

STAY SAFE STAPLEHURST



November 2021

Welcome to this latest edition of our newsletter – produced by The Staplehurst Community Events Group Team, and again kindly sponsored by Golding Homes.

Stay safe this autumn and winter with Kent Fire and Rescue Service's

top safety tips...

Have your chimney swept

If you have a chimney, fireplace or wood burner – do remember to get it swept! A build-up of soot, leaves or debris can increase the risk of a fire spreading, so make sure yours has been checked, cleaned, and maintained before use

.Blow out candles before bed

If you burn candles at home, help to prevent a fire by remembering to blow them out before going out or heading to bed. Always use a stable candle holder placed on a surface that can't catch fire, positioned away from curtains and other flammable materials.

Be electricity aware

When using electrical items at home, including fairy lights this festive season, remember to keep the number of plugs in an adapter to a minimum. Overloaded sockets can cause a fire.

Close before you doze

Try to get into the habit of closing your internal doors at night time. It's a really effective way of slowing fire and the spread of smoke if a fire did start in your home, giving you more time to escape safely.

Keep looking while you're cooking!

If you're rustling up a festive feast, remember not to leave the cooking unattended and avoid multi-tasking - it only takes a moment for a fire to start when you're distracted.

Press to test

Check you have working smoke alarms on each level of your home to alert you during the early stages of a fire. Remember to test yours once a week to ensure they are in good working order and to give you peace of mind.

FOR OUR OLDER READERS, (OR OLDIES YOU KNOW)...

As one gets older, impaired sight does sometimes become a problem.

One obvious problem is with cataracts which can be removed by a simple surgical operation. Peripheral vision can become impaired and depending on how seriously is the impairment, it maybe that you are unsafe to drive.

One of the more serious conditions is age related macular degeneration (AMD) which starts with a dry version which requires no treatment but then can become a wet version which, if not treated, can result in a rapid impairment of the central part of one's vision. Wet AMD requires regular monitoring and treatment if it is to be controlled. ***Elderly persons should have their sight tested annually.***

Keep Updated with My Community Voice

My Community Voice is a messaging service launched on 1st November by Kent Police that helps Kent and Medway residents, businesses, and community groups to keep in touch with their local policing teams.

The service sends updates about your local area directly from the police officers themselves, and is more than just a messaging service; it allows you to reply to the alerts sent to you, share information and tell the police about the issues affecting you. Register to ensure you receive up to date information on local crimes, news, crime prevention advice and to hear about what is being done by the police to support our local community. The alerts come direct to you by email, text or voice message. Registering is completely free and once you have signed-up, you can choose how you want to receive the messages and what you want to receive messages about.

To sign up please go to www.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk

Kent Against Burglary – advice from Kent Police

Historically there is an increase in burglaries over the autumn and winter months when it gets dark early and we fill our homes with gifts in readiness for Christmas.

Here Are some top tips to keep our homes, and vehicles as secure as possible, limiting the opportunity for thieves.

Do you secure your home and garden?

Burglars are often opportunists who will target an open window, an unlocked door or valuables on display if they think they can get away with it.

Did you know?

Many burglaries happen on weekdays, in daylight, when you're more likely to be out.

As well as locking doors and windows using the keys each time you leave you can also:

- keep keys, cash and expensive items away from doors and windows, out of view
- use timer switches on lights and radios to make your home look occupied
- repair broken or faulty windows or doors
- keep gates locked and boundaries secure
- lock away bikes, tools and garden items which could be stolen or used to break into your home.

Do you always check that you've locked up?

Do you lock and alarm your vehicle?

Some burglars may break in to your property looking for the keys to your vehicle.

Always store keys away from doors and windows and take them with you when you go to bed. It's a good idea to store electronic car keys in a signal blocking pouch so they can't be scanned by thieves.

As well as locking and alarming your vehicle, you should also:

- remove items left inside - including jackets and loose change
- secure items in your boot, out of view, if you need to leave your vehicle while you're out - but try not to leave anything inside your vehicle overnight
- park in a garage, a secure car park or well-lit location whenever possible
- wipe away sat nav suction marks left on your windscreen - this could be all it takes to entice a thief to break in, hoping the sat nav is still inside.

Do you always check you've locked your car?

BEWARE OF SCAMS – THERES A SCAM PANDEMIC GOING ON IN THE UK SO **REMEMBER** YOUR **ABC**

NEVER ASSUME – NEVER BELIEVE – ALWAYS CONFIRM



**Are Pleased to Support
This Community Project**

YOU CAN NOW FIND PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS ON THE PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE