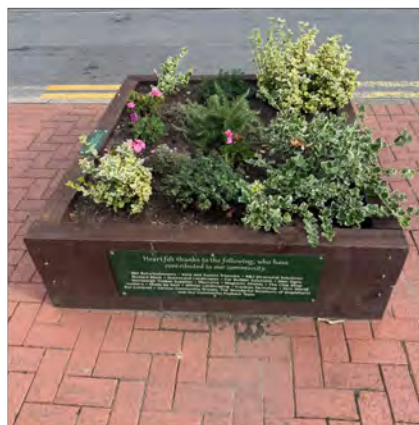


STAPLEHURST

PARISH COUNCIL



www.staplehurst-pc.gov.uk

Published by Staplehurst Parish Council, Community Centre, Staplehurst, TN12 0BJ

Tel: 01580 891761 Email: Clerk@staplehurst-pc.gov.uk

Public Opening Hours: Mon, Weds, & Thurs 10:00-12:00 Tues 14:00-16:00

Chairman's Report



After the long hot Summer, we finally have had some much needed rain. Unfortunately the first morning of sustained heavy drizzle coincided with Skate Jam which sadly had to be cancelled for safety.

As luck would have it, the afternoon dried out and Peter Rabbit bounced into the park, courtesy of the Hazlitt theatre.

The annual Summer Playscheme, run by Play Place proved popular as ever for our youngsters as well.

The 3G pitch is now complete at the Jubilee field and providing a new training space.

The Surrenden Field will see an upgraded pavilion building in October as well as the playground equipment being improved later in the year.

We are currently in talks with Kent Highways, along with Headcorn Parish Council and Cllr Brian Black, about improving the safety of the Hawkenbury Bridge and what can be done within the budget they have.

Coming up we have the Youth Club running Monday 3:30pm - 5:00pm year 6 and 5:00pm - 6:30pm

Look out for the village clean-up on 19th September. Come along, collect a litter picker and join in. We promise a cup of tea and a biscuit.

Save the date for the Remembrance Sunday Parade on 8th November this year.

- Cllr Adele Sharp

Staplehurst's new 3G Pitch



floodlighting, perimeter fencing, spectator space, cycle parking and improved access. It will be suitable for matches, training sessions, school use and a range of wider community activities.

The project has been supported by the Football Foundation, Section 106 funding, Kent FA and Staplehurst Parish Council. A special thank you goes to S&C Slatter, the main contractor, together with the consultants, funding partners, local clubs and everyone who helped bring the project forward.

The completed pitch represents a major investment in sport and recreation for Staplehurst and will provide a valuable facility for the village

for many years to come.

Staplehurst's new 3G all-weather pitch at Jubilee Field is now complete, bringing a long-running community project to fruition.

The new facility provides a reliable, year-round surface for local football teams, schools, community groups and residents, reducing the disruption caused by waterlogged grass pitches and giving local players a high-quality place to train and play.

The pitch includes a full-size 11-a-side layout, with markings for smaller-sided games,

The facility will be managed by Swale Community Leisure, who will oversee bookings and day-to-day use.

To find out more, check availability or enquire about hiring the pitch, please contact info@jubileefield.org or 01795 506580. Further information is also available through the Swale Community Leisure social media pages.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

KCC Councillor
Brian Black



My name is Brian Black, and I have been proud to call Kent my home for the past 20 years, having moved here from South London. Over those 20 years, I have become very much part of the Kent community, and I feel privileged to now have the opportunity to serve the people who live here as a Kent County Councillor.

Being a councillor is something I am genuinely passionate about. For me, the role is not simply about attending council meetings, voting on decisions or dealing with paperwork. It is about people. It is about listening to residents, understanding the issues that affect their everyday lives and doing everything possible to help find practical solutions.

I work closely with my eight parish councils and make every effort to attend as many parish council meetings as I can. I believe this is an important part of the job because parish councillors are often the people who know their communities best. They hear directly from residents and understand the local issues, concerns and frustrations.

