

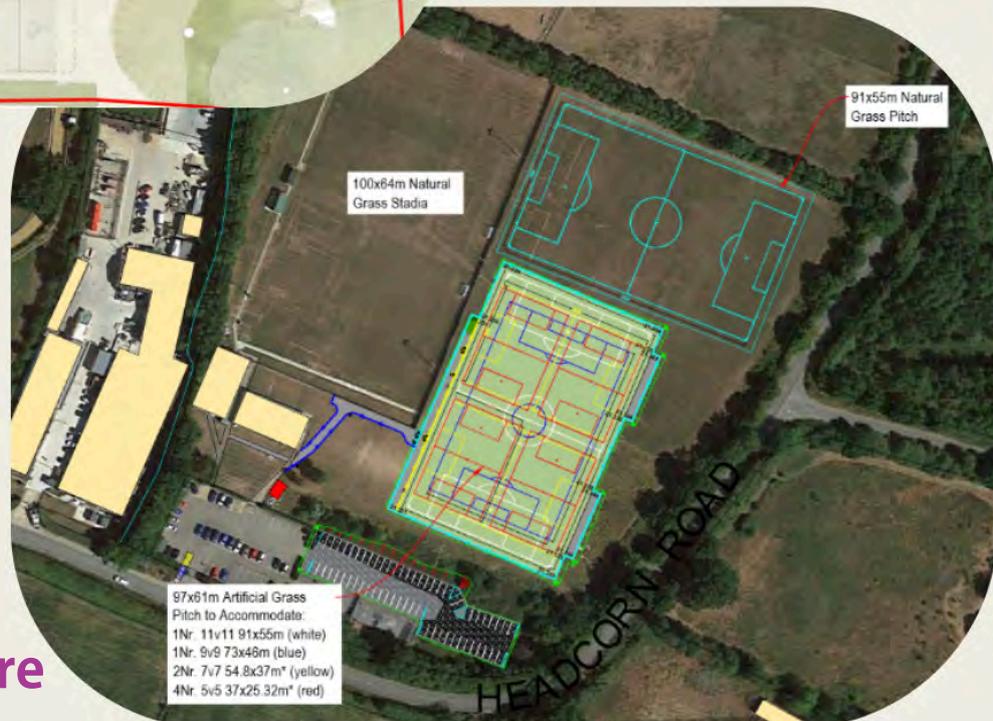


Big Plans For Our Village!



**Staplehurst Community
Centre Re-development
Plans**

Jubilee Field 3g Pitch Construction Plans



See Centrefold for more

www.staplehurst-pc.gov.uk

Published by Staplehurst Parish Council, Community Centre, High Street, Staplehurst, Kent TN12 0BJ

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Public opening Hours: Mon, Weds & Thurs 1000-1200 Tues 1400-1600

What's on in Staplehurst

Clubs, groups and activities – grouped by venue

ALL SAINTS CHURCH

High St, TN12 0AX

All Saints Church Activities • Bellringers Society • Church Choir • Flower Arranging Group

STAPLEHURST CRICKET CLUB

Frittenden Road, TN12 0DH

Bridge Club • Cricket Club • Running Club • Tennis Club

FREE CHURCH

Station Road, TN12 0QQ

Badminton Club • Choir • Friends Together • Interest Group • Men's Walking Group • Signing Group • Toddler Groups • Warm Welcome Spaces • Community Fridge

KATHIE LAMB CENTRE

Jubilee Field, TN12 0DS

Brownies (7–10) • Guides (10–14) • Rainbows (4–7) • Rangers (14–18) • Sewing Club • Trefoil Guild • Trefoil Craft Group • Yoga • Fun Train

LIBRARY

The Parade, TN12 0LA

Knit & Natter • Poetry Group • Rhyme Time • Craft and Chat

McCABE CENTRE

McCabe Close, TN12 0SE

Over 60s Social • Day Centre Group • Dementia Café • Hi-60 Hearing Loss Group

JUBILEE FIELD

Headcorn Road, TN12 0DS

Football (Monarchs) • Skatepark

SCOUT HUT

Nicholson Walk, TN12 0JZ

Squirrels (4–7) • Beavers (8–11) • Scouts (11–15)

COMMUNITY CENTRE

High St, TN12 0BJ

Dance Schools • Horticultural Society • WI • Zumba • Yoga (various classes) • Staplehurst Society • Pilates • Monthly Artisan Market • Early Learning Steps • Kickboxing • Gong Ceremonies • Staplehurst Parish Council

YOUTH CLUB BUILDING

High St, TN12 0BJ

Men's Shed • Youth Club • Age Concern Podiatrist • Staplehurst Safe Space

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

High St. TN120AS

Ladies Choir • URC Activities

This is not an exhaustive list.

