORTS CLUBS

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

VILLAGE GROUPS/SERVICES

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

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

Kimbolton Surgery: 860 205
HINCHINGBROOKE HOSPITAL: 416 416

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

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