

STAVERTON NEWS

WINTER 2018



CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICES

Over the Christmas period, everyone is welcome at our services:

Sunday 16th December

6.00pm Carol service at St Mary Magdalen's Church, Horse Road, Hilperton Marsh

Sunday 23rd December

6.00pm Carol service at St Michael's Church, The Knap, Hilperton

Christmas Eve

3.30pm Crib service at St Mary Magdalen's Church, Horse Road, Hilperton Marsh

5.00pm Crib service and Christingle at St Michael's Church, The Knap,

8.00pm Christmas night Communion at St Mary Magdalen's Church, Horse Road, Hilperton Marsh

11.30pm Christmas night Communion at St Michael's Church, The Knap, Hilperton

Christmas Day

10.00am Christmas Day Family Communion at St Michael's Church, The Knap, Hilperton

Older person's standard Wiltshire concessionary bus pass



Information about renewal of bus passes

From 1 January 2019, not all bus passes will be renewed automatically. This is because there are approximately 20,000 passes in circulation that have not been scanned on a bus prior to renewal, indicating that the pass has not been used. In these cases the passes will not be automatically renewed.

If your pass is not automatically renewed but you would still like to receive one to use in the future, please contact Wiltshire Council on **0300 456 0100** and we can arrange for your new pass to be issued.

Wiltshire Council regrets that any charges which may occur on bus journeys are non refundable.

Wiltshire Council
Where everybody matters

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

The Staverton Spring Clean Litter-pick is provisionally set for March 17th 2019.

If you'd like to be on the mailing list to get a reminder then please get in touch with Trevor Carbin. (His contact details are on p.10)

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MEET COLIN

Colin, also known as Colin Bear, is a 7 year old golden retriever who lives in Staverton. He is somewhat of a local celebrity, attracting attention wherever he goes and making friends with; many a human, most dogs, a handful of cats and even a pigeon!

His owners Nathan and Faye say of Colin,

“His friendly personality and calm demeanour just oozes elegance. He is of course very handsome too. We are told this a lot on our walks and it is almost a daily occurrence. Even people without dogs stop to stroke Colin and say how lovely he is.

Just a simple ‘good morning’ from a resident whilst walking Colin around the estate always reminds us how lucky we are to live in such a friendly neighbourhood with a real community spirit.”

If you would like your dog to feature in Staverton News, contact the editor at:

editornatasha91@hotmail.com



THESTFIELD DRIVE PLAY AREA — IDEAS PLEASE!

This wonderful Staverton facility is provided and maintained by Wiltshire County Council. It is located at the far end of Thestfield Drive.

Local residents struggle to remember when it was last used by who it was intended for. Some might say it lacks a bit in the imagination department...

So please write into our editor if you can suggest any games or activities that it could be used for, other than one-legged toadstool standing. (Just remember there's not “Muchroom” ...)

Just who comes up with these ideas?

Lindsay Shaw



PARISH MATTERS

Thankfully, it has been quite an uneventful summer for the Parish Council and I think it may be due to our fantastic hot balmy weather. It is now time to wrap up against our colder weather and look forward to our Festive Season.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

External Audit 2017/18

We are pleased to announce that the external audit by Accountants PFK Littlejohn "gave no cause for concern and that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have been met".

3 Year Grass Cutting Contracts

The village grass cutting contracts were awarded to White Horse Properties on 17th September 2018. The contracts will run for a period of 3 years to 2021. Maintenance of the Play Area and Thestfield roundabout was £3,500 for a 3 year contract and maintenance of the sports ground was £16,500 for a 3 year contract.

New Noticeboard at The Slipway

A replacement noticeboard was installed during the summer. The old noticeboard having been donated to Staver-ton several years ago by Chippenham Town Council, had deteriorated to the point that it was almost impossible to see through the screen, the old fibre backing board had become a comfy home to every variety of insect and it leaked like a sieve. We hope the new one makes it easier to view the notices.

