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

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

Handwritten/typed contributions are acceptable but emails are preferred.

Contact the 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.



FUTURE EVENTS:



MAKCII		
Tuesday 11th:	Bedford National Trust Meeting	Page 19
	: Perry Parish Council Meeting	
Friday 14th :	Kimbolton Community Cinema	Page 27
Saturday 15th :	St. Andrew's Church Guided Tour	
Thursday 20th:	GS Parish Council Meeting	
	Presentation on the Roman Site	
Saturday 29th :	Gt. Staughton Litterpick	
APRIL 12.1	D 750 11	D 0
	Perry Litterpick	
Thursday 17th:	GS Parish Council (Parish Assembly)	Page 24
<u>MAY</u>		
Thursday 17th:	GS Parish Council (AGM)	Page 24
	Horticultural Society Plant Sale	

August 23rd: Great Staughton Horticultural Society Show 2025............Page 28

Mobile Library 2025 every fourth Wednesday of the month Chichester Way, Perry 11:15am – 12:05pm. The Causeway, Gt Staughton 2pm – 2:30pm

Perry Parish Council Meetings 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

March 20th, April 17th (Parish Assembly), 14 May (AGM), 3 July, 18 September and 13 November.

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 everybody,

Welcome to your Spring 2025 Edition of the Life Magazine, I trust you've all been well since the last time we spoke and that Spring makes us feel a lot brighter after the cold winds of Winter.



As many of you will know, the Life Magazine has been a central source of knowledge about local groups and the first stop when we need to catch up with the busy village calendar. Both Rob and I are aware that it is a valuable asset to contacting local businesses or finding out the dates for the various social activities that go on in our villages. However times are changing and Rob will be stepping down after he has edited the Summer edition and I will follow suit after editing the Autumn edition.

So if you have content to share with us, be sure to send it to both myself (lorrainegoody@sky.com) and to Rob <u>rj.young@live.co.uk</u> and if you would like to volunteer to take over the magazine, please get in touch asap.

I hope you all enjoy this issue, and I'll see you all again in the Autumn Edition.

This issue was edited by Lorraine

Great Staughton Parish Councillors

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Nicole Yates (Vice Chair)860616
Helen Glanville07745 920214
Lorraine Goody07855 826096
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Helen Hopperton07825 164588
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Will Mumford07741 645345
David Moore861195
Jo Russel (Clerk)07887 481954
Email: GtStaughtonParishClerk@outlook.com

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

Perry Parish Councillors

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eleanor.abbs@perryparishcouncil.org.uk

Sheila Brighton (Vice Chair)

Sheila.brighton@perryparishcouncil.org.uk

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jo.shirreffs@perryparishcouncil.org.uk

PARISH CLERK - EUGENE SMITH

clerk@perryparishcouncil.org.uk Tel: 077895 13090

Address: 2 The Drive, Perry, CAMBS. PE28 OSX (no personal callers please).

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

Perry Coffee Morning

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

We have cars available if walking is too much We would love to see more people join us.

Call Joan Magee on 07785 221993 for more details.

A Note From the Editors

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

rj.young@live.co.uk & 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

Treasurers Corner

Hello,

Pots this quarter were £36.46 so thank you for popping your pennies in the Pots!

I have removed the Pots for the moment due to collection issues. Thank you for adding funds over the years.

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 (must 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.



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

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

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

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

We look forward to hearing from you!

District and County Councillors

Ian Gardner - Cambridgeshire County Council, email address is:

<u>ian.gardener@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</u> and phone number is **07970 613498.**

Stephen Cawley - Huntingdonshire District Council, email address is: Stephen..cawley@huntingdonshire.gov.uk and phone number is 07925 741167

COMPUTING PROBLEMS?

Bytes Café is open

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

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

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

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

LIFE Magazine needs YOU

It's the end of the world as we know it!

With Rob retiring from his post as chief editor of Life Magazine after the Summer Edition (and myself following his lead after the Autumn Edition), we desperately need volunteers to step up and take over the role(s) of editor.

If no-one volunteers, there will be no Life Magazine so please chat to Rob, Nicole or myself if you think this is something you would like to be involved in.

Lorraine



St Andrew's Church 100 Club Draw

December 2024

Prize	No	Name
£500	90	Mrs Mary Deacon
£200	29	Mrs Lorraine Goody
£100	93	Mr Brendan Sturgeon
£50	65	Mrs Antonia Edmunds
£25	58	Mr Geoff Gilbert
£15	100	Ms Kate Boyd
£10	70	Mrs L Rowe

January 2025

Prize	No	Name
£50	9	Mrs Wendy Noon
		Mr Robert Gray
£15	22	Mrs Rachel Prothero
£10	23	Mr Karl Reid

Congratulations to all the winners!

PERRY LITTER PICK Saturday April 12 at 10am

Despite the number of bins in the village, some people still prove themselves incapable of behaving responsibly when it comes to rubbish.

But the people of Perry are solutions people, so why not join the next village litter pick? We meet by the bus shelter at the heart of the village, and for an hour recreate the spirit of the Wombles.

Litter grabbers, gloves, hi-vis jackets and bags are all provided, so please join us in showing up the litterbugs.

See you then!



Kym Valley Carpet Bowls Club

Gt Staughton Village Hall
Club nights Tuesday and Friday
7pm to 9.30pm

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

If you've been a bit hesitant about the game you might be pleasantly surprised at the deceptive simplicity of the game.

Plus good company, a warm village hall, tea and biscuits and a bar of chocolate for the winners.

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

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Great Staughton Neighbourhood Plan

Great Staughton Parish Council is currently preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for the designated neightbourhood area in Huntingdonshire. Huntingdon District Council have now completed Regulation 16 consultation on the plan and the plan is now in the hands of an independent Examiner. The Examiner will consider the plan and all the supporting documents and comments as to whether the plan is valid, and the process has been conducted properly. Assuming this is true, there will be a referendum for the village to decide whether to adopt 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:

https://www.greatstaughtonpc.org.uk/ neighbourhood-plan Bob Jewell



Great Staughton Litterpick 2025 Saturday 29 March from

We meet at the Village Hall car park where rubbish sacks, pickers and hi-vis vests are provided, and a short safety briefing is delivered. Volunteers are then assigned to one of the several routes into and around the village.

We are usually finished by lunchtime if there are plenty of volunteers. Children are welcome, but must be accompanied and supervised by an adult, and we will try to allocate a location away from the main roads for you.

With thanks in advance for your help and support with this depressingly necessary job. Please feel free to contact me should you have any queries.

Nicole Yates gtstaughtonparishvicechair@outlook.com 01480 860616

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email: foodgardener@pm.me

GREAT STAUGHTON VILLAGE BOOK CLUB



'It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade.'

Charles Dickens

And, already, we are a quarter of the way through the year and looking forward to some warmth, budding flowers and a good book or two or more.

Our book for January, 'Songbirds' by Christy Lefteri, was beautifully written and a compelling read. Set in Cyprus, we follow the search for a missing servant, Nisha .The novel highlights the mistreatment of migrant workers and the injustice faced by those who are often unseen and unheard.

'My Cousin Rachel' by Daphne De Maurier is full of intrigue and unanswered questions. Rachel is independent, strong-willed and a free thinker. Her cousin, Philip, tries to understand her but lacks experience and considers her untrustworthy. As a reader, you

definitely know that there's not going to be a happy ever after.

