

*Winter Edition 24/25*

GREAT STAUGHTON & PERRY

*Life*

AND DIARY OF EVENTS

*48th Year*

miniature material (max size)

# We have been working in your area...

## WHAT'S YOUR KITCHEN CULTURE?

Kitchen Culture Cambridgeshire are your local specialists in designing and installing exceptional bespoke interiors.

We believe that your home should reflect your personality and your needs, whether it's a single room update, or a more in-depth rework. Every room design that we create is bespoke to each customer, their style choices and budget.

Our recently extended showroom will help to inspire your dream project and is based just outside the market town of St Neots in Cambridgeshire. With 12 working displays, you can see and feel a real selection of kitchen styles as well as leading appliances and worktop brands and all the exciting bells and whistles your home deserves.

We can manage your entire project from concept to installation with our dedicated team. Alternatively, if you have your own team, we offer supply only options.

*"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*

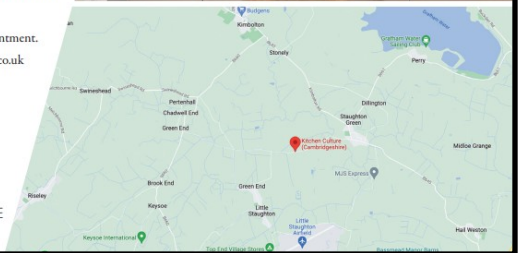
Showroom opening times: Tuesday - Friday, 9am - 5pm. Saturdays 9-4pm or by appointment.

Book an appointment with us: 01480 861822. info@kitchenculturecambridgeshire.co.uk

See our work on Instagram and facebook or visit [www.kitchenculturecambridgeshire.co.uk](http://www.kitchenculturecambridgeshire.co.uk)



PERTENHALL ROAD, GREAT STAUGHTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE PE19 5BE



## I.R. Quince Monumental Mason

New Memorials supplied & existing Memorials restored

### Quincestoneworks

Granite worktops, Free estimates for all work

83, High Street, Biggleswade, Beds, SG18 0LA  
Phone: 01767-314180. Fax: 01767-600872  
E-mail: sales@quincestoneworks.co.uk



Est. 1999



oxygen-it.co.uk

Local, Reliable, Approachable & Honest.

## On - Site Computer Engineers

Open 7 Days inc. Evenings

Low cost fixed price repairs and more.

No fix - No fee.

No Call - out charge.

AND you only pay when you are happy.

01480 390 395

07977 420 288

Tony Aldous

- Owner

Winter Edition  
2024/2025

# CONTENTS



Dates for your Diary.....	Page 4
Editor's Letter.....	Page 5
Community Notices.....	Pages 6-13
Gt. Staughton Neighbourhood Plan.....	Page 9
Gt. Staughton Book Club.....	Page 10
Confessions of a Baptist. Minister.....	Page 12
Gt. Staughton HortSoc Letter.....	Page 13
Gt. Staughton W.I.....	Page 14
Gt. Staughton Santa Sleigh.....	Page 15
Perry Christmas.....	Page 16
Bedford National Trust Association.....	Page 17
Perry W.I.....	Page 18
Wellbeing Walks.....	Page 22
Staughton Guides.....	Page 23
HortSoc Summer Show Photos.....	Page 24
St. Andrew's Church Tours.....	Page 26
Solar Panel Proposal Response.....	Page 28
Perry Parish Council Mins.....	Page 30
Thermal Imaging For A Cosier Home...Page	32
Colouring Activity.....	Page 33
Perry Hog Watch.....	Page 34
Wildlife Trust News.....	Page 36
Life Mag Advertising Rates.....	Page 39
St Andrew's Church Letter.....	Page 42
St. Andrew's Church Services.....	Page 43
Perry Baptist Church Letter.....	Page 45
Clubs & Contacts.....	Page 46
Useful Telephone Numbers.....	Page 47

## THE "LIFE" TEAM

### Editors:

Rob Young - Tel: 01480 860799

Lorraine Goody - Tel: 07855 826096

### Editorial Email addresses:

Rob: [rj.young@live.co.uk](mailto:rj.young@live.co.uk)

Lorraine: [lorrainegoody@sky.com](mailto:lorrainegoody@sky.com)

(please send content to both email addresses)

**Chairperson:** Nicole Yates: 01480 860616

**Treasurer:** Helen Glanville: 07745 920214

**Email:** [steveandhelen@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:steveandhelen@hotmail.co.uk)

### Correspondence to Editors:

Rob: 2 Manor Close, Gt Staughton

Lorraine: Staughton Manor, The Town

### Treasurer:

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

### Delivery team co-ordinators:

Steve Bennett (Gt St.) Tel: 01480 861626

29 Beachampstead Rd

Liz & Mike Dive (Perry) Tel: 01480 811636 -

6 Roundhouse Drive

**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 editors 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

- Monday 16th* : Perry ‘Souper Carol’ Event.....Page 16
- Friday 20th* : Great Staughton Santa Sleigh present drop-off.....Page 15
- Saturday 21st* : Great Staughton Santa Sleigh.....Page 15
- Sunday 22nd* : Perry Carol Singing.....Page 16
- Tuesday 24th* : Christingle Service, St. Andrew’s Church.....Page 43
- Tuesday 24th* : Midnight Mass, St. Andrew’s Church.....Page 43
- Wednesday 25th* : Christmas Day Service, Perry Baptist Church..Page 16

## January

- Wednesday 1st* : Great Staughton New Years’ Day Walk.....Page 6
- Tuesday 14th* : Bedford National Trust Association Meeting.....Page 16

## February

- Tuesday 11th* : Bedford National Trust Association Meeting.....Page 16

**Mobile Library 2024 /25- every fourth Wednesday of the month**  
 Chichester Way, Perry 11:15am – 12:05pm. The Causeway, Gt Staughton 2pm – 2:30pm

**Perry Parish Council Meetings 2024/2025**  
 December 11th, February 12th 2025, March 12th 2025  
 7pm-9pm. At the moment all meetings to be held in the Grafham Water Sailability Clubhouse.

**Great Staughton Parish Council Meetings 2025 - 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: £30 for a 3 hour session. Sports’ use - cricket club & football club - £26 per session.  
 For information and booking, contact **Giles Brittain –07740 647322**

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



# Editorial Natter...

*Hello there, dear readers,*

Welcome to your Winter 2024/25 Edition of the *Life Magazine*, and yes, I can't quite understand where this year has gone either.



In what is now becoming somewhat of a tradition, this Winter issue is bestowed with one of Anthony Withers' lovely photos from the Horticultural Society Summer Show on the cover. You'll be able to see a few more, in colour no less, on pages 24 and 25.

It's so nice to see plenty going on in Staughton and Perry over the festive period. I was home last year to see the Santa Sleigh make its rounds. I watched as my two nephews met Father Christmas and remembered doing the very same many, many MANY years ago. It's lovely to see the sleigh is still going strong, and thanks to all those hard-working elves who make it all possible.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas, New Year, January and February. Lorraine will be in the editors' hot seat for the Spring Edition in March, and I'll speak to you all again in the Summer Edition in June.

*This issue was edited by Rob*

## Great Staughton Parish Councillors

Robert Jewell (Chairman).....07812 725680  
[gtstaughtonparishchair@outlook.com](mailto:gtstaughtonparishchair@outlook.com)  
 Nicole Yates (Vice Chair).....860616  
 Helen Glanville.....07745 920214  
 Lorraine Goody.....07855 826096  
 James Duberly.....860305  
 Helen Hopperton.....07825 164588  
 Giles Brittain.....07740 647322  
 Will Mumford.....07741 645345  
 David Moore.....861195  
 Jo Russel (Clerk).....07887 481954  
 Email: [GtStaughtonParishClerk@outlook.com](mailto:GtStaughtonParishClerk@outlook.com)

Minutes of meetings plus other useful information can be found on the village website: [greatstaughtonpc.org.uk](http://greatstaughtonpc.org.uk)

## Perry Parish Councillors

**Eleanor Abbs (Chair)**  
[eleanor.abbs@perryparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:eleanor.abbs@perryparishcouncil.org.uk)  
**Sheila Brighton (Vice Chair)**  
[Sheila.brighton@perryparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:Sheila.brighton@perryparishcouncil.org.uk)  
**Kay Darby**  
[kay.darby@perryparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:kay.darby@perryparishcouncil.org.uk)  
**Chris Jones**  
[chris.jones@perryparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:chris.jones@perryparishcouncil.org.uk)  
**Nigel Noon**  
[clerk@perryparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@perryparishcouncil.org.uk)  
**Emma Prew**  
[emma.prew@perryparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:emma.prew@perryparishcouncil.org.uk)  
**Jo Shirreffs**  
[jo.shirreffs@perryparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:jo.shirreffs@perryparishcouncil.org.uk)  
**PARISH CLERK - EUGENE SMITH**  
[clerk@perryparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@perryparishcouncil.org.uk)  
 Tel: 077895 13090  
 Address: 2 The Drive, Perry, CAMBS. PE28 0SX (no personal callers please).

Minutes of meetings can be found on the village website: [www.perryparishcouncil.org.uk](http://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**

Our New Year's Day walk is now a tradition that goes back more than two decades.

Why not join us at 11am, meeting at the sundial for a gentle stroll on an easy footpath in the village.

Everyone is welcome.

Boots are recommended although we do our best to avoid the muddiest paths.

**Anthony Withers**

**07790 828012**

**aw.staughton@gmail.com**



***Treasurers Corner***

*Hello,*

Gosh, another year gone! Thanks, as ever, for popping all your change in the Pots.

A good total this month of **£57.61**. Happy Christmas to everyone and a Happy 2025!

XX

Thank you!

*Helen*



**Great Staughton has a defibrillator**

It's outside the village hall entrance.

It is alarmed which you need to ignore when you open it in an emergency. There is no code, it's always open (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.



## GREAT STAUGHTON TENNIS CLUB



Anyone interested in joining the Tennis Club, please email [nicolehyates@aol.com](mailto: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!