Budget Setting and Precept Requirement for 2019/20

At the meeting of the Parish Council Finance Committee on 14th November 2018, members were aware that due to unexpected problems with the central heating system in the village hall, the Parish Council had little option but to replace the boiler and pipework as it did not conform to regulations and health and safety standards, and was costing more than necessary to run. Although this charge has reduced the Precept reserves, it was considered necessary for this type of emergency. Estimated expenditure to end of March 2019 came to **£28,947** and Income for the same period was estimated at **£28,153** leaving a shortfall of £794.

The Precept for 2018/19 was **£22,697** but the number of Band D properties provided by Wiltshire Council to calculate the Precept for 2019/20 was less than the previous year at 687.7 (previous year 689.04). In view of the shortfall and lower than anticipated reserves, it was agreed that the Parish Precept levy needed to be increased by 6% to £34.92 (from £32.94). If it is multiplied by 687.7 (the number of Band D Properties supplied by Wiltshire Council), this would bring in a Precept of **£24,012**, an increase of £1,315 to cover the shortfall at

Year End March 2019. Councillors pointed out that the Parish Levy has not been increased for several years.

Capital expenditure including the new boiler and notice-board was £5,568. As at October 2018 the reserves were Precept account £12,493, the Gratuity Account £4,804, the Field Maintenance Fund £10,116 and a total of £65,000 was held as investments with Julian Hodge Bank.

RENEWAL OF PLANNING PERMISSION FOR 75 HOUSES AT THE STAVERTON TRIANGLE

A large delegation of residents attended the Parish Council meeting in September and gave a convincing argument not to grant planning permission to Persimmon Homes and since then several utility companies and other organisations affected by this application have also objected strongly for very different reasons. The Parish Council also added its objections to this application and for the moment the application has stalled.

TREE PLANTING

Over the last few years several trees have died around the village due to over strimming, drought and disease. Wiltshire Councillor Trevor Carbin has obtained 6 oak saplings from the WW1 Commemoration Scheme and part funding from the Bradford on Avon Area Board to remove the dead trees and plant the new ones. The Parish Council has agreed to help with this scheme once the final cost is known.

BATH CLEAN AIR ZONE

This scheme has been raised by Bath and North East Somerset Council to deal with pollution in the centre of Bath but it will have a financial and heavy traffic burden on towns and villages surrounding Bath. Discussions are ongoing.

BUS PASSES

Approximately 20,000 concessionary bus passes have not been used at all since they were issued and therefore Wiltshire Council will not be automatically supplying replacements to these seniors when they expire. However anyone who qualifies can still apply directly if they not receive a replacement. All regular users will be issued with replacements automatically and do not need to do anything. (See page 2 for a poster with more information regarding bus passes.)

STAVERTON NEWSLETTER

Cllr Lindsay Shaw has joined forces with our excellent new editor Natasha Webster to improve the quality and content of the newsletter. Please write in to Natasha and send letters, poems, historical articles and anything else you would like to tell us about. We want to hear from you.

The newsletter costs the Parish Council £1,000 every year to produce and inform the community. However Superior, our printer, does not charge us the full cost and refunds the £1,000 back to the Parish Council to be spent solely on community issues. To date, this fund has contributed nearly £9,000 back to Staverton to benefit our community. The benefits have been staggering and it has funded play equipment, village hall improvements and repairs, a Defibrillator cabinet, landscaping, bulb planting, new flooring in the village hall, a noticeboard for the football team, extensive shoring up of the hard court fencing and cleaning the surface and many more projects. This is just one local business which has supported our village over the years. Others include, Cereal Partners, Howden Joinery, Mole Valley and several others. The Parish Council thanks these businesses for their generous support to make your community safe and a lovely place to live.

Unfortunately, a couple more volunteers have now moved away and we miss their support but we cannot thank enough Jo Middleton, our very own landlady of The Old Bear Pub in Staverton who is a very busy lady and finds time to take bookings on the village hall. She has not

had an easy year but regardless she continues to give many hours of her time in support. Thanks Jo.