Translated from Italian into English, March's book, 'My Brilliant Friend' by Elena Ferrante, manages to capture the journey into adulthood of two young Italian women in the 1950s. The girls grow up in a poor neighbourhood on the outskirts of Naples and the book unfolds their journey into womanhood. I'm looking foreward to reading the next three novels of the Neapolitan Novels.

Books for the rest of 2025

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: Doppelganger by Naomi Klein
July: Undercurrent by Naomi Klein
August: The Lost Rookshap by Evic

August: The Lost Bookshop by Evie

Woods

September: A Man Called Ove by

Fredrik Backman

October: Lessons by Ian McEwan **November:** Demon Copperhead by

Barbara Kingsolver

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



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

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

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

Suggested donation £1.

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



Hail Weston Wildlife and Gardening Group

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

See our 2025 programme on page 14. We would love for you to come and join us.

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

PERRY BOOK SWAP

Calling all bibliophiles. Perry Parish Council has a book swap for the village,'



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

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

Happy reading!

<u>Hail Weston Wildlife and Gardening Group - Programme for 2025</u>

Date	Title/Speaker	Description
March 4, Tuesday 7.30pm, Village Hall	Lawn Care	A talk by Ian Waters on Lawn Care.
April 1, Tuesday 7.30pm, Village Hall (free entry for all)	"Let's Talk Rubbish"	A talk by Heidi Field from Waste Minimalization Department at Huntingdon District Council. This will be opened up to all Hail Western residents.
May 6, Tuesday	Tales from the Riverbank	Liz Davies will talk on Tales of the Riverbank, a Journey Through Time
June 6th, Friday Programme tbc	Garden Safari, Details TBC	Our very popular tour of beautiful Hail Western Gardens.
July 8th, Tuesday 1.30pm Garden Cost £9.50 pp	Visit to Peterborough Elton Hall Gardens	Our visit will begin with a brief introduction to the history of the garden, followed by free time to wander. Access available for mobility scooters. Refreshments are available at the Bosworth's Garden Centre (where we park).
August 5th, Tuesday Time and cost tbc	Visit to NGS garden in Bedford	An evening visit to 1a St Augustines Road, MK40 2NB. Refreshments will be available.
September 2nd, Tuesday 7.30 Village Hall	Animal Safari	Safari STU will bring snakes, lizards, mini beasts and mammals for petting. Children will be welcome, at no cost when accompanied by an adult.



GREAT STAUGHTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



eaves - do you clear them or let them be? For the tidy minded it's far too late to be even considering this because they would all have been disposed of before Christmas. Mine, however have been sitting wetly all over the borders since they fell in the autumn although I did rake most thick deposits off the grass.

On one of the bright days in January I started to "tidy up" by pulling some half rotted leaves from around a clump of snowdrops. A cloud of tiny flies immediately flew up and surprised me.

Many of the leaves had been dragged down presumably by worms so they were half submerged in the soil. Where I did expose soil it looked sort of raw with indentations where some insect. invertebrate or fungal activity had evidently been taking place. I came to the conclusion that I was doing more harm than good and left the remaining leaf litter in situ. It also felt as though I was removing a layer of insulation and food for plant roots as well as removing hiding places for wildlife. I came to the conclusion that the best way to improve the look of the border would be to add a layer of compost to the leaf layer. It would also give the border a nutritional boost.

There does seem to be a convention in Britain that the ideal garden should be ordered and neat with perfectly trimmed, weed free lawns and well behaved flower borders. But to achieve that usually involves a lot of killing of unwanted vegetation and insects.

In these days of diminishing biodiversity it seems more and more urgent to try and preserve the natural order as much as possible. Is there a way of re-programming ourselves to admire a different perfect garden that is less manicured and more alive in every way? I suppose the large horticultural shows like Chelsea have been doing their best by awarding prizes to eco friendly garden designs that many regard as unconventional. Hopefully more beneficial gardening methods will eventually catch on. Talking of unwanted vegetation, I had a tree taken down recently. It was a damson tree that I had planted about six years ago. It had always looked scraggy with deformed leaves and I'd managed to plant it crookedly but it cropped really well and I'd made many, many jars of jam. Having got sick of the jam and the tree's lack of visual appeal I decided its day had come. Four strokes of the chain saw was all it took to destroy all these years of growth. That was a bit poignant.

You'll find the schedule for this year's Diamond Jubilee show on page 28.

The Horticultural Society will be getting into gear for all the 2025 events at our first meeting on **5th March** at 7pm at the White Hart. You'd be most welcome to come along if you'd like to get involved.

The plant sale will be held on Saturday 24th May at the Pavilion from 2:30pm

Let's hope 2025 is a good year for plant life and wildlife!

The East Park solar power plant: targeting 1,900 acres of farmland around our villages

The East Park Energy scheme is a vast solar plant – bigger than Gatwick Airport.

If the plan gets approved, the countryside we love and live in would change beyond recognition. The scheme is on a huge scale:

- Three years to build
- 7,200 traffic movements 1,400 artic trucks just to deliver the panels up to 850 construction workers at peak times, potentially 10,200 traffic movements a week just for the workforce
- **700,000** photovoltaic panels mounted on around **250,000** pile-driven metal posts
- 40 miles of mesh fencing and around
 12,000 metal fence posts
 1,900 acres of 74% BMV farmland switched to power production
- 100MW battery energy storage system

Residents are rightly concerned about the industrialisation of our rural, agricultural area This isn't just about how close panels will be to our houses, or what we can see from our windows, but the industrialisation of the countryside around Great Staughton and our neighbouring villages via a threeyear construction programme.

If just two major supermarkets installed rooftop solar, East Park would be redundant

The sheer scale of the scheme – six miles, end to end – means that it will affect us all, wherever we live.

What are we doing as a community?

A small team of volunteers from all the villages in the shadow of the solar scheme is running an opposition group, Stop East Park Energy. The campaign brings together hundreds of people across the community that would be living alongside this enormous solar installation.

Local people are not against renewables, but agree that nearly 2,000 acres of fertile farmland is not the right place for a form of renewable energy that is intermittent and unreliable.

Solar is a 'part time power', best suited to rooftops, car park canopies, transport corridors or brownfield land:

The UK climate means that we are ranked 229 out of 230 countries for solar power potential – there just isn't enough sun here, and over autumn and winter solar energy plummets, and drops to zero as every night falls.

The fields East Park is targeting could grow enough wheat to make 3.6 million loaves a year

The banks of giant battery units to store energy when the sun isn't shining planned for Great Staughton or Hail Weston – only hold electricity for a short time.

The developer behind East Park has admitted that the storage system would power 27,000 homes for just two hours The agricultural land earmarked for solar development is 75% Best and Most Versatile land – high grade cropland that has been successfully farmed for Generations.

What would East Park mean for all of us?

If East Park is consented, we would have to endure:

THREE years of...

Noise and commotion from a big, busy construction site – including the loud, repetitive, mind-numbing sound of pile-driving thousands of metal posts Disruption and delays from HGVs on our narrow country roads – and extra local traffic from hundreds of workers, inevitably impacting the busy, dangerous B645, especially for our local schools, commuters and businesses.

Dust everywhere and dangerous mud on the roads from the construction of the infrastructure needed to support thousands of solar panels and the battery storage compound.

East Park would employ just 20 people after it's built and would result in the loss of agricultural jobs

Restricted access to much-loved footpaths and bridleways while the developer converts high grade agricultural land to intermittent power production

FORTY years of...

Beautiful countryside transformed into a six-mile solar corridor.