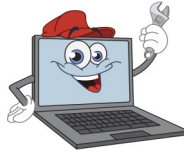
### District and County Councillors

Ian Gardner - Cambridgeshire County Council,  
email address is:

[ian.gardener@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:ian.gardener@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) and phone  
number is **07970 613498**.

Stephen Cawley - Huntingdonshire District Council,  
email address is:

[Stephen.cawley@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto: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.

### **A Note From the Editors**

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

**[rj.young@live.co.uk](mailto:rj.young@live.co.uk) &  
[lorrainegoody@sky.com](mailto:lorrainegoody@sky.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 & Lorraine**



# St Andrew's Church

## 100 Club Draw

### August 2024

Prize	No	Name
£50.....	97.....	Mr Les Blignaut
£25.....	69.....	Mr & Mrs David Moore
£15.....	55.....	Caroline Himely
£10.....	48.....	Mrs Dianne Palmer

### September 2024

Prize	No	Name
£200.....	33.....	Mrs Trish Richards
£100.....	13.....	Mr G Westcott
£50.....	2.....	Mr & Mrs D Clarke
£25.....	30.....	Mrs Janet Perrett
£15.....	29.....	Mrs Lorraine Goody
£10.....	65.....	Antonia Edmunds

### October 2024

Prize	No	Name
£50.....	14.....	Mr Alex Turner
£25.....	33.....	Mrs Trish Richards
£15.....	10.....	Mrs Rita Bayford
£10.....	98.....	Mrs Flo Marriott

### November 2024

Prize	No	Name
£50.....	89.....	Mrs Jean Wilmer
£25.....	35.....	Mrs A M Hamilton
£15.....	29.....	Mrs Lorraine Goody
£10.....	56.....	Mr Karl Reid

***Congratulations to all the winners!***



**Kym Valley Carpet  
Bowls Club**  
Gt Staughton Village Hall

**Club nights Tuesday (apart from WI night) and Friday 7pm to 9.30pm**

The Kym Valley Carpet Bowls Club meets at the village hall on Tuesdays and Fridays at 7.00pm.

Entry fee is £3 for which you get tea, coffee and biscuits plus the chance to win a (small) bar of chocolate.

One of our newer members Ian Taylor tells us on page 9 Life how he came to value the game, the club and its members after suffering a personal tragedy.

Everyone, young or old, is welcome to join us.

**Anthony Withers**  
**Chairman, KVCBC**  
**01480 861224**  
**aw.staughton@gmail.com**

### **HOW I CAME TO BOWLS: A PERSONAL ACCOUNT**

Playing carpet bowls in our village hall has changed my life for the better.

A strange thing to say so let me explain.

I lost my wife a week before Christmas 2023, we had been married 57 years.

We met at school aged 14 so ours was a life-long love affair.

She died at home from Multiple System Atrophy (a rare progressive neurological condition similar to MND).

Her gradual decline spanned a decade and I cared for her every day at home. I refused to employ carers.



I have no idea where I got the strength from to cope with all the physical and emotional demands.

I do know that being the one to be left alone after a lifetime together was challenging and that I needed additional social activity.

Fortunately, I had a network of great neighbours and good 'old friends' who were, still are understanding and supportive.

Despite moving here in 2004 I had not socialised widely in the village as my focus had been Rotary, Round Table and 41 Club.

Our wonderful village magazine carries an advertisement for CARPET BOWLS so I decided to give it a go and contacted our local historian Anthony Withers who also runs the bowling club.

What I found was a warm and friendly and welcoming group of men and women who 'took me in' and tried to teach me how to bowl. Nine months later and I'm still not very good but no one minds and I now look forward to Tuesday and Friday evenings at 7pm when I can go out and socialise for a couple of hours and play this entertaining game.

I persuaded a couple of my 'old friends' from Little Staughton to join in and they too enjoy the friendly atmosphere and have embraced the experience.

I would love more of you to come along (any age) and see if you would like to join in. You will find great companionship, friendly characters, great chat, tea/coffee and biscuits and a chance to win a bar of chocolate (small size) all for £3.00 per evening.

So now I have a group of 'new friends', and you can never have enough friends to help you through life. We are lucky that we live in a wonderful and friendly place so please think about joining us on these winter evenings. You are welcome to contact myself or Anthony to find out more.

*Ian Taylor, Great Staughton*

## Great Staughton Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council is currently preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for the designated neighbourhood area in Huntingdonshire. The process has now reached the stage of the Regulation 15 submission to Huntingdonshire District Council. This submission contains a draft plan, details of the consultation conducted, and associated strategic environmental assessments. The submission is also supported by many working documents.

The Neighbourhood plan is submitted to Huntingdonshire District Council for independent examination and a final round of public consultation (Regulation 15 of Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. Once this is complete and if the plan is accepted there will be a referendum held in the village on the plan.

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

- It defines the extent and where the Parish would like to see development take place.
- The introduction of some controlled development supports local services such as the school, shop, pubs and clubs.
- It adds more protection to the heritage aspects of the village.
- It provides more protection to the environment and ecology surrounding the village
- The Parish Council receives a higher level of grant allocation under certain circumstances.

The draft plan and associated documents can be found here at [www.greatstaughtonpc.org.uk/neighbourhood-plan](http://www.greatstaughtonpc.org.uk/neighbourhood-plan)

Any comments, queries to

**Bob Jewell**

[gtstaughtonparishchair@outlook.com](mailto:gtstaughtonparishchair@outlook.com)

**GREAT  
STAUGHTON  
VILLAGE  
BOOK CLUB**



Our Autumn books had rather mixed responses which, of course, makes the discussions all the more interesting.

September's book, ***Tunnel 29*** by Helena Merriman, was well received. Telling the story of the real life events immediately after the Berlin Wall was built, it describes the journey of those trying to escape by building tunnels. It was a thought-provoking and well-written book.

In October, we read ***Trust*** by Hernan Diaz. Told in four parts by different 'voices' and literary styles, it tells the story of family, wealth and ambition. A winner of the Pulitzer Prize, we were looking forward to finding out what made this book so special: we failed.

Our November book, ***The Honjin Murders*** by Seishi Yokomizo, is a locked room mystery novel set in the 1930s and first published in a Japanese magazine in the 1940s. In a village there is a buzz of excitement for the wedding of the son of a wealthy and powerful family. However, there is also murder and

intrigue. Can the amateur detective solve the case before you?

So, Autumn has shed her leaves and frost is snaking its way across the footpaths and car windows which means one thing: Winter has arrived! A time when everyone can make up excuses to stay indoors and snuggle up with a good book once the graft of the day is complete.

Hoping there is a book in every stocking this year!

**Books for first half  
of 2025 are:**

**January:** *Songbirds* by Christy Lefteri

**February:** *My Cousin Rachel* by Daphne De Maurier

**March:** *My Brilliant Friend* by Elena Ferrante

**April:** *Abroad in Japan* by Chris Broad

**May:** *My Father's House* by Joseph O'Connor

**June:** *Doppelgänger* by Naomi Klein

**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.

Our 2025 programme will begin on the **4<sup>th</sup> February** and is a talk on how Mike Johnson built a garden for the Hampton Court Garden Show.

We are currently finalising our programme for 2025, including membership form and this will issued in January The annual membership fee is £7 plus a meeting attendance fee of £1. I will add you to our mailing list.

**For more information and to book please  
email the Secretary at [hwwgg@yahoo.com](mailto:hwwgg@yahoo.com)**

**The White Hart**  
56 The Highway,  
Gt. Staughton  
PE19 5DA  
Tel: 01480 861131  
**Good home-made,  
honest pub food now  
being served**

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

'We look forward to welcoming  
you soon.'  
*Hugh & Mary*

**PERRY BOOK SWAP**

Calling all bibliophiles.  
Perry Parish Council has a  
book swap programme.



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!***

## Confessions of a Baptist Minister

Local author Jon Magee, who is the Baptist Minister at Perry since 2019, has published his third book. The book is called *Confessions of a Baptist Minister*.

In March 2024 the author celebrated 41 years of full time ministry and decided that this was the time to record some of the experiences of Ministry. Ministry has not been just a quiet life but has led the author to be available for a variety of situations. The author has been there for a plane crash on a Hebridean hill side, facing a man armed with a gun, and to minister to alcoholics and drug addicts. The author reveals that there is much to be gained reaching across the cultural divides of life. In short this book reveals that ministry is an exciting life.

David Kinder, former Lead Chaplain at Littlehey prison, wrote the foreword and says: 'firstly, this book is like a string of pearls. Jon is the cord that joins them all together, each pearl is a person. Some of these people were on their own journey and crossed Jon's path, others were people like Baden Powell who influenced Jon's approach to that journey. Secondly, it is confessional in the way it is delivered. Jon is very honest, conveying to the reader his deepest thoughts and emotions, including acknowledging his own mistakes or errors of judgement. The stories within are humorous, heart breaking, inspirational, unique and

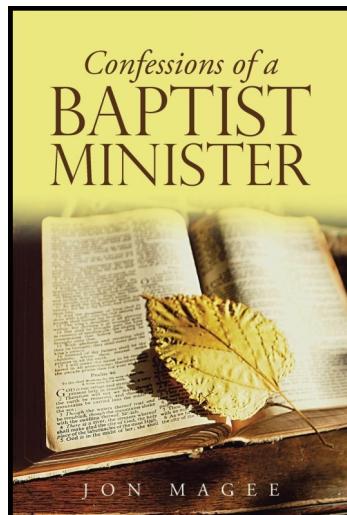
totally human. Faith in Jesus is the golden thread running through each chapter.'

Rev David Williams in Birmingham adds 'I bought the Kindle version. As well as lots of personal story there is a wealth of experience and practical advice.'

The authors first book, *From Barren Rocks to Living Stones*, details a teenagers experience in Aden (now part of Yemen) in 1966/67 during extreme terrorism and the British evacuation.

The second book, *Paradise Island, Heavenly Journey*, records experiences in Singapore at the latter time of British colonialism.