To all these people, our Parish Councillors who volunteer their precious time to improving our community and to all our residents, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



One of Staverton's trees with its autumnal colours. Thank you to Lindsay Shaw for submitting this.

A tasty treat to tickle your taste-buds!

Fruit Cake

Ingredients:

- 8oz (225g) self-raising flour
- 2oz (50g) glacé cherries
- 6oz (125g) margarine or butter
- 6oz (125g) light or dark brown sugar
- 3 eggs
- 2 tablespoons of milk
- 8oz (225g) raisins
- 8oz (225g) sultanas
- 1 tablespoon of golden syrup

Method:

- ◆ Heat the oven to 150 degrees/ Gas Mark 2 and grease a 2lb (900g) loaf tin.
- ◆ Place all the ingredients together in a bowl and beat thoroughly until the mixture is well blended.
- ◆ Put the mixture into the prepared tin, smooth the top and bake in the oven for about 2 hours.
- ◆ Leave the cake to cool for 10 minutes and then turn out to cool on a wire cooling rack.

TIP: Soak the dried fruit in dark rum for a few hours for an even tastier cake.



Friendship Group

This group meets on the second Thursday of each month in St Mary's Church ('The Tin Church') in Horse Road, Hilperton from 2.30 – 4.00pm. It is an opportunity to meet with friends old and new for a chat or to play a game over a cup of tea or coffee. If you prefer, bring along your knitting, crochet, embroidery, colouring book or other activity to do whilst you chat. We don't charge, but welcome donations for the refreshments. Forthcoming dates are 13th December, 10th January and 14th February. More details are available from Anne Rees on 01225 764365 or email reesfam@btinternet.com. Contact Anne if you would like a lift.

SALE OF ST PAUL'S CHURCH IS COMPLETE

As many of you will no doubt be aware, the Church at Staverton closed as a place of worship back in January 2011. Now over 7 years later all due processes are complete and the building has been sold.

It will now be converted into a dwelling as the home of Mr Malcolm Archer - one of the world's leading church musicians. He has had a distinguished career in cathedral music, which has taken him to posts at Norwich, Bristol and Wells Cathedrals, then Organist and Director of Music at St. Paul's Cathedral and Director of Chapel Music at Winchester College. During his time at St. Paul's Cathedral he directed the choir for several State services, including the Tsunami Memorial Service, the London Bombings Service and the 80th Birthday Service for HM The Queen, for which he was invited by Buckingham Palace to compose a special anthem, performed live on BBC1. Malcolm has sent the Village News the following message:

"I am thrilled to be taking on St Paul's as it is a building I fell for as soon as I saw it. It is always sad when churches cease to be used as places of worship and I am very conscious that it is a place which has special memories for so many in

the area, and so I take it on with a real sense of responsibility to care for it and to nurture it in a sympathetic way. I have always wanted to live in a church (probably because I have worked for the Church of England for so many

years) so church buildings have always held a great fascination for me; their history, their atmosphere created by years of worship and both happy and sad occasions, and the stories they can tell. The challenge for me has been to come up with a design for the interior of the building which is sensitive to its original usage and character, but which always makes it practical as a home. I want people to be able to read the building, architecturally speaking, and be able to engage with its history, but the church still needs to be a place of comfort for me and my family."

We wish Malcolm well with his move to Staverton and look forward to welcoming him into our community.



Staverton School

Could you be a School Governor?

*What schools really need is a good mix of people from their local community,
from all walks of life and backgrounds,
who can bring different viewpoints, experience, skills and fresh ideas with them.*

Staverton Church of England Primary School is a good school.

The Governing Body is made up of parents, Church representatives, staff and local community volunteers.

We are currently recruiting new governors.

Could you be a person to help fill these much-needed roles?

The staff and current governors want to make our successful school even better.

Would you like to join us in our quest?

If you have a passion for the education of our children, please contact the school on 01225 782388 for more information or an informal chat.

