

### From the Chair (Garry Folbigg)

This past month has seen a few things going on in the parish, but by far the one that caused the most interest was the area of land put up for sale next to the village green (Grays Grove). Numerous unhappy residents came to the extra ordinary meeting to express their concerns and air their views.

The small angled strip between the road and Sonny Woodhams fence line was put up for sale along with numerous other small funny shaped plots with a view of raising money for Bedford Borough Council. The closing date for bids on the ground was Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May.

The parish council had already registered a 'Community Bid To Buy' form against the ground before the bids were due. It's a lot to take in how the scheme works but if you wish then stick Community Bid To Buy in the Search box on Bedford Borough Council website for further details.

Our interest in the plot will be discussed by several Borough members and then if the Borough feels that we have met the sufficient criteria, we will be invited to bid. The Borough do have several bids on the plot of which two are of a high end value, thus anticipating planning permission.

From what I am told by the Borough, our application is being discussed and we should have an answer in the next week. Should we be given the go ahead we effectively have six months to find a bid we can afford and raise the funds for it, I must say at this point that if we still haven't agreed an acceptable price it could be sold to the previous highest bidder. When we know more I will let you know.

I have received a comment on litter being thrown from a car passing through the village, please be vigilant and try to get a number plate at least.

More and more people are using the footways, footpaths and lanes, so once again I will ask you to check your hedges and bushes to ensure they are not overhanging these rights of way. Those of you using these paths with your dogs, please use the Poop Bins provided. I know Bedford Borough Council were doing their annual walk around checking paths, road signs etc. a few weeks ago and have sent at least one notice to a resident. Please note that these letters do **NOT** come from Little Staughton Parish Council but they come directly from Bedford Borough Council.

Speed watch will soon be back up for the summer sessions so be aware Clive and the team will be around various village locations.

### *And from the Parish Clerk (Mary Jordan)*

Once again, I would like to thank our residents for keeping the plant boxes around the village looking pretty. If you live in Green End, there is one box that has no one caring for it: so, if you could volunteer to look after the little box there then please contact me. Any costs can be covered and it only takes a small amount of time to weed/tidy ([mary.jordan383@btinternet.com](mailto:mary.jordan383@btinternet.com) or 07729 960264).

## General Notices

### *Community First Responders*

The group is approaching its seventh anniversary and is looking to the future. There were originally 12 members but with the passage of time and change of circumstance there are now only **FIVE**. We are all volunteers and try to provide as much cover as possible but we have other commitments too. The work can be rewarding, even just attending and providing company, a preliminary assessment and reassurance until an ambulance arrives. Sometimes it is more challenging, but regular training sessions help us to deal with whatever we encounter.

Unfortunately, the average age of the group is now over 60, so new members are needed. If YOU would be interested please get in touch either with me or look at the East of England Ambulance Service website and learn about the CFR role.

The Ambulance Service has offered to come along and provide some training about the newly installed Village Defibrillator (in the old BT 'phone box on the top of Spring Hill). This is a valuable resource and thanks go to the Dignans for their fundraising. Training details will be available in due course.

*Clive Shaw Group Co-Ordinator*

### *Charitable activities*

#### **Open Gardens Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

Some of the residents of our pretty village are opening their gardens for the first time this summer in aid of charity.

The organiser, Mrs Brenda Foster says "I wanted to do something to help an amazing charity Malawi Education Link (MEL), my own village (improving

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the village hall facilities) and which would include the very generous people who live in Little Staughton.

With such a wide variety of properties and gardens in the village, and being a keen gardener myself, it seemed logical to plan an Open Gardens afternoon.” Twelve gardens throughout the village will be open from 1-5pm on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June. In addition there will be teas, stalls and toilets available at the village hall and a raffle with some amazing prizes!

Founder of Malawi Education Link Mrs Caroline Hansford MBE (who has taught in schools in Bedford and Cambs as well as Malawi and has taken many school students to Malawi each summer to work on projects for MEL) said “I was thrilled to hear of this new fund-raising venture for MEL. If it goes well the results will have a big impact on the lives of so many people, either children in schools in Malawi or providing a village with a water pump. I look forward to meeting you on the day”.

We hope to see you there!  
*Cherry Protheroe (Publicity Co-ordinator)*

### Charity Cycle

On 9th/10th July our Village Postman Paul (Bass) is taking part in a Charity cycle from Bedford Delivery Office to Hunstanton return (200 miles). It is in support of the local Post Office charity and Sue Ryder Hospice at Moggerhanger.

