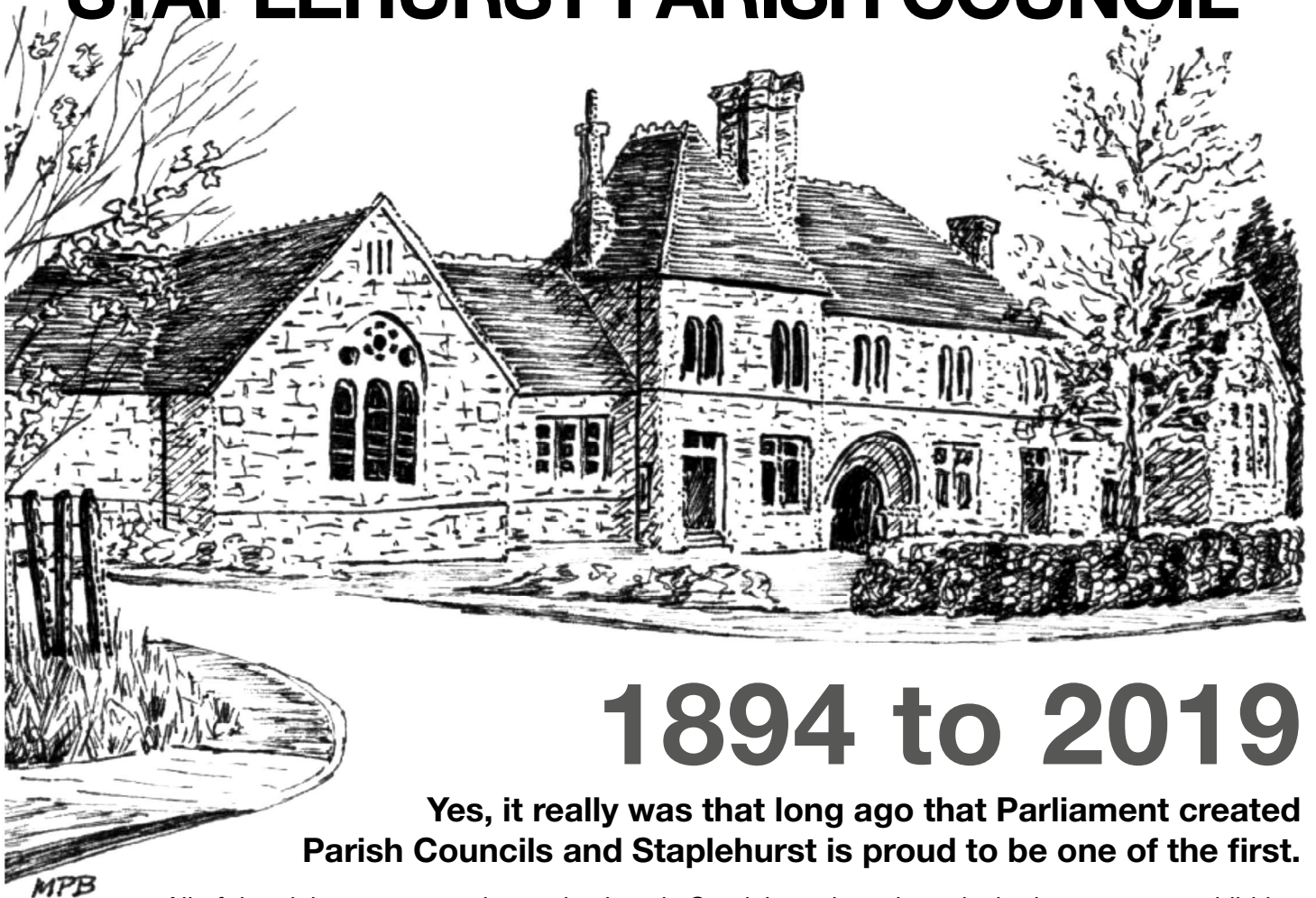


Village Update

AUTUMN 2019

www.staplehurst-pc.uk

125th ANNIVERSARY OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL



1894 to 2019

Yes, it really was that long ago that Parliament created Parish Councils and Staplehurst is proud to be one of the first.

