

PARISH COUNCIL

As I sit here in my office looking out across the playing field on a beautiful frosty morning it is really quite hard to believe that we have had the most incredible amount of rain in the past month. Last February 5 mm of rain were recorded in Little Staughton, with a week of February left this year, we have already recorded 87mm for the month. A few weeks and the clocks will be changing and the days getting longer and brighter, which I think you will all agree, makes everybody feel just that little bit chirpier. With it being so wet, the footpaths have begun to get a little messy, but we MUST stick to the footpaths and not wander onto "clean ground" just because it's easier. A number of people have been seen by local farmers walking around fields completely off of any footpath, I ask you on their behalf that anyone doing this stops immediately and sticks to the right of way. On the subject of footpaths, anybody with a hedge that runs alongside the paths through the village can I ask that you make sure the hedge is cut back to the edge of the path to allow for safe access up the pathway, there are a number of hedges at the moment that are forcing people to walk out into the road. Also I have to mention the dog poo situation, we still have some repeat offenders, please pick up after your dog, and can you please make sure you put the bags of mess into the correct bins, there are plenty in the village, a lot of these bins are emptied by village volunteers into their own bins Can we please help them by getting this right. As spring arrives and when the ground conditions allow, we will be erecting some new picnic benches at the playing field to replace the wooden ones that had come to the end of their life. I hope that people using the playing field will find them useful. As always I look forward to bumping into villagers old and new throughout the village and listening to your thoughts and opinions. Have a great March Stay safe and keep smiling.

James A Baker

Chairman Little Staughton Parish Council

Update- Not too much to report this month on the proposed Solar Farm Project.

Further to a joint Parish Council meeting held at Hail Weston last November another meeting was held on February 13th to discuss how we might proceed going forward. It was resolved that we would respond as individual PCs to an NRA

request for details of "seldom heard parties" to be asked to comment on the proposal.

The NRA request was to have the details submitted before the end of February. We feel that we need more time to respond and will advise them in due course. It was also decided to write to the NRA advising them that we are having these ongoing joint PC meetings and have resolved to form an alliance to resist this development.

Tim Price also made a presentation at the above meeting for the benefit of the other PCs and advised that a website launch opposing this development is imminent.

Kevin Head Vice Chair Little Staughton Parish Council

Speed Watch

The weather conditions have impacted our ability to hold Speed Watch sessions during the first 2 months of the year but I thought it would be worthwhile providing a roundup of the results of the team's activities during 2023. But first, I wish to thank the small band of volunteers for their time and continued support - without their efforts we would be unable to hold regular sessions, reposition the MORELOCK Device, recover the recorded data and report the results to the Police Watch Scheme Coordinator at Kempston. For those who are new to the village I will include a brief explanation of the village Speed Watch activities. Finally, should anyone wish to get involved in our Speed Watch efforts do not hesitate to contact me. There are 4 authorised locations within the village where we operate the Speed Indication Device (SID): at Top End adjacent to the entrance to Wickey Farm, beside the Village Green at Grays Grove, towards the bottom of Spring Hill and opposite 'The Crown' on Green End. The MORELOCK Device can be positioned in the same general locations, between which the Device is moved on a regular basis. Additionally, the Bedford Borough Council Speed Awareness Vehicle (SAV) operates at various locations in the village over the year but does not provide speed details - only the number of speeding vehicles. From the data provided by our village systems it can be seen that approximately 3% of vehicles monitored by the SID and 9% of those detected by the MORELOCK Device were recorded travelling at or above 35 mph; the speed at which the Police record a speeding offence to



have occurred. The 'v85 percentile' generated by the MORELOCK Device results in an average speed assessment of a little over 33mph. In practice, the SID and SAV are in operation for only short periods and are also quite visible, a number of drivers would have likely reduced speed prior to entering the sensor's detection area. The MORELOCK results are, therefore, more likely to provide a more accurate assessment of our speeding problem. For those that wish a little more detail please find additional figures/ statistical data below - figures in () reflect 2022 results for comparison.

SID Results. A total of 17 (14) of 18 (20) planned hour-long sessions were completed during which a total of 756 (716) vehicles were detected travelling through the village. 667- 88% (585 - 82%) at 30mph or below; 70 - 9% (107 - 15%) at between 31 and 34 mph and 19 - 3% (24 - 3%) at 35 mph and above. As for the percentage of vehicles travelling at speeds of 35 mph and above by location: 3% (5%) of vehicles passing through Top End; a little over 3% (location not in use) on Colmworth Road; 0.6% (a little under 2%) on Spring Hill and 0% (a little under 1%) on Green End - an expected distribution given the location of parked cars and lengths of road involved.

