

# STAPLEHURST

## PARISH COUNCIL

ADDITION  
VILLAGE  
UPDATE  
SPRING 2022



### Christmas in Staplehurst

Staplehurst was once again very festive last year. The parish office had organised the Christmas motifs on the lamp-posts in the High Street, giving a warm feeling to everyone travelling through our village.

A 15ft Christmas tree donated by Henhurst Farm Shop was erected by parish councillors and the payback team at The Parade.

The shops in the centre of the village and the NHS tree near the library were illuminated with bright lights. As usual, many members of the community decorated their houses.

Following the festive period, the parish councillors arranged the removal of the Christmas tree. At that time, residents were welcome to bring their used trees to The Parade. Jon Grimwood and Neil Jackson, from Kent and Sussex Tree Care Ltd., organised it with the kind loan of the chipper and truck from Garry Bridgland, from G Bridgland Ltd. All the chippings were spread across both sides of the planted areas near the shops.

Donations totalling £502.00 were collected, presented to the Heart of Kent Hospice.

### Police Update

Prior to Christmas, the Parish Council Chairman and the Parish Clerk had a productive meeting with a senior Kent Police officer. This was to follow up on the public meeting last September.

We were updated on measures the Police were taking against anti-social behaviour which have had a positive impact already. Several youths had been identified and have had officers attend their homes. Putting Staplehurst on the "Red Route" - which means that police cars on the way back from emergency calls visit various areas in the village to check for criminal activity - was another initiative to tackle crime. Regular checks of CCTV systems were proving beneficial to the Officers and regular reporting of crime by residents was also making a big difference. Other initiatives are in place which will be implemented in the near future.

The Chairman and Clerk also attended a meeting in relation to crimes against women.

The Parish Council continue to liaise closely with the police for the benefit of our residents.

### Corrections

In our last issue, we published some information within a memorial article. Our eagle-eyed and knowledgeable readers have noted a couple of errors in the original article. We thank our readers for the updated information. The key facts are that the rank of J.K.G was Pilot Officer not Flying Officer as originally reported and that his plane was a Hawker Hurricane - not a Spitfire.

We have been sent the following additional information:

I read with interest the timely item in the Parish Magazine regarding the Memorials in our village and would like to correct two small errors. Pilot Officer J.K.G. 'Curly' Clifton was wounded in a combat with German aircraft over Dungeness on 1st. September, 1940. His aircraft was seen by an eyewitness to falter over Staplehurst and plunge to the earth in Grave Lane. The aircraft that took him to his death was a Hawker Hurricane. Coming upon the story via the late Ted Sergison and subsequently visiting the site I noticed that the small cross in Grave Lane was rather the worse for wear and not up to the mark in honouring this young airman. I proposed to Ted making a replacement, which I carried out a month later. I used from my stock of seasoned timber suitable pieces from a local Holly tree, carving the RAF. eagle and adding an engraved brass plaque with his name. Finally, I took a fragment from the Hurricane itself, part of the aluminium fuselage (not the engine) and had engraved thereon these words from a poem by W.B. Yeats; "- - this tumult in the clouds "

His niece, Daphne visits the site each September to honour the memory of this brave young man, her uncle, one of 'The Few '.

We really welcome feedback on any of the articles that we publish in the Village Updates or Annual Report - so please do not hesitate to send in corrections or other comments and enhancements.

## Hollie Guard Personal Safety App

Various dedicated organisations and the Police Force across the country are endorsing this app to ensure women and girls feel safer in the wake of growing awareness of their vulnerabilities across the UK over the past years.

Hollie Guard is an app that can track a person's location as they make their way home, exercising, or simply going about their day-to-day tasks.

If at any point they feel unsafe, a shake of the phone will send an alert to a group of pre-set contacts to warn them that they may be in danger. It will then start recording both audio and video footage of what's happening around them.

The recording will be saved and automatically sent to their nominated contacts so they can see what is happening and call the police or ambulance service if needed. A further shake will make the phone flash and emit a high-pitched alarm which will alert people nearby that this person may be in danger.

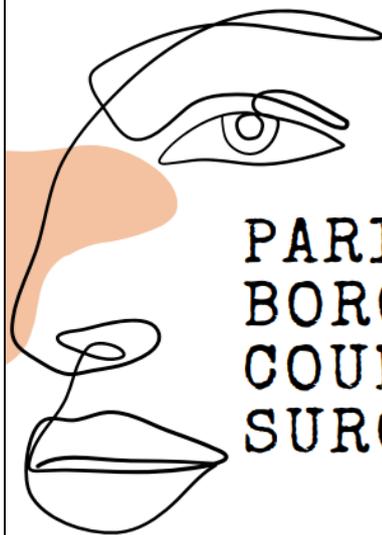
Some of the key features of the app include:

- Journey - providing emergency contacts with real-time updates as you move between two places.
- Meeting – creating an alert if the timer expires when you are going to a potentially dangerous meeting or working alone.
- Man Down – detecting if you have a sudden fall or have stopped moving for a period of time.
- Report Feature – recording an incident quickly and easily with supporting photo evidence.

This App is free to download. More information at [www.hollieguard.com](http://www.hollieguard.com)



### STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL



## PARISH & BOROUGH COUNCILLOR SURGERY

Staplehurst library  
Last Saturday of every month

**10.00AM - 12.00 NOON**

Come along to ask questions on any parish topic or to discuss a matter of concern.

