

VILLAGE GROUPS' REPORTS - STAPLEHURST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
23rd MAY 2016

CHAPEL LANE PRE-SCHOOL

Just a Short walk away from the parade of shops down Chapel lane you will find the Margaret Howard hall this is where you will find our preschool.

We are a small, friendly Pre-School with quality childcare & education for children aged 2 ½ to 5 years of age.

Our setting times are available from 9am to 3pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays and 9am -12pm Monday and Friday during term time.

We hold an Outstanding rating by Ofsted February 2015. Kent Quality mark for Early years setting. Free for 2 scheme and funded places for 3 and 4 year olds.

We offer a safe, secure, and relaxed environment where children can socialise and learn through play inside and outside, all year round.

We encourage the children to learn and develop at their own pace. We will monitor this through creating my Unique Story and using the Early Years Foundation stage programme, for all our children.

We are a Committee run Pre-School and a registered charity (no. 1029970). We do try to encourage our parents to join our committee and we are always interested in any ideas for Fundraising, we have had events like are Cake stall, quiz night etc.

If you are interested in our preschool or would like more information, please contact Sally Jameson on (01580) 892807 or 07929074083

Website: <http://www.chapellanepreschool.org.uk> Email chapel.lane@hotmail.com

COMMUNITY WARDEN

Here is my report covering my main activities in Staplehurst from April 2015 to March 2016:

In June I attended the Staplehurst Carnival.

In September I attended the McCabe Centre AGM to give a talk about the warden service and my 8 years being a warden (it is 9 years now!).

There have been Football sessions and Basketball sessions that were organised for youngsters and held at the Surrenden Field and I've attended and joined in when I can.

I've attended High Weald Academy truancy meetings, NhW meetings, Staplehurst Emergency Help Team meetings.

I have visited scam victims, Youth Clubs, Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Brownies (did Winter Road Safety with some of them). I've also visited Age UK Day Care & Hub, Thursday Interest Group, Village Coffee Mornings, Community Lunch Clubs, Weald Club for Disabled and other

groups, clubs and societies and was also part of Operation Civic (a multi-agency event based at the library).

I've worked with Golding Homes, Town and Country and Hyde Housing on community projects and resident issues.

These activities have been in both Marden and Staplehurst – I try to spend equal time in both villages but will spend more time in a certain area when and where required.

I have attended Welfare Centre training, a Self-Neglect Workshop, LGBTQ & Mental Health & Hate Crime training, I've manned stands at the Kent Police Open Day and the Wrinkly Road Show in Maidstone and I helped out on the motorway during Operation Stack as wardens are part of the Emergency Response Team.

My role is Community Safety: Community Wardens aim to help prevent crime by encouraging the building of a strong community and by discouraging low-level anti-social behaviour. Wardens do not take on the work of the police but act as a friendly visible presence within the community and you will often find me walking around the village. I help raise awareness of problems such as scam mail, bogus callers and rogue traders, help to identify and tackle other local issues needing attention ranging from abandoned vehicles to welfare concerns. Wardens encourage social inclusion – there is no need for anyone to be alone or isolated.

Please don't hesitate to invite me along to activities and events that I can help with and/or help to promote.

If there is anything that I may be able to help you with just give me a call or email me:-
telephone: 07969 584179 / email: mira.martin@kent.gov.uk

Mira Martin, KCC Community Warden for Staplehurst and Marden

FRIENDS OF STAPLEHURST HEALTH CENTRE

During the past year we have organised health information evenings on Cardiac Pulmonary Resuscitation, Books on Prescription (in conjunction with Staplehurst Library) and on Hospice in the Weald. The highlight of the year has been a recent talk on Dementia by Karen Pain, Care Manager at Iden Park Care Home.

We assisted in the revision and preparation of a new edition of the Practice information leaflet, including delivering it to new houses in Staplehurst.

We continued to publish the Friends' newsletter, delivered with the Village Update, which gives information on medical matters as well as on the Health Centre and its staff. We included articles on: DNAs (statistics on those who booked appointments but did not attend), new legislation on drugs & driving and on smoking in cars carrying children, the commissioning of the new public defibrillator outside the library, and on the Pharmacy First scheme – to deal with common ailments, among other things.

Robin Oakley

GYBBON AND BATHURST TRUST

Is a charity set up to help young people resident in Staplehurst, serve in projects that enabled personal development but also in serving others either in this country or overseas.

It was brought to our attention during the year that the Rev Andrew Mills, a long term trustee of the charity, was shortly due to move on from his 18 year ministry in Staplehurst to become a Moderator in the United Reformed Church and based in Manchester. He was thanked profusely for his contribution to the board of trustees of the Charity for many years and released with gratitude and best wishes for his new ministry.

Two young people have this year been given grants to enable them to serve in overseas development projects in the near future and one of those previously helped with a grant sent a report of their recent visit to the international Scout Jamboree on Japan.

Clive Jones, Secretary

MCCABE DAY CENTRE

Thursday and Sunday Lunch Clubs continue to be very well attended and provide a freshly cooked hot lunch at a very reasonable price, but most of all it provides friendship and company for many who live alone.

We aim to have an annual outing to Eastbourne in the summer, and have for many years attended the Pantomime at the Hazlitt Theatre in Maidstone. This used to be a very enjoyable afternoon with tea and cakes in the interval. Unfortunately this year was a very disappointing experience and we will not be going again. I did write a letter listing my complaints, but had no reply. Our Christmas Party at the centre did not disappoint and a very jolly time was had by all.

Many of our less able members also attend Age UK on Tuesday and Weald Club for Disabled People on Friday. Monday afternoon CHAT is also very popular with games quizzes and an excellent tea.

We are very grateful to Carnival & Fete committee and the Masons for their generous donations during the year which has helped us provide the "extra treats" for our Senior Citizens.

We are very fortunate in having so many willing volunteers who give their time to help us provide a caring environment at the Mc Cabe Day Centre.

Elaine Martin

POPPY'S DAY NURSERY & POPPY'S BABY CARE UNIT

Poppy's Day Nursery established in 2008 continues to provide 'full day' care for 50 weeks of the year; open Monday to Friday from 07:30hrs to 18:30hrs. We currently have 76 children 'on role' caring for 32 children a day most of whom are from Staplehurst.

Our Baby Care Unit in the High Street was inspected by Ofsted on *13th July 2015 – The quality and standards of "Early Years Foundation Stage Provisions" has been judged with a "Good" rating. During the 6 hour visit inspectors observed children engaged in activities indoors and outdoors. They sought the views of parents and had discussions with staff and*

viewed a range of policies and files. This is the second inspection at the baby unit since it opened in 2010 and the findings can be viewed online at www.ofsted.gov.uk.

We have 17 members of staff most live locally including one volunteer. One new member of staff is being trained under the "Apprentice Scheme in Childcare" supported through "Parenta" and when qualified will be employed at Poppy's.

We continue to provide opportunities for students from Angley School, Mid Kent College and West Kent College who come to us for childcare experience within the nursery setting.

We access KCC courses to develop staff in all areas of nursery care; this has included Leadership and Management courses. All staff are trained in Paediatric First Aid.

Last July **nineteen** of our children left for Primary School. We held a leavers' party, a very proud day for parents and staff alike. This year **thirteen** children will be leaving for Primary School.

We supported the Carnival and Fete in 2015 and sponsored the Staplehurst Bonniest Baby competition with staff members judging the competition.

We hold our Annual Nursery Birthday Party in August for families of the children, and will celebrate our eighth birthday this year. At our 7th Annual Birthday Party £167 was raised in a raffle for the Woodlands Unit at Pembury Hospital, a cause very close to the Nursery's heart.