Field after field filled with ugly ranks of glass and metal, complete with industrial fencing, CCTV and security patrols

Risk of fires, explosions and toxic chemical releases from the battery compound

Criminals attracted to the area to steal cabling and other valuable components

The developer – and local farmers who have leased their land – earning millions every year while ordinary residents are left counting the cost of hosting a renewables scheme that doesn't belong here in the first place

What is happening now?

East Park is categorised as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), which means it is going through a lengthy process managed by the Planning Inspectorate, a government agency. The scheme is at Pre-Application stage, but the final plan is due in the first quarter of 2025.

At the Pre-Examination stage, anyone can register as an Interested Party and submit objections to the Planning Inspectorate. It is important that as many people as possible register as Interested Parties.

What you can do next

We all need to work together to fight the East Park plan. Join the supporter group at www.stopeastparkenergy/support to keep up with the latest news and get alerts on critical deadlines in the planning process

Come along to one of the village meetings during the Pre-Examination period (details will be available nearer the time) to find out how to register as an Interested Party. Remember that comments made during the statutory consultation have only been seen by the developer – at this next stage, you will have your chance to make your formal objections to the Planning Inspectorate

www.stopeastparkenergy.com contact@stopeastparkenergy.com

GREAT STAUGHTON WI



'English Country Garden' and 'Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly'.

For our November meeting we were entertained by the Stanwick Handbell Ringers. There were twelve players and one conductor, Michael Johnson, who talked in between tunes and told us all about the bells and the history of hand bell ringing. They were originally used to practise for the Church tower bells to keep the noise for villagers to a minimum! The bells were made at Whitechapel bell foundry in London, where Big Ben was caste, but unfortunately it closed in 2017, meaning that Taylors of Loughborough are the only remaining foundry in this country. Michael explained that ringers wear gloves to protect the bells as they are very valuable as the whole ensemble would cost about £27,000 to replace. Different size bells have different clappers as the large ones have leather clappers covered in felt; medium bells have hard leather and the small bells have nylon clappers. There are different ways to play the bells, including a shake or trill, using mallets on base bells and an echo on middle bells. The group made a lovely sound together and played 'The William Tell Overture', 'Danny Boy' and 'Frosty the Snowman' to name but three.

The group also played 'The Hunting Cantata' and 'The Ash Grove' using hand chimes which had a very different sound. Then three of the group played four in hand bells. It was amazing to see them hold two bells in each hand. It was explained to us that the clappers move in one direction so they have to make sure that two are going up and down and the other two are in and out so when they move their hand only the correct bell's clapper moves. It was absorbing to watch their talent and their faces were fixed in concentration as they played

It was a very enjoyable evening and I, for one, have a new fascination with hand bells. They ended their concert with 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas' and then joined the members for mulled wine and mince pies.

In December we enjoyed our annual Christmas dinner and this year we were very lucky that the owners of The Snooty Tavern opened just for us. We were very well looked after and all of us thoroughly enjoyed our two or three courses. The food was delicious and when tea and coffee was served, we were given mince pies to enjoy. Along with Christmas crackers on the table and all the Christmas decorations it was a very festive occasion enjoyed by everyone.

For our first meeting of 2025, in January, we were given a talk entitled 'Railway Ramblings' by Alex Turner. Alex is a retired railway worker who informed us about things that happen behind the scenes to keep the trains moving, from dealing with track repairs to unreliable workers! Alex explained that when tracks need to be repaired the trains have to be stopped or redirected or buses are used as train replacements. Each job would be given a time scale but sometimes unforeseen things would happen to delay the work, for example, once the workers went to lunch and left their tools next to the track but when they returned the tools had been stolen so the work was delayed until new tools were collected. Each delay meant the contractor would have to pay the railway £500 per hour of the delay, so contractors wanted the job to go to plan. Alex said he often had to discipline staff, for example, one man went off sick but borrowed a railway van, without permission, to help

his brother collect some furniture he had bought. This was an instant dismissal offence, but Alex often used to encourage people to resign, as not only would that look better for them on a CV, it would also save him a lot of paperwork.

Alex also told us about train derailments which often occur when the train is travelling too fast for the track. The trains have a timetable to stick to and if speed restrictions are imposed a fine has to be paid, but not just for one train, for all the trains using that bit of track. Unfortunately, it is often therefore a monetary consideration instead of a safety one. Alex told us about one train travelling at 70mph instead of 20mph that hit a platform and took the complete side off the carriage. Fortunately, it was the corridor side and no one was hurt. The carriage was full of school children going on a school trip, so it could have been a major disaster.

Alex told us that he also used to inspect tunnels and once had to go to Bank station on the London underground. He had to walk to the end of part of the tunnel but The Bank of England had to be informed that he was down there as the tunnel was directly under the Bank and was alarmed.

It was very interesting to hear the behindthe-scenes stories and be told things the public are not usually aware happen when travelling on a train. Alex told us that from working on the railways, after privatisation, he taught new engineers. He also told us that the fee for his talk would be donated to Macmillan Nurses. All the ladies found Alex's talk entertaining and he stayed for a while afterwards to sample our cakes.

Here is our programme of events for the rest of 2025:

- 11th March AGM and Spring Supper
- 8th April Hypnotherapy a talk by Christina Myers
- 13th May Great Staughton and its People - a talk by Anthony Withers
- 10th June A Poet for Hire (all about Parkinson's) a talk by Liz Houghton
- 8th July Behind Closed Doors a talk by Geoff Watts
- 26th August Ladybird Boat trip to Godmanchester (a day trip)
- 9th September Harvest Supper
- 14th October Origami Crane a craft activity with Liz Dive
- 11th November Victorian Christmas in Huntingdonshire – a talk by Liz Davies
- 9th December Christmas meal

As you can see, 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.

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Rushden

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Bedford National Trust Association Meetings



Tuesday 11th March, 2:15pm

Speaker: David Longman on 'Tales from Bedfordshire Churches'.

A collection of weird, wonderful and sometimes moving legends, and stories associated with various churches in

Bedfordshire. There will be a small admission for this meeting.

Tuesday 3rd June. 2:15pm

-AGM for a short part of the meeting, then Speaker Liz Houghton reading from her own book 'Rhyme After Rhyme'

We meet in the Addison Centre in Kempston, MK42 8PN There is plenty of parking. No need to book. Just come, Everyone welcome.

For further information please 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.



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

WELLBEING WALKS IN OUR Huntingdonshire **AREA** SPRING 2025



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

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

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

For a full list of all current walks across the entire Huntingdonshire district (covering areas around St Neots, Huntingdon, St Ives, Ramsey and Yaxley), please visit: www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/leisure/wellbeing-walks/

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

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

DATE	TIME	WALK NAME	MEETING POINT
Mon 24th	10 am	KIMSIDE SAUNTER	Great Staughton Village Hall Car
March			Park
Wed 26th	2 pm	GRAFHAM PERRY	Outside the Wheatsheaf Public
March		WALK	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.
Thank you. Your magazine still needs your help.

Helen
Life Magazine Treasurer



Get in quick if you want to join 1st Gt Staughton Guides!

Spaces available for this 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!!

Recent events include flying a kite, building a den, making popping bubble tea, fabric painting & fashion shows. And there's even more exciting events planned,.

Open to all girls aged 10-14. To register your interest, go to 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.

Perry W I Every Second Monday of the month at 7.30pm



Greetings, people of Great Staughton and Perry. This report is from November and December last year (sounds weird doesn't it) and January of our new year of 2025.