For full contact details for individual groups, please see the Clubs & Groups listing or contact venues directly.

If you would like a group added to this list please email clerk@staplehurst-pc.gov.uk

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Staplehurst Youth Club

Staplehurst Youth Club continues to grow and thrive, providing a free, welcoming space for young people in Year 6 and above. Over recent weeks, attendance has steadily increased, with a consistent group of around 10 young people now attending each session. The club offers a wide range of activities to suit different interests, including pool, darts, table tennis, cooking and a variety of craft activities. Sessions are held at the Youth Club, TN120BJ, and are designed to be fun, relaxed and inclusive. A key part of the club is giving young people a voice — attendees are encouraged to help shape the weekly activities, ensuring the sessions reflect what they enjoy and want to try. As the group continues to settle and grow, plans are already in place for the warmer months ahead. With summer approaching, the club is looking forward to making use of the local field for outdoor team games and activities. The Youth Club is developing into a positive social space where young people can build confidence, friendships, and skills, and we're excited to see it continue to grow as the year goes on.



The image shows a flyer for the Staplehurst Youth Club. At the top, it says 'YMCA' and 'Staplehurst Youth Club'. The main text reads 'YOUTH CLUB' in large, bold letters, with 'FREE' and 'FOR CHILDREN YEAR 7+' below it. To the right, it says 'LEARNING THROUGH FUN'. Below this, it lists the location 'Staplehurst Youth Club High Street, TN12 0BJ' and the time 'Every Monday 3.30pm - 6.30pm'. A list of activities includes: Sports and team games, Cooking activities, Arts and crafts activity, Board/card games, and Music and Movies. It also mentions 'Toast, spread and squash available'. At the bottom, it says 'For more information, contact bethkemp@ymcatg.org'. There are several icons representing different activities like a paint palette, a game board, a soccer ball, and a video game controller.

Mr. Rory Silkin

Opposite the butcher in the High Street stands Vine House, built around 1705 and greatly enlarged in early Victorian times, when the pillared portico, front and rear bay windows, and yellow brick façade were added. Though largely a family home, it also functioned as a nursing home into the 1920s. My father, John Silkin MP, acquired the house in 1960 in lieu of fees owed by an unscrupulous client. He did not tell my mother, the actress Rosamund John, until the following year, and we moved in at Christmas 1961. Dad was too young for conscription at the outbreak of the Second World War and initially went to university, a reserved occupation. After a year he volunteered for the navy, where he learned Japanese, spending the war in Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) translating signals. On 6 August 1945 he was monitoring Morse traffic between Hiroshima's control tower and a radar station tracking a lone US Superfortress when the short waveband was obliterated by static for 24 hours, later understood to mark the first atomic bomb. After demobilisation he became a solicitor, founded a law firm with his father (also a solicitor and MP), later served as a Labour Cabinet Minister, and married my mother in 1950. At that time she was the better-known partner, a successful British film star from the 1930s to the 1950s, appearing alongside Leslie Howard, James Mason and Michael Redgrave. Her first starring role was as R. J. Mitchell's wife in 1942, and in 1944 she came second only to Margaret Lockwood as Britain's favourite female actress. I was born in 1954 and from 1961 spent most weekends and holidays here. Originally the garden extended beyond the three ponds now forming Bell Lane Nature Reserve, later given to the village by my father. My brother and I once found a four-foot handle that fitted a sluice on the northern pond. He turned it to see what would happen. Fortunately nothing did, and we were not responsible for flooding the newly built Offens Drive houses. So, on and off, I have lived



here for around 65 years. Staplehurst has changed, as has Vine House, now divided into three homes, though much remains the same. We still believe the house is haunted by a friendly ghost. Several people claim to have seen, heard or felt it; it once opened closed doors, so we stopped shutting them. I have no idea who or what it is, but all our dogs seem convinced it exists.

