LITTLE STAUGHTON NEWS – March 2026

littlestaughtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Council

Hello, Little Staughton! I really can't believe that I am writing the newsletter for March already. As my dear old granny always used to say, don't wish your time away, boy - it goes so much more quickly when you're older…… she wasn't wrong there.

The recent weather patter seems to keep proving that summers and winters are slowly becoming a thing of the past. Like many other places around the world, we are turning into a country that has wet seasons and dry season, and nothing in-between. As I write this, I am at the top of a mountain in Italy, with record snow for years yet here I am skiing in near 20°C heat…. Crazy!

On my weekly check of the playing field, I discovered that there was an annoyingly abnormal amount of dog mess. This has unfortunately led the parish council to conclude that if the situation does not improve over the next month, we will have to stop dogs accessing the field. Believe me, this isn't a decision we wanted to reach. But the playing field is for everyone and it is the thoughtless few who spoil it for the considerate many.

Now, I am led to understand that we have a few newbies in the village again…. To all of you, welcome. The Crown is a great place to meet people and you won't find better fish and chips in the county! And for your general day-to-day needs, the girls at Top End farm shop have you covered. From cereal to tooth paste, from a garden bench to dog food, they have it.

The Parish Council still has one place left to fill, so if you feel that you could help the village, please let myself or the clerk know. (All contact details are on the village notice board or the village website)

Finally, have a great March, Little Staughton, stay safe and keep smiling!

James A Baker

Chairman, Little Staughton Parish Council

Village Litter Pick

Saturday 7th March, meeting in the Village Hall Car Park at 10.00 am. All help welcome!

Any queries to Marion Davies: 01234 376713, marion.j.davies@btinternet.com

Village Hall AGM

Tuesday 17th March, 7.00 pm. Please come along - we are always in need of volunteers!

Easter Bingo at the Hall

Eyes down for a full house on **Saturday 28th March!** 7 for 7.30 pm, entry **Free** – buy your bingo cards on the night. Bring your own refreshments.

Top End Village Stores

You are all more than welcome to use the bottle bank and clothing bank (sorry, the other bins are not for public use)

However, we do please ask you to take care when driving into the yard area. Now that we will soon be heading towards the start of the holiday season, we are beginning to have children on site, so please keep an eye on them running about or riding their bikes.

Kind regards

Jim, Rachael and Sarah

Hobby Club

The next meeting will take place on **Friday 6th March** at the usual time of 1:00 – 4:00 There is a small charge of £2 to cover the Hall costs and refreshments.

Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible. Any queries, please contact Jan Sweatman (07841 027317)

Everyone welcome!

Annual Golf Day

'Same day - different course!'

Unfortunately we've had to move this year's Little Staughton golf day. It clashes with a charity event at Colmworth so we will be returning to Mowsbury golf club, Bedford.

Same date - **Saturday 19th September.**

The good news is that it is now even better value! £38 buys you coffee and a bacon roll, 18 holes and the chance of prizes :) Any standard of player will fit in fine

£10 deposit secures your place. Emails to mikemoor315@gmail.com or call 07712 657682 for more details.

Mike Moor

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All Saints' Church Services

Full details of services - including those which continue to be available via Zoom - can also be found on the benefice website www.swhw.co.uk and the church noticeboard.

Here at Little Staughton

Sunday 1st March, 9.00 am, Parish Communion

Sunday 15th March, 9.00 am, Parish Communion

Palm Sunday 29th March, **10.00 am**, Benefice Communion

Church Lighting

In February All Saints' Church was kindly lit by three groups: Ewan and Julie Wilkinson to celebrate the arrival of their first grandchild, Finlay; Win Woodhams remembered Sonny by lighting the church; and Mark and Jan Hodgson welcomed the arrival of their first grandchild too, Emily Louise.

If you would like to mark a special occasion or remember someone by lighting the church, please contact Gill Shaw on 376530. All we ask is a minimum donation of £15 per week.

Friends of All Saints' Church 200 club

February's winners were:-

1st	£80	Kerry Grime
2nd	£40	Joanne Peddell Grant
3rd	£20	Sue Robins
4th	£10	Natalie Doughty

We are always looking for new members so if you would like details or have any queries, please call me on 376530, or email me at clive50shaw@btinternet.com. We are able to take BACS, cash, cheques or contactless.

Church Dinner

Due to unforeseen circumstances the dinner has been cancelled for this year. We have however set the date for next year so make a note of it now - 27th February 2027.