THOUGHT FROM THE RECTORY

Last March I was delighted to announce the arrival of Luke, our first Grandchild. We are already enjoying seeing him grow and develop and we look forward, with anticipation and hope, to sharing in his life.

Many years ago Isaiah, a prophet, announced that a new, special, baby boy would be born. He did so 700 years before that child, Jesus, arrived in that Bethlehem stable.

Isaiah's prophecy is full of hope. The child to be born would be a "wonderful counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace" (Isaiah Chapter 9: verse 6). This message of hope was in marked contrast to the difficult conditions faced by his listeners, for they were enduring persecution from the despotic king Nebuchadnezzar.

Those people needed a message of hope. They needed to know that God still cared for them and was ultimately in control. Jesus was the ultimate fulfilment of that hope. He still is, for all who will listen today.

Jesus, wonderful counsellor, wants us to bring all our hopes and concerns to him in prayer; for our own lives, for our friends and neighbours, and to seek his guidance and direction for ourselves and for a world in which wisdom and good guidance are really needed.

Jesus, Mighty God yet fully human, is also our Everlasting Father. Through him we are accepted by God as we are, with our faults and failings, and forgiven for our mistakes.

Jesus, Prince of Peace, calls us to live in harmony both with God and one another. He can give us inner peace in the struggles of life and enable us to bring peace to others.

The Good News of Christmas is that God is with us and that chaos and uncertainty, although real, does not have the final answer.

Everyone is welcome at our Christmas services; you will find details elsewhere in this magazine. If you would like to know more about what Jesus said and did and how he can bring you hope and peace today, do consider coming on our "Alpha" Christian exploration course which will begin in January. Look at our website or contact me for details.

With best wishes for Christmas and 2019 to you all,

John.

Rev'd John Rees, Rector, 01225 764365

Email: canalsidebeneficerector@gmail.com

Website: canalsidebenefice.org.uk

IMAGINE...

Grandpa's fallen fast asleep,
emitting mighty snores,
We all have had too much to eat,
dad's dressed as Santa Claus..
The presents have been opened,
Xmas crackers have been pulled..
The festive family spirit,
is alive this Christmas Yule..
The dog is basking in the heat,
he's pinched his favourite spot..
Aunt Ethel's on the sherry,
has imbibed quite a lot!
But no-one minds, they just enjoy
this sense of family..
Perhaps within a perfect life
this is how it's meant to be.
The Queen's speech on the telly,
Festive carols being sung..
The fading of the old year,
for the new one yet begun..
This scene we can all imagine,
e'en the homeless on the street..
who can only dream of Christmas,
under cardboard as they sleep.
Bev' Borresen 2018



EMMAUS SCHOOL

Having said fond farewells to our Year 11 students, Emmaus School welcomed seven new entrants at the start of this new academic year. All have settled in well and are making excellent progress; a testament to the dedication of our early years teaching staff and to the school's strong independent status and family atmosphere. Once again, we find ourselves at maximum capacity and so our need of an extension is greater than ever. Fundraising pushes ahead therefore with various events planned for the year as well as grant applications. To see the extension plans, check out our forthcoming events and find out how you can donate to this project by visiting our website www.emmaus-school.org.uk.