During the last year we held events raising funds for the Crackerjacks Children's Trust, Children in Need and Red Nose Day.

We continue to maintain a partnership with Pre-Schools, have links with the Library and the Primary school.

For more information on Nursery care contact Katherine Tunncliffe

Poppy's Day Nursery Tel: 01580 892600 Poppy's Baby Care Unit Tel: 01580 890480
Email: info@poppysdaynursery.com Website: <http://www.poppysdaynursery.com>

STAPLEHURST CALENDAR

The sale of the 2016 Staplehurst Calendar (12th edition) has now been completed. 404 copies were sold raising a total of £1704.00 an 11 year high on units sold and money raised. Cheques for £852.00 each were presented to representatives of the Staplehurst Scout Group and Staplehurst District Guides on January 28th at the Scout Headquarters. The total cash raised for local charities and clubs over the past 12 years now stands at £17,682.00, an amount I had never imagined possible when I produced my first drawings for the 2005 calendar.

I would like to thank all who have supported the calendar over the years including businesses whose advertisements cover the cost of production and printing, all who have purchased copies, and the local shops and traders who have allowed them to be sold on their premises. Special thanks to The Hop Press, Marden for their valuable help with design and printing.

Over the years we have established a good regular sales base through the co-operation of local Churches and Clubs by them giving us space at their Pre-Christmas fairs and markets. I would like to thank the following: The Photographic Society, (Annual Exhibition) The Carnival Committee (French Market) The United Reformed Church (Coffee Morning) and Friends of All Saints Church (Shepherds Market)

The leaflet drop in October was carried out by the Scouts and Guides, and leaflets costs were kindly met by Staplehurst Chiropractic which helped to boost our sales. I now have pens and pencils at the ready - it's almost 2017 !!

Ken Collins

STAPLEHURST EMERGENCY HELP TEAM

Kent's Resilience Team regard our Emergency Help Team as the model for other communities to follow. On 14 July 2010 when ten people were rescued from the flats over the Post Office where a fire had broken out, a lesson was learnt. Starting with a blank sheet, under Rory Silkin's chairmanship the Team came into being, and produced our 'Emergency Plan', which has since been used as a blueprint by other teams in Kent.

So I started my first year as chairman with the feeling that there wasn't much to be done. But things have to change with the times, and yesterday's 'perfect model' is inevitably already out of date – and for SEHT this last year has turned out to be a year of transition. While we have the 'Plan', (the process) in place, it became clear that we need to raise the Team's profile and to make people aware of its existence – and to attract more volunteers who we can contact when a problem arises.

At the first meeting we suffered an identity crisis – it was suggested that our emergency 'phone's number was not sufficiently advertised. "People don't know we're there in their hour of need". However, the consensus was that 'we are NOT set up to provide an A&E-type service' – a number to call when there's a power failure and such like. While 'neighbourliness' is to be encouraged of course, in these situations the call must be made to the emergency services in the time-honoured way. It is then for the Police and the Environment Agency etc., to call us out. They know the number of our 'emergency 'phone', when THEY require our assistance. The point is that they will always remain the professionals in any crisis, while we are their local eyes, ears, and communicators.

In August Silke Tetzlaff at All Saints asked the Parish Council 'what would be done if a group of Syrian refugees arrived in our village?' – to which Rory's immediate response was 'SEHT, this one is for you'. So, at our second meeting this year we decided on the course of action we should adopt if a group of immigrants appeared in the Surrenden Field one evening. The procedure was drafted, and now forms an appendix to the Emergency Plan.

Our third meeting was attended by the local Spar's management, when we discussed how we could procure supplies in a time of crisis. This year's 'Training Exercise' had been led by Rob Wiles and Teresa Young from the Kent Resilience Team, and Rob Wiles had had to go out to buy tea and coffee! The Team had been called to the Village Centre via the 'Telephone Tree', where we developed solutions to a series of extreme scenarios. The key lesson learnt (by yours truly, if by no-one else) was the importance of making the 'shelter' we are providing feel 'welcoming'.