November saw the service around our tree of more than 75 people when the village was specifically thanked by a Little Staughton councillor who took the time to stop and say well done to those involved. So thankyous all round go to those involved.

So, back at WI in Perry, November was our crafty month with Sylvia and Pauline introducing us to various crafty things of a festive nature including a rather lovely mini (very mini, don't think newborn, think positively foetal!) indeed totally tiddly woolly hat (gorgeous for the Christmas tree) and a pinecone squirrel (long tall pine cones were the most realistic but little fat ones could be rather cute). We sat around and after an informative Blue Peter-style demo from Sylvia, we had a go at manipulating wool, reimagining squirrels (Beatrix Potter would be so proud ... not!) and having a festively fun time.

So I heard this year various comments including 'Is it going to hang on your tree?' 'Of course! Proudly! Round the back!', 'Pauline has the strength of 10 men', 'Pauline! Can you get my head to stick on?', 'I think this wool would make a lovely jumper but the toilet roll would get in the way' and when I proudly showed my completed pine cone squirrel to a friend, her reaction

was 'Well, that's a bit scary!'
Thanks for that Debbie, I can
always rely on your telling me
the truth. We were of course
very proud of our efforts and

many a Perry Yule log was resplendent with WI seasonal gewgaws. Many thanks to Sylvia and her team and apologies from a few of us for being so rubbish at following the instructions - everyone else's craft was quite lovely so it was clearly our own fault when things went awry.

December saw us having a Christmas get-together (not that we're not together for the other months but ... anyhow!) eating a superb buffet (don't eat anything from breakfast onwards – these women are 'feeders'!) and playing a few daft games including a Christmas Carol and Songs quiz (prize for the winners was some of Ann's fabulous jam – note to other winners, the Boysenberry is divine) and a *Pass* the Parcel in which mysteriously, spookily, incredibly every person gets to open one layer (chocolate coin and quiz question inside) before a random person wins – this year the prize was a book of Chocolate Orange recipes and three – yes, three – chocolate oranges to get you started! Ooo we do love a celebration, us.

We didn't have a meeting in January and, d'y'know, I did miss putting on the arctic gear and braving the weather down to the hut. Hey ho, happy New Year anyway to all of you from all of us.



Huntingdonshire Local Group

Part of the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire. Registered Charity No 1000412

Wildlife of the River Great Ouse Valley

The Huntingdonshire Local Group of the Wildlife Trust is pleased to welcome back Pat Doody on Wednesday 12th March at 7:30pm at Brampton Memorial Hall.

As many of you will know,
Pat was Chairman of the
Local Group for several years
and worked for the Nature
Conservancy Council and its
successor bodies for nearly
30 years, before working as a
freelance coastal ecologist.
Pat has written several books
on coastal ecology and has
also always had an interest in
the Great Ouse valley.

This talk will explore the history and conservation of the Great Ouse valley, focusing on the meadows and their wildlife.

Gravel extraction, housing and infrastructure have destroyed many sites, whilst agricultural intensification has caused significant losses in biodiversity. Today only a small number of unimproved meadows survive, most of which are either nature reserves or protected by government legislation.

Everyone is most welcome to attend. Booking is not necessary The charge is £4.00 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).

Minutes of the Great Staughton Parish Council Meeting (draft) held on 9th January 2025 7:30pm

Present: R Jewell (BJ), H Glanville (HG), G Brittain (GB), N Yates (NY), L Goody (LG), W Mumford (WM), David Moore (DM) James Duberly (JD)

Apologies for absence: Jo Russell (Clerk) (JR), Helen Hopperton, Stephen Cawley, Ian Gardner

Resident's Forum: None present

Declarations of Interest: None

Reports from District and County Councillors: None.

Minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2024: Carried forward to next meeting.

Matters arising:

Footpath 40 – Staughton Moor – this has moved forward to the extent that it has now been reported to and taken up by Joshua Rutherford Head of Asset Management, BJ met at an unrelated meeting. Emails on the matter have been forwarded and they have agreed that it is unacceptable that we have been waiting 3 years for this to be addressed.

New bin – this is in place and the service level agreement with HDC to empty the bin has been signed.

Blocked drains – The Green/The Highway – we need to re-report these as there still appears to be significant surface water collecting on the road in these areas in heavy rain.

Police checks re 20mpb speed limit -

carry forward to next meeting.

Attendance at other meetings: BJ attended three other meetings: Highways Capital Improvement Program - A meeting organised by Cambridgeshire County Council on highways issues. It is now possible to view Highways programme/schedule of planned works online.

HDC Showcase meeting – indicating how important the Huntingdon a St Neots areas are becoming with the proposed new rail and road connections and becoming a focal point for business development.

An East West Rail Consultation Event Information on the construction and routes was available for viewing and discussion. Ultimately, the scheme seems to be beneficial to give the area better public transport connections however there does not been enough thought given to how people will access the new Tempsford Station. The PC agreed to submit a comment to this effect in response to the consultation.

Roman Site Community Event:

Communication has been ongoing with the archaeologist and the company and they are engaged with the school to host an event for the children during the day and the community in the evening. The parties are now trying to agree a mutually convenient date.

Net Zero Projects: This is a grant scheme available for Huntingdonshire villages, with funds of around £1M unspent by the previous mayor available for community projects aimed at reducing carbon emissions. HG has already submitted an expression of interest for the Village Hall to install an

electric boiler. NY intends to apply for the Playing Field Committee for solar panel batteries for the pavilion. It was also agreed the BJ would submit an expression of interest on behalf of the PC for funds to create a cycle way between Great Staughton and Hail Weston.

Highways: LHI bid 24/25 – a meeting has now been held to review the technical details of the proposals to improve the pedestrian crossing. Highways have noted this is a priority job to be carried out ASAP.

LHI bid 25/26 – It was agreed that BJ would submit an application to purchase another MVAS sign that could be sited, in the main, on the post located near the school and solar panels for the other posts, making moving the sign from one location to another more straightforward. Though not part of an LHI bid, it was also agreed that we would ask Ian Garnder to contact Highways to seek advice on improving matters on The Causeway where the speed limit jumps from 20-40-20mph over a very short distance.

Blocked Highway in Perry – WM – carry forward.

Drain – The Town – the drainage team met councillors on site in December and saw that the ditches at the top of the run are full of water. There is a blockage somewhere in front of the houses, which will be the homeowners' responsibility, but before asking them to clear blockages, Anglian Water/CCC needs to establish where the water is supposed to flow into the storm water drain as the location is currently

unknown and may also be blocked. In the meantime, the CC has promised to put up signage to warn drivers of black ice and to grit the road. BJ is chasing this and will continue to do so.

Highways Capital Improvement Program – as noted at 7 above.

Planning: Fives Acres Enforcement Issues – cf. Wyboston Garden Village developments in Beds near A1 – ongoing - cf. 22/01813/FUL Land East and West of Little Staughton Solar Farm – comments submitted re Rights of Way - cf. 24/02336/S73 The Orchard Garden Farm, The Town – Variation of Condition 2 – our original objections were submitted in 2018. The application was approved. This is application to amend the approved application by taking away a 2 storey building and extending a single storey building instead. No objections. Appeal APP/H0520/D/24/3353088 – 73 The Highway – proposed garage, new boundary, wall and oil tank – we had no objection to the original application and have no comment on the appeal. 24/02154/HHFUL 41 Beachampstead Road – proposed side extension with roof alterations and new cladding – no objections. Cashbook – approved.