It can certainly make for some very long days and evenings, but I believe it is time well spent.

This is where councillors should be – out in our communities, listening to the people we represent.

Being present at parish meetings also means that issues can be raised directly, rather than waiting for them to become bigger problems. It gives me the opportunity to work alongside parish councillors, residents and council officers to see what can actually be done.

At the moment, I am working closely with Staplehurst Parish Council on a number of important local matters. These include the ongoing issues surrounding Hawkenbury Bridge, the Cranbrook crossing and concerns regarding the speed camera. These are matters that are important to local residents, and I have been working hard to help move them forward.

I am pleased that things are beginning to look positive, but I also recognise that getting results can sometimes take time. There can be different organisations involved, processes to follow and challenges to overcome. That is why I believe persistence is so important.

If a resident comes to me with a problem, I don't believe in simply passing it on and forgetting about it. I believe in following it up, asking questions, keeping people informed and continuing to push for progress.

Ultimately, being a councillor is about service. It is about being accessible, approachable and prepared to put in the time. I am proud to represent the communities of Kent and grateful for the trust people have placed in me.

There is always more work to do, but I remain committed to listening, representing and working hard for the people of Kent.

YMCA WEST KENT
Part of YMCA THAMES CATCHMENT GROUP

LOADING
FUN

YOUTH CLUB

FREE CLUB EVERY MONDAY
Year 6 from 3.30pm - 5pm | Year 7 from 5pm - 6.30pm

▶ Sports & team games
▶ Cooking activities
▶ Arts & crafts

▶ Board & card games
▶ Music, movies & more!

For more information, contact
Bethkemp@ymcatg.org

Staplehurst Youth Club, High Street, TN12 0BJ

Friends of All Saints Staplehurst

Val Wallis valwallis1@btinternet.com

The Friends of All Saints Staplehurst are a fund-raising body that helps finance projects and improvements to All Saints Church.

We are a registered Charity with very simple objectives:

To maintain, repair, preserve, improve, beautify and reconstruct for the benefit of the public, the fabric of the church, its monuments, fixtures, fittings, furniture, stained glass windows, ornaments and other chattels.

Since our formation in 1994, we have undertaken a number of activities to provide funding for several projects

Our next big event is the Lego festival on Saturday 26th September in All Saints church. For all Lego

builders come and show your models in the church. Entry forms are available from valwallis1@btinternet.com. We need the forms returned by September 14th.

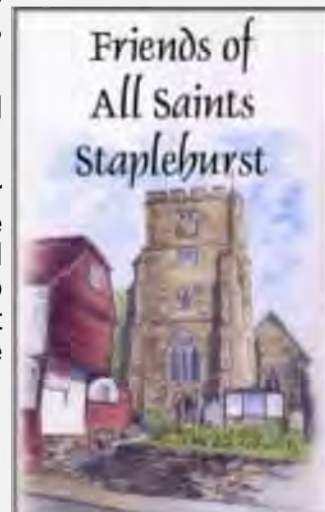
The church will be open from 9.00 for exhibitors to assemble their models and open to visitors from 11.00 – 3.00pm there will be a charge of £2 for entry, children are free.

Tea, coffee, cake and lunches will be available.

After last year's spectacular model building we are expecting a wonderful display of Lego building so do come along and see just what you can do with the humble Lego brick.

Val Wallis

Chair, Friends of All Saints



Chalkdown RDA (Riding for the Disabled Association)

Pauline Roestenburg
paulineroestenburg@hotmail.com

Chalkdown RDA has been providing therapeutic riding sessions for adults and children with a wide range of physical and neurodivergent disabilities for nearly 40 years. For 35 of those years they have been based at Duckhurst Farm Equestrian Centre in Clapper Lane where they use the large indoor arena for their weekly sessions.

They are a member group of the national Riding for the Disabled Association, and an independent charity, and they are run by a team of amazing volunteers who lead the ponies or side walk to keep the riders safe in the saddle.

The group owns four of their own specially trained RDA horses and two smaller ponies. The warmth and rhythmic movement of the animals relaxes and strengthens core muscles which helps to improve balance and aids standing, sitting and walking.

Riders gain confidence, build self-esteem and make lasting friendships.

And it isn't all about riding. The group has recently started Equine Assisted Learning sessions which provide a calm, low-pressure time with a horse, grooming and building trust, supporting emotional regulation and providing comfort and connection.

Another activity enjoyed by the group is the Tea with a Pony programme where two of the ponies are taken to visit residents of local nursing homes.



It is particularly beneficial for people living with dementia where it creates special shared moments for families and carers and strengthens community connections. The group is constantly fundraising to meet its ever increasing running costs and this August they held their first sponsored ride with

over 100 riders taking part in a 12k ride. It was a fantastic success and they were hugely grateful to be supported by another Staplehurst volunteer group, the Staplehurst Emergency Help Team (SEHT), who gave up their time to provide expertise with traffic control and technical assistance. The two organisations worked closely together sharing the same ethos and community spirit. It is a partnership which they hope will continue into the future.

Chalkdown is now recruiting even more volunteers in order to expand their operation. If you think you would like to get involved or know someone who would benefit from Chalkdown's therapeutic sessions please get in touch at staplehurst-rda@gmail.com or download an application form from the website www.chalkdownstaplehurst-rda.co.uk/

Donations can also be made to www.justgiving.com/charity/chalkdown-rda and any small amount will help the group to make a difference.



For around 30 years, Growing Concern has been putting people, plants and the local community at the heart of what we do and although the two-acre site has grown and developed over the

years, our social enterprise ethos remains unchanged: supporting people with learning disabilities, autism and those with mental health needs to become active leaders in their own lives.

Located just off Maidstone Road, our trainees learn a wide range of horticultural skills, from sowing seeds and propagating plants to growing fruit and vegetables, weeding, cutting grass and maintaining hedges - to name but a few gardening jobs we get up to! We are proudly pesticide and fungicide-free, we try to be as sustainable as possible on site and enjoy making our own compost and leaf mould to enrich our growing spaces. There are practical skills too that we incorporate into what we do here - including woodworking, where planters and tables are made and our raised vegetable beds maintained. Growing Concern is designed to be accessible, with wheelchair-friendly areas and facilities for people who may experience mobility difficulties. Our garden offers something for everyone: a chance to learn, contribute, connect with nature and simply enjoy being outdoors.

Nature is at the heart of our work. Time outdoors can help reduce stress and support wellbeing, while growing something from seed to harvest brings a wonderful sense of achievement. And if happiness had a flower, it would surely be a sunflower! In the past we have grown as many as twenty different varieties; this year we have

concentrated on our favourite ten.

Our work doesn't stop at our gates. You may have spotted the six large planters around Staplehurst, planted, watered and maintained by our team, adding a little floral fabulousness to the village.

Throughout the growing season we also welcome the community to events including plant sales and pumpkin picking. Our recent cake and coffee morning in early August brought together local people of all ages for cake, coffee and a wander around the garden.

Looking ahead to 2027, we hope to expand our events programme even further. Keep an eye on our Facebook and Instagram pages for dates and updates or get in touch with the team if you have a question.

Growing Concern is part of Choice Support, an England-wide organisation established over 40 years ago to bring care into the community. Choice Support works alongside people, families and support networks to create opportunities, remove barriers and champion rights.

At the heart of everything we do is a simple vision: a world where everyone thrives, belongs

and has genuine choices. Here at Growing Concern, we bring that vision to life through trust, kindness, compassion, empathy—and, of course, plenty of sunshine and growing!



Summer Fair

We are pleased to report that, despite the rain that fell upon us on the afternoon of the Summer Fair, it was a great success. All the hard work of both SCEG and the Staplehurst PTA paid off as we were able to bring an afternoon of family fun and entertainment to the village of Staplehurst.

