



Welcome to the Winter Edition of Staverton News. It's a bumper edition, jam packed with all the news from the Parish Council, Wiltshire Council, Canalside Churches and a number of events, news from our clubs and groups... and much more!

As always, huge thanks go to all those who have made this edition happen ie the Parish Council, the contributors, the printers, the deliverers etc etc. Your support is very much appreciated and we hope it will long continue.

If anyone else would like to be involved, whether it be delivering magazines, sending in ideas for the Staverton News magazine or Parish Council website, raising issues concerning Staverton, you have a business / club / group or are involved in a charitable organisation in the Staverton area, then please get in touch.

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Contacts

June Jones - Parish Clerk

parishclerk@stavertonparishcouncil.org.uk

Please get involved, send articles and photos to me, Simon at

newsletter@stavertonparishcouncil.org.uk

(Cover photo by Chris Knutson)

**STAVERTON PARISH COUNCIL WOULD LIKE TO WISH EVERYONE
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**

Dates of Parish Council Meetings until 2025 – Meetings are held on a Monday at 7 pm at Staverton Village Hall.

15 Jan 24 – 18 Mar 24 – APM/AGM 13 May 24 – 15 Jul 24 – 9 Sept 24 – 18 Nov 24 – 13 Jan 25

For up to date information please visit our website <https://www.stavertonparishcouncil.org.uk/>

PARISH MATTERS – Winter 23

At our November Parish Council meeting we were pleased to welcome two new applicants for the vacancy on the parish council. One of the applicants gallantly acceded to the other applicant and Cllr Amy Meigh was co-opted onto the parish council. Cllr Meigh is a teacher and psychologist and has a particular interest in sporting activities, law and order, traffic issues, leisure activities and good children's facilities. We very much look forward to working with her.

STAVERTON NEWSLETTER

The parish council is pleased that new editor Simon Withers has settled in well and has started to develop the newsletter with some new ideas. At the meeting in November, he was asked to highlight fly tipping in Staverton. There have been instances of garden waste thrown into the hedgerows beside the footpath between Cygnet Way and School Lane and also fly tipping which is blocking the culvert in New Terrace. This is causing problems for the maintenance contractors and is illegal. Wiltshire Council will issue fines for those who are caught offending.

If you wish to contact Simon with an article please email him on: newsletter@stavertonparishcouncil.org.uk

HILPERTON & STAVERTON CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP

Dr Celia Beckett said that she was concerned about Policy 3 on the Wiltshire Local Plan as it stated that "All areas (including Staverton) were reserved for growth" even though Staverton was not included in the latest document for new developments. It is not viable to build in Staverton because of flooding, its inadequate road infrastructure and it has a culvert which can become blocked which is not recommended for new developments. She advised councillors to object strongly and the Parish Council agreed to do this.

ILLEGAL ENCAMPMENT BY CAMPER VAN IN THE CAR PARK AT THE SLIPWAY.

Wiltshire Councillor Trevor Carbin was asked to find out why no action had been taken by Wiltshire Council to evict the illegally parked camper van which arrived for the second time in August 2023. Unfortunately, there has been no sign of any action taken by Wiltshire Council yet even though the car park, which is owned by them, is unsuited for camping. It is insanitary with no running water or sewage facilities. Residents living nearby are asked to keep complaining to Wiltshire Council until they deal with this problem especially if they see anti-social behaviour taking place.

B3105 - REPLACEMENT OF WATER MAINS – RE-OPENING

Staverton residents must be delighted that the works finished earlier than planned and the road is now open once more. We hope we can get back to normal as soon as possible.

COMPLAINTS ABOUT LACK OF ROAD SAFETY MEASURES IN SCHOOL LANE

Councillors have raised these concerns regularly over the last few years with Highways and no action has been taken. It advises residents to take this up with the headteacher of the school and see if this brings some action.

SPEEDWATCH B3105 It is hoped to get a team together for the New Year but more volunteers are required.

LITTER PICK - This is scheduled for 17th March 2024.