Budget and Precept 2025/26: It was agreed to increase the Precept to £23,000 in order to maintain current balances, with projected expenditure for the forthcoming year being slightly more than £23,000. This is the first increase in 5 years and necessary for prudent accounting.

Correspondence: CCC has written to advise that its plan for introducing electric vehicle infrastructure have been scrapped as it was essentially too complicated to pursue, mainly for legal reasons.

Neighbourhood Plan – BJ reported that HDC is now out under Regulation 16 consultation with our plan. The closing date is 5 February. Thereafter, the plan goes to an independent examiner for approval. This is an 8 week process, which may mean that the referendum for villagers to vote on the plan might tie in with scheduled elections in May.

Reports from:

Village Hall Committee – HG reported that all is going well. A solar panel installation is currently underway, to include a battery to store surplus power. HG is also looking into funding to replace the existing oil boiler with an electric one, that would then of course be powered by the electricity generated by the solar panels.

Playing Field Committee - no report.

Speed Watch – DM reported that 3 people have now come forward and expressed an interest in getting involved. One has completed the training, a second has scheduled the training and a third is a former volunteer who may need to update their training. Once training is completed, this will mean the volunteers should be able to get out soon. More volunteers welcome!

Parish Matters:

BJ has reported a faulty streetlight at 12 The Highway. NY advised that Life

Magazine will be having an AGM on 16 January. Rob Young will be stepping down as Editor in the summer after 15 years of hard work, for which heartfelt thanks are extended. We will therefore be discussing the future of the magazine.

The annual village litterpick will take place on 29 March 2025.

HG is going to be training as a community first responder and will be asking the organisers of the scheme to write in to the PC to request a donation towards costs, which will benefit the village by having two (there is already one) trained first responders with their own bag of equipment.

East Park Energy Solar Farm - cf.

Meeting dates for 2025 –

20 March, 17 April (Parish Assembly), 14 May (AGM), 3 July, 18 September and 13 November.

Meeting closed 9.03pm

These are draft minutes and at the time of printing had not been approved





7pm for 7:30pm start at Mandeville Hall

Please come along and support us.

Friday March 14th Paddington in Peru

Tickets: £5, over 60 £4, under 16 £2.50 On sale at Bytes Café, behind the main hall—10am to 12.30pm on Mondayss and Fridays and on the door if available, and online with a small booking fee.

For updates on upcoming films, please visit e-voice.org.uk/
themandevillehallkimbolton/
community-cinema/

Confessions of a Baptist Minister

In September, local Baptist Minister, Jon Magee, had his third book published, entitled *Confessions of a Baptist Minister*.

However, that is not the end of it all. This latest book is intended to be the first of a series of three on the same subject - life in the ministry.

The second in the series is due to be published soon. For those looking for further information please contact Jon Magee at 01480 700810.

Perry Parish Council Vacancies

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Classes for the Year 2025 Horticultural Show OUR DIAMOND JUBILEE YEAR Saturday, 23rd August 2025

There are two special jubilee prizes, class 69 for children and the most points in the classes marked with a **

VEGETABLES

- 1. 5 Cherry tomatoes with calyx can be Cherry Plums
- 2. 5 Tomatoes with calyx
- 3. 5 Runner beans
- 4. 5 French beans
- 5. 3 Onions (under 8ozs/227g) dressed
- 6. 3 Onions (over 8ozs/227g) dressed
- 7. 3 White potatoes
- 8. 3 Coloured potatoes
- 9. 3 Carrots (rounded or tapered; foliage trimmed to approx. 3"/7.5cm)
- 10. 2 Outdoor cucumbers
- 11. 3 Beetroot (foliage trimmed to approx. 3"/7.5cm)
- 12. 3 Fruits (any variety or varieties)
- 13. 2 Courgettes
- 14. 3 Bulbs of garlic
- 15. A collection of chilli peppers**
- 16. Vegetables not mentioned elsewhere in schedule (at least 2 examples)
- 17. 2 Edible squashes
- 18. Collection of vegetables (minimum of 3 different varieties)

FLOWERS (Vases provided for all cut stems)

- 19. 3 Rose blooms
- 20. 1 Stem of cluster flowered roses
- 21. 1 Specimen rose bloom
- 22. 3 Cactus or semi-cactus dahlias23. 3 Decorative dahlias
- 24. 1 Specimen dahlia bloom
- 25 1 Dahlia not mentioned elsewhere in schedule, e.g. water lily, pompom
- 26. 1 Hydrangea bloom
- 27. 1 Spike gladiolus**
- 28. 3 Stems of pinks or carnations
- 29. 3 Heads of geraniums can be mixed
- 30. Vase of mixed flowers from your garden (excluding gladioli, dahlias, & roses)
- 31. 3 Spikes of gladioli
- 32. Vase of mixed foliage from your garden
- 33. A flowering orchid (must have been in your possession for 9 months)
- 34. Potted plant in flower (not orchid) Maximum pot size 9"/23cm
- 35. Cactus/succulent in a pot (can be 1 or more varieties in the pot)
- 36. 3 Flowers of the same colour, (must be different species)
- 37. 3 Sunflower blooms any variety
- 38. 3 stems of sweet peas

FLORAL EXHIBITS (Fresh flowers unless otherwise stated)

- 39. A garland of flowers to make a headdress (fresh or artificial flowers, or a mix) max 12"/30cm diameter
- 40. An exhibit depicting '1960's' (up to 18"/45cm width & depth, unlimited height) **
- 41. A foliage arrangement for a novice (no flowers up to 15"/38cm overall)
- 42. An exhibit incorporating a holiday souvenir (max 15"/38cm square, unlimited height)
- 43. An arrangement using hedgerow material (maximum measurements 15"/38cm wide, 18 /45cm high)
- 44. A floral arrangement incorporating a diamond or diamonds and white flowers (max size 12"/30cm circular)





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NOVELTY CLASSES

- 45. Heaviest tomato
- 46. Longest runner bean
- 47. One flower, one vegetable
- 48. Heaviest squash
- 49. Largest pumpkin (by girth)
- 50. A truss of cherry tomatoes (can be part green)
- 51. Fresh culinary herbs in a jar (please name)
- 52. Plate of home grown fruit **
- 53. A quirky/ugly vegetable

CAKES AND PRESERVES

- 54. A chocolate Swiss roll with butter cream filling
- 55. A Victoria sponge (raspberry jam filling only, dusted with castor sugar)
- 56. A cheese and onion quiche
- 57. 5 pieces of diamond shaped traditional shortbread
- 58. A brown loaf 450g hand made not bread machine **
- 59. An apple cake
- 60. Jar of jam
- 61. Jar of chutney (must be more than 2 months old) or relish
- 62. Jar of lemon curd
- 62a. Jar of marmalade

OPEN CHILDREN'S CLASSES (Up to 16 years. Please state age on all entries)

- 63. A bug hotel made from recycled items (12"/30cm square)
- 64. Hand written text up to 6 years of age
- 65. Hand written text 7 to 11 years of age
- 66. Hand written text 12 to 16 years of age
- 67. A colourful poster to advertise the 2026 show A4 size, may be computer generated
- 68. A monster made from vegetables
- 69 A decorated card to celebrate our 60th birthday maximum size A4
- 70. A village scene made from Lego/Duplo not a kit (maximum base size
- 12"/30cm square)
- 71. 3 decorated cup cakes

The text for class 64 is:

Here comes the sun, doo-doo-doo, Here comes the sun.