**For further details the author can be contacted by phone at 01480 700810 or by email at [perrybaptistpastor@gmail.com](mailto:perrybaptistpastor@gmail.com)**





**GREAT  
STAUGHTON  
HORTICULTURAL  
SOCIETY**



I have the skeleton of a wreath saved from last year's beautiful Christmas edition. Members of the local netball team made the original - under instruction from a professional - and the result was impressive. I hadn't realised there were any local netball teams but isn't it typical that there are entire strata of activities going on that one is completely unaware of?

I thought I paid attention as I dismantled the wreath but now the idea of constructing a new one is quite daunting. Hopefully YouTube will instruct me satisfactorily.

I'm in the USA at the moment - writing this on election day. The results are being anxiously awaited. Front yard decoration is a big thing in this area and the evidence of Halloween is still everywhere. Having participated in trick or treating with my nine-year-old grandson was quite an experience. He had to be brave to walk through some of the more spooky constructions but the haul of sweets at the end of the evening made the scary moments worthwhile. The main impression of the event was that it was an inclusive, fun community activity. Anyone who wanted to opt out simply left their garden undecorated.

I've never seen so many pumpkins in my life. Apparently according to Google 1.3 billion pounds of pumpkins are supplied to the American market at this season - of which 80% end up in land fill. Isn't it mad?

There are plenty of potted chrysanthemums around as well. I remember seeing these en masse in

cemeteries in France for All Hallows. There is a strong association between chrysanthemums and death in France and it is a faux pas to gift them on any other occasion.

Apparently the Celtic tradition of Samhain on 31st October marked the beginning of winter and on that day the spirits were unsettled and active. The Catholic Church moved its All Saints celebration from May to 1st November in the 9th century so the pagan and religious traditions have become intertwined. I'm interested to see how many of the trees are losing leaves here even with temperatures remaining in the mid 20s - a clear indication that day length is the main trigger for leaf drop. I'm hoping that some leaves will still be on the trees when I get home.

The first thing I'm going to do is plant garlic. I have just discovered that a cold period is required to stimulate the plant to divide into cloves. If that doesn't happen you end up with a single bulb like an onion. Talking of bulbs, I got a handful of saffron crocus bulbs (*crocus sativus*) this autumn which very quickly flowered and produced their enlarged red stigmas - about 3 per bulb. To harvest you hand pick these stigmas, place on a paper towel in a dark place to dry before storing in an airtight container.

Anthony Withers's photos, elsewhere in this edition, give us a reminder of the 2024 Annual Show and preparations are already under way for next year's 60th Anniversary event. It's not too early to think about participating. The date of next year's show is 23rd August 2025. You are very welcome to come and join the organising group.

**The next meeting is on 5th March 2025  
at 7pm at the White Hart.**

**GREAT STAUGHTON**  
**W.I.**

**theWI**  
**INSPIRING WOMEN**

In August, instead of our usual evening meeting, we met at Great Staughton Playing Fields in the afternoon for a picnic. It was a very hot day, but we sat in the shade and enjoyed a pleasant breeze. We took our own sandwiches and were then treated to cakes and cups of tea or coffee by our committee. We all had an enjoyable afternoon chatting, eating and drinking. Thank you to the committee for the delicious refreshments.

For our September meeting we had our annual Harvest Supper. The committee members worked very hard to provide delicious food for us. We had a lovely cold spread which included quiches, meats, and a variety of salads. This was followed by an array of desserts including apple pie and a citrus bombe, all accompanied with cream. To wash it all down there was wine and soft drinks. It was a lovely evening of good food, good drink and good company. Thank you to the hardworking committee for providing such a wonderful meal.

At the beginning of October Great Staughton WI hosted a WI walk. Twenty-four ladies from WI groups in our region attended and enjoyed either a short or a long walk in and around Great Staughton. After the exertions they were treated to a lunch and a puppet show. After worries about the atrocious weather (and the lack of water in the village the day before!) the sun shone (thankfully the water was reconnected) and everyone had a wonderful time.

For our October meeting we had a talk entitled Millinery Magic by Alison Cooper. She has been making hats for about ten years and believes they are a

sculpture that sits on the head. Having an understanding of materials and the techniques used is vital and she showed us some of her creations which were absolutely beautiful. One of them depicted a beach scene; another had a needlefelt chameleon on it and she won a national design award for her beetle hat, which was amazingly lifelike. She was presented the prize of £1,500 by the Lord Mayor of London and also received two weeks work experience. Alison also studied at college and was taught by Zara Philips's hat maker. Alison likes to use sustainable materials and loves taking old hats apart (a lot of charity shop buys) and reusing the materials. There are a variety of materials that are used including wool felt; fur felt; sinamay (made from banana leaves); crinoline and leather. After this very informative talk we were all given a hair band and were tasked to create our own fascinators. Alison provided us all with feathers, buttons, material flowers etc. and gave us a few ideas of what to do. We all had a very creative time and thoroughly enjoyed the craft. We were all allowed to take home our creations so look out for unique headwear being paraded in Great Staughton and Hail Weston!

We have some amazing talks coming up in the next few months and we would love to share them with you. Our meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at Great Staughton Village Hall at 7.30pm. If you do fancy coming along you will receive a very warm welcome, a hot drink and maybe even some cake.

For further details please contact our President, Barbara Wallis on 01480 214582.

*Karen Larkins*



## Great Staughton Santa Sleigh

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2024**  
between 4pm - 8pm (ish!)

If you would like Santa to make a special delivery to your child (ren), please email [greatstaughtonsanta2023@gmail.com](mailto:greatstaughtonsanta2023@gmail.com) to book your slot. We need to know your name and address and your child(ren)s name(s) and age(s).

Santa's elves need some time to plan their route around the village, so all requests must be made by **Wednesday 18 December**. The route plan and approximate timings for the sleigh to arrive in each street will be published on Facebook shortly afterwards.

Please drop your wrapped and clearly labelled presents off at Elf Headquarters at **10 Lye Close, Great Staughton, by 8pm on Friday 20 December**. The gifts should be no larger than a shoebox and please no high value or breakable items.

Merry Christmas everyone!

*Santa's Sleigh is brought to you by the kind generosity of MJS Express Limited and a merry band of volunteer elves.*





## The Perry Christmas



As Christmas approaches there is so much that is happening in the village, but always remember that the church has a special invitation for all in the community to join in the celebration.

First of all, we are looking forward to a **“Souper Carol”** event. No, that’s not a typo. On **Monday 16th December** we will hold an event that is not only a super carol event but also A SOUPER carol event. As will be widely known we have a regular drop in twice a month and it is good to see so many coming from the community.

Following our regular Drop-In we will have soup and Carols from midday on. Please note this in your diary and have a super time at the Perry Baptist Church.

Carol singing is going to feature quite a bit in the village. Plans are being made for carol singing around the village, the day and time will be decided soon, but if you wish to be a part of this village event then please contact me at 01480 700810. In addition there will be a Carol Service on **Sunday 22nd December at 10.30am** to which all will be welcome.

Finally, a special **Christmas Day Service in the church at 10.30am**. Of course, that will be 25th December.

### Quality Bespoke Secure Storage

#### Space for all your storage needs...



Easy to open & fast to access. High security with PIN codes, megapixel CCTV cameras & individual room alarms. Choose as little or as much space as you really need. Clean, dry, ventilated & condensation free Store just about anything for any length of stay, with no long term commitment. Friendly & helpful service with packaging available. Viewings arranged by appointment.

## More Space




Located at Manor Farm, Graveley, PE19 6PH. Mention GSP11 to receive £5 discount on your first months rental.

- Home
- Document
- Commercial

**01480 830130**  
**morespacestorage.co.uk**





Rushden

# Chiropractic

Clinic

Mark Horrell B.Sc. (Chiro), CCEP, D.C. MRCC

Free Back Check Available

- **Chiropractic** – back and neck pain, head to foot, musculoskeletal pain and dysfunction, including sports injuries, whiplash related problems, neck related headaches
- Sports Massage Therapy
- Chiroprody/Podiatry
- Physiotherapy and Counselling

128 Newton Road, Rushden NN10 0HL  
 Contact us on 01933 358231  
[mark@rushdenchiropracticclinic.co.uk](mailto:mark@rushdenchiropracticclinic.co.uk)  
[www.rushdenchiropracticclinic.co.uk](http://www.rushdenchiropracticclinic.co.uk)  
 Visit us on facebook





## Bedford National Trust Association

### Next meetings

**Tuesday January 14th - 2.15pm**

SERV volunteers, known as Bloodrunners, are experienced Motorcyclists and car drivers, trained to a high standard, who help save lives by transporting urgently needed blood and other medical supplies.

Service by Emergency Response Volunteers Speaker John Gibson

**Tuesday February 11th - 2:15pm**

They say 'We are experienced reenactors who portray the role of the medieval apothecary in a living history context' They dress up for the occasion. They are Julian and Valerie Rutherford.

Everyone welcome. No need to book.  
Small admission fee.

Meeting held in the Addison Centre, Kempston. No problems with parking. For further details contact Betty Thomas on 01480 860 421.

## PERRY DROP IN

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

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

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



## GILBERT'S FAMILY BUTCHERS

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

We have two family-run butchers shops.

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

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

**[gilbertsbutchers@gmail.com](mailto:gilbertsbutchers@gmail.com)**

Perry WI  
Every Second Monday of  
the month at 7.30pm

theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN

Doesn't punctuate anything? What sort of heathen practice is that? I don't think so, sunshine! And then, she goes on to tell Faye that it got a 1 out of 5 for her. Yes, you heard it right, dear

reader, ONE out of FIVE. Hmmmm, I'll let you decide whether I accepted it... Clue – take a glance in the Oxfam Book Shop in Huntingdon pretty soon and I bet you see it there. Nuff said.

We talked about the Letchworth Splash Park and why there isn't one in St Neots. It looks amazing. It's free, fun, family-orientated and the photos looked fab.