- Rory Silkin

Staplehurst's People-Powered Progress

Staplehurst Community Centre

3G Multi-Sports Pitch



Cllr Sharp, Staplehurst Parish Council Chairman said

“After 10 years of lobbying for strategic support from the Football Foundation, Maidstone Borough Council and Kent FA, the challenges of obtaining planning permission (best part of 18 months) finalising the cost £982,027.62 and successful grant applications to the tune of £746,979 the 3G Multi-Sport Pitch at Jubilee Field is going ahead. I would like to thank everyone for all their hard work over the years and look forward to working with S and C Slatter as the primary building contractor and Swale Community Leisure who will be managing the site once it is open.”

The development will include improved pedestrian access and car parking as well as the 3G Multi-Sport pitch. Please see site plan below.

The construction cost is £982,027.62 and the funding mix is set out below;

Football foundation Grant	£741,979.00
S106 Funding	£210,616.98
Staplehurst Parish Council Contribution	£15,000.00
Kent Football Association Contribution	£5,000.00
CIL Funding	£9,413.64
TOTAL project cost	£982,027.62

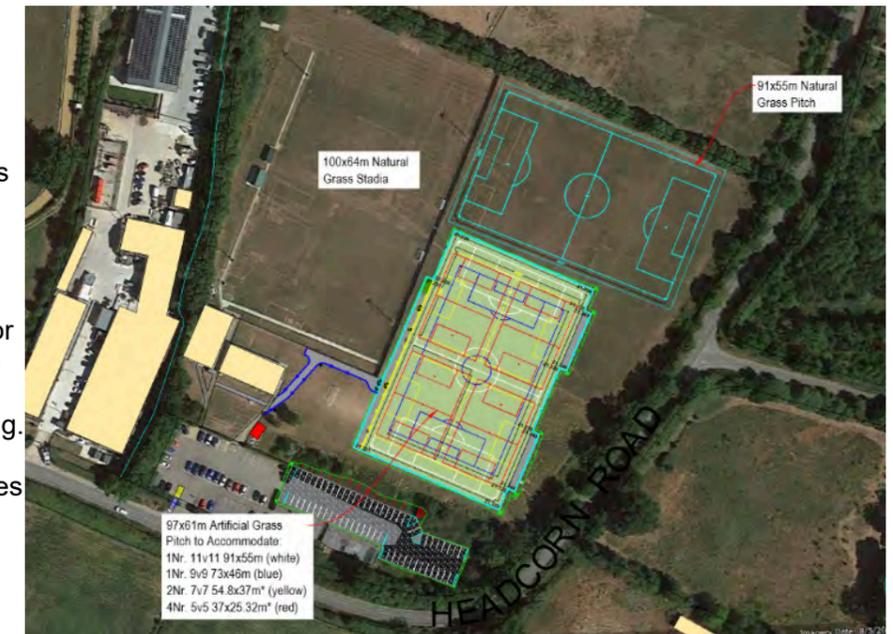
The construction will start in late March 2026 – we are waiting for an exact date – and finish in July 2026. We will be arranging an opening ceremony and will update you on the progress on the Parish Council website and Facebook. If anyone is interested in hiring the facility, please contact Swale Community Leisure at enquiries@swaleleisure.org or phone 01795 506580

We all hope that the waterlogged pitches, which meant cancelled or relocated matches during the winter months for the junior teams, will soon be a thing of the past.

Swale Community Leisure, the appointed facility manager said:

“Swale Community Leisure are delighted to have been selected to support the future of the Jubilee Fields Playing Pitches. This is a fantastic opportunity to work alongside Staplehurst Parish Council and the local community to enhance the site and create even more opportunities for active, healthy living. We’re excited to get started and to play our part in strengthening local sport and wellbeing.”

To find out more about the programmes and activities we deliver across the area, visit our website: www.Swaleleisure.org



Since planning permission was granted for the improvement of facilities at the community centre, we have been busy, although it is all internal so you likely won't be aware of the work we are doing.

To ensure we didn't disturb the business of our regular hires we have started on the West Hall. So far the 1950's well past its date suspended ceiling has been removed, old defunct electrical wiring removed and replaced, and roof and chimney repairs are in the process of being completed.

As always with old buildings there is always the problem that as you uncover one area to mend an issue, another is revealed! So far, weather and unforeseen extra repairs have slowed us down a bit, although we are back on track now.

We continue to apply for grants such as KCC to fund our redevelopment, but now have to await their decision.

We were hit briefly by the SE Water shortage but were lucky to get our water back quickly. We were asked to host the Water station and wanted to say well done to all the volunteers that worked hard supplying water from our car park during that time. Thank you also to all those that drove and parked sensibly enabling our regular hires to carry on as normal.