BUDGETS & PRECEPT 2024-2025: The Finance Committee met on the 13th November to discuss year end reserves and anticipated requirements through the Precept for 2024-25. Despite a £1,739 shortfall in the overheads for the village hall the movement in estimated income and expenditure for yearend was £161. However, Wiltshire Council warned the Parish Council that they would no longer pay for election costs expected in 2025 and advised councils to allocate additional reserves for this. It is estimated that it could cost the Parish Council £2,000 but it was hoped that it would not be necessary to go to a full parish council election. Wiltshire Council provided a draft figure for Band D properties in Staverton which is used to calculate the necessary tax levy for the Precept. Unfortunately, the Government is not expected to confirm this figure until the 13th December. Therefore, the tax levy for the Precept cannot be voted upon until the next meeting to be held on 15th January 2024 just before the Wiltshire Council deadline of 18th January 2024.

A message from our MP -

Michelle Donelan



As we approach the festive season and the New Year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on some of the areas I have been working on for our community during what has been a very busy year. I was blessed with the arrival of my beautiful baby boy back in May, and it is fair to say that he has been keeping myself and my husband on our toes since then!

It was also a real privilege to be asked by the Prime Minister back in February to serve as the first ever Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology. Since then, I have been determined to drive our mission to make the UK a science and technology superpower forward; from keeping young people safe with our world-leading Online Safety Bill to delivering on our superfast broadband rollout right across the country, I am incredibly

(Continued on page 3)

Wiltshire Council Update

County Plan Review

The consultation on the review has now closed. In my submission I've welcomed the removal of the housing previously allocated for Staverton whilst pointing out that the new and proposed housing in Hilperton will put yet more pressure on the B3105. The council now has to go through all the responses and hopes to take the plan to a Hearing with a government inspector sometime in 2024.

Trowbridge Town Council have objected to the Hilperton allocations and have also suggested a review of the Green Belt.

That could be a concern as the Green Belt boundary comes right up to the western edge of Staverton, but the area they're looking at is around Trowle and Broadmead on the other side of town. It's actually quite a sensible proposal as it would mean building nearer the centre of Trowbridge, rather than having the town ballooning out into the countryside, though it's unlikely to be supported by WC planners.

Staverton Community Speedwatch

The scheme has been paused over the summer, partly due to the roadworks but also due to the retirement of team members. We're hoping to resume in the new year, but more volunteers are needed if we're to keep it going. Please get in touch if you'd be interested. There's on-line training provided by Wiltshire Police, then the time commitment averages out at an hour or two per month.

Wiltshire Council

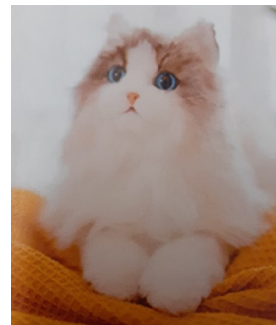
Litterpicks



Thanks to everyone who turned out for the autumn clean-up. The spring event is scheduled for March 17th, which of course is a good day to be green. Let me know if you'd like to go on the mailing list for a reminder nearer the time.

And finally...

We hear about Artificial Intelligence replacing humans but it's taking over our animals as well. This is Robocat. It's being used by Wiltshire Council Social Services to help people who have dementia, or are prone to falls, or who suffer from stress or anxiety. If you touch it it will purr or miaow or move its head around just like the real thing. It even has a heartbeat!



FB: Cllr Trevor Carbin in Atworth, Holt, Staverton

Contact details;

trevor.carbin@wiltshire.gov.uk

07706 994178

Website: trevorcarbin.mycouncillor.org.uk

bly proud of everything the Department has achieved in the last ten months.

Closer to home, we have made a huge amount of local progress for our community. This year we delivered on our manifesto commitment by recruiting 164 extra police officers in Wiltshire, on top of normal recruitment. We now have a total of 1164 officers in the force in the county - higher than the target set by the government. Meanwhile, myself and the other Wiltshire MP's have secured a total of £4 million from the government's Safer Streets Fund since 2020, which the PCC is using to crack down on drugs and county lines and tackling anti-social behaviour to name just two.