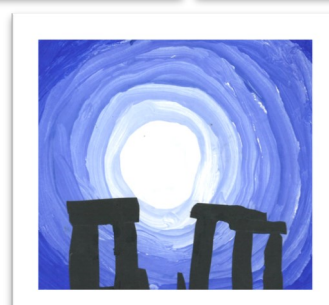
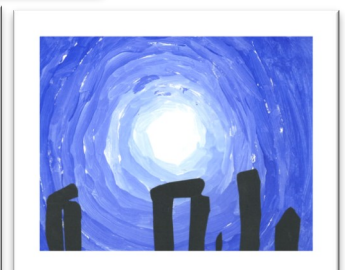
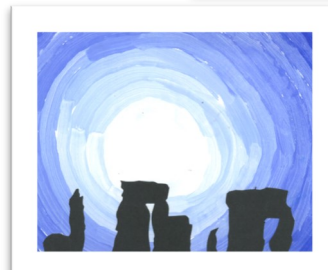
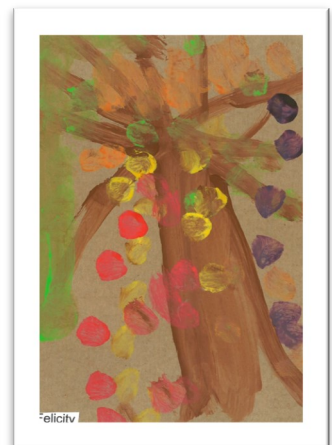
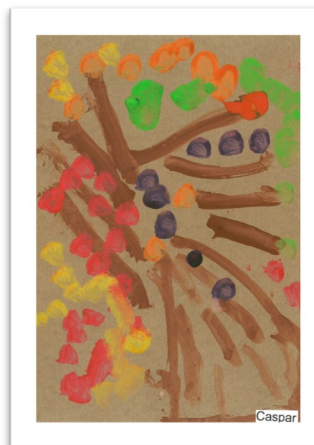
The classes have all been busy working on various topics this term. Class 1 have painted some lovely autumn trees and designed bonfire pictures using torn paper. The class take a weekly walk along the canal and it is always a joy watching the changing seasons. Class 2 and 3 made a visit to Stonehenge as part of their topic on buildings and structures. Later this month, you may see some of them sketching in the village as they go on to look at the work of L.S. Lowry.

Our senior pupils meanwhile, have been studying the iconic wood prints of Japanese artist Katsushika Hokusai, and have gone on to look at the effects of plastic waste on our oceans. A beautiful mural was put together in honour of Hokusai's 'The Wave', using plastic bags to highlight the environmental hazard of plastic.

The School Council has taken responsibility this term for collecting items for the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoebox Appeal. A team of packers will shortly be putting the boxes together in time for them to be shipped out to needy children around the world. Our Year 9, 10 and 11 students have also been exploring citizenship and democracy, and headed off to London to visit the Houses of Parliament to gain a greater understanding of how it all works.

With Christmas fast approaching, the whole school will be taking part in our Advent Service, with carols, recitations and Bible readings to welcome in the season and to celebrate the most joyous news the world has witnessed, the birth of a Saviour!
Happy Christmas!

Right: Some beautiful artwork by some of the pupils at the Emmaus School.



STAVERTON RANGERS FC

With the 2018/19 season now in full swing, it is now time to reflect on the progress the teams have made so far.

The Under 8 section is going from strength to strength. The number of children now playing in this age group has reached 20 plus, so the process of forming another team has begun. On the field the team is very strong, winning the majority of their matches. However, winning isn't everything at this age, with enjoyment and participation the main objectives. Scouts from Southampton FC are regular visitors to the Under 8 matches, with several players being of interest to them.

The Under 9 section is also well subscribed and the Club has 2 teams. The Blue team is a real force within the age group and winning matches is a very regular occurrence. The White team has had the disadvantage of playing every game so far this season away from home. Plenty of travelling for those fantastically loyal parents!

It has been a maiden season for both our Under 10 and Under 12 Girls teams. Despite difficult starts for both teams, good progress is being made as the players get used to playing together, and start to understand their individual roles within the team. It is a work in progress, but lots of positives to be taken so far!

Our well established Under 11 Blue team has coped with the transition to 9 a-side football brilliantly. Playing on a larger pitch, larger goals and the introduction of offside can be a real challenge. They continue to be one of the strongest teams in the Under 11 age group. Our Under 11 White team has found the transition a little more challenging, but with hard work and perseverance, things will hopefully become easier as the season progresses.

Despite the Under 12 Blue team losing their opening fixture, they have recovered to win every game since. They are also into the semi-final of the League Cup. (They won this Cup last season.) The Under 12 White team are having mixed results despite some very encouraging performances. They have recently welcomed a new coach, to bring new ideas to their play.