We talked about where in the county has the best chips (Harbour View Cafe, Grafham Water), Jean assured us that the bottle of Citrus Gin she got from the Great Staughton monthly Craft and Food Market is the best she's ever had (I had a sip and I can verify that comment), we talked about portion sizes in America, a whole discussion about the heat in chillies (we had to Google which is the hottest, I'll leave it to you to have that family discussion until you have to google it too), we talked about being weighed and then going for a blow-out meal.

We talked about surgery and physiotherapy, being a twin, and lavender. We talked about the Olympics, hedgehogs, and warm toilet seats (don't ask).

So, in the spirit of the BBC/WI, I hope I've entertained you and here is a bit of education. Did you know that when a fish is caught and not adequately preserved or is improperly refrigerated, it can produce a bacterially generated toxin which then produces histamine? Even if the fish has been subsequently frozen, the toxins can remain in the fish and when thawed and cooked, this does not kill the toxins and, if eaten can produce an allergic-type reaction. Skin flushing, rash on top half of the body,

August WI saw us sitting outside the Sailability Hut and looking across Grafham Water and thinking how lucky we all are to live in such a place with such friends. It was a perfect evening – well, until about 8:45pm when the sun began to go down and the mozzies began to return home from a day of inflicting themselves on the general population to discover us on their doorstep and suddenly we were... supper! As I write this five days later, I still have two bites which are itching and inflamed. Please visit us next August, I'll be the one wearing wellies, a full onesie and a bee-keeping mask.

We sat, we chatted, we drank tea and wine and g&ts from those little individual tins (such a good idea) and even had some nibbles and cake. What more do you want from the second Monday evening of the month. The conversations were many and varied and I will attempt to pass on a few of the gems I heard for your entertainment, information and even education (we could rename ourselves the BBC couldn't we).

The first thing that I was offered when I arrived (clutching a bottle of pretend Prosecco) was a book. Now, I am a bibliophile, my TBR (To Be Read) pile is bigger than me (that's how big a TBR pile should be, think a cellar of fine wines – you need to be able to choose the one you want, not just the next on the pile) so when I arrive Kerry and I usually have a chat about what we're reading or swap something or recommend something. All good. So, my dear friend thrusts a weighty tome into my welcoming mitt and says 'Here, it's from the Booker Long List. I think you'll like it. It's from five points-of-view. Just be careful because one of the characters doesn't punctuate anything so...' Stop right there!

stomach ache and head ache may follow within 10-60 minutes. It's not lethal and without treatment, resolves itself in 12-48 hours but is not pleasant (as our own member who suffered this attested to). It does not mean you are allergic to fish but if you taste some fish (there are over 100 fish which are susceptible including mackerel and tuna) which is peppery then don't eat it!

And so on to September and the intriguingly titled House of Spies (or Pink Gin Percy, Bonzo & Crommie). Roger Leivers filled us in on events which happened at Farm Hall in Godmanchester, (on West Street on the main road to Offord). The house is a large, comfortable residence with extensive rear grounds stretching for ¼ mile. In the early 1940s there were residents at the house being looked after by Mrs Togood... but in the Summer of 1942 they were all sent away. Things were afoot! Farm Hall was to become a spy school and went on to play an important part in the War Effort.

The team leader was Wing Commander Percy Cautley Nasmyth Shaw conveniently known as PGP or Pink Gin Percy with Wing Commander Bruce Bonsey (Bonzo) as his 2nd in command. The team worked in secret isolation training agents to be dropped into France to assist with the return of individuals from occupied territory. Nearby Offord Hill House was a listening station & Gibraltar Farm, Tempsford Air Field was used to fly the agents into France.

Military personnel or escapers who found themselves in northern France trying to get back to Britain were helped by a chain of agents which stretched down to The Pyrenees. From there they may have headed to Gibraltar or Lisbon. The shorter journey via the English Channel was obviously not an option due to the heavily fortified beaches. The agents were constantly risking their own lives and their bravery was unbelievable. A few agents were

named. Peggy Van Lier and Jimmy Langley played their part and did return to England after the war ended. Jeannette Giuyot took the lead during Operation Sussex.

Another agent who needs a mention is Vadim Groenovich, a white Russian who spent two and a half years in solitary confinement in a prisoner of war camp. After the war he came to Britain and when he recovered from his ordeal he became a British citizen, going on to work for the British Embassy and the BBC. A nice link to this man is that Roger Leivers knows his son.

What about Crommie I hear you say. Crommie was Cautley's dog and could easily be called the first therapy dog. He had a natural ability to go and sit with agents who returned from highly traumatic operations, staying with them until their stress levels came down. A clever dog! There is a small monument at Farm Hall which reads 'Crommie, Saturday 8th June 2019. Never to be forgotten.'

Roger Leivers has written two books about WW2, 'Godmanchester at War' telling this story of Farm Hall and 'Stirling to Essen' a true story of a bomber command crew from RAF Alconbury.

Thank you Roger, your talk was a real insight into the dedicated work of local people towards the secret war effort.

So a non-raining October rolled around and we were reminded about the Food Bank collection in November (bring something Christmassy), bulb planting on Saturday (I know this is in the past as you read this but hopefully it will give you a little fizz of pleasure being reminded that you helped make our village spectacular in the Spring), and that on 25 June 2025 we will be taking part in a Fashion Show with Eaton Belles WI at the United Reform Church in St

Neots. More of that in future issues but it sound fab doesn't it.

And so to our speaker. Bill Hamilton, BBC News Correspondent – The Man on the Spot. Bill was a journalist and broadcaster for over 60 years and travelled the world visiting everywhere from gold and marble palaces to dingy prison cells. Bill started with a short foray into how technology has changed our lives and the difference between the quality of recording nowadays on a basic iPhone to the steel boxes of heavy equipment that he and his crew had to heave around the world to send their reports back home.

He spoke of the Good Old Days when boys weren't taught shorthand and typing at school but had to learn it quick if they went into journalism. He needed to do shorthand (described as his nemesis) at 200 words per minute as that is about the speed that people speak and asked if anyone could match that. Of course we had one, so Debbie got a smattering of applause and a few 'ooo I say's. Well done Debbie, I always think it's nice to impress our guests. Typing was a breeze (he called up a slide of an old Olivetti typewriter to several 'We had one of them!') that is until you made a mistake of course and then there's all the fuff of carbon paper and TippEx. Remember that? There followed a short interlude on the QWERTY keyboard – never outdone and I must admit that if I didn't have my beloved laptop (her name is Veronica... Marvel fans might know why) you just would not be getting these reports. I kid you not.

Bill was born in Dundee - city of jam (marmalade was made there after an adventurous lad took a load of shipwrecked oranges to his mam to boil up), Jute (at its height there were 100 jute mills in Dundee) and Journalism (titles published there included The Beano and The People's Friend). He didn't enjoy school overly much and after becoming Scotland's youngest referee at age

15, went on to start as a cub reporter on the Fife Herald in 1962 being paid a heady sum of £5.10 shillings for a 6-day week. He loved reporting on the local town councils and their great civic pride – until Edward Heath abolished them in Scotland. He went onto be Chief Sports Correspondent on The Northern Daily Mail before moving to Tyne Tees Television. He tells of waiting the 20 minutes to do his report to camera and getting increasingly nervous until the head Newsreader told him 'This is a personal medium. We may have 4 million viewers but they are not together, they are in groups of 2 or 3 in front of their television. So shoulders up, deep breath, straight into the camera lens and speak to the most beautiful girl in the world.' Bill then showed us a photo of Sophia Loren... and I'm sure she was very interested in how Accrington Stanley were doing in the cup.

Various jobs and scoops followed and eventually Bill was sent on a month's secondment to the BBC in London in 1979. Angela Rippon, Kenneth Kendall, Richard Whitmore, Richard Baker (the Old Guard in Bill's words) were all there. Nevertheless, nothing much was going on: Jim Callahan was back from a boring conference so Bill interviewed Bob Hope and did a piece on the Centenary of the Salvation Army 'War Cry'! Then on his second last night he was just metres away from the explosion which killed the Shadow Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Airy Neave. Bill had a full crew with him so was immediately on the spot to report.

Bill was taken on by the BBC as a network reporter and covered major news and sporting events but says that the most fulfilling story was about the Albanian dictator Enver Hoxha. Hoxha tricked his people into thinking they had a high standard of living, had a million military pill boxes constructed across the country, jailed or executed 10% of the population and kept the people neglected and



starving. In 1991, Bill and his cameraman were the first western television crew to gain free access before the fall of the dictatorship. Their coverage was substantial and the international aid effort reached £10 million in the first 6 weeks. He was assisted by the then Duchess of York who was barely recognised but who pulled her sleeves up and mucked in with the work, and Norman Wisdom who was very popular in Albania as the one of the few film stars known there – apparently Hoxha couldn't work out the political message in his work!

He was awarded the 'Order of Mother Teresa' (she is Albanian) which is the country's highest civilian award, given to him by the lady herself. She told him 'It is not how much we do or give, it is how much love we show'.

Bill, with his soft clear Scottish accent, was a passionate, amusing speaker with a full hour's

worth of interesting facts and fun, he reminded us of some of the huge events of the last 50odd years and left us musing about the future. Thank you Bill.

*This episode in the life of Perry WI was written by Liz and Sylvia.*



**HAPPY PLACE,  
RESTORED**

If you love your lawn,  
you'll love GreenThumb.  
Our year-round treatments  
will give your grass  
the TLC it deserves,  
so you get a lawn you  
can feel good about.

 **GreenThumb**  
LAWN TREATMENT SERVICE

Discover more at [greenthumb.co.uk](http://greenthumb.co.uk)  Scan here

Bedford & Huntingdon  
01234 709345 or 01480 597432 [bedford@greenthumb.co.uk](mailto:bedford@greenthumb.co.uk)

## WELLBEING WALKS IN OUR AREA WINTER 2024/25



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/](http://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.