I also ran various crime forums this year covering the whole constituency, to hear your views, thoughts and experiences directly. Folks quite rightly want to see their local bobbies on the beat not just in our towns but in villages like Staverton, and this is something which myself and the Police and Crime Commissioner Philip Wilkinson

are very much agreed on.

Elsewhere this year, we secured over £3.6 million of extra funding for Wiltshire Council to tackle potholes, we have been funding our local bus routes with the £2 bus fare cap and have extended this until the end of 2024, and on top of this, we pushed for an extra £2.1 million for Wiltshire bus services. For schools in our constituency, I successfully pushed for a £2.4 million cash boost, and we are investing more money than ever before in our NHS. We are also supporting our local farmers and food producers with £2.6 million from the government's Rural Prosperity Fund.

I also know that it has been a tough year for many and so we have been determined to support the most vulnerable people in our society. Families on Universal Credit, those on disability benefits and pensioners have received multiple government Cost of Living Payments, with those benefits increasing in line with inflation. I have also been a huge advocate for the Triple Lock, and this year as a result of

the government's commitment to this more than 20,000 local pensioners received the largest ever cash increase to their pension of 10.1%.

Each and every year I also have the pleasure of meeting so many folks when out and about - whether that's at one of my resident's surgeries, at one of our local fetes and events or during one of my visits to local schools and businesses. We are truly lucky to have such a strong sense of community spirit, which I see right across my work as your local Member of Parliament. If there is anything I can do to help, or if you would like to speak to me in the New Year, please do not hesitate to let me know - michelle.donelan.mp@parliament.uk or on 01249 704465.

Finally, I wanted to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope you get to spend some much-deserved time with your friends and family over this festive period.

Out and About near Staverton

The Mayor's guides are a group of over 80 people who have volunteered to show tourists and residents around the beautiful city of Bath.



These daily 2 hour tours are FREE, and the guides are not even allowed to accept tips. These tours have been or-

ganised by the Mayor since 1934 and the guides are very knowledgeable, they point out things you probably wouldn't have noticed even though you may have passed by them many times before.

The daily walks around the city centre meet outside the Pump Rooms 10.30 and 14.00 daily and on Saturdays at 10.30 am.

The Pulteney Estate walks meet at 11.00 am on Tuesday and Thursday, (May to September).

My husband and I recently went on the Pulteney estate walk which took us to the Holburne Museum, (used in the filming of Bridgeton), and Sydney Gardens passing Jane Austen's house on the way. It was a lovely 2 hour walking tour around our nearby city of Bath.



Many thanks to Caroline Dick for sharing this. If you'd like to find out more about these tours please go to www.bathguides.org.uk

arts together *ageing creatively*

Arts Together is a Wiltshire based charity funded by various sponsors including Wiltshire Council and the Prince's Trust. Operating in Trowbridge, Bradford on Avon, Melksham, Pewsey and Malmesbury, each class takes approximately 12 adults (over 60,

with some health issues).

The classes are in 6 week sessions run by the organiser, an artist, a volunteer helper and a cook.

Arts include...

Painting - various methods

Pottery

Mosaics

Felting

It's a warm, friendly environment and

you don't need to be artistic to get involved.

The cost is £10-£12 per session

Transport is provided door to door along with a hot lunch.

To join a group, enquire on behalf of someone else or just find out more you can call Julieann on 01380 590095 or visit their website <https://www.artstogether.co.uk>

Many congratulations Alice Moody

At 102, she has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Greenwich University. Alice was Head Teacher at Staverton Primary School for 21 years, between 1960 and 1981. If it wasn't for her it might have closed back in 1980.



Friends of Staverton School (FOSS)

FOSS is a parent run PTA organisation for Staverton C of E Primary School. Here at FOSS our aim is to provide fun and inclusive activities for all to enjoy. From school discos to Christmas Markets we are working hard behind the scenes to help raise money for our amazing school.

Please do keep an eye out in our local parish churches and on the school, FOSS Facebook pages and www.stavertonparishcouncil.org.uk for any events coming up. Everyone within our community are very welcome to come along.

We look forward to celebrating our successes with you.

Kindest Regards,

Heather, Laura, Lia and all the amazing parent volunteers

Well done FOSS!