The date is already set for the next Training Exercise (which I regard as the key event in our year), 8th October, and the brief is already drafted. It has two key objectives:

1. To increase the awareness of the Team within the village, while attracting more volunteers, younger people in particular – by involving the Scouts and Guides, who will be asked to play the part of those in need of shelter.
2. To raise the Teams' familiarity with the one section of the Emergency Plan which can be practiced – the opening up and the operation of a shelter.

Andrew Watson, Chairman

STAPLEHURST GUIDES

Guiding in Staplehurst has had a very busy year. Much of the activity has been in an attempt to raise the necessary funds for a new roof to the Kathie Lamb Guide Centre. Many of the local businesses have generously donated to this cause and together with other donations and the fundraising of the Rainbow, Brownie, Guide and Senior Section units the Kathie Lamb Guide Centre is now the proud owner of a wonderful new roof.

Some of the many things that Staplehurst Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Senior Section have taken part in are: raising money for local and national charities as well raising money for their own Guide Centres new roof, attending Brownie and Guide camps and as well as many units having sleepovers (although the 'all night bouncy' didn't involve much sleeping!) Several units also had a go at making a Christmas tree for the display in the church. Some units have also visited the new trampoline centre in Maidstone which is called Gravity. The girls have been on outdoor activity days, and some have been to a roller disco! Staplehurst District has a Rainbow unit, 3 Brownie units and 2 Guide units. If your daughter is interested in joining Guiding at any level then please register your interest at www.girlguiding.org.uk and clicking on the 'get involved' tab or by emailing 3rdstaplehurstbrownies@gmail.com. We are always keen to hear from anyone who would be interested in helping out with the units – please contact us by email.

Susanna Jones, District Commissioner

STAPLEHURST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Society had another successful year with a wide variety of illustrated talks, an outing to the National Trust property Stoneacre, shows, plant sale, a quiz in the School Hall and a stand at the Staplehurst Carnival.

We held our annual Spring, Autumn and Members Rose Shows. As usual the weather affects what can be shown, but as the dates are already booked, sometimes not everyone is happy. You cannot please all of the people all of the time! We were pleased with the number of entries and our high standards were maintained. The Autumn show had a new section organised by Clive Boorer. This was the growing of sunflowers from seeds distributed through various sources to children. Their efforts were commendable. The Members Rose show in June was full of colour followed by homemade cakes. The success of the shows owes a great deal to the show secretary Sue de St Jorre and her assistants.

Ken Read again organised the Plant Sale, this time in doors in the Village Centre North Hall. Nearly everything was sold which was good as we rely on this event for part of our income. This year it will again be in the Village Centre North Hall on Saturday 7th May between 9.00am and 12.00 noon.

In October Margaret Donnelly supported by other committee members, organised our annual quiz in the Primary School Hall. This was an enjoyable evening.

Two long serving members left Staplehurst for Seaford and will be greatly missed. Cathie Speakman our Chairman and her sister Helen Bowers had both filled several roles over the years. Thank you to both of them, Seaford's gain is Staplehurst's loss.

We are very pleased and grateful that Rumwood Nurseries of Langley kindly continue to support us.

Our monthly meetings are held on the third Tuesday each month in the Village Centre South Hall at 8.00pm except for the December meeting which is on the first Friday. This is usually an evening with a buffet and entertainment. All are welcome to try us out.

Michael Salkeld, Honorary Secretary

STAPLEHURST INTEREST GROUP

Our weekly meetings continue to interest members who come along to the Schoolroom of the United Reformed Church on Thursday mornings. So what have we got up to in the last year? Amongst other things:-

We have had speakers about Brazil, Life Behind Bars, Army Life in India, Builders' Tales, Old postcards, Fans, Yorkshire Youth Work, Variety Celebrities, London Livery Companies, Tax, Care and Toy Boys, Self-Publishing, Have Voice-Will Travel, Wood Turning and Digital Cameras.