Afternoon Tea

It was good to see all of you who were able to come to the February meeting - we hope to see you again this month.

Please do come along for a natter over a mug (or two) of tea or coffee with biscuits and cake. We will also be serving hot cross buns this month!!

The next meetings, all between 2.00 and 3.00 pm, are on

Friday 20th March

Friday 17th April

Friday 15th May

The cost is still only £1.00 per person. This is a non-profit event with all excess funds being either donated to village events or to a charity chosen by tea club attendees.

Everyone welcome!

Village Hall photo competition

Many thanks to everyone who entered the photo competition in August last year. The 28 winning pictures taken in Little Staughton have now been put up in the Village Hall. We hope that you enjoy them.

Free Village Hall Library

The village hall library will be open for both the afternoon tea and the hobby club if you would like to donate, borrow or exchange books and jigsaws; there is also a small selection of children's books. No need to come to either event unless you want to - the library is situated in the entrance lobby.

Greensands Writers' Group

Based in Little Staughton, GWG holds free virtual (Zoom/Teams) meetings on the third Tuesday of every month. The next meeting is on **March 17th** from 7pm-9pm.

If you are interested or to see what the group has been writing recently, get details at greensandswriters.wixsite.com/website or email greensandswriters@gmail.com

Keysoe Village Hall Events

An Evening with actor Craig Garner will take place on **Friday 14th March** at Keysoe Village Hall, starting from 7.00pm.

Craig will share behind-the-scenes stories from his career, including performing with Dawn French, meeting Peter Capaldi (Dr Who), and appearing in major productions such as Harry Potter, Star Wars, Maleficent, Snow White and the Huntsman, Woman in Black and The Nutcracker.

Tickets are £10 per person and include one free drink and cheese nibbles. To book, contact Nikki on 07774 456825 or nikki@oliviabea.co.uk, or Penny on 01234 378878.

Plant Sale Saturday 25th April 10am - 12:00

Jumble Sale Saturday 9th May 10am - 12:00

Both these events will have refreshments and raise money for the Village Show at Keysoe on **Saturday 5th September**.

Any questions? Contact Nikki or Penny (see above) or Charmain on 07745 607400.

Baptist Church

www.littlestaughtonbaptist.org

Sunday services during the month

March 1st	Pastor Jon Magee
March 8th	Songs of Praise
March 15th	Mr. Andrew Jones (Communion)
March 22nd	Pastor Stan Evers
March 29th	Pastor Stan Evers

All services start at 10:30am unless otherwise stated.

Other events

Wednesday 4th March Drop-in Coffee morning at 10am

Come and have a cup of coffee, a piece of cake/toast and a chat. Everyone welcome!

Sunday 8th March – Songs of Praise.

Join us as we praise God together and sing your favourite hymns. Why not choose one yourself for us to sing and then come and sing it with us?

Call me on 07805492426 to let me know what your choice of hymn is and I will see what we can do to include it.

I look forward to seeing you there.

March 12th The Thursday Lunch Club

Live in Little Staughton? Then why not join us for some good conversation, company, and a freshly cooked two-course lunch?

If you would like to come, please call Hazel on 07971488186 or Carol on 07763124155.

Thought for the month

When you are hopefully reading this, we will be in that part of the Christian calendar that we call Lent, the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday and the exact amount of time that Jesus spent in the wilderness during His time here on earth. So what is Lent and what is it all about?

It is meant to be a time when we devote ourselves and time to prayer, fasting and giving. When we fast, we make a sacrifice. I recently took an assembly in a local school and was asked to talk about Lent so I asked the children what they could give up and sacrifice for the 40 days of Lent.

One pupil said they could give up fast food. Good answer. Another little girl put her hand up and said she could give up going to school for the next 40 days. Her fellow pupils thought that a great idea!

When we talk about giving we mean giving something to someone who is in need. The reason Lent ends on Maundy Thursday is that it leads us into the Easter period when we see the ultimate example of sacrifice and giving. Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice and gave up His own life for me and for you.There is a verse in the bible which says:

"**the Son of Man(Jesus) did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many**".

Mark 10:45

Jesus sacrificed His own life for me and for you so that we might have all our sins forgiven and be restored to a right relationship with God when we trust in Him. As we think about this time of year, let's remember the real reason for Lent and Easter. Not giving up going to school but Jesus giving up and sacrificing His own life for us.