The Christmas Market raised a profit of over £1400 in total for the day!

Coupled with the clothes drive 'Rags 2 Riches' and a 'whole school' disco over £2000 has been raised this term alone.

... and they'll also be selling refreshments at the Carol Concert at the end of term!

Nestlings Preschool

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas...!!

Since starting back in September we have welcomed a lot of new, as well as some existing faces into our preschool.

The changing of seasons has inevitably brought the cold and rain but that hasn't stopped us from donning our waterproofs and getting out and about. You may have spotted us hunting for leaves, walking our resident sausage dog Pablo or splashing in bubbly puddles as we explore the environment around us.



Back in the warm and dry we have been enjoying activities including ballet lessons, watching fireworks on the projector around a camp fire made from logs and coloured paper and even celebrating national/international days such as Taco Day.

Our link with the main school is growing ever stronger as we continue to enjoy the uses of their library, school hall and Play Pod on a weekly basis.

Recently we held a very successful Bake Sale raising over £80. Fundraising by our committee is incredibly important allowing us to provide additional opportunities for our children.

The proceeds of this sale are enabling us to host a Christmas Party for the children with an addition of a gift for each of them (from the big man himself)

If you would like more information on joining our committee then please do get in touch.

Here's to a fun-filled winter Nestlings!!

Enquiries for both funded and non-funded children welcomed. Please visit our website for contact information.

www.nestlings.co.uk

Staverton WI

It has been a busy few months for Staverton WI

We welcomed speaker Susan Simpson in July who demonstrated how to make decorative beads with patterned paper and then making them into pretty necklaces, all our members took part in the workshop and were amazed at what beautiful jewellery could be produced from such basic materials.

In August a social afternoon took place with cheese biscuits and soft drinks our ladies also enjoyed a quiz all based on television programmes, plays, films and books

Bob Rogers visited us again in September with another one of his talks on Scotland entitled 'Over the Sea to Sky' which he illustrated with slides. This beautiful part of the country is known for its rugged landscapes, picturesque fishing villages and medieval castles. Everyone expressed how much they enjoyed Bob's talk.

In October members had more of an energetic afternoon taking part in a game of skittles. We played the game known as 'killer' where you have one ball and you must hit at least one pin down. Going by the cheering and laughter great fun was had by all.

We have been provided with lovely homemade cakes from two of our members recently which has made our afternoon tea extra special.

Joan our president held a Christmas cracker making workshop in November twenty two ladies took part. They will bring their crackers back to our Christmas party in December where they will be judged along with the funniest joke which goes in the cracker.

Staverton WI meet at Staverton club on the third Thursday in the month at 2pm. The first three visits are free just turn up you will be very welcome

Any inquiries to Secretary Helen Sheppard on 01225 765872

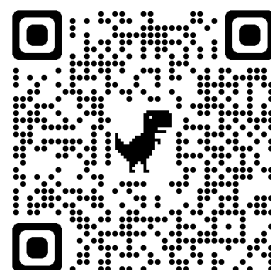
Staverton Parish Council Website

We are in the process of developing our website with the aim of being the 'Go To' site for all of your local information... BUT we need your help...

Firstly are there any web professionals out there who would be willing to help us?

Secondly are there any Businesses based in Staverton who would like to advertise on our site.

Our aim is to create a directory of local traders so that any Staverton resident looking for a plumber, a builder, an electrician, a dog walker, a mobile disco, a baby sitter etc etc etc need look no further ...



For up to date information please visit our website <https://www.stavertonparishcouncil.org.uk/>

Have Your Say

We have received two emails from concerned residents wanting to have their say.

Dear Sir / Madam

I am writing to ask if anything can be done to ensure parents/children's safety on School Lane. There was a near miss incident a few weeks ago when a car, which was probably going to quickly, had to do an emergency stop in order to avoid a mum and her young child.

As you know, School Lane is narrow and in some places the pavement is so narrow that you barely have enough space to push a pram on it. Could we have safety measures put in place in the form of pedestrian crossing areas and speed bumps to make sure that all users are safe and encourage vehicles to slow down?