We also have fun together with Five-Minutes on a soap box, origami, table games, music, poetry, bluffers, a quiz, play readings and a story writing challenge.

We try to find interesting places to visit and this year we have journeyed to Bateman's and had a guided tour of Maidstone Town Hall.

We have been sad to say farewell to members, but delighted to welcome others. Come along and join in the fun!

Joan and Malcolm Buller

STAPLEHURST SCOUT GROUP

The Staplehurst Scout group continues to offer unique opportunities for boys and girls between the ages of 6 of 14. The scout group is made up of three sections, Beavers for 6-8 year olds, Cubs for 8-10¹/₂ year olds and Scouts for 10¹/₂ to 14 year olds. We have 100 children attending Scouts currently and 15 adult leaders, assistants and helpers.

We have two big pieces for news for this year. We have found a new leader for our Beaver colony and have been able to restart the colony after a year's absence. Also this year we have started a Staplehurst Explorers Unit for 14 to 18 year olds and this is being very well attended and has got off to a great start. We have continued to make improvements to our facilities including new wheelchair access to the hut and a new secure outbuilding for our

tents and equipment. All of this done with our own hands and here we must give a special thank you to our quartermaster, Geoff Smith for all his hard work during the year.

Administratively, we now belong to the Weald District, so we are more involved with our neighbouring villages than with Maidstone as was the case previously when we were part of the Maidstone south District. One result of this is that we held our annual St Georges Day parade and renewal of promises in Cranbrook as part of a new district initiative. We did miss doing this here in Staplehurst though. Fortunately we are still invited to attend the Staplehurst Remembrance Day Parade, where we always lay poppy wreaths outside Staplehurst Church.

The past year has seen another full programme of events with Beavers, Cubs and Scouts working towards a varied collection of badges ranging from the community badge through to activity and challenge badges. There have been too many visits and activities to list here but some of the highlights included night hikes (in all weathers!), climbing, and outdoor cooking and of course map reading – who needs Google Maps?

Serving the community is also a large part of scouting and this year has seen a number of fund raising activities and other community projects. We have also supported local charities including over £250 raised for the Air Ambulance through our ever popular annual Christmas Post service. A night sleeping rough in cardboard boxes also raised significant sum for homeless charities. We have supported the Village 10k fun run and the annual Railway Exhibition. Our Beaver Colony raised funds for Help the Heroes, the Beavers made and decorated biscuits in Help the Heroes colours, afterwards they were all sold – and we hope – all eaten!

Staplehurst Scouts continues to be totally dependent upon the subscriptions raised from parents and its own fund raising initiatives. It is self-sufficient and not in receipt of any public funding, grants or subsidies. All adult helpers are volunteers and give up of their time freely to help make scouting a fantastic experience for all the boys and girls who attend.

Our long standing treasurer, Margaret Bailey is standing down this year after many years of service and we would like to take this opportunity to thank Margaret for all her help and support and not forgetting also her husband Ian who has helped us use Gift Aid to boost our funds.

We are always in need of finding new leaders and helpers so if you would like to get involved in any of our sections, even on a part-time basis, please get in touch by calling 893133 anytime. One constant theme for us at Staplehurst Scouts is that our waiting list of children wanting to join never gets any smaller - so please come and help and get involved in local scouting. To find out more please feel free to come along to our own AGM on June 7th starting at 8:00pm in the Scout Hut in Nicolson Walk, off Crowther Close.

Section reports

Beavers

Our (re)newed Beaver colony, called The Hedgehog Colony reopened in September after a number of years break. We now have 18 girls and boys and a waitlist of all ages eager to start.