The text for classes 65 and 66 is:

Bring me sunshine, in your smile, bring me laughter, all the while, In this world where we live, there should be more happiness, So much joy you can give, to each brand new bright tomorrow.

SUNDRY CLASSES (All photographs: Maximum 8" x 6")

- 72. A photograph 'of an insect'
- 73. A photograph incorporating water
- 74. A photograph of a celebration
- 75. A black and white photo of a person or people
- 76. A hand-made item (not knitted) **
- 77. Handicraft by a senior citizen (65+ years)
- 78. A knitted item
- 79. A flavoured spirit e.g. Sloe Gin, Blackberry Gin
- 80. A home-made soft drink e.g. juice, cordial, ginger beer or lemonade.





Anyone seeking advice, please contact the Show Secretary on 01234 376661/email: caroline byrne@live.co.uk or the Chairman on 07881621260.

Roman Find in Great Staughton - Thursday 27th March at Great Staughton Primary School at 6pm. All welcome

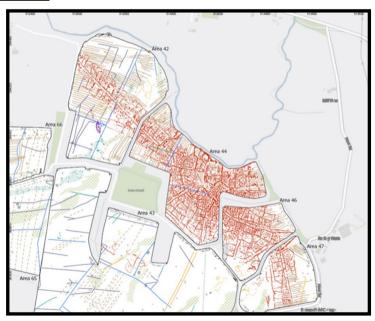
- The early indications of a potential Roman Site a review of the information that hinted at the presence of the Roman Town (nearby documented heritage assets, aerial photographic cropmarks, and LiDAR data).
- The discovery of its extent a review of the geophysical survey and intrusive archaeological investigation undertaken within its extent and environs to date.

The interpretation so far – a summary of the site in relation to the wider late Iron Age / Roman landscape of the area.

Presented by Gary Millward and Kinnie Wade Project Manager and Archaeological Geophysicist AOC Archaeology Group

They have been involved in collecting and analysing data from the site in Great Staughton.

Map of Site



GT. STAUGHTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY - 2025 SHOW ENTRY FORM

Name:			
Address:			
<u>VEGETABLES</u>	FLOWERS	FLORAL EXHIBITS	CHILDREN'S
1	19	39	CLASSES
2	20	40	63
3	21	41	64
4	22	42	65
5	23	43	66
6	24	44	67
7	25	NOVEL TV	68
8	26	NOVELTY CLASSES	69
9	27	45	70
10	28	46	71
11	29	47	SUNDRY CLASSES
12	30	48	72
13	31	49	73
14	32	50	74
15	33	51	75
16	34	52	76
17		53	77
18	35	CALLEGO	78
10	36	<u>CAKES &</u> <u>PRESERVES</u>	79
	37	54	
	38	55	80
		56	
		57	Deliver form to:
. 1	1	58	Emma Mumford 27 The Highway
		59	Gt STaughton
KAKAYIII KU			PE19 5DA
ENTRY FEE:	ADULTS 10P,	60	Or email it to hort.soc@btinternet.com
CHILDREN 51	P. TOTAL FEÉ	61	by 5pm on Thursday
ENCL	USED:	62	August 21st
		62a	Alternatively, place in an
Handing in th	nis entry form		envelope and drop off at Gilbert's Butchers by
confirms that you		11 -1 -1 -	4pm on
rules and agree		LINGS GARAGE TO GET .	Thursday August 21st.



SECRETS OF THE CHURCH THE PEOPLE WHO MADE GREAT STAUGHTON GREAT

A journey across eight centuries of England's history as we explore the architecture of the historic 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

The next guided tour: March 15 at 11.00am

The price of the tour is £6 which includes refreshments Book and pay on line <u>here</u> indicating the date(s) you prefer **or** scan the QR code

Or just email Anthony Withers at **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



Anthony Withers gives us a quick insight into what we might expect from this tour:

Many people are unaware of the amazing history enclosed within the walls of the wonderful 800-year-old St Andrew's Church. The guided tour is a voyage of discovery examining both the architecture and the stories behind the people whose memorials decorate this historic building.

The tour begins appropriately at the south door: the principal entrance of the church. The building and architecture of the nave and aisles is explored before we turn to the memorials and monuments of thee church. Often, an

anonymous-looking plaque conceals an astonishing story which helped shape our history.

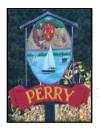
And then there are questions: why have they got such splendid monuments and what did they do to deserve them? We will look at what is possibly the oldest feature in the church, dating back to the 13th century.

The tours lasts about an hour and afterwards there is a welcome tea or coffee and biscuits to enjoy while chatting with your fellow visitors.

(All funds go towards the conservation of the church)

The next guided tour: March 15 at 11.00am





MINUTES OF THE PERRY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

7pm on Wednesday 11th Dec 2024 at the Grafham Water Sailability Clubhouse.

Present:

Parish Councillors: Chairperson Eleanor Abbs (EA), Vice Chairman Sheila Brighton (SB), Kay Darby (KD), Chris Jones (CJ), Nigel Noon (NN), Emma Prew (EP), Jo Shirreffs (JS). The meeting was quorate.

Members of the public: five.

Clerk to the Council: Eugene Smith (ES).

24/111: Apologies - County Councillor Ian Gardener and District Councillor Stephen Cawley's apologies were received.

24/112: Councillors' declarations of interest for items on the agenda - EA and NN declared interests regarding item 24/120 (see that item for details).

24/113: N/A (see apologies).

24/114: Open forum for public Participation - No issues raised.

24/120: Planning permission consultation **item moved forward* The proposed conversion of an existing outbuilding to a self contained dwelling at 17 The Drive Perry (Reference: 24/02090/FUL).EA and NN declared interests under item 24/112 and did not provide views during the discussion, or vote on this item. ES had issued a dispensation negating the requirement for these councillors to withdraw from

meeting. In the interests of openness ES stated that he lives near the address. The proposal was discussed with the applicants, and **approved** (proposed. EP and approved unanimously by those eligible to vote).

Action: ES to inform Hunts DC.

24/115: Minutes of the previous Meeting - The minutes of the Perry Parish Council meeting held on 13th November 2024 were approved as a correct record (prop. EA, app. unanimously) and signed by the Chairman.

24/116: Clerk's report - Jonathan Wooley from HDC has informed me that the biodiversity strip near Roundhouse Drive has been seeded and over 1,000 bulbs planted. The new governor of HMP Littlehey will be attending February's meeting. A letter of thanks has been received from Ann Jackson regarding the s.137 donation approved at November's meeting.

24/117: Events Working Party - No updates. The next events meeting is scheduled for 5th February.

24/118: Parish / village matters - HMP Littlehey developments No updates. Litter bins: NN suggested converting one of the existing litter bins into a recycling

bin. CJ asked about recycling contamination controls.

Action: ES to research and report back in February.

Grafham Water Centre Active Lifestyles The council rejected the funding proposal (prop. EA, app. unanimously).

Action: ES to inform GWC.

24/119: Highways and green spaces - Chichester Way line painting. The line repainting mentioned at November's meeting still stands. Repairs to the pothole near the junction with the B661

have been ineffectual, and the road is subsiding. CJ suggested asking Ian Gardener to escalate this on the parish council's behalf.

Action: ES to write to County Councillor Ian Gardener. Overgrown vegetation. The council approved plans to hire tradespeople to deal with overgrown areas (prop. EA, app. unanimously). The location of ransom strips was discussed. Actions: ES to obtain quotes from tradespeople and identify ransom strips. Perry in Bloom.

Planter inspection and improvements **deferred** to spring 2025.