MORELOCK Results. A total of 223,212 (185,259) vehicles were detected over the 237 (230) days the device was in operation. 19,101 (13,724) - nearly 9% (a little over 7%) were recorded at speeds above 35 mph. The fastest drivers were regularly travelling at speeds in excess of 60 mph with one individual recorded at 90mph! Clive Burchett (Little Staughton Speed Watch co-ordinator)
Mobile: 07548 179347 Email: crmburchett@yahoo.co.uk

Village Hall AGM

Tuesday 19 March, 7.00 pm. Please come along - We are always in need of volunteers!

Village Hall Easter Bingo

By popular demand the next family Bingo evening will be on Saturday March 16th at the Village Hall. Doors open at 19.00 with eyes down for the first game at 19.30. Fun for all the family. Prizes for a line and house plus the final big money game. Please bring your own drinks. Nibbles provided.

Afternoon Tea

Please do come along for a natter over a mug (or two) of tea or coffee with biscuits and cake. We will

also be serving hot cross buns this month. The next meetings are 2.00 to 3.00 pm on Friday:

15th March

19th April

17th May

For newbies in the village, if you can spare the time, then pop along and introduce yourselves, we don't bite and there is no age limit. First visit for all villagers is free. Still only £1.00 per person. This is a non-profit event with all excess funds being either donated to village events or to a charity chosen by tea club attendees. **Everyone welcome**
Free Village Hall Library

The village hall library will also be open should anyone like to borrow or change books and jigsaws, there is also a small selection of children's books. No need to come to the tea club, unless you want to, as the library is situated in the hall entrance.

Hobby Club

This month's Hobby Club will be held on Friday, 1st March at Little Staughton Village Hall (1.00 - 4.00). Coffee, tea and biscuits will be available. This is non-profit making and a small charge of £2 will cover hall costs and coffee etc. PLEASE BRING AND SHARE YOUR CRAFT OR HOBBY OR JUST COME ALONG, FIND A NEW HOBBY AND HAVE A CHAT. All welcome. The Hall library will also be open if anyone wants to borrow/exchange books or jigsaws

Pub Quiz at The Crown

The final two rounds of the pub quiz for this season will take place on Monday 4th & 18th March. Teams may consist of up to 6 members. All are welcome and individuals without a team can easily be accommodated. The entry fee is £3.00 a head and includes an excellent bar supper.

Village Litter Pick

Saturday 2 March, meeting in the Village Hall Car Park at 10.00 am. All help is welcome! Any queries to Marion Davies (01234 376713, marion.j.davies@btinternet.com).

Little Staughton Golf Day

24 villagers and friends enjoyed trying to play golf at the Little Staughton golf day last year. You are very welcome to join us this year at Colmworth golf club on the 21st September. Start with coffee and a bacon bap then 18 holes from 10:30 total cost £40. A £10 deposit secures your place. Contact Mike on

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littlestaughtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

07712 657682 or via mikemoor315@gmail.com for more details.

Colmworth and Neighbours History Society (CNHS)

CNHS is a History Society for the North Bedfordshire area and we enjoy talks and visits throughout the year. We meet on the third Friday each month at 7.30pm at Colmworth Village Hall (MK44 2JX). Annual membership is £12.50 for the year, but we also welcome visitors with a single meeting **fee of £4**. We now have a full programme for 2024.

15 March: 'Racing for victory'. Seaplane racing in the early twentieth century. (John Day).
19 April: Mapping Verulamium (Dr Kris Lockyear)

We hope to see you at one or more of these meetings. More details about our Society and the history of the local area are on our website: www.colmworthhistory.org.uk Stephen Selley

Little Staughton Christmas Card 2023

Thank you to everyone who took part in the 2023 village Christmas card. The 63 families raised a total of £1,610 (includes gift aid) for the charity Prostate Cancer UK
Below is the thank you we recently received
Sandy Moor

Dear Sandy and residents of Little Staughton,

Thank you for fundraising for Prostate Cancer, your donation of £1338 is already being put to good use, helping us do what we do best, beating prostate cancer. Your gift means we will find a better way to diagnose and treat prostate cancer sooner. You're also helping us to support more men and their families when they need us most. It takes time and effort to fundraise and we can't thank you enough for your dedication and hard work. We couldn't do this without you. Jacob Holroyd, Community Fundraising Executive.

If you would like to know more or to be added to the mailing list for next year please
Email moor315@btinternet.com

North Beds Ramblers:

Come and join us for a walk. We walk every

Saturday afternoon approx. 6 miles and Saturdays twice a month in morning for approx. 12 miles

March Walks

2nd pm Sharpenhoe, 6 miles
9th am Silsoe Church 12 miles, or pm Amptill, West Car Park 6 miles,
16th pm Willington Dovecote 6.5 miles
23rd am Old Warden Village Hall 12.5 miles or pm Olney 6 miles
30th pm Great Denham Park and Ride 6 miles
Contact; Margaret Sawyer 07780933729
Facebook; North Beds Ramblers

<https://www.ramblers.org.uk/north-bedfordshire>

Baptist Church

www.littlestaughtonbaptist.org

Our Sunday services are at 10.30am and we would be pleased to see you. This month they will be led by:-

3 rd March	Rev Roger Watkins
10 th March	Rev Jon Magee
17 th March	Mr Andrew Jones
24 th March	Mr Steven Guest
29 th Good Friday	Mr Andrew Jones
21 st Easter Day	Rev Roger Watkins

Coffee, Cake and Chat

Our next get-together will be on Wednesday 6th March. Please come and join us from 10.00am until 11.30am for a warm drink, cake or toast and a chat.

