ISSUE 20
AUTUMN 2014

STAPELEY & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL



Message from our Chairman, Sandy Gwinn-Freemantle

Dear Resident,

Welcome to our Autumn edition of the newsletter.

At the time of going to press we still await the announcement by the Secretary of State regarding the Muller Homes Public Inquiry.

Neighbourhood Plan: We held a special Parish Meeting on 29 September 2014 at which time residents were asked if they would like the Parish Council to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan on behalf of the area. A special edition newsletter had been issued to all households in early September and we were pleased that so many people attended the meeting.

The outcome of the meeting was an overwhelming 'yes' to producing a Plan and we are now pressing on with that. See inside for further information.

Local Groups: We are interested in finding out if there are local community groups (non-commercial) within the parish which would like to advertise their activities and/or seek new members. In the last newsletter, we asked for groups to contact us, but have not received anything to date. As a Council we also find it helpful to have a full list of all such groups. Please contact the Clerk with details.

Community Hall: The community hall continues to be the target for vandalism. The Parish Council is about to sign a new lease for 2-years and it is really disappointing that part of the local community sees fit to damage what is supposed to be an asset for all of us.

The guttering has been removed for the fourth time and more recently, there has been graffiti scrawled on the door. We are at a loss to know how to tackle this. The cost of repairs has a knock-on effect on Council-tax payers. The Parish Council's principal source of funding is through the precept (ie, the money which the Parish Council requests from Cheshire East Council) and if we have to pay for repairs, this has to be funded by requesting a greater precept, which in turn is funded by you as the Council-tax payer.

If you see any such activity (which, of course, is criminal) please phone 999 and report it at the time. It might be possible in these circumstances for the Police to catch the culprits.

I hope that you enjoy reading the newsletter. Please let us have your feedback.

Chairman

Sandy Gwinn-Freemantle

Looking for funding for your community group?

Contact Cheshire East Council which has recently launched its 'give-back' scheme to support local groups.

Please visit the website at: www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/community grant; or telephone 01270 685809; or e-mail communitygrants@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Grants of up to £1,000 are available for one-off events or on-going activities. Up to £5,000 is available for any buildings used for community purposes; and grants up to £10,000 are available to provide equipment, specialised kit and training for young people's uniformed organisations; and also, for organisations which provide services for older people.

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- Community Hall activities
- History corner
- Community grants available from CEC
- Dog-fouling
- Stapeley Parish Action Group (SPAG)
- New Scout Leaders wanted!

Please note this newsletter is also on the Parish Council's website: www.stapeleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

PARISH COUNCILLOR Contact Details

Sandy Gwinn-Freemantle (Chairman)	619505
Matthew Theobald (Vice-Chairman)	07941 495 786
Shaun Clough	629987
John Davenport	618971
Mike Docker	619855
Peter Groves	07597 978 831
Jo Hillman	07766 652 011
Keith Lawrence	610413
Martin Malbon	07714 764 558
Keith Nord	611204

COMMUNITY HALL - REGULAR ACTIVITIES

The bookings at the community hall are picking-up and the hall is now used for most of the week.

The following are the regular activities. If you wish to join a class or participate in any of the activities, please contact the organiser direct. If you wish to make a booking for a private event, please contact Carol Jones, the Clerk (see foot of front page for details).

