

# STAPLEHURST

## PARISH COUNCIL

VILLAGE  
UPDATE  
WINTER  
2022

## WINTER WARMER ROOMS



- *Looking for somewhere warm to spend some time?*
- *Want to meet people for a warm drink and a chat?*
- *Like to help out and spend some time with others in the warm?*

### Come and see us at:

<u>DAY</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>VENUE</u>
Monday	9am – 3pm	Guide Centre
Tuesday	12 – 5pm	Free Church – Shepherds pantry
Wednesday	9am – 6pm	Guide Centre
Thursday	10am – 8pm	West Hall Community Centre
Friday	9am – 6pm	Guide Centre
Saturday	10am – 8pm	West Hall, Community Centre
Sunday	12 – 4.30pm	Parish Room, All Saints Church

### We hope to see you there!

Just pop in, or for more information and to volunteer,

**call 01580 388155**

**or visit [www.staplehurst-pc.uk](http://www.staplehurst-pc.uk)**

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## GREENER STAPLEHURST GROUP

The GSG have recently spent a lot of their time keeping the village shrubs and flowers watered during the hot sunny weather, not an easy task with eighteen beds and planters to tend!



Maddie's Communal Herb Bed near the library is currently undergoing a face lift with ground cover sheeting being laid, beneath decorative bark, and spring flowering bulbs planted under the Women's Institute tree to further brighten this area.

Remember this area is there for you to plant any spare herbs that you may have and to harvest the leaves that you may need for the pot.

Two additional water butts are also planned for this area as we are preparing ourselves for hot, drier Summers in the future as a result of Global Warming. These were expected to be in situ by now but there have been some delivery problems on which we are working on.

A number of tree saplings have been planted along the Headcorn Road and we anticipate planting many more in other areas of the village this autumn.

We are always grateful when people volunteer to help with this and other jobs and we can be contacted via our Facebook page or by ringing 01580 891713.

## ROAD SAFETY GROUP

We would love to see some new members join our Speedwatch group. It's great to get out in the fresh air and encourage drivers to slow down. Please do contact us if you would be interested in joining our select group.

Please do let us know about any RTA's (Road Traffic Accidents) via [staplehurstroadinfo@gmail.com](mailto:staplehurstroadinfo@gmail.com) to ensure SPC are aware.

As we are now out of the bird nesting season, everyone is trimming their hedges and tidying the pathways nicely. If you do get a letter reminding you about overgrown hedges, please appreciate it's a polite reminder from SPC. Local



residents continue to let us know about areas of concern, including overgrown hedges that need cutting back when pedestrians can't get past them easily.

Please let Kent Highways know of any potholes that need repairing and any other areas of concern, while SPC will continue to lobby on areas such as the Hawkenbury Bridge.

## STAPLEHURST TREFOIL GUILD

If you have just moved into the village, or even if you have been here a while, you may like to know who we are and what we get up to!

If you have had any involvement in guiding either as a leader or even as a Brownie or Girl Guide in the past, our group could be for you. We meet once a month in the Kathie Lamb Guide Centre at the Jubilee Fields.

We usually have a speaker or a fun activity, such as our recent Great Trefoil Bake Off and round off with tea/coffee and biscuits. We have local outings such as Merriments and Cranbrook Museum.

There is a vibrant Craft/Quilting Group which meets separately. We share ideas and support community events.

We are affiliated to LaSER (Girlguiding London and South East England region).



## STAPLEHURST LIBRARY



Our library was built fifty years ago and a very successful celebration event was organised by the Library User Group. Children were invited to colour and design book covers and cards. Our playgroups and nurseries really helped encourage their youngsters and the classes at Staplehurst School made a superb effort to raise their pupils' awareness of this local treasure. Nearly three hundred entries were displayed in the library and prizes awarded thanks to the generosity of our sponsors.

Our staff encourage all to love reading and there are many groups that meet here from Baby Rhyme Time through reading and poetry groups to the knit and natterers. There are DVDs and computers available to use and friendly people to offer help when needed. If you're not a member yet, come along and register.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS GROUP

After a quiet few months, it's getting busier for us.

On November 27th (10.00am - 4.00pm) at the Village Centre, we're very pleased that the popular French Market/Christmas Fair is returning after several years' break due to Covid. Besides the French stalls there'll be plenty of craft stalls to tickle your fancy.

In early December (Sat 3rd to Tuesday 6th), Santa and his elves will again tour the village on his sleigh. You can check the routes and timings on our Facebook page – see [www.facebook.com/staplehurstcommunityeventsgroup/](https://www.facebook.com/staplehurstcommunityeventsgroup/) - organised with our friends from Paddock Wood and District Lions.

Following last year's success, we're repeating the 'Light Up Staplehurst' event, where we'll pick 20 houses at random around the village and if the house is displaying a Christmas Light in a window, the occupier will receive a gift of £25.00. They don't need to be elaborate lights; just show you're entering in the Christmas spirit! Judging will be after 6.00 pm sometime in the 2 weeks before Christmas.