We are so grateful to everyone who sponsored the event, (please see our Facebook page for details), as well as everyone who attended, including the bands, stallholders, caterers, volunteers and you, the public, as without all of you this event could not have taken place.

Christmas

We hope Father Christmas will be able to visit Staplehurst leading up to Christmas, and we are starting to make plans to try and make this happen. We will keep you posted with further developments.

5/10k run

For a number of years we have helped organise the ever popular 5/10k run and we are already planning next year's event with NETiming.

We are of course always looking for helpers and additional committee members.

So if you are able to join us then please contact us on:

Facebook – Staplehurst Community Events Group

Email – Staplehursteventsgroup@gmail.com

Please leave a short message with your name and telephone number and we will get back to you.

Surrenden Field Pavilion Upgrade

The Surrenden Field Pavilion replacement project is now moving much closer to the build stage. Following consultation, design work and consideration of the practical needs of the site, the Parish Council has now identified its preferred building size, style and contractor, with final arrangements being put in place ahead of construction.

The existing pavilion has reached the end of its useful life and will be replaced with a more practical and welcoming facility, providing improved space for community use, refreshments and toilet facilities. The new pavilion will support the many activities and events that take place at Surrenden Field and forms part of the Council's wider investment in improving recreational facilities across the village.

With the main design and procurement decisions now largely complete, the project is entering an exciting phase and residents should begin to see visible progress on site in the near future.

We will continue to provide updates as the build gets underway.



SEHT – Thank You

The Staplehurst Emergency Help Team (SEHT) was delighted to be nominated in the Local Hero category of the Katie Lam MP Weald of Kent Awards.

We are very grateful to whoever put SEHT forward and to everyone in the village who continues to support the team. The nomination is a lovely recognition of the time and commitment given by our volunteers, who are always ready to help the community when needed.

SEHT continues to develop its emergency planning, communications and community support arrangements so that Staplehurst is as prepared as possible when incidents occur.

A huge thank you to all our volunteers, supporters and residents who help make the team what it is.

Who does what in Staplehurst?

Authority	Benefits	Building ^{*1}	Cemeteries ^{*2}	Children's Play Areas ^{*3}	Children's Play areas ^{*4}	Council Housing	Council Tax	Education	Football pitches	Graffiti removal	Hedges & Shrubs roadside	Highway maintenance	Highways	Housing benefits	Library	Noise Nuisance & control	Planning ^{*5}	Public Toilets – Bell Lane	Public transport	Refuse collection	Refuse disposal	Social Services	Street lighting	Street lighting ^{*6}	Traffic Road Safety	Trees on the Highway
KCC								✓			✓	✓	✓		✓				✓			✓	✓		✓	✓
MBC	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓				✓		✓	✓		✓	✓						
SPC				✓	✓	C	C		✓			C	C	C			C	✓	C	C				✓	C	

Key to Services and Activities

This Council is primarily responsible for the provision of this service and should be your first point of contact.	✓
This Council is consulted on matters relating to the provision of this service and may be able to offer some assistance.	C

- *1 Building regulations and enforcement
- *2 In Staplehurst Church manages cemetery
- *3 Housing areas
- *4 Recreation Grounds
- *5 Policy / Applications / Enforcement
- *6 Nicholson Walk, Chapel Lane and 6 on Maidstone Road

Kent County Council	03000 410 410
Maidstone Borough Council	01622 602 000
Staplehurst Parish Council	01580 891 761

In Staplehurst, Staplehurst Parish Council looks after local facilities and represents residents. Maidstone Borough Council manages services including waste, planning and housing. Kent County Council is responsible for highways, education, social care and transport. Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue Service and the NHS provide emergency and health services. Staplehurst Emergency Help Team (SEHT) supports the community during emergencies, disruption and severe weather.