Monday	10.30 am - 2.45 pm	Baby Sensory	Linda Boyd	southcheshire@babysensory.co.uk
Tuesday	6.00 pm - 7.00 pm	Aerobics Class	Hayley Walker	hayleyfleetwalker@yahoo.co.uk
Wednesday	1.30 pm - 2.30 pm	Crafts for children	Kathryn Pownall	kathrynpownall@thecreationstation.co.uk
Wednesday	7.30 pm - 8.30 pm	Ladies Yoga	Lucy Pireel	author@lucypireel.com
Thursday	10.00 am - 11.00 am	Babies' activities	Kate Hinton	katehinton@hotmail.com
Thursday	1.00 pm - 2.30 pm	Ladies Yoga	Lucy Pireel	author@lucypireel.com
Thursday	6.00 pm - 8.00 pm	Stapeley Beavers	Pete Lonsdale	peter.lonsdale@gmail.com
Friday	9.45 am - 12.45 pm	Exercise with babies (starting Jan. 2015)	Charlotte Day	healthandhappinessforever1@gmail.com
Friday	1.30 pm - 2.30 pm	Crafts for children	Kathryn Pownall	kathrynpownall@thecreationstation.co.uk
Saturday	9.00 am - 10.00 am	Babies' activities	Sharon Burrows	sharon@hullabalookids.net
Saturday	1.00 pm - 4.00 pm (monthly)	Fabric Art and Creative Textiles for children 7-17 years	Ruth Dalby	sewalong@hotmail.co.uk
Sunday	10.00 am - 5.00 pm	Yoga retreat (monthly)	Rick Calligaro	rickcalligaro@hotmail.com
Sunday	6.30 pm - 7.30 pm	Stapeley Youth Orchestra	Rachel Nash-Thomas	nash.thomas@tiscali.co.uk

Stapeley Scout Group needs Volunteers!



If you have some spare time, you could help set up a new Scouts Troop for 10-14 year olds.

Scouting offers boys and girls the chance to take part in a range of indoor and outdoor activities, having fun through adventure and active experiences.

We set up a Beaver Colony (ages 6-8) in 2011 so that our children could get into Scouting. In 2012 we set up a Cubs Pack (ages 8-10) for our Beavers to move into. We currently have 16 Beavers and 18 Cubs attending every week at the community hall, doing games, crafts, camping, sailing, archery, climbing and more.

Over the past 3 years we've seen our children ditch the computers, go outside and have fun learning new skills and making new friends through their time at Beavers and Cubs. We now need to start a Scouts Troop (age 10-14) for our Cubs to move into, but we currently have no Leaders with any time to run the Troop.

You don't need any experience: training and support is available and there are plenty of helpful people to get you started and help along the way. Maybe you'd like your child to join Scouts, or maybe you just have some spare time to give; either way, you wouldn't be doing it alone: we're looking for a group of volunteers who can start up a Scouts Troop just as we did with Beavers and Cubs.

For more information please email stapeleyscouts@gmail.com, or call Pete Lonsdale on 07715 117 002. Once we have a group of people interested we can organise a meeting to talk about the next steps.

To find out more about Scouting go to http://scouts.org.uk

Parish Council Diary
Remainder of Municipal Year 2014-2015

Meetings held usually on Mondays in the Community Hall and commence at 7.30 pm.

17 November
15 December
19 January 2015
16 February
16 March
20 April
21 May (Thursday)

Your Borough Councillors are:

Andrew Martin
(07875 555 096)
andrew.martin@cheshireeeast.gov.uk

Peter Groves
(07597 978 831)
peter.groves@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Did you know that each year, the Parish Council sets aside

£1,000

to make grants to local community groups? Check the website to see if your group is eligible under the Small Grants Scheme, or contact the Clerk for details.

Battle of Barton's Cross, Stapeley, Nantwich

by Keith Lawrence (parish councillor)

I am sure everyone has heard of the Civil War battle near Nantwich celebrated on 'Holly Holy Day' in January each year. This re-enactment, by the Sealed Knot, of the raising of the siege of Nantwich celebrates the events of 25th January 1644. The Royalists encircling the town of Nantwich were beaten by a relieving Parliamentary force lead by Sir Thomas Fairfax. A celebration of the victory by the wearing of holly took place annually for more than a century before it gradually died out – to be resurrected over forty years ago.