Overall the Club is in good shape, with over 120 registered players across all age groups.

John Heal

Staverton Rangers FC

The under 9's.



The under 10's.



The under 12's Blue



The under 12's White



WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

Staverton Triangle

The application by Benchmark Development to build 75 houses and flats with access from Blackthorn Way has been refused by Wiltshire Council. Eight reasons were given for the refusal: over-development of the site; noise, ecological and traffic impacts; the lack of an archaeological assessment and of developer contributions to infrastructure; flood risk, and insufficient 'affordable' housing.

This is a victory for local residents: the scheme had generated intense opposition, including a 175-signature petition.

The applicants have the right to appeal, though given the strength of the refusal that would be unlikely to be successful.

Litter-pick

Thank you to those who turned out in October for the autumn clean-up. The turnout was quite small but it was good to see some new faces in the team. We took about eight bags of rubbish to the HRC.

Bath Clean Air Zone

The consultation on the scheme has now closed. On November 28th the Bradford on Avon Area Board held a special meeting to give the town and parish councils, and other interested groups, a chance to discuss their concerns. A submission has gone in to BaNES, pointing out the problems which could be caused in West Wiltshire including on the B3105 through Staverton.

One of the rules for implementing the Clean Air Zones is that there shouldn't be a shunting of the problem onto neighbouring areas!

The Wiltshire Council response also mentioned the difficulty of forecasting how people will react to the charging zone and asked for a joint monitoring regime.

As well as an increase in traffic in our area, especially of HGVs and older, more polluting vehicles which would be liable to the charge, other problems include getting people

to the RUH, and the possibility of losing bus services into Bath if the bus companies were to decide it wasn't economical to upgrade their buses to avoid the charges.

BaNES will make their decision on how to proceed in December. If they go ahead the scheme would be in place by the end of 2020. I'll post updates on the website.

Trees and Remembrance

You may have seen Wiltshire Council contractors working on the Thestfield Drive and Cottles Barton areas, removing dead trees and tidying up the vegetation generally. As mentioned previously, we are now looking at doing some re-planting. *Id Verde* have quoted £1,300 for planting and protecting 15 replacement trees, and I have submitted an application going to the Area Board for £1,000 towards that cost. I hope to see the trees being planted this winter.

We have also been given six oak saplings as part of the Wiltshire Council / Woodland Trust scheme to commemorate the centenary of the Armistice.

These trees are currently resting in my allotment, but the plan is to put them in the open space at The Slipway. They're rather too puny for any formal dedication but perhaps if they survive and prosper we could do something more official in a few years' time.

According to 'The Book of Staverton' by Pete Lavis, seven Staverton men lost their lives in the Great War, together with eight men who worked at the Nestlé factory.

So this is really the last call for any objections to this plan, or alternative suggestions, as the planting needs to be done in the next few months. Thanks again to those who have previously commented.

Finally may I wish a Happy Christmas and a prosperous 2019 to everyone!

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Website: trevorcarbin.mycouncillor.org.uk



Left: Some autumnal trees in Staverton captured by Lindsay Shaw.

THERE ARE TWO SIDES TO THE TRIANGLE

Staverton Triangle, that is! We have all been waiting – perhaps dreading – the day when a new application to develop the Triangle is announced, and it happened this summer. Persimmon Homes applied to build 75 dwellings on the Triangle, with a bridge leading from Blackthorn Way.

There has been a series of events over the past few years on the Triangle – with trees disappearing in spite of tree preservation orders (and no replacement trees planted), a Rights of Way deposition under Section 31 of the Highways Act, numerous ploughings with no apparent purpose or benefit, removal of shrubs and a mysterious fire.