The Thursday Lunch Club

The next lunch club will be on Thursday, 14th March at 12.30pm It is open to anyone in the village who would like to join us for a freshly cooked lunch and a chat. Please book your place by calling Hazel on 07971 488186 or Carol on 07763 124155 by 7pm on Wednesday, 13th March. Transport will be available on request and please make us aware of any dietary requirements.

All Saints Church

Dear Friends

Every year the days seem to fly by, but this year with Easter being so early, it really seems that



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having only just celebrated Christmas and we are now looking to Easter. Please look at all the services we have to offer for Holy Week including the annual Egg hunt and Good Friday Walk. We are also looking at finalising numbers for camp so please get your requests in as soon as possible. So, March begins in the middle of Lent, and it is this time of year that we often try and give up certain things or give of ourselves in some way, because Lent leading up to Easter is a penitential season and associated with repentance and forgiveness. Society tends to see temptation as an external source of provocation rather than an inner struggle of right and wrong. In Jesus' temptations we see clearly temptations that all humankind has in common. The temptation to look for an instant solution, the temptation to take control, the temptation to seek instant power. The temptation is often hidden and subtle, hitting us at our most vulnerable moments. Of course, a temptation in itself is not wrong, it is when we give way to it that the problem occurs but in Christ's strength, we can overcome it. When we fail, and we will, we Christians know that He will always be there to forgive us if we repent. March ends with Holy Week and for those of us who attend a service each day that week we live the ups and downs of it remembering what it must have been like for those who were close to Jesus. Then we arrive at the Easter Morning alongside those closest to him, experiencing the awe, the wonder and the disbelief of encountering that empty tomb. Many wonder and many have doubts, not only about the resurrection of Jesus but of their own resurrection in the fullness of time. But we need to remember those words of a man in Mark's Gospel 'Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief.' The disciples struggled after Jesus had been resurrected and Thomas refused to believe until he had seen Jesus for himself but their doubts were overcome as Jesus met with them, walked with them and broke bread with them, the reality of his living presence instilling a sure and certain faith in them that we know after he ascended could not be shaken. 'Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe' With love and prayer, Nicki Bland

All Saints' Services

Full details of services across the benefice - including those which continue to be available via 'zoom' - can be found on the benefice website: <https://www.swhw.co.uk> and on the church noticeboard. Here at Little Staughton:
 Sunday 3rd, 9.00 am, Parish Communion
 Sunday 17th, 9.00 am, Parish Communion
 Wednesday 27th, 7.00 pm, Compline
Saturday 30th, 11.30 pm, Easter Vigil with Communion

Sunday 31st, 10.30 am, Easter Day All Age Benefice Communion at Great Staughton
Monday Coffee Mornings in the church, 9.30 - 11.00 am, during the school term - Everyone welcome, especially walkers and their dogs. Please join us

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Tuesday 16 April, 7.00 pm, in Church

Church Lighting

In February All Saints' Church was lit by Win Woodhams in memory of her husband Sonny. Also Clive Shaw marked Gill's actual birthday this year by lighting the church. If you would like to mark a special occasion or remember someone by lighting the church contact Gill Shaw on 01234 376530. All we ask for is a minimum donation of £10. Although electricity prices have gone up somewhat, we are keeping the sponsorship money to a minimum of £10 still for 2024 but would very much appreciate anyone who could pay a little more.

Friends of All Saints' Church 200 club

This month's winners were:-

- 1 st £80 57 Pauline Jones
- 2 nd £40 142 Helen Folbigg
- 3 rd £20 75 Lesley and Tony Gillard
- 4 th £10 126 Joanne Peddell-Grant

It's not too late if you would like to renew or join the club and pay pro rata. We are able to take BACS, cash, cheques or contactless. If you would like details or have any queries, please give a call on 01234 376530, or email me at clive50shaw@btinternet.com.

Dates for your diary:

Saturday 2nd March - Village Litter Pick

Saturday 16th March - Family Bingo at the Village Hall

Tuesday 19th March - Village Hall AGM

Tuesday 16th April - Church APCM

Saturday 29th June - Family Games Evening at the Village Hall

Saturday 21st September - Little Staughton village golf day

Parish Council - 20th March.

Copy for the April 2024 issue to Vicki Airs at No 10, Spring Hill or email vicki27549@gmail.com on or before Monday, 25th March 2024 Thank you.

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