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>WALK NAME</b>	<b>MEETING POINT</b>
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> Dec	2 pm	GRAFHAM LAKESIDE	Cinnamon Restaurant car park, Grafham village
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> Jan	2 pm	DILLINGTON STROLL	Great Staughton Village Hall Car Park
Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> Jan	10 am	GRAFHAM PERRY WALK	Outside the Wheatsheaf public house, Perry
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> Feb	10 am	GRAFHAM LAKESIDE	Cinnamon Restaurant car park, Grafham
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> Mar	10 am	KYMSIDE SAUNTER	Great Staughton Village Hall Car Park
Wed 26 <sup>th</sup> Mar	2 pm	GRAFHAM PERRY WALK	Outside the Wheatsheaf public house, Perry

## 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](mailto:steveandhelen@hotmail.co.uk). Thank you. Your magazine still needs your help.

***Helen***

**Life Magazine Treasurer**



### **SPACES AVAILABLE at the Great Staughton Girl Guides**

Small but friendly group so join up now!

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

And above all, **WE HAVE FUN!!** Upcoming activities include things like fashion design, movie & pizza night, DIY skills, Christmas crafts & games. Maybe even some smores!

Open to all girls aged 10-14. To register your interest, go to [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk) and follow the links to 'Information for Parents - Register your daughter.' Fill in your details and someone will be in touch. Or, for more information, contact **Lindy Bornman at** [\*\*FGSGuides@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:FGSGuides@gmail.com).

Photos from the Great Staughton Horticultural Show  
August 24th 2024









St Andrew's Renovation Project

## SECRETS OF THE CHURCH THE PEOPLE WHO MADE STAUGHTON GREAT

A journey across eight centuries of England's history as we explore the architecture of the his-toric church of St Andrew and tell the stories behind the monuments, memorials, brasses and tablets of this wonderful building.

The tour will be guided by Anthony Withers, author of  
*Great Staughton and its People*

Venue: St Andrew's church Great Staughton PE19 5BB

**Dates for 2025: January 11, February 15 and March 15 all at 11.00am**

The price of the tour is £6 which includes refreshments

Book and pay online using this link  
(<https://rb.gy/wytxmd>) indicating the date(s)  
you prefer. **or** scan the QR code



Or just Email Anthony Withers at  
[aw.staughton@gmail.com](mailto:aw.staughton@gmail.com) with  
your preferred date and pay at the door.

Visit our web page to find out more [www.swhw.co.uk](http://www.swhw.co.uk)







### **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](mailto: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.

**Great Staughton Parish Council**  
**Response to the solar farm**  
**proposals**

The response below will be considered by the developers. Following which a Development Consent Order (DCO) is likely to be made to the Planning Inspectorate in early 2025. The examination of the proposals is likely to happen throughout 2025 with a decision being made in 2026. If the go ahead is given construction is expected to commence in 2027.

**Response to Statutory Consultation on a new solar farm and energy storage project northwest of St. Neots**

This response from the Parish Council has been informed by a public meeting of 58 residents, conversations held with 62 people as they left the exhibition in Great Staughton on October 12<sup>th</sup> 2024 and by written submissions. It has been agreed by all Parish Councillors.

**Overall Summary of views**

There is a clear overwhelming objection to the plans proposed by Brockwell Energy. This was identified in a vote taken at the end of the public meeting and from the conversations held after the exhibition.

**Summary of objections.**

The consensus was that the solar farm was too large for the area. It was too intrusive and would result in a detrimental effect on the quality of rural life in the area. The development was being driven by economic and financial considerations rather than the best solutions for the local environment and community. There was a sense of small communities being overwhelmed by this development and factors such as the health, social, and cultural wellbeing being ignored.

**Detailed Objections**

***Land Use***

- The solar farm is to be sited on North facing slopes which makes the area to be covered to generate the electricity to be significantly greater than would be necessary if the solar farm were placed on South facing slopes.  
- This inefficient use of land exacerbates the loss of farmland and extends the areas of natural beauty affected by the solar farm. These proposals in particular use more farmland than is recommended in such schemes. Over 95% of the land being utilised in the Great Staughton Parish is agricultural land with all of this being grade 3b or better. 75% of the Eastpark site and almost 80% of the agricultural land (excluding (tracks and woodland etc) is best and most versatile land.

***Alternative locations for solar energy and/or other alternative renewable energy***

- It was felt not enough had been done to explore better alternative locations for solar panels both nationally and in the vicinity of the Eaton Socon Sub-station.  
i) Industrial and infrastructure sites eg carparks  
ii) Potential new housing developments in the area  
It was felt not enough has been done to establish whether alternatives such as wind power would be better in this area.

***Loss of the Countryside and areas of Natural beauty***

- The solar panels will seriously diminish the beautiful views of Great Staughton obtained from footpath 23 and 24 along the crest of the Moor overlooking the village of Great Staughton including important views of the Church, Manor and the ancient area along The Town. This impact has been made worse by the inclusion of the new additional field of solar panels. The importance to the village of these views is identified in the Neighbourhood Plan for Great Staughton.

- The whole area from Hail Weston through Great Staughton to Little Staughton and Pertenhall will have views of the hillside destroyed by the solar panels.
- Bridleway 7 to Hail Weston from Great Staughton would be completely bordered by solar panels
- It is feared that size of such a solar development will impact adversely natural inhabitants of the countryside, the birdlife, and animal life.
- The aspect of pond life and its protection needs careful consideration in the scheme.

### **Safety**

The issue of safety of the battery storage was raised together with the ability of emergency services to access the storage quickly in an emergency. With regard to the alternative suggestions for the siting of the battery storage it was felt putting it in Area D was slightly less intrusive to the landscape. Its location must be properly screened on all sides to mitigate the impact.

### **Flood Risk**

The areas where the River Kym crosses the C road near Great Staughton Church and where it crosses the B645 at the Eastern end of the village are regularly flooded. The impact of quicker run off from solar panels into the River Kym would only aggravate flooding in the area.

### **Noise**

The issue of noise from the solar panels and any construction process would affect the quality of life of the community.

### **Access to the sites**

The whole area around the proposed solar farm is of a rural aspect with undeveloped road structures. Whilst it is accepted that there are proposals to build additional access roads, the significant additional construction and workforce traffic will have a major impact on the area. Under construction

the workforce is expected to rise to 800 which is greater than the population of Great Staughton. The vehicle movements along poor B and C roads where there have been many fatalities can only be a serious risk to the local community. The community would want specific monitoring of movements particularly during the construction phase but also in any operational phase.

### **Historic Buildings and Conservation areas**

The Great Staughton Neighbourhood Plan notes the importance of the character of the area. The solar panels will encroach significantly towards the historic grade 1 and 2 listed buildings in the village and the designated conservation areas.

### **Clustering of solar sites**

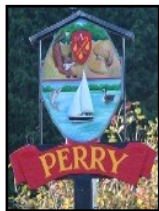
There are many other solar sites in the area, this needs to be considered in respect of the clustering of sites.

### **Decommissioning of the site**

There were considerable doubts raised as to whether after 40 years of solar panels the site could be restored to efficient agricultural use.

### **Long Term responsibility of developer**

The project has a life span of 40+ years with a need for decommissioning at its closure. It is felt that any developer should be required to provide under escrow adequate resources to restore the area its original state.



**MINUTED OF THE  
PERRY PARISH  
COUNCIL MEETING**

7pm on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup>  
October 2024 at the  
Grafham Water Sailability  
Clubhouse.

**Present:**

**Parish Councillors:** Vice Chairman Sheila Brighton (SB, chairman for this meeting), Chris Jones (CJ), Nigel Noon (NN), Emma Prew (EP), Jo Shirreffs (JS). The meeting was quorate.

**County Councillor:** Ian Gardener (IG)

**District Councillor:** Stephen Cawley (SC).

**Members of the public:** five.

**Clerk to the Council:** Eugene Smith (ES).

**24/79 Apologies:** Chairman Eleanor Abbs and Councillor Kay Darby's apologies were approved (proposed SB, approved unanimously).

**24/80 Councillors' declarations of interest for items on the agenda:** None.

**24/81 Report from County and District Councillors:** NN raised recent works at Grafham Water with IG. IG hadn't heard anything but would let the council know if he did. **Action:** ES to enquire with Anglian Water.

IG's and SC's reports are available on the parish council website.

**24/82 Open forum for public participation:** The overgrown

hedge between the sailing club and the Roundhouse Drive footpath was raised. **Action:** ES to contact Anglian Water. Littering in the layby opposite the Baptist chapel was raised. **Action:** ES to research options and report back. The possibility of a cycle path between Perry and Buckden was raised. IG said he's previously suggested this to Cambridgeshire County Council, and would do so again.

**24/83 Minutes of the previous meeting:** The minutes of the Annual Perry Parish Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024 were **approved** as a correct record (prop. SB, app. unanimously) and signed by the Chairman.

**24/84 Clerk's report:** Available on the parish council website.

**24/85 Events Working Party:** JS provided an update. The litter pick in September was a success. Volunteers are still required for the daffodil bulb planting. SB thanked the Events Working Party for all their hard work.

**24/86 Remembrance Sunday:** Arrangements will be finalised at the Events Working Party meeting on October 16<sup>th</sup>. **Actions:** ES to write to the Baptist Chapel and Perry Women's Institute to invite them to lay wreaths.

**24/87 Parish / village matters:**  
- HMP Littlehey developments No updates.  
- Grafham Water Christmas Lunch. It was decided that the proposed

funding of lunches was not practicable. If residents in need are identified please inform the council. The food bank organised by EP's daughters was also mentioned.  
**Action:** ES to inform GWC.

**24/88 Highways and green spaces:**

- Wooden barriers on Chichester Way  
It was agreed to replace the damaged barriers. **Action:** ES to arrange.

- Lamp post flyering **Action:** ES to contact those responsible and ask them to remove after the event date, or to refrain.

- Chichester Way line painting No update. It has been reported frequently. **Action:** ES to inform IG of areas requiring line painting as per his report.

- Tree plaque. Work in progress.

- Local Highways Improvement and 20 mph zone applications. ES provided an update, the 40mph buffer zones have been approved by CCC. The 20mph zone was not prioritised (eight of the 91 schemes were successful this year, Perry was placed at number 20). Potential applications for both schemes to be discussed later in the year.