Leading up to the 'Battle of Nantwich' we had our own skirmish, the 'Battle of Bartons Cross', part of the parish of Stapeley. The immediate response from most people is ... "Where on earth is Bartons Cross?" The site of the skirmish is in the area now defined by the level crossing on Newcastle Road and includes the junction of the old London Road and Newcastle Road (the site of Bartons Cross) through to Cheerbrook Farm.



While I am sure Willaston Parish would claim some role in our skirmish; it is the landmark in our parish mentioned in a contemporary poem. Various skirmishes took place around Nantwich leading up to the siege, but it was an abortive attack by a large force of Cavaliers under Lord Arthur Capell (Lieutenant General of Shropshire, Cheshire & North Wales) that is most connected with Stapeley. Having advanced from Whitchurch on the 16th May 1643 they couldn't find a suitable site to place their cannons and after causing some minor mayhem they stayed overnight and then marched home. The contemporary document suggests they returned to Whitchurch in "great disgrace", having only hurt one man and killed a calf belonging to Thomas Mainwaring. Thus we get a short piece of propaganda poetry:

'The Lord Capell with a thousand and a halfe,
Came to Barton's Cross and their they kild a calfe,
And staying theire until break of daye,
They took theire heels & fast they fled away.'

So when the 16th May comes around, just remember that we had our own Civil War Battle right here over 370 years ago and think kindly of the calf.

Help plan the future of Stapeley and Batherton *Neighbourhood Plan - What Next?*

As a result of the overwhelming support given at the Parish Meeting on 29 September 2014, the Parish Council has agreed to continue with the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan. We have been able to recruit volunteers with experience and expertise in certain areas which will be of assistance in preparing the plan. Some of these volunteers represent local groups, schools and the business community, and will be able to make a valuable contribution.

Residents told us what they thought of the parish now, and how they would like to see it develop over the next 5-10 years. This is an on-going process and we would still welcome your views. Please let us know what you consider should be taken into account; for example, you might wish to suggest pieces of land which you believe would be suitable for new housing.

The Parish Council has now set up and approved Terms of Reference for a Steering Group which will oversee the process. It is expected that the first meeting will be held early in November. If you are interested in either joining the Steering Group or helping out in any other way, please contact the Clerk.

There is a tremendous amount of work to be achieved if we are to reach our target of holding a referendum in September 2015.

The process is being supported by both Cheshire Community Action (CCA) and Cheshire East Council (CEC).

CCA supports rural communities in Cheshire (and Halton and Warrington). CEC will support the process by providing specialist advice. We have already held meetings with CEC Officers to ensure that the framework for the Plan is appropriate. We will also be considering whether to submit a bid for funding early in the New Year to assist us to employ our own consultant(s) if necessary.

Send us your views by e-mail (to the Clerk) or via the dedicated website (www.stapeley.org.uk).

There is also a link to this from the Parish Council's website (www.stapeleyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Cheshire East Council published its formal notice informing the public that there was a six-week consultation period running from 11 August to 24 September 2014. This was displayed on each of the notice-boards and the Parish Council's website and we hope that residents took advantage of this opportunity to make their views known. A reminder about the close of the consultation was added to the website the week before the closing deadline.

STAPELEY SAYS 'NO' TO DOG-FOULING



Dog-fouling in the parish continues to be a problem. We know that the majority of dog-owners are responsible and take home their dog's faeces. This article is aimed at all dog-owners as a reminder of the health hazards posed by dog mess, one of the many cute names used to give a pleasant name to what is an unpleasant subject; others include "whoopsies" "doo-doos" and "poos".

Allowing your dog to foul on open spaces and failing to clear it up is irresponsible and potentially dangerous, especially to children.

We are pleased that Stapeley Parish Action Group (SPAG) is actively trying to raise awareness of the health issues associated with dog fouling.

In addition, Borough Councillors Peter Groves and Andrew Martin are working with Hillside Veterinary Centre, Nantwich, on a 'Dog Watch' scheme, similar to that in Wistaston. There will be 'Dog Watch' signs erected in various parts of the parish and Councillors Groves and Martin will be out and about during the launch of the scheme.

The local Council can issue dog control orders against individual dog-owners and can issue fixed penalties of £75. In very serious cases, magistrates can issue a maximum penalty of £1,000.

Dog faeces spread many diseases to human beings, and include the following:

- **Salmonella:**

Salmonella bacteria are found in the gut and faeces of human beings and other animals. People can be infected with salmonella through direct contact with their pets, or with their faeces. Proper washing of hands is essential after touching pets, or cleaning animal cages, or after coming into contact with pet faeces.

- **Campylobacter:**

This bacterium causes intestinal infections and can be transferred easily from dogs, especially puppies, to humans. This happens easily when people do not wash their hands properly after coming into contact with animal faeces, especially diarrhoea.

- **Round worm and ring worm**

(Toxocariasis or visceral larva migrans) Toxocariasis is an infestation of human beings, usually children, with the larvae of Toxocara canis, a small threadlike worm that resides in a dog's intestine. This can trigger allergic reactions such as asthma but can also have more serious effects such as loss of vision, at least partially.

The causes of roundworm infection follow the pattern of most worm infestations. Eggs of the worm are discharged in the stool of an animal or human. Eggs can be ingested directly if contaminated hands touch the mouth. The eggs hatch in the intestine, releasing larvae which can penetrate the gut wall, enter the bloodstream and spread throughout the body.

Symptoms vary depending on a person's age, the intensity of the exposure and sensitivity to the larvae. Symptoms are varied and include pneumonia, coughing, fever, skin rash and liver enlargement.

- **Giardia and Cryptosporidium:**

These are parasites called protozoa that can cause intestinal disease. Dogs can be infected with these parasites, without having any symptoms themselves. Direct contact with pets can cause people to be infected. For people who have a compromised immune system, this infection could be fatal.

Keith Lawrence, one of our parish councillors and a retired vet, says "Please make certain you worm your dogs regularly, at least four times a year, and pick up the faeces. I would have hoped that a news story some years ago of a child blinded by rubbing a very small quantity of dog faeces in her eye, would have been enough of a shock to those who just leave the faeces on the pavement instead of taking them home in a plastic bag."

Stapeley Parish Action Group, known as 'SPAG'

(the Parish Plan Implementation Group)

If you are interested in becoming more involved in your community, why not consider joining SPAG? They are always interested in hearing from potential members. The main role of SPAG is to implement the Parish Plan, which can be viewed on the Parish Council's website.

SPAG can also apply for and gain access to community funding for community projects. This has enabled the Children's Community Playground on Pear Tree Field to be built and furnished with play equipment.

In liaison with the Parish Council, SPAG is supporting a number of initiatives such as:

- Anti-dog-fouling scheme
- Recruiting and training residents for Speed Watch

In addition, they carry out a variety of environmental activities, including monthly litter-picks.

Future projects being considered by SPAG are –

- extending Police Alert/Homewatch scheme throughout the parish
- driving low-carbon community principles
- installing re-cycling points in the community
- improving road safety and reducing traffic speed
- enhancing Cronkinson Estate walkways with trim trail
- community bulb-planting in recreational areas and wider areas of the parish

You can become involved by joining SPAG and supporting one or more working groups or by volunteering to join a specific working group or working party.

More information on SPAG's activities and working groups can be found on the Parish Council website pages www.stapeleyparishcouncil.gov.uk/index.html (for the SPAG newsletter) and www.stapeleyparishcouncil.gov.uk/parishplan/html (for Working Groups).

SPAG also has a Facebook Page www.facebook.com/groups/stapeleyplayground/ where concerns or ideas can be raised and discussion generated within the community.

Please contact either the Chairman or Secretary for more information.

The Chairman is Noel Wagstaff: e-mail: noelw@btinternet.com (Tel 626435)

The Secretary is Sue Sherwood: e-mail: suevsherwood@btinternet.com (Tel 629666)

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