From the Chair (Garry Folbigg)

It's that time of the month again where I grumble about dog poo, speeding motorists and hedges growing over footpaths so as I know you have heard it all before, I will duly bypass it.

I would like to say a big thank you from all the council to our very own litter and poop bin fairy Marion Davies. Without her continual vigilance on the litter and poop bin situation we could all be faced with litter in our gardens and stinky overflowing poop bins. Thank you, Marion, for all that you do around the village.

There has been a massive spike in crime around North Beds villages and South Cambridgeshire over the last couple of months and although the Police are doing what they can to keep it in check we are now hearing that some villages are taking alternative measures to try and keep their communities safe.
I am of the understanding that a private security firm has been employed by a neighbouring village to try and overcome issues by showing a presence around the village and keeping an eye on anything out of the ordinary. I can understand it when it can take such a long time for a response from our regular police.
Alternative practices are also being talked about across the border where villagers are being used to patrol their area and issued with a police radio unit so as they can be directly in touch with the Police for a better response.
Thankfully and hopefully not speaking too soon we seem to have escaped the brunt of these criminal incursions thus far but sooner or later I am sure we will fall foul somewhere.
Neighbourhood watch is in place within the village and I feel sure they are active at the current time, but should we perhaps be thinking along the same lines as other villages as being proactive is a far better cure for crime than being reactive.
If you have any views or suggestions for our village, I would be pleased to hear from you.
We have seen some fly tipping in recent weeks and would ask you all to keep your eyes open and should you see a vehicle fly tipping please report it.

We, like all government offices are due for an election this May, should anyone wish to stand for any of the Parish council positions then please make the parish clerk aware of your interest. We must notify the Borough shortly if we intend to have an election or if the current council are willing to continue to stand. The sooner we know the easier it is to put in place as it is not a cheap exercise to carry out and we need to account for that within our budget. I can tell you that we believe last time we had a Parish Council election was over 20 years ago!

Best wishes
Garry

ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Dear Friends

As I write this, we are enjoying fantastic weather for this time of the year, the days are lengthening, and the skies are beautiful. The spring flowers are beginning to appear to brighten the countryside and gardens, a wonderful setting for February, the romantic month of the year. I have spent the last few days meeting up with several wedding couples who are looking to get married in our churches this year and the hope and expectations that they bring with them are infectious and exciting.
February is the month when we remember St Valentine. The first official Saint Valentine's Day was declared on 14th of February by Pope Gelasius in 496, in memory of a 3rd century martyred priest in Rome. It is believed that the young priest rose to distinction after betraying Emperor Claudius in 270 AD by conducting illegitimate wedding ceremonies in the capital. This gained him unwelcome notoriety, which became Bishop Valentine's downfall. He was jailed and ultimately beheaded, but not before he fell in love with the jailer's daughter. It is thought that on the evening of his execution the bishop passed her a note which read "from your Valentine". This story has blossomed into the defining tradition of Valentine's Day.

The Christian faith also has its foundation in love. The love of a God who sent his Son into the world to live and die for us.

It is this belief that, as a Christian, I hang onto in the ups and downs of life, but I also believe that we can see this Christian love in the actions and kindnesses of those around us.

I cannot begin to thank people individually for their cards, support and help in the last difficult months and so I am using this letter to express that thanks.

1 John 4:7 *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.*

Funded by a villager who loves to read the newsletter and keep up to date with all the local news.

Love and Blessings,

Revd Nicki Bland

CHURCH SERVICES

3 February, 9.00am, Parish Communion
17 February, 9.00am, Parish Communion
3 March, 9.00am, Parish Communion

CHURCH LIGHTING

Well we started the new year with All Saints church kindly lit by John Ryan in memory of his Labrador Paddy who sadly died last year. Also, we had two kind sponsors who prefer to remain anonymous. If you would like to mark a special occasion or remember someone by lighting the church contact Gill Shaw on 376530. All we ask for is a minimum donation of £10.
A big thank you to all our kind sponsors in 2018 and we look forward to hearing from you again in 2019.

Friends of All Saints' church 200 club

This month's winners were as follows:-

1st prize	£80	John & Cathy Phillips
2nd prize	£40	Tracy Richards
3rd prize	£20	Bryan & Tracy Kitchen
4th prize	£10	Louise James

If you would like to join or would like further details, please give a call on 376530, or email me at clive50shaw@btinternet.com

AN EVENING WITH CHRISTINE WALKDEN, CELEBRITY GARDNER

Saturday 16 February 2019, 7 for 7.30pm at St Andrew's Church, Great Staughton
A fundraising evening for the Benefice of St Andrews, St Nicolas and All Saints' Churches. Tickets: £12.50, available from Marion Davies: 01234 376713, marion.j.davies@btinternet.com

BAPTIST CHURCH

www.**littlestaughtonbaptist.org.uk**

Sunday Services (10.30am and 6.00pm)

3 February am: Rev Roger Watkins
pm: Mr John Martin
10 February am: Mr Paul Davies
pm: Mr Robert Read
17 February am: Mr Andrew Rome
pm: Mr Andrew Rome
24 February am: Mr Graham Tolley
pm: Mr David Blake

Midweek Meeting
Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm

Fellowship and Coffee Morning
Wednesday mornings at 10.00am
All welcome

Livewires
Thursday evenings at 6.15pm -7.15pm
for children aged 5 - 11 years.
Livewires half term break, 14 February

Help with *Maths Revision*
If you are taking GCSE or A Level Maths this Summer
and would like to put some questions to an experienced
Maths Tutor, free drop-in sessions will be held in the Baptist Chapel
during the Easter holidays.
Sessions will be taken by a DBS checked professional Tutor, a member of the
Baptist Church and will run from 9.45am to 11.45am on Thursday,11 April and Tuesday, 16 April.
Please feel free to turn up, no booking is required. Parents are welcome to come along, and coffee will be available while you wait.