SURRENDEN FIELD Pavilion & Playground

Pavilion Upgrades Get Underway

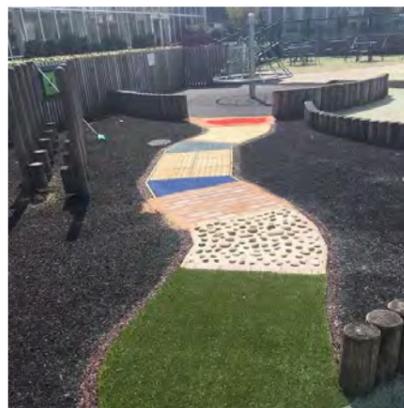
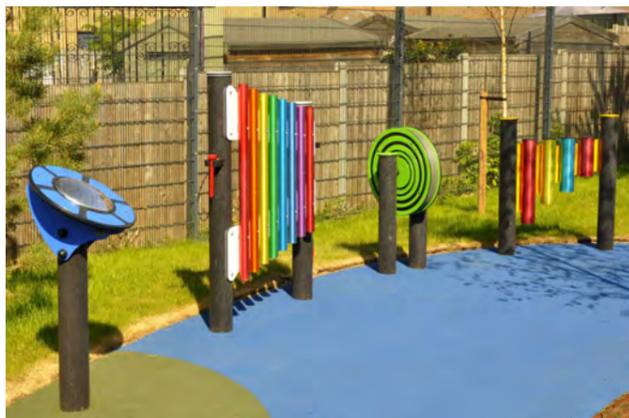
Work is progressing to improve the village pavilion, with a series of upgrades planned to make the building more comfortable, accessible and fit for the future. These improvements will support the many clubs, teams and community groups that rely on the pavilion throughout the year, as well as those attending events and matches at the park. A recent public consultation was carried out as part of the planning process, and the feedback received was constructive and helpful in shaping the next steps. The aim is to create a more welcoming, practical space that can be enjoyed by everyone for years to come. Updates will be shared as the project moves forward, and thank you to residents for their patience while works are carried out.

Below you can see early initial plans for the design and specification of the new building.



Exploring New Play Equipment for the Park

Plans are underway to look into new and additional play equipment for the park, responding to the needs of families and young people in the village. The focus will be on creating a fun, inclusive and safe play area that caters for a wider range of ages and abilities. As with the pavilion project, a public consultation has recently taken place. The responses received were thoughtful and constructive, and will help inform the options explored as the project develops. This is still at an early stage, but it's an exciting opportunity to refresh and enhance a much-loved community space.



Images for illustrative purposes only

Weald of Kent Young Farmers Club

"Light It Up!" Tractor Parade

Staplehurst truly sparkled on Saturday 21 December as the much-loved Light It Up Tractor Parade rolled through the village, bringing festive cheer, colour and community spirit to a winter's evening. The Parish Council would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped make the event such a fantastic success. From the farmers and drivers who decorated their tractors with dazzling lights, creative displays, Music & BUBBLES, to the organisers, volunteers and emergency services who ensured the evening ran smoothly and safely – this was a real team effort. Special thanks must go to the Staplehurst Emergency Help Team, whose members coordinated the road closures and provided marshalling throughout the event. Their careful planning, professionalism and visible presence helped ensure the parade was able to take place safely, allowing residents and visitors alike to enjoy the evening with confidence and peace of mind. It was wonderful to see residents of all ages lining the streets, wrapping up warm and enjoying the spectacle together. The atmosphere was electric, with smiling faces, festive music and plenty of Christmas excitement as the illuminated tractors made their way through Staplehurst. The Parish Council is proud to support and celebrate events that bring Staplehurst together, and the Light It Up Tractor Parade has once again shown just how much community-led initiatives can brighten our village – quite literally.



Thank you to everyone who took part or came along to support. We look forward to many more community events in the year ahead. *Staplehurst Parish Council*

Staplehurst Emergency Help Team – Supporting the Light It Up Tractor Parade

While the illuminated tractors were the stars of the show on Saturday 21 December, the Staplehurst Emergency Help Team (SEHT) were working quietly in the background to help the Light It Up Tractor Parade take place safely.

SEHT's role focused on coordinating temporary road closures and marshalling key points along the route, ensuring safe movement for the parade while minimising disruption for residents and road users. Preparation took place in advance, with volunteers briefed, positioned and linked through agreed operational plans.