All of the clubs, groups and organisations in Staplehurst have been invited to stage an exhibition to fill the Old School buildings (now known as the Village Centre). Local history will be revealed and you can find out about the activities now on offer in this active community.

When? Saturday 26th October from 10am until 4pm – Save the Date!

Staplehurst

Parish Council

MEET YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Paddy Riordan (Chairman)

I am privileged to be elected as our Parish Council Chairman for this year. I sincerely hope to guide our Councillors to achieve many positive things for Staplehurst.

I hope to help drive improvements at the Parade, Village Centre, the Jubilee Field and the station area. We will be consistently involved in planning applications and activities, whilst pressing for improvements to our local infrastructure.

We hope to improve communication with our residents, so they can be actively involved in everything we do. As Chairman, I take an interest in all Parish Council groups and many community groups. I am passionate about attempting to achieve better sports facilities for our village.

Colin Bowden

Resident in Staplehurst for over eighteen years, I have numerous interests including sailing, gardening and bellringing.

I am now semi-retired from a full-time career in consultancy as a Chartered Engineer, having been involved in civil engineering and structural projects including surface water drainage. I currently advise Building Surveyors on structural works.

As a newcomer to the Parish Council, I look forward to making a valuable contribution to its work, including the Planning Committee and the Community Enhancement Group. I am an active member of the Neighbourhood Plan Review Group. I also attend the Staplehurst Emergency Help Team meetings and the Residents' Surgery at the Library.

Joan Buller

I moved to Staplehurst in 1978 with my husband Malcolm and two young sons. I attended Parish Council meetings for five years, stood successfully for election in 1983 and have served the community ever since.

I returned to teaching when my sons reached teenage years. When ill-health forced my early retirement from Staplehurst Primary School, this gave me more time to devote to council activities.

I am now often asked to represent the council and residents at Maidstone Planning Committee and at appeals. I am an active advocate of the Neighbourhood Plan and many other council initiatives. I represent the council on several Staplehurst organisations and run, with Malcolm, the weekly meetings of Staplehurst Interest Group.

Mick Chapman

I have lived in Staplehurst since 1968. I am married and have worked for Kent Police since 1980.

I was proud to be elected as a Parish Councillor. I have become involved in the planning committee, library group, Jubilee Field group and Firework Display Committee. I am currently the Police Liaison Officer for the Council. It is important to me that residents feel able to speak to me about any matters relevant to the village.

I aim to be an active member and to help the Chairman improve the village infrastructure, particularly relating to retail, sporting and future development issues. I will do all I can to help make Staplehurst a safe, happy and inclusive community.

Sue Forward

I was born, bred and am firmly rooted, in the claggy, Weald of Kent clay. Resident in Staplehurst for nine years, I'm a Granny to three teenage grandchildren, who fill my heart with love and pleasure.

After serving a year as a co-optee, I feel honoured to have been elected by residents to continue serving for a further four years. I have much to learn, but begin to feel I can contribute positively to the Council and our community.

I am a member of Finance and Strategy Group; Employment Group; Planning Committee; Community Enhancement Group; the Road Safety Group and Staplehurst Speedwatch. I shall be striving to gain maximum advantage for Staplehurst from our new housing developments and I meet regularly with developers.

David George

I was born and raised in Kent and moved to Staplehurst 41 years ago. I am married with two children and four grandchildren, all of whom attended or attend local schools. After spending most of my working life as an air conditioning design engineer, I started a gardening business from which I retired ten years ago. My interests are the environment, astronomy, walking, running and gardening. I aim to serve the village of Staplehurst in any way I can as a Parish Councillor.

