

From the Chair (Garry Folbigg)

This month sees the return to school and the nights starting to get dark quicker and also the run up now to Christmas. I see some shops already have cards and chocolates on offer for the festive season!

Playing Field Fence

We have had some mixed feedback regarding the fence erected within the playing field. In a nutshell, without going into too much detail, the fence has been installed to separate the Bridleway from the Playing Field. I fully appreciate that the fence is not on the original historic line of the Bridleway but after consultation with Bedford Borough Council they opted not to remove the mature established trees along the Bridleway northern boundary and went for a straight line down from the edge of the playing field from the Bridleway fence at the top end of the field.

The Parish Council gained funding for this through the current ward funding system. The basic idea is it keeps the horses and children apart; safeguarding both parties. Now small children playing in that part of the park are protected from horses and vice versa. Please also remember that the Bridleway is the responsibility and upkeep of Bedford Borough Council Highways Department and not the Parish Council.

Land for Sale: Grays Grove

Further to discussions with the Borough Council, the ground has been withdrawn for sale due to various reasons making it unviable as a building plot. We have been contacted by the Boroughs Estates Office and are now in the process of securing the ground for the village so that this land will remain an integral part of our village green area. It's now all down to paperwork.

Parish Councillor/Volunteers needed

We are currently seeking a new parish councillor to take charge of the playing field area. If anyone has any time they think they can spare we do have one or two projects going on around the village which could use an extra hand from a bit of weed pulling / light gardening to some painting. Should anyone be interested and have a bit of time they could give to the village please contact either myself or Mary Jordan (lspcclerk1@gmail.com).

General Notices

Newsletter feedback requested

This monthly newsletter has been in the current format for over 10 years and now is the time to review its format, frequency and how it is funded (generous donations from individuals). So, we would like readership views on all of the aforementioned. For example:

- Will you be happy with advertisements in this newsletter?
- Do you have some good ideas about a new format/availability ?
- Is a hand-delivered monthly newsletter still a good idea?

All comments please to Jeanette@pjatkinson.plus.com or deliver notes by hand to me at 'Claydon', Spring Hill. Many thanks in advance, Jeanette Atkinson (Editor).

Rowland Hill Riders

The Royal Mail riders, including our postman Paul Bass, raised a **total of £4,019.74**, for the Royal Mail & Post Office Rowland Hill Fund (£2,109.87) and Sue Ryder Hospice, Bedford (£1,909.87).

The team send "a huge thank you to the good people of Little Staughton" for their support on the Bedford – Hunstanton – Bedford 200 mile cycle ride (9-10 July 2017).

All Saints' Church

Services (Revd N Bland)

- 3 September, 9.00am, Little Staughton, Revd R Sibson
- 10 September, 10.30am, Great Staughton,
- 17 September, 9.00am, Little Staughton,
- 24 September, 10.30am, Great Staughton,
- 1 October, 9.00am, Little Staughton,

The Bishop of Huntingdon will lead the Licensing Service at St Andrew's Church, Great Staughton on **Tuesday 5 September at 7.30pm**, to which everyone is welcome. If you hope to attend and to give us an idea of numbers (thus insuring there is enough wine to go round!) please will you let Marion Davies know on 01234 376713 or marion.j.davies@btinternet.com.

Little Staughton News – September 2017

From Revd Bland

Dear Friends

I would like to introduce myself as your new vicar. I am very much looking forward to being a part of your village communities and enjoying village life with its different and rich experiences.

My husband John and I moved into the vicarage at Great Staughton on the 27th July and I will be licensed as Priest-in-Charge on September 5th at 7.30 p.m.

As many of you already know for the past ten years I have been Chaplain of Kimbolton School teaching Religious Studies and Maths, and Associate Priest in the South Leightonstone Benefice where I also served my curacy.

John and I have a son who is married with one son and one on the way. We also had a disabled daughter who lived until, she was nearly twenty three.

We are excited about our new life and hope you are too. The three churches which make up the group are all individual, interesting and significant buildings, situated in beautiful countryside, in fact the settings are idyllic. The people I have already met have been warm and welcoming and I am looking forward to meeting other members of the community both regular church goers and those who are not.