A previous application to develop the Triangle was approved with restrictions and the developers did not follow through, with the result that the application lapsed after ten years. Wiltshire Council intends to de-list this plot of land from its development plan due to the northern edge being in a risk 3 flood zone (the highest). However, this has not yet been put into place. The document that outlines plans for all such plots shows the Triangle as suitable for only 48 dwellings in any case. Perhaps it is the likelihood of de-listing that has prompted the developers to put in such a rushed and ill-thought through plan this time. Many of the supporting documents are old – dating back in some cases to 1999.

However, residents of the Staverton estate are made of strong stuff and within a few days of the planning notice being displayed on only one lamppost, they had set up a dedicated email address and a Facebook page. A group of

residents sat in on the Parish Council meeting and were pleased that the Council unanimously opposed the development. Our Councillor, Trevor Carbin, was present at the meeting. This was followed by the distribution of 270 leaflets door-to-door, weekly coverage in the Wiltshire Times, a paper petition of 175 names and an ePetition of some 200 names. Some residents lodged formal objections on the Wiltshire Council planning portal while others wrote to the planning officer with their objections.

The reasons put forward as objections were far and wide – I don't want to take up the whole magazine! But they included access to the site, traffic congestion in surrounding roads, increased flood risks (especially surface water), ecological reasons, environmental pollution (noise, light), wildlife and so forth. Altogether, it was a pretty comprehensive response from residents.

The application decision was announced on Monday 26 November and the decision was – REFUSAL. A success. However, looking through the reasons for refusal, many of the objections we put forward are reflected. But one of the main reasons was the possibility of prehistoric and other archaeological sites. Wow! We never expected that.

Thanks to all who took part in this response. This was a real community effort and we will have gained more than our Triangle – we have gained a sense of community and that has to be a great result.

Chris

Below: Residents meet to discuss their response to the application.

Staverton Cygnets

Staverton Cygnets is a baby and toddler group which meets fortnightly on Fridays in term time from 9.15 – 10.45 in Staverton Village Hall, Cygnet Way, Staverton BA14 8UU. Parents and carers can chat over a cup of tea or coffee; there are toys and books for the children to play with; we offer a simple craft activity to make and take home; after a snack for the children, we have a story and singing before going home. If you have a pre-school child or baby, you will be very welcome at our friendly group. It only costs £2 per family! Details of the dates we meet are on the Church website, www.canalsidebenefice.org.uk or on the Staverton and Hilperton Toddlers Facebook page.



STAVERTON CLUB

A Club for the Community

New Memberships Welcome

Forthcoming Events Dec 18 – Feb 19

8th December – BINGO @ 8 pm

15th December – Canal Boat Club @ 8 pm

22nd December – Family Skittles Evening @ 8 pm

25th December – Open 12 – 2 pm

26th December – Family Disco and Games 12 – 3pm

31st December – New Year's Eve open till late

5th January 2019 – BINGO @ 8 pm

12th January 2019 – TBA

19th January 2019 – BINGO @ 8 pm

26th January 2019 – TBA

Further Events will be published in the Club and on Facebook

*Season's Greetings to all members and users of
Staverton Club*

NESTLINGS PRE-SCHOOL


The days may be getting colder but the children love being outside come rain or shine. One of the things we never run out of is energy. We have been learning about our bodies this term and which foods are good for us to eat and which foods are treats. We have also learnt about how our bodies feel when they are tired and how we look after them. We have been moving in different ways: dancing, balancing, running and even a little yoga.

We have been visited by a Ballerina who, as well as showing us how to move like a ballet dancer, told us that we must always warm up before dancing to look after our muscles. We also enjoyed looking at her ballet costumes and dance shoes.

Halloween brought us some visitors from ZooLab; lots of bugs, snakes and spiders. Even though they were a little scary, we learnt that they all needed to be cared for just like the Pre-School's goldfish. (Speaking personally I could not imagine stroking a snake while watching T.V. even if some of the children thought it was a good idea! Give me a cat any day!)

Christmas is coming and soon the playroom will be decorated and the home corner magically turned into Santa's workshop. We have a Christmas activity afternoon planned for parents to include non-wobbly punch and mince pies and singing Christmas songs. To end the term we have our Christmas party and who knows, if we have been good we may have another visitor...