Action: ES to add to the relevant agenda.

item 24/120 discussed earlier
24/121: Anglian Water - EA provided an update from discussions with Simone Tauber at Anglian Water. NN provided an update re engineering works at Grafham Water.

Action: ES to request an invite to the Anglian Water user group meetings, and invite Simone Tauber to a future council meeting.

24/122: East Park Solar Farm - No updates.

24/123: Local Highways Improvements It was decided to apply for an MVAS unit (prop. EA, app. unanimously). Action: ES to submit application, and to enquire re second-hand units..

24/124: Update on meetings and training attended

KD, CJ and JS attended drop-in meetings re the Grafham to Brampton road.
KD and JS attended a recital at HMP Littlehey. ES attended an online Canva training course run by the Society of Local Council Clerks.

24/125: Budget and precept - The budget for financial year 2025 – 2026

was **approved** (prop. EA, app. unanimously).

A precept demand of £22,791 for 2025 – 2026 was **approved** (prop. EA, app. unanimously).

24/126: Finance - The following authorised and regular payments were **noted**.

noted.
Eugene Smith (clerk's salary for

November): confidential Eugene Smith (working from home allowance for November): £26.00

Eugene Smith (mileage): £3.51 Colin Beesley (handyman's wages for

November): confidential
HMRC (November income tax): £69.80

Unity Trust Bank (service charge): £6.00

Grafham Water Sailability (November Clubhouse use): £60.00

Ann Jackson (remembrance bugler thanks reimbursement, from chairman's allowance): £30.00

Ann Jackson (s137 payment): £300.00 Snooty Tavern (bulb planting gift cards, from chairman's allowance): £60.00

Antony Abbs (Four Seasons cut 9): £220.00

Lloyds Bank Multipay Card: £97.94 (Defib pads: £77.94

SMARTY monthly phone fee: £5.00 M&S cakes [statue installer thanks, from chairman's allowance): £12.00

Monthly fee: £3.00)

EA signed the payment schedule.

24/127: Agenda items for the next Perry Parish Council meeting (12th February 2025)

Additional items must be received by the clerk no later than Monday 3rd February 2025.

Meeting closed at 8:26pm

Dave Scott-Morgan

Dave Scott-Morgan, a former member of the *Electric Light Orchestra (ELO)* is coming to Perry! It was initially planned for Dave to be with us in 2020 but sadly the event had to be cancelled due to the Covid Lockdown. Not only is he booked to return to Perry but this time it will be a two-day event rather than just a one evening.

Rock musician Dave Scott-Morgan started his career as a member of the popular 1960's psychedelic rock group The Ugly's. He wrote the song 'Something' for friends The Move that reached the top of the UK singles charts as the flip side of the hauntingly beautiful 'Blackberry Way' in 1968. In the seventies and eighties he wrote the score for two films, and performed on some of the world's biggest stages as a member of ELO. But it was on the small stage of a pentecostal church in Birmingham that he would hear the words that would save his life.

As Dave sat listening to the worship at the Christian Life Centre in Selly Oak, Birmingham, he was captivated. And when the pastor stood up to announce the theme of his sermon was 'disappointment,' Dave was convinced the service had

been organised just for him! "Disappointment, to put it mildly, was just what I was facing at that time," he says. The preacher didn't know about that, so Dave felt it must have been a 'secret message' from God. "I knew that message was for me."

'Secret Messages' was an album that ELO recorded while Dave was touring as a guitarist with the band, from 1981-86. It was written in answer to the extreme evangelical critics in the US who accused ELO of encrypting 'secret satanic messages' within their music! How ironic that ELO member Dave should become a Christian himself and eventually become a pastor as well!

Dave will be at the Perry Baptist Church in May. Further details will be coming nearer the time.





PERRY HOG WATCH



Winter for hedgehogs has certainly been challenging, with wet, windy and frosty conditions. However, the cold weather hasn't been enough to persuade the hedgehogs in Perry to find somewhere to hibernate. They have been regular visitors to my feeding station even on the coldest of nights so we can't always assume they will find a sheltered place to hide away and hibernate. If they do survive the winter successfully, the months of April and May are when you may see some hoglets appear. Having a nest box and feeding station ready in your garden will hopefully encourage them to take up residence there. Good luck.

Perry Hogwatch December 2024 - January 2025

1 Hedgehog found with a broken leg and very cold. Did not survive.

2 Hedgehogs successfully released 24th December 2024 in Perry.

Thank you to everyone who has donated food, newspapers, fleecy blankets, shallow dishes and rubber gloves throughout 2024. They are greatly appreciated.

Don't forget a hedgehog out during the day is in trouble and needs help from a rescue centre quickly. Contact details are below.

Contact:

Hartford Hedgehog Rescue 07782 398235 Shepreth Hedgehog Hospital 07947 361187

Peterborough Hedgehog Hotel 07592 040113

Spiny Normans Hedgehog Support, Wyboston 07847 335663

Heathers Hedgehog Hostel, Chatteris. 07827751083

Cromwell Vet Huntingdon or look for other rescue centres ahelpwildlife.co.uk

Online help: www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk www.hedgehogstreet.org

Ann Jackson Contact: a.iackson292@btinternet.com

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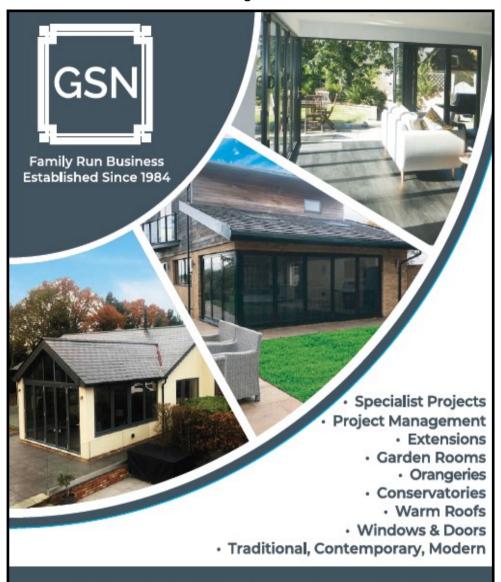
Doing a Feldenkrais lesson can make these movements so much easier to do!

To find out more or to book an appointment contact:

Touch Point Therapy Elizabeth Hughes

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

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

Standard	1 Quarter	Annually
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½ page	£48.00	£192.00
Whole page	£96.00	£384.00
Cover Ads (colour)		
1/8 page	Х	£75.00
¼ page	Х	£120.00
½ page	Х	£240.00

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Life Magazine is distributed throughout Great Staughton and Perry four times a year:

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

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

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

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

Please email all content to both addresses:

Rob: <u>rj.young@live.co.uk</u> lifemagazine@outlook.com

Visit the Great Staughton Parish Council website

Keep up with news & events Have your say!

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Including exclusive content not featured in Life Magazine

www.greatstaughtonpc.org.uk



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Rector: Revd Nicki Bland - Tel: 869485

St Andrew's Vicarage, The Causeway, Great Staughton

CHURCH WARDENS:

Mr Bryan Kitchen & Mr Robert Manderson

Dear Friends,

Spring is on its way; it is lovely to be able to go out for an early morning walk with my dog in daylight. The snowdrops, aconites, bird song and other signs of spring give us hope in these difficult times.

We have turned from Christmas and Epiphany and are now looking towards Easter even though we have the Lenten period to go through. Please look out for information about Lent lunches and their venues.