Looking ahead into 2023, we've started to make preparations to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III and our annual 5 and 10K races will be in early June.



## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW GROUP

The Neighbourhood Plan was published in 2016 and in May 2017 a group of councillors and residents was formed to keep the plan under review. Since then, the group has met monthly. The Plan has been examined, section by section and amendments and additions suggested to the Parish Council. During the last five years slow, but steady progress has been made and the main work of the group is coming to an end. The group has recommended to the council that it should finance the cost of a new Housing Needs Survey and this will take place next spring. It is hoped that early in 2023 the council will be in a position to discuss the proposed revisions with the original authors of the plan and to seek an estimate of the cost of producing a revised edition.

## FLOODING AWARENESS

### Is your home at risk of flooding?

- Over 5 million homes and businesses in England are at risk of flooding Is yours one of them?
- The average cost of flood damage to a home is £30,000, and the mental health impacts are long lasting
- You could be out of your home for an average of 5 months.
- Crucially taking steps to prepare for flooding can reduce the damage to your home and possessions by around 40%.

With winter fast approaching, now is the ideal time to check if you're at risk of flooding: [gov.uk/check-flooding](https://gov.uk/check-flooding)

### Key Contacts

The local authorities prefer reporting online and then you have a reference number to follow up / phone.

#### Roads – Kent County Council

Report a problem [www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem](https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem) or phone: 03000 41 41 41 or emergencies outside hours: 03000 41 91 91

#### A 229 – Highways England

Email [info@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:info@highwaysengland.co.uk)  
General enquiries 0300 123 5000

#### Maidstone Borough Council

<https://maidstone.gov.uk/home/other-services/seasonal-advice/tier-2-primary-areas/flooding-advice> or phone  
General enquiries - 01622 602000

#### Internal Drainage Board – some rural areas

Upper Medway IDB – Upper Medway IDB or phone 01622 934500

### How can you prepare?

- Sign up for warnings at [gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings](https://gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings)
- Create a flood plan [gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding](https://gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding)
- Find out how to protect your property here [nationalfloodforum.org.uk](https://nationalfloodforum.org.uk)
- Check your insurance to see if you are covered
- Have a flood kit of essential items at home

For help and advice call **Flood line free on 0345 988 1188**.

- Visit: [check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/plan-ahead-for-flooding](https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/plan-ahead-for-flooding)
- **Help make a difference contact Cllr Davidson-Houston on:**  
[cldr.natashadh@staplehurst-pc.uk](mailto:cldr.natashadh@staplehurst-pc.uk)

**DO YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO IN A FLOOD?**

FLOOD ALERT <b>PREPARE</b>	FLOOD WARNING <b>ACT</b>	SEVERE FLOOD WARNING <b>SURVIVE</b>
 Pack medicines & insurance docs	 Move things upstairs or to safety	 Follow emergency services' advice
 Visit the flood warning information service	 Turn off gas, water & electricity	 Immediate danger? Call 999
	 Move family, pets & car to safety	 Stay safe



## LEST WE FORGET



Sunday 13th November 2022

It is important to take time and reflect on those who have sacrificed so much to enable our community to thrive.  
A big thank you to all those who took part and volunteered to ensure the Remembrance Parade went ahead safely.

## PARISH COUNCIL INFORMATION

### Councillors

Paddy Riordan (CHAIRMAN)  
John Perry (VICE-CHAIRMAN)  
Melanie Alesi  
Joan Buller  
José Castro  
Matt Clifton  
Natasha Davidson-Houston  
Joris Eerdekens  
Catherine Farragher  
Eric Hotson  
Bill McLaughlin  
Kelly McLean  
Stuart McPhee  
Adele Sharp

### Clerk

Richard Griffiths

### Deputy Clerk and Finance Officer

Mrs Deborah Jenkins

### Parish Support Officer

Mrs Jean Terry

### Caretaker

Paul Nyahwa

### Parish Council Contact Information

The Parish Office,  
Community Centre, High Street,  
Staplehurst TN12 0BJ

**Web:** [www.staplehurst-pc.uk](http://www.staplehurst-pc.uk)

**Email:** [clerk@staplehurst-pc.uk](mailto:clerk@staplehurst-pc.uk)

**Tel:** 01580 891761

### PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE

Please call 01580 891761 before attending to ensure a member of staff will be available. Normal hours for any appointments are 9:00 – 1:00pm. Monday to Thursday

**Wishing everyone a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year**

### SURGERIES AT THE LIBRARY

Surgeries are the last Saturday of the month. Next Surgery Saturday 29th January 2023

### PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

**Full Council:** 28th November & 19th December 2022  
2023 - 16th Jan, 6th & 27th Feb, 20th March, 11th April

**Planning Committee:** 5th December 2022  
2023 - 9th & 23rd Jan, 13th Feb, 6th & 27th March, 17th April,

All at the Community Centre South Hall at 7.30pm



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