Sam Lain-Rose

Chair of Communications Group and Community Enhancement Group. Member of Employment Group, Finance & Strategy Group, Neighbourhood Plan Review Group and Planning Committee.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION

In May Staplehurst held a contested election for the Parish Council. It was one of only two parishes in the Borough of Maidstone to hold a contested election and it was the first such election in Staplehurst since 2003. Eighteen candidates stood for fifteen places, many of them 'new faces'. We thought it would be a nice idea to introduce the new councillors, but not before saying a big thank-you to the

parish councillors who have stepped down this year: former chairmen Tom Burnham and Rory Silkin, plus Margaret Ashby, Paul Kelly, Barrett Manning, Hannah Pontet, John Reardon, Gill Smith and Elaine Symes. By way of introduction to the current councillors, we extracted a few lines from their biographies published on the Parish Council website.

I joined the Parish Council in 2011, the 'baby' then as now, and see my responsibilities as being to Staplehurst's present and future generations. I have lived in Staplehurst all my life.

I have a range of business skills and experience acquired in private and public sector roles and aspire to enhance the delivery of Parish Council services and facilities. A bit of a workaholic, I unwind by spending time with friends, walking, attending concerts/festivals and enjoying foreign sunshine.

Karen Langmaid

Elected in May 2019 and member of Planning Committee, Community Enhancement Group and the Staplehurst Emergency Help Team, also representing the Parish Council on the Staplehurst Youth Club Committee.

Helen Miller

I was born and grew up in the village. I remember a community where everyone knew each other. Over the years this kind of contact has diminished and now we have little understanding of what a village connection really means. I would like to see more village interaction with the Parish Council encouraged, including a steady stream of positive updates and feedback. I am a member of the Community Enhancement and Employment Groups, the Jubilee Field Management Committee and a representative on the Staplehurst Patients' Participation Group.

John Perry (Vice-Chairman)

I am honoured to have been elected to Staplehurst Parish Council and as one of the two Councillors representing Staplehurst at Maidstone Borough Council.

I have extensive work experience in the private sector and government organisations and have represented the UK at the United Nations and in Europe. As Vice-Chairman, I am an ex-officio member of all committees and groups, taking a particular interest in the Finance & Strategy Group. I work with our Internal Auditor to ensure we meet audit requirements and maintain internal controls. I was involved in developing our Neighbourhood Plan and am a member of the Neighbourhood Plan Review Group.

As Borough Councillor, I am Opposition Leader, Vice-Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee and a Member of the Planning Committee. I support the work of Parish Councils and as the Borough's Parish Champion I work closely with the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC).

Zara Rawlinson

I am a wife and mother to three children. I have lived in the village since 2013 and am passionate about supporting those that live here and helping improve where needed. My main passions lie in mental health, diversity and educating the youth of today for a better tomorrow.

Adele Sharp

I feel honoured to continue to be chair of the Planning Committee. We have been very busy working hard to balance supporting private individual applications and local business applications, whilst ensuring conditions are met, and trying to prevent unauthorised and unwelcome developments.

I attend several working groups to help initiatives progress,

PARADE CLEAN-UP

The Parish Council-organised clean-up of The Parade on 31st August was supported by many attendees including seven Parish Councillors, Borough Councillor Louise Brice, members of Staplehurst Horticultural Society, Staplehurst Men's Shed, Staplehurst Community Events Group, the Family Fireworks Group, the Community Payback Team and many local residents. Everyone worked tirelessly throughout the day, cleaning and weeding the large planted areas, weeding all the paths and pavement areas, and painting bollards, bins and benches to improve the whole look of the area in the centre of the village.

Many local businesses offered support and assistance, including Homeleigh, Murcatto, Jumeira, The Chip Shop, Made in Kent, Whites Landscaping, Frankie's Farm Shop, Pets' World, Yew Tree Construction & Kent and Sussex Treecare. Jon from Kent and Sussex Treecare will also be spraying the weeds with pet-friendly weed management.

Now we aim to ensure the area is well looked after and maintained. Securing effective maintenance has been a challenge, as various parts of it are owned by different landlords and authorities; however, the Parish Council is working hard to build good working relationships with all parties.

such as the Parade area. I am a full-time teacher and continue to work hard as a trustee of the Village Centre.