**24/89 Huntingdonshire Local Plan**

**Response:** Discussed, council response to be formalised at November's meeting.

**24/90 Update on meetings and training attended:**

Councillors Abbs and Darby attended Ouse Valley's Trust Living Landscape workshop on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Update to follow.

**24/91 Finance:** The following authorised and regular payments were noted.

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

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

**Colin Beesley** (handyman's wages for September): **confidential**

**HMRC** (September income tax): **£64.00**

**Cartridge Save** (printer ink): **£103.98**

**Fay Wheatcroft** (litter pick jackets): **£18.12**

**Ann Jackson** (Perry in Bloom and daffodil bulbs): **£33.37**

**Lloyds Bank Multipay Card:** **£213.00**

(Royal British Legion female statue: **£210.00** Monthly fee: **£3.00**)

SB signed the payment schedule.

**24/92 Agenda items for the next Perry Parish Council meeting (13<sup>th</sup> October 2024):**

NN requested that the East Park Solar Scheme be added to the next agenda. He also mentioned the large pothole in Chichester Way.

**Action:** ES to add to the next agenda and report, respectively. Additional items must be received by the clerk no later than Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November.

**Meeting closed at 8:15pm  
END OF MINUTES**

**THERMAL  
IMAGING FOR  
A COSIER  
HOME**

Cambridge  
**Carbon  
Footprint**



Cambridge Carbon Footprint are once again delighted to offer to residents, and organizations, across Cambridge and South Cambs the opportunity to borrow and learn how to use a thermal imaging camera for free, to help create cozier and more efficient homes.

Learn how to interpret thermal images, to identify draughts, gaps in insulation, heating problems, etc. Knowing where your home is leaving heat is great for deciding on home improvements, and making fixes, both for homeowners and renters. In their last borrowing period between November '23 and April '24 they successfully trained over 600 individuals and made over 400 thermal camera loans to residents across our region.

***‘Really useful tool for assessing the home’s heat loss and for planning improvements’***

They also encourage individuals organizations to undertake training in order to survey multiple homes. In 2024 volunteers from communities across Cambridgeshire undertook surveys of 113 neighboring homes and community buildings.

**Training Sessions:**

Three free training sessions will take place online from 7:30-9pm on: Wednesday December 11th, Tuesday January 14th, Wednesday February 12th

**Camera Borrowing:**

We only lend cameras to people who have attended the training.

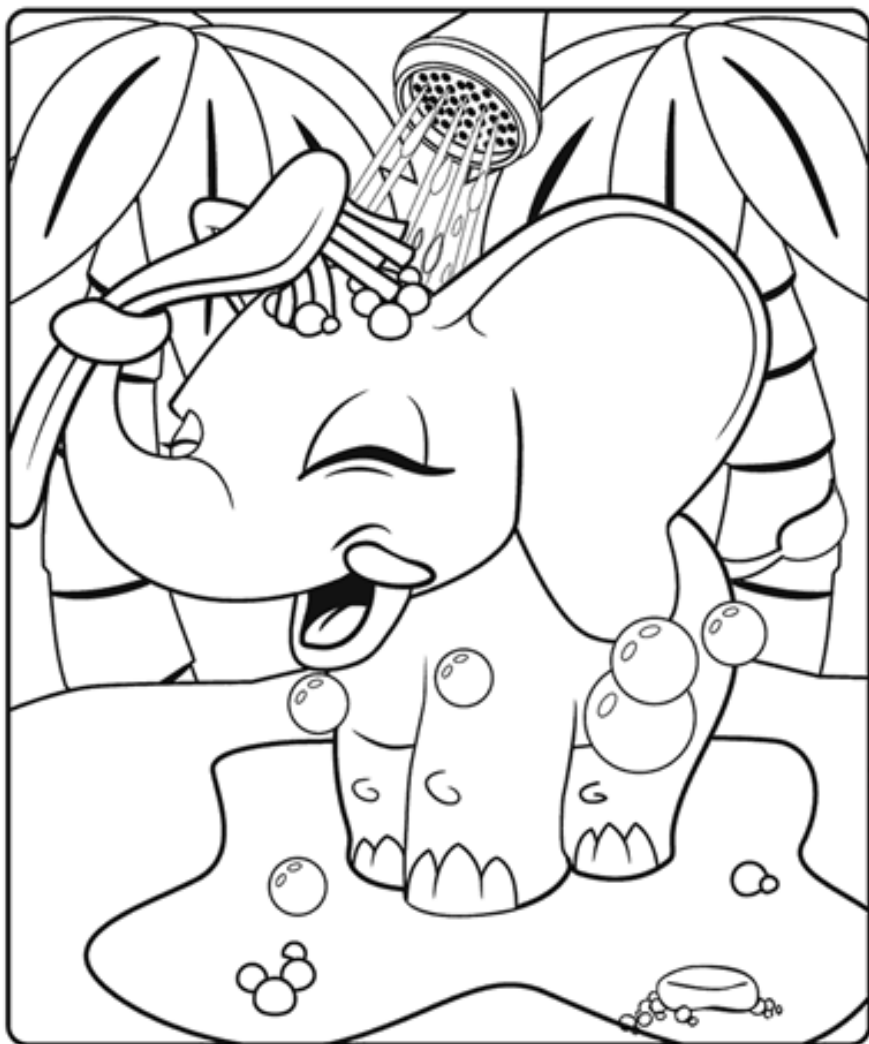
Bookings for cameras is open now until April. Each loan: Fri pm to Mon am, or Mon pm to Fri am, from 14 volunteer camera hosts around South Cambs and Cambridge City.







**SCRIBBLE Scrubbie**



© Crayola

Visit [Crayola.com/Scrubble-Scrubbie-Pets](http://Crayola.com/Scrubble-Scrubbie-Pets)  
to collect cute pets & learn about the **FREE** app!



## PERRY HOG WATCH



Lots of you are saying to me that you haven't seen any hedgehogs in your garden this year but the good news is that there are others who have had regular visitors. They are very complex little creatures and are now officially on the **International Union for Conservation of Natures red list, as 'near threatened' and being pushed towards extinction. 75% of hedgehogs have disappeared in rural areas since 2022 with the fragmentation of their habitat being attributed mainly to intensive farming, urban development and new roads.'**

This makes it much more difficult for them to find enough food and a mate.

However, many of you are doing a great job of providing supplementary food and making your gardens hedgehog friendly.

There are now five release sites in Perry for Hartford Hedgehog Rescue Centre and Shepreth Hedgehog Hospital, which is great news. It means that fully recovered hedgehogs are able to access food and shelter as they try to re-establish their territory in which to roam.

### Perry Hog Watch

June 2024 – 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2024

#### Hedgehogs found during the day

**Perry - 17.** On Glebe Road, Hawkins Close, Lakeside Close and Whitehall Way. *Only seven survived with four currently being cared for at Hartford Hedgehog Rescue and Shepreth Hedghog Hospital. In addition to these 17 there were others rescued in Welby Close and Rosecroft.*

**Gt Staughton – 2.** *One survived and successfully released, the other didn't make it.*

**Hail Weston – 1.** *Survived and released.*

#### Perry release sites

**10** - *released successfully.*

**6** - *nursed back to health at Hartford Hedgehog Rescue and then cared for here in Whitehall Way until they weighed enough to go back to where they were found in Perry, St Neots and St Ives.*

The last couple of weeks in October saw many rescue centres all over the country having to close their doors to poorly hoglets due to the sheer numbers being found. The mild weather allowed females to have a second litter of hoglets in late September but the mothers struggled to find enough food for them all to eat. Hoglets were left

cold, starving, dehydrated, with an over burden of parasites caused by eating slugs and snails. I took at least ten in October in this state to the rescue centres but none of them survived the night.

*'So, if you see a cute little hedgehog scurrying about or having a nap during the day it is already well on its way over the rainbow. Giving it food and water won't save it. Please act quickly. Get it to a rescue centre ASAP so that it can be given the correct treatment.'*

**Contact:**

Hartford Hedgehog Rescue - 07782

398235 Shepreth Hedgehog

Hospital - 07947 361187

Peterborough Hedgehog Hotel -

07592 040113

Heathers Hedgehog Hostel,

Chatteris—07827 751083

Cromwell Vet Huntingdon or look

for other rescue centres at

[www.helpwildlife.co.uk](http://www.helpwildlife.co.uk)

Online help:

[www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk](http://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk)

[www.hedgehogstreet.org](http://www.hedgehogstreet.org)

**Ann Jackson Contact:**

**[a.jackson292@btinternet.com](mailto:a.jackson292@btinternet.com)**

## ***THE FOOT CLINIC***

For a wide range of chiropody and podiatry treatments of the highest quality from a specialist with over 27 years of experience in both the NHS and private practice.

**Graeme A Paterson BSc  
FCPod (S).**

**Podiatric Specialist  
Health Professions Council  
Registered.**

For further information or to arrange a consultation or home visit please contact:

**The Foot Clinic,  
High Street, Southoe, St Neots,  
Cambs. PE19 5YE.**

**Tel : 01480 811145**

## **Touch Point Therapy**

is pleased to announce the addition of a new therapy

### ***The Feldenkrais Method***

Learning how to move with awareness - making movement easier!

Discover how even your eyes and your breathing affect how you move. Learn how to make turning to look over your shoulder so much easier!

**To find out more or to book an appointment contact:**

### **Touch Point Therapy**

Elizabeth Hughes  
ITEC, MCThA, cert ECBS  
**07702 739968 or 01480 811369**

All sessions are given in the comfort of your own home

[info@massagehuntingdon.com](mailto:info@massagehuntingdon.com)  
[www.massagehuntingdon.com](http://www.massagehuntingdon.com)



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

## **Huntingdonshire Local Group**

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

*Registered Charity No 1000412*

### **The Great Fen: A Bird's Eye View**

The Huntingdonshire Local Group of the Wildlife Trust is pleased to welcome back Henry Stanier on **Wednesday 11th December at 7:30pm** at Brampton Memorial Hall.