The Beavers have completed, Teamwork Challenge, Disability Awareness Activity Badge, International Activity Badge, The Poppy Badge and have very nearly finished My Skills Challenge Badge During the last term, we visited Staplehurst Library, the Beavers found out what goes on in the Library and what extra activities a Library can offer to the Community, then the Beavers were paired off, one blindfolded and the other the guide, the guide had to not just watch out for themselves, but to also stop their partner from walk into something or fall down a curb, we walked the Beavers the long way back to the Scout Hut so they would all get a turn and to make the challenge harder, it was darker with no streetlights. Also for the Disability Awareness Badge the Beavers took on the challenge and learnt a new Olympic sport called Boccia, the Beavers loved this and have asked if they can play it again.

Cubs

Our Eagle Cubs have had another successful, busy year. We currently have 29 Cubs both boys and girls enjoying a range of activities and camps.

Leaders and Cubs worked hard to prepare for our yearly summer camp. Last year we stayed at Bexon Lane campsite in Sittingbourne. It was extremely successful and a lot of fun was had by all. Cubs enjoyed rifle shooting, go-kart racing, cooking on fires, just to name a few. Two of our leaders were presented with awards they had been nominated for, presented by our District Commissioner. Eagle cubs would like to thank everyone who gave up their time to help and we look forward to this year's camp with as much enthusiasm. This May our sixers and seconders will be attending district camp where a range of activities and games have been organised. It should be as wonderful as previous years.

The Cubs have all been working towards many badges, some of which were new to the leaders as well, so we have been learning together. We have been learning to sew, cooking outside, and practising first aid. In March we enjoyed a muddy hike through the fields surrounding the village. The Cubs were fantastic, their moral was high and they attacked the unfriendly weather with enthusiasm and great humour. We are currently a full pack and are happy to have Beavers swimming up from our new Beaver section. We also have lots of interest from outside the group and we are doing our best to accommodate everyone.

Scouts and Explorers

As is usual, this past year in Staplehurst Scouts has been packed, fun filled and eventful.

It seems a long time ago now, but our last "Big Camp" happened last year in May. We went to a beautiful site in Surrey called Walton Firs, where we have been several times before. The weather was kind to us, which meant we could enjoy a full activity programme, including archery, shooting, climbing, shelter building, caving and a hike around Painshill

Park, where there is a man-made grotto, complete with crystal encrusted stalactites and stalagmites. The camp was rounded off with a huge water balloon battle and a traditional camp fire with singing and toasted (or sometimes burnt) marshmallows. Wonderful.

We were asked to help out at a charity concert at Laineys farm, just outside the village, where the stunning weather and surroundings were a perfect backdrop to a truly memorable Pink Floyd tribute band, all rounded off by a massive bonfire.

Other evening meetings included a simulated trial by jury, with witnesses, an accused, a defendant and a judge complete with wig and gavel. There was a first aid course, a knot night, learning Morse code, tree identification and a talk explaining the work of the Air Ambulance, who were the recipients of a portion of our Christmas Post money.

One of our ex-Scouts, Oliver Knight, was lucky enough to be selected to go to the World Scout Jamboree, which was held in Japan last year.

Explorers

For the boys (and girls) who are old enough to move on from Scouts, we have now set up a thriving Explorer unit. We kicked things off with a trip to Lower Grange Farm, where there is a fantastic (and challenging) indoor climbing wall, where the Explorers could show us just how fearless they are. In this first year we have also been on a very long night hike, gone fishing, visited a working forge in Yalding, made cannons and prepared the Explorers for a survival camp by demonstrating the preparation of pheasant, duck, fish and rabbit for cooking and eating. Fur, feathers and scales everywhere, but delicious. That survival camp and a paintball day will be coming up soon to keep the momentum going.

A huge thank you must go to our fantastic, supportive parents, the leaders and committee who keep the Group going, Staplehurst Transits for providing us with a driver and transport for camp every year and last but not least, the Scouts and Explorers, whose enthusiasm, good humour and sense of fun make it all worthwhile.