VILLAGE HALL

Wine Tasting with Meal: Saturday 16 February 2019

Book your tickets now for our fun Wine Tasting evening with Meal on Saturday 16 February, 7.00 for 7.30pm. The price is £25.00 per person which includes an aperitif and a three-course dinner with wine. If you would like to be part of the fun please contact Brenda Foster on 01234 376302 / 07799 100984 or Jan Sweatman on 01234 376606 / 07841 027317, before 11 February.

Afternoon Tea

The next meetings are 2.00 to 3.00 pm on:

15th February
15th March
Come along for a natter and catch up over a cup (or two) of tea or coffee. Please do join us for only £1.00 per person.

Everyone welcome

VILLAGE LITTER PICK

Saturday 2nd March, meeting in the Village Hall car park at 10.00am. All help welcome! Any queries to Marion Davies: 01234 376713

LADIES PAMPER NIGHT Friday 29 March 2019

Save the date! More details to follow.

SAFARI SUPPER

This year's Safari Supper is scheduled for Saturday 22nd June and planning for the event will start soon. As well as being a great night out, over the years the Safari Supper has raised thousands of pounds for local and national charities. However, success on the night is dependent on a lot effort by all involved and more volunteers are needed to ensure that this popular village occasion can continue in the future.

If you would like to help, please contact Paul Foster on 01234 376302.

OPEN GARDENS EVENT

Little Staughton Village Hall Committee are planning to hold an open gardens event again on Sunday 16th June 2019. All those who took part or gave their time when we held our inaugural event back in 2017 would all agree that it was an enjoyable and fun occasion.

Your garden doesn't have to be a showpiece, just accessible. So, if you want to know more about opening your garden or helping out in some other way, please ring Brenda Foster on 01234 376302 or 07799
100984.email Brenda@paulmfoster.plus.com

KIMBOLTON COUNTRY FAYRE & CLASSIC CAR SHOW

Sunday 14th July 2019. An exciting day out for the whole family at Kimbolton Castle. Now in its 28th glorious year. Amongst the new attractions – Guido Louis – Equestrian Stunt & Tackless Show. www.kimboltoncountryfayre.com

PUB QUIZ DATES

11th February, 25th February, 11th March, 25th March. All at the Crown starting at 8.30 pm.

Maximum of 6 people per team, £2pp – 50% to cost of food and 50% to winning team. For more information, please contact Duncan Brightman on 07931 567175.

MIXED ABILITY HATHA YOGA CLASSES

Little Staughton Village Hall, Colmworth Road, MK44 2BX

Mixed ability, every Wednesday 10 – 11.30 am. Learn correct breathing, asana, body awareness/alignment, meditation and relaxation.

Contact Linda Tongue 01480 350345 or 07733343702 E. lindatongue@yahoo.co.uk

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A NEW YEAR CHALLENGE?

Your Community Charity Pre-School needs some help.

We have been open for 10 years and our building is now looking a little sorry for itself. We recently held a Christmas raffle which raised an amazing amount of money £708.40 to go towards the repair costs.

We are looking for a volunteer to be a **Project Manager** to get assessments/quotes for the work needed. Then source and apply for grants to repair the building. Finally organising the work that needs to be done to take us forward.

If you think you can help us, then please contact: Jane Browning (01234) 376100.

COLMWORTH AND NEIGHBOURS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

15th February Lee Evans will talk about Concorde a magnificent aircraft

15th March Romano-British curse tablets

All at Colmworth Village Hall starting 7.30 pm

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

I have recently received the following from the police:

We have been advised of a letter doing the rounds in Northants and would like to raise your attention to it. The letter claims to be from the Department of Housing & Agriculture and is offering funding for alarms, CCTV and fire safety equipment for residents over the age of 55.
As well as being a bogus Government department, Bedfordshire Police can confirm that no such funding is in existence and this looks to be a new version of the cold-call phone calls previously reported to us. Sending a letter is not illegal and it gets around the law by getting YOU to invite a sales representative into YOUR home where they then will apply hard-sell tactics with a view to you signing up for goods you don't really want at an extortionate price. This is not acceptable behaviour and Bedfordshire Police are concerned that some people may find themselves in a situation that is difficult to get out of.

Should you receive such a letter; please can you report it on 101. If you are contacted by a sales representative, please decline any offer of an appointment. After all, if you were not in the market for any of the above products before you received the letter, why would you be now?
However, if you are thinking about improving home security, please find an approved trader at the national Trading Standards website **www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk** and remember to get 3 quotes to compare prices.

Report information on: **101 or email** cibintel@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk**.** If a crime in action or property or persons at risk dial **999**.

Cherry Protheroe
NHW Co-ordinator for Little Staughton

Neighbourhood Watch is Our Watch!

Diary Dates 2019

February 16th Saturday: Wine Tasting with Meal

March 2nd Saturday: Village Litter Pick

March 19th Tuesday: Village Hall AGM

March 29th Friday: Pamper Night Village Hall

June 16th Sunday: Open Gardens Event

June 22nd Saturday: Safari supper

Parish Council meetings:

All at 7.30 pm at Baptist Chapel Meeting Room

February 20th Wednesday

March 20th Wednesday

April 17th Wednesday

Any issues you wish to raise, please forward to The Clerk by the MONDAY PRIOR to the meeting at lspcclerk1@gmail.com

All copy for the **March 2019** issue to **Vicki Airs** at No 10, Spring Hill or email (vickiairs@aol.com) by **Monday 25th February 2019**
Thank you.

Funded by a villager who loves to read the newsletter and keep up to date with all the local news.