We have a range of services in March starting with a favourite which is The Pet Service. This is on March 2nd at St Andrews, Great Staughton, and pets of all shapes and sizes are welcome, along with their owners.

On Ash Wednesday, the day after pancake day, we have two services available as we start Lent, 10am. at St Nicolas, Hail Weston and 7:30pm at St Andrews, Great Staughton. These will be communion services with the Imposition of Ashes.

The service that I would particularly like to invite you to, is our Benefice Service on Mothering Sunday at 10:30am, breakfast is served from 10am. Before Covid we had prepared a wonderful all singing, all dancing service for Mothering Sunday which ended up having to be a service on Zoom. We would like to invite you, this year, to our Mothering Sunday Service which will have everything for young and old alike, band, organ, puppets, bells and after the service Simnel cake, coffee and

tea. Mothering Sunday is always held on the fourth Sunday in Lent and so like Easter, the date is not set. It is part of the church calendar unlike Father's Day, because it was originally a day to give thanks to the Virgin Mary. It was also a time when people were given time off to visit their Mothers and their Mother Church, the main Church or Cathedral near their family home.

We then look forward to Holy Week in April, which comes much later then usual with Good Friday on the 18th and Easter Day on the 20th Other dates for your diary are:

March 22nd when a Fashion show will be held at Little Staughton Village Hall at 7pm for 7:30pm. Tickets are £7.50 and include a glass of fizz and nibbles. There is no bar so you need to bring your own drinks. Tickets are available from Mary Hopperton on 077646715.

The next historical guided tour of St Andrews Church, which has an amazing history, is on March 15th, proceeds go towards the STAR project which is to make the church a community friendly space, tickets for this are £6 and afterwards there are teas and coffees served.

With love and prayers, Revd Nicki Bland

Mobile: 07805078992 Parish email: <u>revlesnicki@gmail.com</u>

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CHURCH SERVICES

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

All 10:30am services can be accessed via Zoom ID 4184055563 Password 022 067.

Services for March 2025

Great Staughton St. Andrew's

Sun 2nd: 8am - BCP Holy Communion 10:30am - Pet Service Weds 5th 7.30pm Ash Wednesday Communion with Imposition of

Sun 9th: 10:30am - Parish Communion Sun 16th: 10:30am - Parish Communion Sun 23rd: 10:30am - Parish Communion Sun 30th: 10:30am - Mothering Sunday Benefice Communion

Little Staughton All Saints

Sun 2nd: 9am - Parish Communion Sun 16th: 9am - Parish Communion Sun 30th: 10:30am - Mothering Sunday at St Andrew's, Great Staughton

Hail Weston St. Nicolas

Wed 5th: 10:30am - Ash Wednesday Communion with Imposition of Ashes

Sun 9th: 9am - Parish Communion Sun 16th: 3pm - Creative Communion Sun 23rd: 9am - Parish Communion Sun 30th: 10:30am - Mothering Sunday Benefice Communion at St Andrew's, Great Staughton

Services for April 2025

Great Staughton St. Andrew's

Sun 6th: 8am - BCP Holy Communion 10:30am - All Age Worship

Sun 13th: 10:30am - Palm Sunday Communion

Tue 15th Compine

Fri 18th 2pm An Hour at the Cross

Sun 20th: 10:30am - All Age Easter

Communion

Sun 27th: 10.30am Parish Communion -6pm Benefice Evensong

Little Staughton All Saints

Sun 6th: 9am Parish Communion

Wed 16th 7pm Compline Sat 16th 8pm Easter Vigil &

Communion

Sun 20th: 9am Easter Parish Communion Sun 27th: 6pm Benefice Evensong at St

Andrew's

Hail Weston St. Nicolas

Sun 6th: 10:30am Morning Praise Sun 13th: 9am Palm Sunday Communion

Mon 14th 7pm Compline

Thu 17th 7pm Maundy Thursday

Communion

Sun 27th: 9am Parish Communion 6pm Benefice Evensong at St Andrew's

Services for May 2025

Great Staughton St. Andrew's

8am - Holy Communion Sun 4th 10.30 All Age Worship Sun 11th 10:30 Parish Communion Sun 18th 10,30 Parish Communion Sun 25th 10.30 Parish Communion

Little Staughton All Saints

9am Parish Communion Sun 4th Sun 11th 9am Parish Communion Sun 18th 6pm Benefice Evensong Thu 29th 7.30 Ascension Communion

Hail Weston St. Nicolas

Sun 4th: 10:30am Morning Praise Sun 11th 9am Parish Communion Sun 18th 3pm Creative Communion Sun 25th 9am Parish Communion

Sun 25th 3pm: Rogation Service Walk at Rectory Farm, Little Staughton



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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

My dear friends,

The message of Easter is a celebration of Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead, and the hope and joy it brings to Christians. It's also a reminder of the victory over sin and a source of daily hope.

This event, Jesus' resurrection, is the reason for Easter Sunday celebrations as it gives Christians their hope and joy. After all, there can be no 'coming back to life' without a death first. In the days that followed, Jesus appeared to his large group of disciples many times showing them that he truly was alive.

That message remains the same, Jesus is alive! Jesus is central to the message of the Bible and the foundation of the Christian faith. His life, teachings, and sacrifice reveal God's love and His plan for redemption. Whether you're seeking to know more about who Jesus is, His role as Saviour, or His eternal promises, the Bible offers countless verses that speak to His divinity, humanity, and power. Jesus himself

said "I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the father but by me" (John chapter 14) The living Christ continues to bring to us that message of hope to us all. 2,000 years since the birth of Jesus we are still looking to the one who the Prince of Peace. At the heart of the Easter message is the reality that Jesus is here to bring to us peace that passes all human understanding.

Peace to you all

From the Perry village Pastor, Jon Magee



Clubs & Activities :	Telephone Prefix: 01480		
Great Staughton W.I			
Perry WI:Em			
St. Andrew's Bell Ringers – 1st & 3rd Mon of the month			
Great Staughton Book Club			
Horticultural Society			
	Email: hort.soc@btinternet.com		
Rotary Club: Kimbolton Castle			
CHILDREN'S CLUBS/SCHOOLS			
Gt. Staughton Guides			
Gt. Staughton Primary Academy	Head Teacher's.Office: 860324		
Kimbolton Beavers, Cubs and Scoutsl	stkimboltonscouts@gmail.com		
Kimbolton Rainbows	Alison Newell: 07941 894455		
Kimbolton Brownies			
Kimbolton GuidesZoe Sheffield: k	imbolton.guides@outlook.com		
Great Staughton Family Playtimemanager@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			
Gt. Staughton Tennis Club Committee			
Kym Valley Carpet Bowls			
Grafham Water Sailing Club			
Granam Water banning Grab	Oldb Ollico. 010110		
VILLAGE GROUPS/SERVICES			
Grafham Wildlife GroupSam M	falt: Day:810844 / Eve: 811654		
The Highway Community Car Scheme	07786 520540 4-7pm weekdays		
For all your transport needs, charged at 30 pence per mi.			
Parent Teacher Association (PTA)			
Patient Participation Group Gt St)Me			
	Email: greatstaughton@nhs.net		
Village HallVicky Go			
Pavilion			

USEFUL & EMERGENCY NUMBERS: Telephone Prefix 01480 unless otherwise shown

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Crime Watch Management 456 111. <u>VICTIM SUPPORT:</u> www.victimsupport.org.uk: An independent charity helps victims and witnesses of crime <u>confidentially & free.</u>
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

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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

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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

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**

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