STAPLEHURST BOOT FAIR

SURRENDEN FIELD, TN12 OLY

Dates for 2027

WE'LL BE HERE ON THE LAST
SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH!

CARS
£10

Scouts
SUPPORTED BY STAPLEHURST SCOUTS



VANS
£15

25th April

25th July

30th May

29th August

27th June

26th September

BOOK YOUR PITCH NOW!

Email: staplehurstbootfair@gmail.com



**BUYERS - FREE
PARKING ON THE FIELD!**

**BUYERS WELCOME
FROM 10AM
EVENT CLOSE 1PM**

Event organised by Staplehurst Emergency Help
Team. All proceeds go to the SEHT group.

STAPLEHURST SAFE SPACE

1ST SATURDAY OF EVERY
MONTH

STAPLEHURST YOUTH CLUB
TN12 OBJ

10AM - 12PM

POP IN FOR A HOT DRINK AND A
SAFE, FRIENDLY SPACE



PROVIDED BY
STAPLEHURST
EMERGENCY HELP
TEAM



JOIN OUR TEAM! BECOME A LEADER!

HELP YOUNG PEOPLE ADVENTURE!
BE THE INSPIRATION.



WE HAVE SPACES FOR NEW LEADERS!
| NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE NEEDED |
HAVE FUN, MAKE FRIENDS, MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



[/Staplehurstscoutgroup](https://www.facebook.com/Staplehurstscoutgroup)
Web: staplehurstscouts.org.uk

INTERESTED? VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!
STAPLEHURST SCOUTS

Save the Date!

Staplehurst

Annual Parish Meeting &
Social Evening

Monday 10th May 2027

7.30pm

Staplehurst Community Centre - North Hall



**Staplehurst
Parish Council**

Staplehurst Community
Centre
High St. Staplehurst
TN12 0BJ
01580 891761
clerk@staplehurst-pc.gov.uk

NEWS FROM THE PAST

August 1976 was the climax of the severe 1975–76 drought. Rivers and groundwater reached exceptionally low levels, water restrictions were introduced in parts of England and fires affected moorland and heathland. The Drought Act received Royal Assent on 6 August 1976; widespread rain finally arrived during September. Although I have not found a publicly accessible report describing the precise effect in Staplehurst, this would have been an important concern for its farms, orchards and gardens.

During 1974–76, residents, the Parish Council and conservation organisations corresponded over the future of Surrenden, Sorrento and Crampton House. The campaign to protect Surrenden ultimately led to the formation of the Staplehurst Society. The surviving material includes details of the proposed sale of Sorrento and an application to have the property listed.

Marden Road Estate.

This was built by Wimpey in the mid 1970s and all the streets are named after people associated with the local school. It abuts the Marden Road and is to the west of the Tickner and Emmerton Estate to which it is connected by Pope Drive.

The streets making up this estate are:

Butcher Close, Pope Drive, Jeffery Close, Reeves Close, Oliver Road & Stanley Close.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Remembrance Day Parade - 8th November 2026

SPC Awards / AGM - 10th May 2027 - 7:30pm North Hall Staplehurst Community Centre

PARISH COUNCIL INFORMATION

Parish Council Meetings - 7:30pm South Hall, Staplehurst Community Centre, TN12 0BJ

Planning - 21st September, 12th October, 2nd, 23rd November, 14th December

Full Council - 5th, 26th October, 16th November, 7th December

Clerk - Richard Griffiths _____ clerk@staplehurst-pc.gov.uk

Responsible Financial Officer - Lissi Smith _____ rfo@staplehurst-pc.gov.uk

Parish Support Officer - Jean Terry _____ admin@staplehurst-pc.gov.uk

Caretaker - Paul Nyahwa

Address: Parish Council Office, Community Centre, High Street, Staplehurst TN12 0BJ

Office Opening Hours: Mon, Weds & Thurs 1000 - 1200, Tues 1400 - 1600

Phone: 01580 891761

For More information visit: www.staplehurst-pc.gov.uk



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