Anyone who says that all young people do these days is stare at screens indoors couldn't be more wrong.

William Best, Chairman Staplehurst Scout Group. chair@staplehurstscputs.org.uk

STAPLEHURST WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Love is in the air! We have had two members' weddings, one of them a 91 year old member to her 103 year old boyfriend, **and** a golden wedding celebration.

We marked the WI Centenary quite spectacularly by making 100 art aprons for the Primary School, knitted 100 hats for seafarers and 100 Juggi Jumpers and hats for Ethiopia, members bought 100 cotton panties for Starfish Malawi and made 100 beautifully decorated cushions for the Kent Wildlife Trust.

We are now making sanitary ware for the girls in Malawi so that they don't miss their education due to menstruation.

Our exciting programme comprised speakers about the life of Travellers, wine and cheese from Waitrose and Hush Heath vineyards, Recycling, Maidstone's night time economy and Wellbeing from Water for Work. Our members also acted out of the Storming of the Bastille on Le Quatorze Juillet!!!

We lunch out together monthly and our visits have been to BBC, Houses of Parliament, Kino, Canterbury and beyond.

The Shepherd's Market and the Carnival give us scope to build our stall as a feature for the village children, so successfully that they come back for more repeatedly.

Our bowls and darts teams meet monthly and we support our Parish Council with refreshments for village events such as the Village Plan meetings and the Clean Up.

This year we have attracted so many new members that we are now breaking records.

Pam Payne, Secretary

THE STAPLEHURST SOCIETY AND ARCHIVE

Apart from arranging occasional talks and displays, the Staplehurst Society manages the community's Archive. The Archive is housed upstairs in the Village Centre.

Our work is principally the collection and storage of documents and photographs recounting Staplehurst's history, but we are regularly contacted by people here and overseas, people with a family or personal interest in Staplehurst, with requests for information. Have you a photo of my grandfather? Is my ancestor's house still standing? Can you tell me anything about my family that emigrated to Australia? We are always pleased to help if we can. This year there have been more requests than ever.

We are also pleased to receive new material, either as a loan or to add to the collection.

We are grateful to the Parish Council for its support in providing the space to work.

You may see samples of the collection on-line at www.staplehurstsociety.org where there are indexes to check. Better still, come and see us on a Monday morning.

If you wish to contact us, the email address is archive@staplehurstsociety.org.

THE WEALD CLUB FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

Following the dissolution of the Kent Association for Disabled People charity, which had branches throughout Kent, the Staplehurst branch has now reformed as an independent registered charity No. 1164015, changing its title from The Weald Club for the Disabled to The Weald Club for Disabled People.

We now have our own Board of Trustees (Chairman) Ken Collins, (Secretary) Diane Bone, (Treasurer) Sue Baker, plus June Haselden, Irene Pantlin, Monica Tyler and Chris White.

The Club opens every Friday morning (with the exception of holidays), at the McCabe Centre, Staplehurst, and is run by a group of approximately 10 helpers, plus 3 minibus

drivers. Our meetings involve various games, including indoor bowls, and general socialising as well as a lunch cooked at the centre.

Regular outings are arranged with our own specially adapted minibus, with trips to the coast, garden centres, shopping trips and lunches out.

For members in Staplehurst, Marden, Headcorn and other local villages we offer a pick-up and return service from and to your own home.

If you are disabled, or suffer from difficulty in mobility, come along and join us, meet new friends at the McCabe Centre where you would be made most welcome.

We are also in need of 2 volunteer minibus drivers, and escorts on the bus. If you could spare a Friday morning to help our members, the work would only involve one Friday in four working on a rota basis with existing drivers.

For further information to become a member or volunteer please contact:-

Mrs Diane Bone, Secretary

Tel: 01622 851387 Email: wealdclubfordisabled@gmail.com