After all, there are three educational settings alongside the lane and the safety of parents and their children should be paramount. We should not wait for a tragic accident to happen on the lane to act.

Dear Staverton News,

With the road through Staverton now open, we have very quickly reverted to a large volume of cars, vans and lorries (often very large) speeding through. This is a 30 mile an hour zone and also not designed for large lorries.

I walk along the road regularly with my dog, recently my shoulder was 'brushed' by the wing mirror of a van that was travelling at, I'd guess 40-50 mph. I hasten to add I was walking on the pavement at the time. I feel I was very lucky not to be seriously hurt.

Please can something be done to better enforce the speed limit and preferably prevent large lorries being aloud?

These issues were addressed at the latest Parish Council meeting. Re the School Lane safety it was decided that the best way forward was to raise it with the schools, and they should in turn raise it with the local authorities. Re the speeding and lorries, Wiltshire Council are monitoring speeds through 'Speedwatch' (see page 3 - volunteers welcome). There is also a petition, if you'd like your name to be added to it please email newsletter@stavertonparishcouncil.org.uk.

Many thanks for these emails. Please keep them coming. We'd like to hear from you if you have any comments on the above and/or if you would like to raise any other points.

Remember the more we all get involved, the more chance we have of making a difference!

Fly tipping in Staverton.

There have been instances of **garden waste** thrown into the hedgerows beside the footpath between Cygnet Way and School Lane and also **fly tipping** which is blocking the culvert in New Terrace. This is causing problems for the maintenance contractors and is illegal. **Wiltshire Council will issue fines for those who are caught offending.**

Need a local plumber?

Contact **Premier Flow Plumbing and Heating**

07737 316369 - mattgumbo@gmail.com

FRIENDSHIP GROUP

A monthly informal get together to chat over a cuppa, catch up on some knitting, play a board game or whatever you choose.

Second Thursday of each month

2.30 - 4pm

St Mary Magdalen's Church Hall

Horse Road Hilperton

ALL WELCOME

COMMUNITY CAFE

St Mary Magdalen's Horse Road Hilperton

3rd Thursday of the month

10am-Noon

Coffee/Tea & Chat

ALL WELCOME

Tea Break - Puzzle Time



The word search contains the names of roads in Staverton - see how many you can find.

Note I have not included 'Drive', 'Way', 'Lane' etc so 'Swan Drive' would just be 'Swan'.

There are no prizes for this, just a bit of fun.

Many thanks to Caroline for sending the picture below. Please think of a caption for it, and send it through to me (newsletter@stavertonparishcouncil.org.uk). For this I will be offering a prize of a £25 Amazon voucher for the best one! So thinking caps on!

Staverton Streets

N	E	H	O	B	L	A	C	K	T	H	O	R	N
E	T	H	T	A	N	L	O	T	M	E	A	D	K
H	H	N	E	W	T	E	R	R	A	C	E	T	O
R	E	W	A	S	M	F	S	R	H	T	H	E	O
O	S	B	S	S	I	O	I	M	W	W	S	Z	R
O	T	M	E	N	T	H	A	E	B	A	I	A	B
M	F	B	U	L	R	U	S	H	L	T	N	E	E
A	I	S	D	B	N	I	R	S	E	D	O	L	L
R	E	O	W	D	R	H	O	A	A	H	S	B	T
I	L	M	E	A	I	H	E	L	S	F	R	R	T
N	D	R	M	O	N	E	D	E	E	T	H	E	I
A	S	N	E	R	R	A	W	S	S	A	R	H	L
H	S	D	A	E	M	S	P	O	H	S	I	B	H
H	R	C	Y	G	N	E	T	S	C	H	O	O	L



Cornerstone Christian Fellowship Cornerstone Christian Fellowship is a small, friendly church with a strong community focus. We meet at Staverton Primary School every Sunday at 10:45 am for family worship, prayer, sharing a Bible passage together as well as children's stories and activities. Everyone welcome!

We will be continuing with our Coffee and Cake Fridays - please see the poster for dates. All welcome to join us for free coffee, cake and chat!

... and don't forget our...