You can show your support at

[www.sponsorme.co.uk/darrennauty/bedford-postal-cycling.aspx](http://www.sponsorme.co.uk/darrennauty/bedford-postal-cycling.aspx)

## All Saints' Church

### Services

- 4 June, 9.00am, Little Staughton, Revd C Owen
- 11 June, 10.30am, Great Staughton, Revd R Lancaster
- **18 June, 10.30am, Pathfinders Service and Parrish Communion at Little Staughton, Revd J Alford**
- 25 June, 10.30am, Great Staughton, Revd S Morton
- 2 July, 9.00am, Little Staughton, Revd R Sibson

### Events

**The Annual Pathfinders Service is on Sunday 18 June at 10.30am.** Although members of the

Pathfinders Association won't be attending this year, please join us at this special service and enjoy a cup of coffee and a chat afterwards.

**Breakfast at the Church Gate: Saturday 10 June, 9.30 - 11.00am** - Enjoy a sausage and bacon roll, washed down with a cup of tea or coffee. A perfect start (or finish) to your Saturday morning dog walk!

**Great Staughton Church Fete** - Saturday 17 June, 2.00 - 4.00pm at The Old Vicarage, Great Staughton

**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](mailto:marion.j.davies@btinternet.com)) for further information.

### Church Lighting

In May, Barbara Stewart kindly lit All Saints Church to mark family birthdays. Mike Sargeant celebrated winning a prize in the 200 Club draw. Also Marie Moss remembered her late husband (Tony's) birthday by lighting the church. 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 <sup>st</sup> prize	£80	Theresa Read
2 <sup>nd</sup> prize	£40	Kevin Foskett
3 <sup>rd</sup> prize	£20	Kath Brittan
4 <sup>th</sup> prize	£10	Alex & Linda Godfrey

If you would like to join the Friends of All Saints' 200 Club or would like further details, please give a call on 376530, or email [clive50shaw@btinternet.com](mailto:clive50shaw@btinternet.com).

## Baptist Chapel

### Sunday Services (10.30am and 6.00pm)

- 4 June am: Mr P Alley  
pm: Mr J Martin
- 11 June am: Rev R Watkins  
pm: Mr R Reed
- 18 June am: Mr A Rome  
pm: Mr J Wood
- 25 June am and pm: Mr B Freer

## 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

*No Livewires on 1 June (Half Term)*

## Village Hall

### Afternoon Tea: 2.00 to 3.00 pm

- Friday 16th June
- Friday 14th July

### Village Hall Bookings

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

## Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)

“Burglars are looking for an open window – make sure it’s not yours.” So starts the most recent advice sent out by the police via Bedford and District NHW last week.

Here is the rest of their advice:

“Top tips to minimise your chances of becoming a victim of crime:

- Lock your doors and windows every time you leave the house
- Before you go out, is there anything outside your house that could be used to break in? Lock tools and ladders away in a shed
- Ensure your side gate is locked and that any fences surrounding your garden are in good condition
- Ensure your car keys are hidden out of sight and away from your letterbox
- If you’re heading away for the weekend, ask a trusted neighbour to keep an eye on your home and report any suspicious activity via 101

- Activate tracking devices on any new phones

Mark any new equipment with UV property marking pens - property marking can’t prevent things being stolen, but can act as a deterrent and if found, can be returned to its rightful owner more quickly. We’re now into spring, but even though longer and darker evenings are behind us, burglars are not afraid to take advantage of insecure homes even during lighter nights. We’re therefore urging the public to take steps to secure their property to minimise their chances of becoming a victim of crime.”

**Action Fraud has received the first reports of Tech-Support scammers claiming to be from Microsoft who are taking advantage of the global WannaCry ransomware attack.** Do not fall victim to the scam. Do not call a ‘help’ number advertised on a pop up window. The window which won’t close will say the victim has been affected by WannaCry Ransomware. Do not make any payments for new software. It is important to remember that Microsoft’s error and warning messages on your PC will never include a phone number. *How to protect yourself:*

- Don’t call numbers from pop-up messages.
- Never allow remote access to your computer.
- Always be wary of unsolicited calls. If you’re unsure of a caller’s identity, hang up.
- Never divulge passwords or pin numbers.
- Microsoft or someone on their behalf will never call you.

The next Quarterly members meeting of B&D NHW scheduled for Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May has had to be cancelled due to reasons beyond their control. The next meeting which will be the AGM, will take place on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2017.