It only remains to say we wish you all a Merry Christmas and peaceful new year.

 Follow 'Fostering in Wiltshire'

Could you offer a stable and supportive home?

We need foster carers who can provide a loving, supportive home for children in care. We will provide you with suitable placements to match your circumstances. You will be part of a professional team and be provided with your own support worker, ongoing training and a 24 hour helpline. In addition, you will be paid a generous allowance.

Interested?

Call us today on 0800 169 6321, email fostering@wiltshire.gov.uk or go to www.wiltshire.gov.uk/fostering

Be the difference – become a foster carer with Wiltshire Council



Wiltshire Council
Where everybody matters

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INTERVIEW WITH DAVID FLORENCE, ESTATE AGENT AND STAVERTON RESIDENT

Lindsay Shaw (Parish Councillor)

What is currently happening in the Staverton property market?

David Florence

It's a little cool, reflecting the national picture, but there is always a demand for good quality family housing which Staverton offers. As a community it has a lot of strengths with the schools, the shop and the pathways. I see a lot of clients staying in Staverton and moving to larger properties.

LS

What differences do you see when compared to wider Trowbridge?

DF

Whilst wider Trowbridge has some attractive streets and areas to live in, I feel the whole of Staverton is attractive. It has a real community spirit, a hub, which is important. This is partly to do with its size and also that much of Staverton is enclosed by the canal, the railway and the road. It's a bit like having a castle wall or moat around it.

You can safely walk around all of Staverton, there are small playgrounds, the canal is close by and you can walk or cycle to Bradford on Avon or Seend. Staverton is calm with little traffic. It just has a nice feel to it! These are all strong points for family living.

LS

Is there anything that Staverton is missing?

DF

A local cafe or coffee shop that serves breakfasts is possibly the only thing missing. Sadly the last one wasn't supported enough by locals, which is a shame, and I'm not sure why.

LS

Is there any advice or suggestions you'd like to give to the parish council?

DF

Broadband provision! Keep up the pressure and momentum to maintain and improve this. As time goes on, Broadband will become increasingly important. Aside from that, the

area is clean and the paths are well maintained.

It would be quite nice to have community events like street parties and Christmas events etc. I think they would be quite nice, but I recognise you might not get enough people interested. The social club, village hall and even some of the streets have the potential to enable these events.

LS

Recent national economic articles have placed Trowbridge as one of the most up-and-coming towns in the UK. Do you think they are having a laugh?

DF

Trowbridge Town Council are doing things with their green and brown spaces, which should be applauded. The new cinema and Marks and Spencer are examples. The sports facilities and park lands are good. I don't think Trowbridge is any different than most towns for good/bad areas, and crime rates.

Yes, I do think Trowbridge is up-and-coming, but there is still a lot to be done, such as the long term boarding up of some buildings. It suffers to some degree from a perception of a rough past. But the rail links are very good, and there is quick access to other local towns and areas.

LS

Grayson Florence has won the 2018 British Property Award for Trowbridge. How is this awarded?

DF

It is based on service to clients, such as response times and the quality of information given. It is not influenced on sales' volumes.

If anyone is thinking of selling or buying in Staverton or Trowbridge, please feel free to contact me on 01225 683684, 07480 774775 or sales@graysonflorenceproperty.co.uk

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STAVERTON PARISH COUNCIL

WEBSITE: www.stavertonparishcouncil.org.uk

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Parish Council Meeting Dates 2019-2020 - held on Mondays at 7 pm (at Staverton Village Hall)

14	JANUARY	16 SEPTEMBER
18	MARCH	18 November
13	MAY (Annual Parish and General Meeting)	13 January (2020)
15	JULY	

Thank you to all of the volunteers who give up their time to deliver the magazine: Greg, Jane, Ray, Martin, Paul, Andrew, Anne, Chris and Rebecca.

Also, thank you to Chris Knutson for taking the lovely photo for the front cover.