Our thanks go first and foremost to our SEHT volunteers, who gave up their time on a cold December evening to provide a calm, professional presence throughout the event. Their teamwork, local knowledge and reliability were key to the smooth running of the parade.

We would also like to thank SE Kent RAYNET, whose support helped align and strengthen our communications systems on the night. Their expertise ensured clear, resilient communication between teams along the route, which is vital for effective coordination and safety during live events.

Events like this highlight the importance of strong planning, trained volunteers and dependable communications in supporting community activities. SEHT are proud to play a practical role in helping Staplehurst events run safely and successfully.

Our thanks also go to the event organisers, tractor drivers and Staplehurst Parish Council for their cooperation and support.

Staplehurst Emergency Help Team

Total Raised: approx. £22,000. Total in Staplehurst & Marden(MBC License 25/04113): £5,463.74

McCabe Day Centre

Caroline Highwood, January 2026

The recent Christmas festivities were much enjoyed by our members. We had a full scale Sunday roast lunch, entertained by a choir, who sang a lot of traditional carols, which we were able to join in with. Then we had our Thursday Christmas party. This time, we had a professional entertainer who sang a lot of the modern American standards – and again we joined in as we recognised the words. Both lunches were full Christmas lunches of turkey with all the trimmings. We regularly provide lunches at the McCabe Day Centre for residents of the village, aged over 60. The cost is kept relatively low, as all of the work is done by volunteers. On a Thursday, we offer a freshly cooked two-course meal with tea and coffee. It is a chance for members to come together and to meet and make new friends, as well as enjoying a nourishing meal. Transport is available if needed. We also provide Sunday roast lunches once a month, and an occasional outing or tea-party. We are well looked after by businesses in the village, and are very grateful for the support we get from Crouch the butcher's and the Adam and Eve Farm Shop. Spar has provided many vouchers which has allowed us to acquire a lot of raffle prizes for free. Last, but not least, the Newlyn Trust charity has funded food safety training for our volunteers, to make sure we keep our members safe. We thank all involved, it makes us feel cherished to benefit from so much support. We can accommodate up to 36 members, and if anyone is interested, on behalf of themselves, or a family member, they should contact Caroline Highwood, chairperson, 01580 892787, chighwood5@gmail.com. Equally, if anyone is interested in volunteering, either to help in the kitchen or dining room, or as an escort or driver for the minibus, please contact me on the same email.



STAPLEHURST LADIES CHOIR

Sarah Gormley 07841 582171
staplehurstladieschoir@gmail.com or
Jenny Burton 07780 678201
Jennydee7@hotmail.co.uk

The Staplehurst Ladies Choir is a community choir – a group of ladies coming together to enjoy and experience the pleasure of singing. No audition – no need to be able to read music – and new members are always welcome. We sing a wide range of songs from pop to classical, musical theatre to folk - something for everyone to enjoy. We work towards performing a couple of informal concerts a

year in aid of local causes and we are also invited to sing at village coffee mornings and other community events. We meet on Tuesday evenings 8.00 – 9.15pm (during term time) in the United Reformed Church School Room (Chapel Lane entrance). You are welcome to come along for a FREE TASTER SESSION and if you decide you would like to join us there is a monthly fee of £15 to cover our costs. So, if you enjoy singing along to the radio? Or singing in the shower? Then come and join us! You can also find us on Facebook!

Staplehurst Society

archive@staplehurstsociety.org

Staplehurst Society came into being in 1974, the result of the hard work of Mrs. J Wyatt, who on hearing of the proposal to demolish Surrenden House and build 37 houses on the plot, wrote to the parish council and Maidstone Borough Council protesting about these plans. This caught the attention of both the local and national press. As a result of this Mrs Wyatt decided to hold a public meeting at her house, but there was such demand from the residents that the meeting was held in the old village hall. At the meeting she suggested forming a village protection society to support the Parish Council. Mrs. Wyatt kept her eye on the planning proposals over the years and in 1974 the Staplehurst Society was born. **The History Group:** This group looks after the Village Archive, we collect and catalogue documents, photographs, books, postcards and maps all connected to Staplehurst. Every item that comes to us is logged, numbered, placed into an Archive quality, acid free envelope and copied onto our computed database. Photographs are logged into a ledger with a short description and numbered. Once a year we try to put on a slide show in the United Reformed Church. Our next presentation will be held in May '26 where we will take a look into the people that have lived in Staplehurst. We are looking for a volunteer to help work on our website. If you feel you are able to please get in touch with us. It would be greatly appreciated



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