Neighbourhood Watch Week: Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June with a Community Engagement day in Bedford Harpur Square on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June. Details of other events can be found on the website: [bedfordnhw.ourwatch.org.uk](http://bedfordnhw.ourwatch.org.uk)

### Neighbourhood watch: safer and stronger communities.

*Cherry Protheroe, NHW village co-ordinator*

## Little Staughton Golf Day 2017

This year’s event will be held at **Mowsbury Park Golf Club** on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2017**, with arrival at **9:30am** for bacon rolls and tee off commencing at 10:30am, followed by the usual hot

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food, cold beverages, tales of woe / success and witty banter, hosted by the inimitable Kevin and Maria at The Crown later that evening. The cost for the whole day will be £40.

We hope that as many villagers, friends, relations and colleagues as possible can attend this year's event and to confirm your attendance, please let Paul Feneley (376309) or Charlie Riding (376911), know as soon as possible (so that we can confirm numbers to the golf club and let them have a deposit of £10 per player.

If you wish to book a buggy for the day, please let me know quickly, in order that I can reserve these in advance. Many thanks for your support.

*Charlie Riding*

### Cricket Club

Dates for your diary (all **home** fixtures and **commencing at 6pm** unless otherwise indicated):

- Friday 6 June v Clifton Reyenes
- Sunday 3 Sept. v Waresley (time TBC)
- Sunday 17 Sept. - Village Ashes (time TBC)

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

### Diary Dates 2017

**June 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday:** Little Staughton Open Gardens 1-5 pm – if you might be interested in participating, or can offer help in any form, please ring Brenda Foster on 01234 376302 or 07799 100984 for more information.

Adult entry £4, under 12's free. Starts at Village Hall, postcode MK44 2BZ. All proceeds to Malawi Education Link and Little Staughton Village Hall. Admission to gardens by programme only.

**June 21<sup>st</sup> Wednesday:** PC Meeting, 7.30 pm Chapel Schoolroom.

**June 24<sup>th</sup> Saturday:** Little Staughton Safari Supper.

**July 8<sup>th</sup> Saturday:** Friends of Kymbrook School, Summer Ball, Keysoe Village Hall, 7 pm to Midnight, Black Tie, Tickets on sale from 27th April, £35 Per Person, which includes Dinner and Entertainment. For bookings contact [foksummerball@hotmail.com](mailto:foksummerball@hotmail.com)

Proceeds will go to Friends of Kymbrook and be used in supporting the school with their new year 5 and 6 classrooms.

**July 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday:** Kimbolton Country Fayre and Classic Car Show, Kimbolton Castle. This year there will be a flypast by the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, specifically a Hurricane and a Spitfire. In addition to around 1000 Classic cars, The Sealed Knot will be re-enacting an episode from the Civil War and new to this year we welcome Heavy Horses and Beagles. There will be well over 70 stalls and stands.

**July 16<sup>th</sup> Wednesday:** PC Meeting, 7.30 pm Chapel Schoolroom.

**Aug 20<sup>th</sup> Wednesday:** PC Meeting, 7.30 pm Chapel Schoolroom.

**September 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday:** Village Show, Keysoe: and schedules are now ready for this fun filled family day. Entries are welcome from everyone. To get your copy and entry form please call 378878

**September 9<sup>th</sup>, Saturday:** Little Staughton Golf Day (see main text).

**Sept 20<sup>th</sup> Wednesday:** PC Meeting, 7.30 pm Chapel Schoolroom.

**Oct 18<sup>th</sup> Wednesday:** PC Meeting, 7.30 pm Chapel Schoolroom.

**Nov 15<sup>th</sup> Wednesday:** PC Meeting, 7.30 pm Chapel Schoolroom.

**Dec 20<sup>th</sup> Wednesday:** PC Meeting, 7.30 pm Chapel Schoolroom.

### 2018

**Jan 17<sup>th</sup> Wednesday:** PC Meeting, 7.30 pm Chapel Schoolroom.

**Feb 21<sup>st</sup> Wednesday:** PC Meeting, 7.30 pm Chapel Schoolroom.

**Mar 18<sup>th</sup> Wednesday:** PC Meeting, 7.30 pm Chapel Schoolroom.

**Apr 16<sup>th</sup> Wednesday:** PC Meeting, 7.30 pm Chapel Schoolroom.

All copy for the **July 2017** issue to  
Jeanette Atkinson at Claydon, Spring Hill or email  
[jeanette@pjatkinson.plus.com](mailto:jeanette@pjatkinson.plus.com)  
by **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017**