Family Christmas Celebration
*You are invited to join us for stories,
 crafts, carols and cakes*
Sunday 24th December at 10:45am
Staverton Primary School

For more information please contact David
 Ross djross1009@gmail.com

Staverton Village Hall - Available for Hire

Holds up to 30 people.

Ideal for children's parties

For full details please contact

kim.mounty@stavertonparishcouncil.org.uk

or visit our website

WARMLY INVITE YOU TO



*Coffee and Cake
 Fridays*

Where?

Staverton Social Club
 BA14 6PA

When?

Fridays
 5th and 19th January
 2nd and 16th February
 1st and 15th March

What?

Join us from 10am - 12pm for a
 free hot drink and cake



INVISIBLE DJ

Birthdays | Weddings | Special Events

A DJ service offering a unique experience where you can

Hire our Equipment and play your own music **OR**

Let us DJ for you, leaving you free to enjoy the party!

For more info call **Jon** on **07977 237 240**

InvisibleDJcontact@gmail.com



For up to date information please visit our website <https://www.stavertonparishcouncil.org.uk/>

From the Rectory

Thought from Joy (Associate Priest)

"Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat ..."

I am sure you are all familiar with this rhyme, and indeed, if you haven't noticed, Christmas is coming, and everywhere you look, we are assailed with adverts for the latest 'must have' products to ensure the 'perfect' Christmas.

We all have different thoughts on what makes the 'perfect' Christmas. It might be the beautifully decorated home, with the exquisitely wrapped presents, all chosen to meet the heart's desire of the recipient, and a table groaning under delightfully cooked food, to be relished by loving family and friends. Or maybe you prefer a great party with lots of music, drink and laughter. Alternately you may wish for something much quieter and simpler, humbler. Whatever your idea of a 'perfect' Christmas might be,

deep down we all know that perfection is impossible to achieve.

But don't worry, that first Christmas wasn't perfect either. An unmarried teenage mother forced to travel on foot some 70 odd miles to an overcrowded town, where every available room was already full. A refugee giving birth in a barn, with only the animals for company, any chance of rest shattered by the noisy arrival of rough men, direct from the hills. A young family disturbed by the strange arrival of foreigners, talking of cosmic events, and then forced to flee once more to escape the tyrannical rule of a threatened man.

Jesus was not born into a perfect world, and yet he came to offer us perfect love, love that does not distinguish between race, gender, age or wealth. This Christmas season I pray you will know that perfect love, the love that came down to earth that first Christmas.

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, love divine;
Worship we our Jesus:
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,
Love shall be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and to all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.

Christina Rossetti

We look forward to sharing this Christmas with you, sharing in this imperfect world, the perfect love of Christ-child.

Rev. Joy Albone
canalsidecurate@gmail.com



Sunday 3rd: CHRISTINGLE@theTIN
4pm @ St Mary Magdalen's

Friday 8th: CAROL SERVICE
6pm @ St Mary's Whaddon

Sunday 10th: CAROL SERVICE
3pm @ St Michael's Hilperton

Friday 15th: CAROL SERVICE
6pm @ St Mary Magdalen's

Sunday 17th: CAROL SERVICE
6pm @ St George's Semington

Saturday 23rd: CRIB SERVICE
3pm @ St Michael's Hilperton

CHRISTMAS EVE

10.30am CRIB SERVICE
with HOLY COMMUNION
@St Mary Magdalen's

2pm CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION
@ St George's Semington

11.30pm CHRISTMAS
MIDNIGHT COMMUNION
@ St Michael's Hilperton

CHRISTMAS DAY

9.30am ALL AGE CHRISTMAS COMMUNION
@ St George's Semington

10.30am ALL AGE CHRISTMAS COMMUNION
@ St Michael's Hilperton



Website : canalsidebenefice.org.uk
Contact : 07795400262
canalsideoffice@gmail.com

Details of all services and events can be found on our website canalsidebenefice.org.uk

If you have any church related enquiries please contact our Administrator

Michael Gamble 07795400262 canalsideoffice@gmail.com

For up to date information please visit our website <https://www.stavertonparishcouncil.org.uk/>