The new Parish Office is stunning and very practical and I hope you will feel that you can call on me at any time. I would be also very happy to know of those you feel would benefit from a visit either at home or in hospital as it will take me a while to get to know what is going on in all four villages.

The Church services will continue at the same times as they have been but after a while I am hoping to add some other services.

My thanks go out to all those who have kept the churches running so well in the vacancy. The Church is a body of people and there are so many that make up that body; there are the churchwardens, secretaries, treasurers, PCC members, those that work with children, organists, bell ringers, flower arrangers, sides people, those that help with the administration, retired priests to name but a few and I thank you all. I hope that you will continue to be part of that body and that I can support you and you me.

My faith and my understanding of what it means to be a Christian are central to all that I do and I hope that will be evident in my ministry. 'Faith without works is dead' James 2:24. So, I look forward to meeting you if I haven't already and pray for God's blessing on all who

live and work in the parishes of The Staughtons and Hail Weston. Amen

The new telephone number is 01480 869485

Mobile 07805078992

Parish email revlesnicki@gmail.com

My email lesleybland4@icloud.com

Sponsored Bike 'n' Hike

Saturday 9 September - Help raise funds for church repairs whilst cycling or hiking between churches and chapels in the area. Please contact Marion Davies (01234 376713, marion.j.davies@btinternet.com) for further information.

Harvest Lunch

Harvest Lunch: Sunday 8 October, 12.30 for 1.00pm in the Village Hall. Everyone welcome. For further information, please contact Marion Davies (01234 376713, marion.j.davies@btinternet.com).

Church Lighting

All Saints' church lights were not sponsored in August. If you would like to mark a special occasion or remember someone by lighting the church, please contact Gill Shaw on 376530.

Friends of All Saints' Church 200 Club

This month's winners were as follows:-

1 st prize	£80	John Rocket
2 nd prize	£40	Carol & Bob Johnson
3 rd prize	£20	Angela Bradford
4 th prize	£10	Clive Shaw

A big **thank you** to everybody who is supporting the 200 club for the coming year. There is still time to join as the first draw will not take place until Friday 22nd September in The Crown. If you would like to join or would like further details, please give a call on 376530, or email me at clive50shaw@btinternet.com.

Churchyard Tidy; 30th September

We are planning a grand clear up of the churchyard on Saturday 30th September in preparation for the winter. Any help would be greatly appreciated. We will be there from 10 o'clock onwards so please come along whenever you can.

Baptist Chapel

Sunday Services (10.30am and 6.00pm)

- 3 September am: Rev Roger Watkins
pm: Mr Andrew Jones
- 10 September am: Rev Roger Watkins
pm: Mr John Martin
- 17 September am and pm: Mr Graham Tolley
- 24 September am and pm: Rev Mike Kendall

Midweek Meeting

Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm

Fellowship and Coffee Morning

Wednesday mornings at 10.00am
All welcome

Livewires

Thursday evenings at 6.15pm - 7.15pm
for children aged 5 to 11 years

Livewires will start again on 7th September

Harvest Supper

The Harvest Supper will be held at the Chapel on
Saturday, 7 October at 6.00pm

All welcome

Please contact Hazel Young 01234 376579 by the end
of September if you would like to come

Village Hall

Family BBQ / Treasure Hunt

Sunday 24 September - Treasure Hunt to commence
from the Village Hall at 11.30am, followed by a BBQ.

Tickets: Adults £8.00, Children aged 12 and under
£4.00, available from The Crown, Phil Benns (376822),
Paul Feneley (376309), Marion Davies (376713) and all
committee members.

Afternoon Tea

Next meeting is Friday 22nd September
From 2.00 to 3.00 PM
Everyone welcome

Village Hall Bookings

All enquiries to Maria and Kevin Foskett at
The Crown (01234 376260)

Winter Quizzes at The Crown

The quiz dates for next season are as follows; all
Mondays. Further information will be available in the
next newsletter (times, teams & cost).

- October 30th
- November 13th and 27th
- December 11th
- January 8th and 22nd
- February 12th and 26th
- March 12th

Cricket Club

If you are interested in participating (no prior
experience or natural ability required) please add your
name to the Team sheets that will soon be made
available contact me via crmburchett@yahoo.co.uk
indicating which team you would prefer to play for.

Those of you who have participated in the past are
encouraged to invite new blood to get involved in what
provides the opportunity for an enjoyable family- based
Village Event. Look out for updates over the coming
month.

If you have any questions or queries do not hesitate to
contact Clive Burchett (Chairman LSVCC 01234
376969).

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)

The official meeting to (re)launch
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH in the village took
place in the village hall on **Thursday 20th September**
2007, and so we have now been going for 10 years!

Throughout that time we have been fortunate in having
few serious incidents reported although every incident
is serious to those who have been affected. *Compared*
with other villages in the surrounding area we have an
exceptionally low crime rate – long may it continue.
The aims of NHW are the same today as they were 10
years ago:

- reducing the opportunities for crime to occur
- increase public confidence
- promote community safety
- improve the quality of life
- create a community spirit.

As a village community we must continue to work
together and support each other to ensure our village
remains a safe and secure place to live.

Little Staughton News – September 2017

Over the 10 years we have encouraged all residents to sign up to NHW and be active and vigilant. We have:

- given out starter packs when households join up
- offered advice about personal and property protection, cybercrime and scams
- sold SmartWater kits to mark personal property with a unique DNA
- been the forerunner to Speed Watch by using S.I.D. the speed indicator device
- advertised and participated in local and national NHW events
- regularly attended the Bedford and District NHW Quarterly Meetings and reported back to you
- reported on local crime
- sent out urgent messages about suspicious activity in our village or the local area

We hope we have given you what you wanted or feel you need, to be aware and to remain safe Please continue to be an active member of NHW and play your part in keeping our village crime free.

Thank you.

Cherry Protheroe

NHW Co-ordinator Little Staughton

STOP PRESS: The Quarterly Meeting and AGM of Bedford and District NHW on Wed.30th August will now be held at KINGS HOUSE. 244 AMPHILL ROAD. BEDFORD. MK42 9QJ and not at Police HQ.

Diary Dates

September 9th, Saturday: Little Staughton Golf Day at Mowsbury Park Golf Club on Saturday 9th September 2017, with arrival at 9:30am for bacon rolls and tee off commencing at 10:30am, followed by the usual hot food, cold beverages hosted by Kevin and Maria at The Crown later that evening. The cost for the whole day will be £40. Contacts Paul Feneley (376309) or Charlie Riding (376911).

September 17th Sunday: Village Ashes Cricket Match on the Playing Field – see main text

September 20th Wednesday: PC Meeting, 7.30 pm Chapel Schoolroom.

September 24th, Sunday: Family Treasure Hunt and BBQ at the Village Hall see main text.

September 30th, Saturday: Churchyard clear up, from 10.00 am at the Church. All help most welcome.

October 14th, Saturday: Gt Staughton Horticultural Society Annual Talk will be held at the Village Hall at 7.30pm, the speaker will be Andrew Towsey, the Estates Garden Manager at Woburn. A light supper /glass of wine is included. Tickets are available from Mr Gilbert (at the Butchers).

October 8th, Sunday: Harvest Lunch at the Village Hall – see main text

October 18th Wednesday: PC Meeting, 7.30 pm Chapel Schoolroom.

November 15th Wednesday: PC Meeting, 7.30 pm Chapel Schoolroom.

December 2nd, Saturday: Village Hall Christmas Dance

December 20th Wednesday: PC Meeting, 7.30 pm Chapel Schoolroom.

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January 17th Wednesday: PC Meeting, 7.30 pm Chapel Schoolroom.

February 21st Wednesday: PC Meeting, 7.30 pm Chapel Schoolroom.

March 18th Wednesday: PC Meeting, 7.30 pm, Chapel Schoolroom.

April 16th Wednesday: PC Meeting, 7.30 pm, Chapel Schoolroom.

All copy for the **October 2017** issue to Jeanette Atkinson at Claydon, Spring Hill or email (jeanette@pjakinson.plus.com) by **Friday 22nd September 2017**