Andrew Jones

Pub Quiz at The Crown

The final pub quizzes of the season will take place on (Mondays) March 2nd, 16th and 30th at The Crown. The start time is 8 PM.

Entry costs just £3 a head which includes an excellent bar supper. Teams may consist of up to six members and everyone is welcome. Anyone without a team can easily be found one! There is a small cash prize for the winning team. Any queries, please call Paul Foster on 01234 376302/07503 648214.

Special Quiz Night!

Good news for anyone suffering post-seasonal quiz withdrawal pains! There will be a special quiz at The Crown on Saturday 9th May, starting at 8:30 pm.

Monies raised will go to the church fabric fund (which includes restoration of the bells).

Teams can consist of up to 6 members. £3 entry fee per head which includes nibbles. There will also be a raffle.

All queries to Mary on 07876467151.

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North Beds Ramblers: We are 50!

Come and join us for a walk. We walk every Saturday afternoon (approx. 6 miles)

and Saturdays twice a month in the morning starting at 10:00 am for approx. 12 miles

Or perhaps try our 'Ramble' on the first Saturday morning of each month, starting at 10:am, slightly shorter, slower pace.

Please note change of start time for afternoon walks – Spring walks start 13:30

This month's walks

March 7th am Ramble**,** Cranfield, 5 miles

pm Wootton 6.5 miles 🎂 🎂 🎂 birthday walk no 3

March 14th am Milton Keynes, 10 miles,

pm Wilden, 7 miles

March 21st pm Carlton, 7 miles

March 28th am Old Warden 12 miles,

pm Cranfield, 6.5 miles,

Contact; Margaret Sawyer 07780933729
Facebook; North Beds Ramblers

https://www.ramblers.org.uk/north-bedfordshire

The Really Useful Family History Show

A remind that the East Anglia Really Useful Family History Show is back with an even bigger and better show on **Saturday 18th April** 10am – 4.30pm at the Burgess Hall, St Ives.

This FREE event will be jam-packed with exhibitors and experts from fourteen family history societies covering East Anglia and beyond for help and advice.

Receive help researching military ancestors.. Browse thousands of old postcards and buy images of where your ancestors lived

Buy genealogy supplies, books, maps, data CDs, war medals and more. Attend a talk with renowned DNA expert Donna Rutherford. Find ways to break down your brick walls at our research session hosted by a panel of experts.

Take part in tutorials with Family Tree Maker and learn about their software and the FamilySearch add-on to their website.

Join us for a great day whether you are an experienced family historian or a complete novice. Follow us on Facebook #rufhsstives2026 for more information

East Park Solar Power Plant

We are now at a crucial stage in the East Park Energy application. **Tuesday 17th March** tis the key date that will shape how the Examination process – timetabled to run until late August – unfolds.

This will be a major opportunity to show the strong community opposition to this massive solar and battery complex.

If you are one of the nearly 1,300 individuals or businesses registered as an Interested Party, you should have received the lengthy 'Rule 6' letter last week setting out all the important information. Key dates/details as follows::

Tuesday 10th March: Deadline to register with Planning Inspectorate

Tuesday 17th March: preliminary meeting and Open Floor Hearing

Wednesday 18th March: Hearings on Development Consent Order, BMV land and soil, and construction traffic

Venue: King's House Conference Centre, Bedford

This is our opportunity to demonstrate community opposition and shape the Examination stage. See more details, including an opportunity to suggest locations for the Planning Inspector's site visit, at https://stopeastparkenergy.com/be-part-of-the-critical-east-park-hearings/

You can attend virtually but **being present in the room sends a stronger message and demonstrates serious local engagement**.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at King's House, Bedford for these crucial events.

Parish Council Meetings

March 18th

All meetings take place on Wednesdays in The Chapel Schoolroom, starting at 7.30pm.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 7th March Village Litter Pick

Tuesday 17th March, 7.00 pm, Village Hall AGM

Saturday 28th March, 7 for 7.30 pm, Bingo at the Hall

Tuesday 21st April, 7.00 pm, Church APCM

Saturday 19th September Annual Village Golf Day

Saturday 21st November Fashion Show, Little Staughton Village Hall. Full details to follow

Newsletter

Please send copy for the April 2026 issue to Paul Valentine at Elmhurst, Spring Hill or pvalenti1945@gmail.com by Saturday 28th March. Thank you