Henry has been with the Wildlife Trust for 24 years, the last 9 as Monitoring and Research Officer at The Great Fen. This post includes training volunteers and staff in ecological survey skills and regularly leading Wildlife Trust training workshops.

Henry has studied amphibians, bats, dragonflies and dormice as well as being a bird ringer.

For tonight's talk Henry will concentrate on birdlife of the Great Fen. This promises to be a very interesting talk and everyone is most welcome to attend.

Booking is not necessary The charge is £4 and payment is by cash or card. We meet at Brampton Memorial Hall, Thrapston Road, Brampton, PE28 4TB. For more information please contact Tim on 07941 261346 or [timpfryer@googlemail.com](mailto:timpfryer@googlemail.com).

### **Dragons, Damsels and Demoiselles Sex and Violence in the Insect World**

The Huntingdonshire Local Group of the Wildlife Trust is pleased to welcome Steve Cham on **Wednesday 8th January at 7:30pm** at Brampton Memorial Hall.

This talk will focus on the fascinating behaviours of dragonflies, damselflies and demoiselles in and around the home counties.

Steve has been fascinated by dragonflies since childhood and is currently a member of the British Dragonfly Society (BDS) conservation group. He has previously been the county recorder for Bedfordshire as well as being the National Co-Ordinator for the BDS recording

scheme. Steve's main interest is in the behaviour of this group of insects and this will be illustrated by his talk.

Everyone is most welcome to attend. Booking is not necessary. The charge is £4 and payment is by cash or card. We meet at Brampton Memorial Hall, Thrapston Road, Brampton, PE28 4TB. For more information please contact Tim – 07941 261346 or [timpfryer@googlemail.com](mailto:timpfryer@googlemail.com).

### **The Nature Friendly Farming Network**

The Huntingdonshire Local Group of the Wildlife Trust is pleased to welcome Martin Lines on **Wednesday 12th February at 7.30pm** at Brampton Memorial Hall.

Martin Lines is a farmer and contractor in South Cambridgeshire, growing mainly arable crops on his family farm and rented lands.

In addition to this Martin has a special interest in farm conservation management and he has Countryside stewardship schemes on the land he rents and manages. He also supports the delivery of stewardship schemes for a number of other farmers.

Martin is the Chief Executive Officer of the Nature Friendly Farming Network (NFFN) and hopes to see the network grow with like-minded farmers and land managers who will work together, share best practices and demonstrate what can be accomplished for nature and the environment, whilst still growing great produce.

Everyone is most welcome to attend. Booking is not necessary. The charge is £4 and payment is by cash or card. We meet at Brampton Memorial Hall, Thrapston Road, Brampton, PE28 4TB. For more information please contact Tim – 07941 261346 or [timpfryer@googlemail.com](mailto:timpfryer@googlemail.com).



## 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:



cambs-PAT (UK) Ltd

## Who to contact to donate your device:

### Ramsey Neighbourhoods Trust

[anna@ramseyneighbourhoodstrust.org](mailto:anna@ramseyneighbourhoodstrust.org)

### Riverport WI (St. Ives)

[riverportwi@btinternet.com](mailto:riverportwi@btinternet.com)

### Huntingdonshire Community Group

[huntingdonshirecommunitygroup@gmail.com](mailto: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/](http://www.dreamdropschildrenscharity.org/donating-your-device/)



Family Run Business  
Established Since 1984



- Specialist Projects
- Project Management
  - Extensions
- Garden Rooms
  - Orangeries
- Conservatories
  - Warm Roofs
- Windows & Doors
- Traditional, Contemporary, Modern

Pertenhall Road, Great Staughton, PE19 5BE

**TEL: 01480 860000**  
**[www.gsn.co.uk](http://www.gsn.co.uk)**



**The Eaton's  
Home, Garden & General Property  
Maintenance Co.**

- \* Internal painting & decorating
- \* External painting & staining
- \* Gutter cleans, repairs & replacement
- \* Supply & fit UPVC fascias & soffits
- \* Fence repairs & replacement
- \* Patios, paths & driveways
- \* General property maintenance

**Public Liability Insured  
Buy with Confidence Scheme  
Trading Standard Approved  
Criminal Record Bureau checked**

**Telephone: 01480 406130  
Mobile: 07718 957281**

**Life Magazine  
Advert Price  
Rates 2024/25**



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
<b>Cover Ads (colour)</b>		
1/8 page	X	£75.00
¼ page	X	£120.00
½ page	X	£240.00

We also offer an additional **one-off £10 payment** if you would like the editors to design your advert for you. All you have to do is provide any graphics, text or logos you would like included.

*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](mailto:rj.young@live.co.uk)**

**[lifemagazine@outlook.com](mailto:lifemagazine@outlook.com)**

**Hays Travel  
Lisa Drake**

I am a **PERSONAL TRAVEL CONSULTANT** based in Cage Lane, Great Staughton Working for ABTA's largest Independent Travel Agency



I cater for all aspects of travel including:

**Package Holidays, Ski, Caribbean, Cruise Tailor-made Holidays, UK Breaks, Flights and Accommodation**

**Holidays Extras: Car Hire, Car Parking**



You name it, I can do it at a competitive price.  
Telephone Lisa on: 861852 or E-mail: [lisa.drake@hays-travel.co.uk](mailto:lisa.drake@hays-travel.co.uk)



Visit the  
**Great Staughton Parish Council website**

Keep up with news & events

Have your say!

Sign up & be emailed weekly updates

*Including exclusive content not featured in Life Magazine*

**www.greatstaughtonpc.org.uk**



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

# Cambridgeshire Home Energy Support Services

Discover how we can help you save on energy costs, reduce your household's carbon footprint and prepare for the winter

- **Help switching supplier**
- **Fuel debt relief**
- **Problem solving with your energy supplier**
- **Home energy saving tips and advice**
- **Solutions for damp and condensation**

E: [warmhomes@pect.org.uk](mailto:warmhomes@pect.org.uk) T: 0800 8021773  
[www.pect.org.uk](http://www.pect.org.uk)



Funded by the Energy Industry  
Voluntary Redress Scheme, see

[www.energyredress.org.uk](http://www.energyredress.org.uk)



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

**Rector: Revd Canon Nicki Bland - Tel: 869485**  
St Andrew's Vicarage, The Causeway, Great Staughton  
St. Neots, PE19 5BF. **Tel: 01480 861215**



**CHURCH WARDENS:** Mr Bryan Kitchen & Mr Robert Manderson

### *Dear Friends,*

I often use Rosemary at baptisms and confirmations to sprinkle water over those around, it is also an ancient symbol of remembrance and is used at funerals and Remembrance Sunday.

I have a large rosemary bush in my front garden which I use for these occasions, but I also use it when cooking.

Many think that Rosemary is named after Mary, partly because of the stories I am going to tell you but it's real name 'Rosmarinus officinalis' means 'Rose of the Sea Shore'.

One story tells how Mary washed Jesus' clothes and put them on the bushes to dry. When she collected the washing, little blue flowers to match her gown, appeared all over the bushes.

Another story which is less well known says that when it was time for Mary and Joseph to leave the stable in Bethlehem, the Bible tells us that Joseph had a dream and, in that dream, God told him not to go back home the way they came but go through Egypt. Herod was trying to capture Jesus.

Joseph was very afraid, and he and Mary set off on the long journey trying to keep out of sight of the Herod's soldiers.

Mary was very tired and begged Joseph to stop. Joseph wasn't keen because he thought the soldiers might catch up with them. But Mary pleaded and eventually, they stopped, she got down from her donkey and as she walked towards the big rosemary bushes at the side of the road to find some shade, they opened their branches so Mary could walk through them easily.

Well away from the road Mary sat down, and the bushes closed around her. Not even Joseph could see her.

They were all able to rest safe in the knowledge that if Herod's soldiers appeared there would be no woman and child with the donkey. They were safe.

Joseph relaxed, for as long as there were Rosemary bushes, Mary and Joseph would be safe.

There are many myths around the story of the birth of Jesus but the two accounts in the Gospels are short and to the point.

We love to celebrate the birth of Christ and you will see from the table of services and in the card you receive through your door the services we have for you to do just that this Christmas.

We love seeing you at this festive time. In addition, we have four Advent Tuesday afternoons of fellowship in different places in the Benefice where there will be a short act of worship, a look at part of the Advent story and then refreshments, hopefully something mince pies and a cup of tea or coffee. If you are interested, please look on the website. You don't have to come to them all.

*Wishing you a Blessed Christmas  
and hoping to see you for at  
least one of our services.*

***Revd Canon Nicki Bland***

Mobile: 07805078992

Parish email: [revlesnicki@gmail.com](mailto:revlesnicki@gmail.com)

## CHURCH SERVICES

Please visit our new website on [www.swhw.co.uk](http://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 2024

#### Great Staughton St. Andrew's

- Sun 1st:** 8am - BCP Holy Communion  
10:30am - Benefice Advent Carol  
Service at All Saints, Little Staughton  
**Sun 8th:** 10:30am - Parish Communion  
**Sun 15th:** 10:30am - Parish Communion  
**Sun 22nd:** 10:30am - Parish Communion  
6pm - Benefice Carol Service  
**Tue 24th:** 3pm - Christingle  
11:30pm - Midnight Mass  
**Wed 25th:** 10:30am - All Age Communion  
**Sun 29th:** 10:30am - Benefice Communion

#### Little Staughton All Saints

- Sun 1st:** 10:30am - Benefice Advent Carol Service  
**Sun 15th:** 9am - Parish Communion  
**Tue 24th:** 4pm - Christmas Nativity Service  
**Wed 25th:** 10:30am - All Age Communion at St. Andrew's, Gt Staughton  
**Sun 29th:** 10:30am - Benefice Communion at St. Andrew's, Great Staughton

#### Hail Weston St. Nicolas

- Sun 1st:** 10:30am - Benefice Advent Carol Service at All Saints, Little Staughton  
**Sun 8th:** 9am - Parish Communion  
**Sun 15th:** 3pm - Creative Communion  
**Tue 24th:** 5pm - Christingle  
**Wed 25th:** 10:30am - All Age Communion at St. Andrew's, Great Staughton  
**Sun 29th:** 10:30am - Benefice Communion at St. Andrew's, Great Staughton

### Services for January 2025

#### Great Staughton St. Andrew's

- Sun 5th:** 8am - BCP Holy Communion  
10.30am - All Age Worship  
**Sun 12th:** 10:30am - Parish Communion  
**Sun 19th:** 10:30am - Parish Communion  
**Sun 26th:** 10:30am - Parish Communion  
4.00pm - Benefice Evensong at St. Nicolas

#### Little Staughton All Saints

- Sun 5th:** 9am - Parish Communion  
**Sun 19th:** 9am - Parish Communion  
**Sun 26th:** 4pm - Benefice Evensong at St. Nicolas

#### Hail Weston St. Nicolas

- Sun 5th:** 10:30am - Morning Praise  
**Sun 12th:** 3pm - Plough Sunday  
**Sun 19th:** 3pm - Creative Communion  
**Sun 26th:** 9am - Parish Communion  
4pm - Benefice Evensong

### Services for February 2025

*Please note that there will be a single communion service across the benefice during the school summer holidays*

#### Great Staughton St. Andrew's

- Sun 2nd:** 8am - BCP Holy Communion  
10:30am - All Age Worship  
**Sun 9th:** 10:30am - Parish Communion  
**Sun 16th:** 10:30am - Parish Communion  
**Sun 23rd:** 10:30am - Parish Communion  
4pm - Benefice Evensong at All Saints

#### Little Staughton All Saints

- Sun 2nd:** 9am - Parish Communion  
**Sun 16th:** 9am - Parish Communion  
**Sun 23rd:** 4pm - Benefice Evensong

#### Hail Weston St. Nicolas

- Sun 2nd:** 10:30am - Morning Praise  
**Sun 9th:** 9am - Parish Communion  
**Sun 16th:** 3pm - Creative Communion  
**Sun 23rd:** 4pm - Benefice Evensong at All Saints

**S**ORT  
**Y**OUR  
**S**...TUFF

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

Let me help! I will sort post, write cheques, arrange insurance, fill out forms, deal with utility companies, etc – anything that is required. I also make tea and always have chocolate biscuits! Experienced administrator and book-keeper ready to pop round and get you sorted

Also available to sort filing, bags of receipts, piles of paper and occasional book keeping services.

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

Please contact me to have a chat –  
[helenglanville2@gmail.com](mailto:helenglanville2@gmail.com)



**Mobile Post Office in  
Great Staughton**

The Post Office offers a mobile Post Office service situated at Brook Farm car park (the former Blades car park) on The Highway in Great Staughton. The times will be:

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

Most Post Office services will be offered including banking for all of the major banks. Passports, driving licences and vehicle tax will not be available.

**The van has wheelchair access.**

Farm House Holidays - For Dogs



Prefer not to use  
boarding  
Kennels

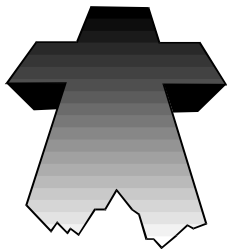


Competitive rates  
For a unique service  
**01480 860330**

Or e-mail at  
**[dandhshelton@btconnect.com](mailto:dandhshelton@btconnect.com)**

***Sharnbrook Villager Minibus***  
provides a service every 3rd  
Monday except bank holidays to  
Huntingdon & St.Ives via  
Kimbolton (09:48), Stonely  
(09:50), Gt Staughton (The Snooty  
Tavern 09:53) & Perry (The  
Wheatsheaf 09:56).

Full details on website  
[sharnbrookvillagerminibus.co.uk](http://sharnbrookvillagerminibus.co.uk)  
Travel is free with bus pass.



## Perry Baptist Church

Secretary Tony Whitlock 01480 810906

Minister: Rev Jon Magee 01480 700810

Services each week at 10:30am in the church  
Services also available on our website and Facebook page  
[www.perrybaptist.org.uk](http://www.perrybaptist.org.uk)

---

*My dear friends,*

What are you doing for Christmas? That is the kind of questions that may be asked at this time of year. For me the most obvious answer is that I will be celebrating the birth of Jesus.

The clue lies in the word we use, CHRISTmas, which means the feast of Christ. In all the celebrations we have missed what it is all about if Jesus is missed out.

Christmas is a season of spiritual reflection on the foundations of the Christian faith. It's also a celebration of the arrival of Jesus. Christmas is a time for Christians to praise God's love for the world through the birth of His Son: Jesus. The Bible tells of His birth hundreds of years before, fulfilling prophecies from the Old Testament.

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)*

2,000 years since the birth of Jesus we are still looking to the one who the Prince of Peace. Jesus is at the heart of history and as we celebrate the birth of Jesus may he be at the heart of our lives.

***Blessings to all of you  
From the Perry village Pastor***

**Jon Magee**



**Clubs & Activities :**

**Telephone Prefix: 01480**

Great Staughton W.I.....Barbara Wallis: 214 582  
 Perry WI.....Email: perrywigroup@gmail.com  
 St. Andrew's Bell Ringers - 1st & 3rd Mon of the month....Bryan Kitchen: 07804 753087  
 Great Staughton Book Club.....Jacqueline Grey: 860115  
 Horticultural Society.....Emma Mumford: 860855  
 Email: hort.soc@btinternet.com  
 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 Club .....David 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 Scheme .....07786 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 Hall .....Vicky Goldsmith: 860005 / 07739 469243  
 Pavilion .....Giles Brittain: 07740 647322

**USEFUL & EMERGENCY NUMBERS: Telephone Prefix 01480 unless otherwise shown**

**POLICE NON-EMERGENCY 101**      **POLICE EMERGENCY 999;**  
Crime Watch Management 456 111. **VICTIM SUPPORT:** [www.victimsupport.org.uk](http://www.victimsupport.org.uk) :  
An independent charity helps victims and witnesses of crime **confidentially & free.**  
Support services: 0845 389 9523    To volunteer: ring 01480 4553000

**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

N/A

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

**Kimbolton Surgery: 860 205**  
**HINCHINGBROOKE HOSPITAL: 416 416**

**NHS NON-EMERGENCY: 111**

**PALS: [Patient Advice & Liaison Service]:**  
**0800 279 2535**

**AGE UK CAMBRIDGESHIRE** offer a range of information and services on matters of concern to older people and their carers e.g. issues on benefits, home care, aids and adaptations, safeguarding and going into a care home. Also practical help: home help, visiting schemes, day centres and warden schemes. **The advocacy service can offer support to represent the interests of those over 65 years, & help to obtain the services they need.**

**We are available 9am - 3pm Monday to 'Friday on 0300 666 9860**

**CONSUMER DIRECT :** [www.consumerdirect.gov.uk](http://www.consumerdirect.gov.uk) - Practical help and advice for consumers with queries/problems with goods/services. Telephone : 08454 04 05 06 - Charge 4p pm.  
Minicom users: 08451 28 13 84: Mon to Fri - 8.00 am to 6.30 pm. Sat. 9.00 am to 1.00 pm

**CAMBRIDGESHIRE HEARING HELP: Charity to assist people with hearing loss.**

Tel: 01223 416141 / [www.cambridgeshirehearinghelp.org.uk](http://www.cambridgeshirehearinghelp.org.uk)

We hold drop-in Hearing Help sessions for basic maintenance of NHS hearing aids, cleaning and re-tubing of hearing aids, supplying free replacement batteries and offer free advice. No appointment is necessary.

**The Surgery, 57 The Highway, Great Staughton, PE19 5DY.**

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

**DISABILITY CAMBRIDGESHIRE.**    [www.disabilitycambridgeshire.org.uk](http://www.disabilitycambridgeshire.org.uk)

Adviceline: 01223 569 600—charity for disabled/older people and carers in Cambridgeshire.  
Provides free, confidential and impartial information and advice on disability and access issues.

**Email:** [info@disability-cambridgeshire.org.uk](mailto:info@disability-cambridgeshire.org.uk)

**THE LIBRARY AT HOME SERVICE : (formerly THE DOORSTEP SERVICE)**

**FREE home delivery service for people who can no longer get to a library. Call 0345 045 5225**

**HIGHWAYMAN CAR SCHEME: Ring: 07786 520 540.**

For residents of Gt Staughton, Hail Weston, Kimbolton, Perry and surrounding area.  
Volunteer drivers provide transport for social and medical purposes. Can undertake journeys to visit friends and family in hospital and outpatient appointments.

***[Supported by Cambs CC (Transport Services) and Care Network]***

**ADVERTISE  
YOUR  
BUSINESS  
IN THIS SPACE**

**YOU CAN FIND  
OUR  
ADVERTISING  
RATES ON  
PAGE 39**

**STARTING A BUSINESS?**

**YOU'LL NEED A WEBSITE.**

A professional service at affordable prices.

A reliable local team.

Join other local businesses such as:

Parks Therapy Centre

St Neots Pet Care

Priory Blinds | Blunham Dairy

Lifelong Kitchens

& 100's more recognisable local businesses



Let's chat: [www.onlinedesigns.uk](http://www.onlinedesigns.uk)

thebestofstneots



Google



**C & A Hurst Opticians**  
Registered Opticians & Contact Lenses

359 Great North Road  
Eaton Socon  
St. Neots, Huntingdon  
Cambs. PE19 7HN  
Telephone: 01480 406002  
**FREEPHONE: 08081-445556**

A WIDE SELECTION  
OF FRAMES

VDU SCREENING

VISION THERAPY

MILL HILL RD

CONTACT LENSES  
SOFT  
GAS PERMEABLE  
TINTED  
DISPOSABLE

GREAT NORTH RD

359



DULOE RD

LARGE RANGE  
OF CHILDREN'S  
FRAMES

**cambspestcontrol**



**Qualified & Insured  
Residential & Commercial  
Pest Control Services based in Great Staughton**



T: 07592 019780 W: [cambspestcontrol.com](http://cambspestcontrol.com) E: [cambspestcontrol@gmail.com](mailto:cambspestcontrol@gmail.com)