I believe we have a lovely community which is working together to keep a community spirit alive and well. We can achieve so much when we tackle issues together.

Peter Spearink

I have lived in Staplehurst for 36 years and there are now three generations of my family residing in the village.

I was a councillor for 11 years until spring 2018 and re-elected in May this year. I look forward to getting back to constructive work on behalf of the people of Staplehurst.

Natasha Thomas

I am one of the newer councillors to the village, having moved here at the end of 2018 with my young family. I am keen to use my professional experience improving government organisations across the UK, along with my passion for a greener and safer village for current and future generations, to bring some new and creative ways to make Staplehurst the place we all want it to be.

I look forward to learning more of its history and being a key player in taking it into a future where everyone feels proud of the community we grow together.

Caz Walsh

My name is Catherine Walsh (commonly known as Caz). I am Staplehurst born and raised and I am passionate about this village. I have two children aged 8 and 6 who love the local activities our village has to offer.

I am Head of Business Operation in a local school where my strong financial acumen, business sense and facilities management skills are put to good use. My career working within schools has provided me with knowledge, experience and expertise in the education sector. I am passionate about providing the very best education, experiences and amenities for the next generation.

I am excited about this opportunity to bring my passion and drive to building a better Staplehurst for now and the future.

SUMMER SUMMARY

Summer saw some record temperatures and successful events. Our friends at Medway Valley Countryside Partnership ran two Bio-Blitz days at Wimpey Field. Many families came along to discover a wide range of interesting wildlife. On 9th June, Staplehurst's Community Events Group, Churches Together and the Parish Council joined forces to organise a very successful Picnic in the Park, which followed directly after the 10K Run organised by the Community Events Group. Barely pausing for breath, the Community Events Group then staged the village fete on one of the hottest days of the year on 29th June. From late July, the Parish Council's Summer Play Scheme was held for three weeks at Staplehurst School. Run once again this year by Play Place, the scheme was well attended and greatly enjoyed. In August, the Speedwatch team took part in the National Speed Awareness Campaign and carried out checks at sites along the A229.

VILLAGE UPDATE FEEDBACK

If you have any comments about the Village Update, its content or format, please feel free to share them with us via the Parish Office. Don't forget, you can read past copies on the Parish Council's website.

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMUNITY PROTECTION TEAM

MBC's Community Protection Team deals with issues such as anti-social behaviour and nuisance. The team has commenced a programme of fortnightly surgeries at Staplehurst Library to give residents the opportunity to discuss concerns or ask questions. The surgeries are held every alternate Tuesday between 10.30am and 11.30am. The October dates are 1st, 15th and 29th of the month. You can also contact the team by telephoning 01622 602202.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are usually held in the South Hall, Village Centre, starting with Planning Committee at 7.00pm and followed by Full Council. Dates and times of meetings are advertised on the Parish noticeboard and website. The remaining 2019 dates are: 14th October, 4th November, 25th November and 16th December.

VILLAGE CLEAN-UP

Our second Village Clean-Up this year will be on Saturday 5th October. This is a great community event that delivers a cleaner village, some healthy exercise (not too strenuous!) and a real feeling of achievement.



Meet at the Youth Club (near the Village Centre) from 10 a.m. on the day. All the equipment you need will be supplied (thanks to Maidstone Borough Council). Children are welcome to help, but all under-18s must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Refreshments will be provided after you've finished.

WIMPEY FIELD

This Autumn we shall again be in desperate need of volunteers to help with cutting back brambles and clearing scrub land. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to help.

Parish Council Information

COUNCILLORS

Paddy Riordan (Chairman)
Colin Bowden
Joan Buller
Mick Chapman
Susan Forward
David George
Sam Lain-Rose
Karen Langmaid
Helen Miller
John Perry (Vice-Chairman)
Zara Rawlinson
Adele Sharp
Peter Spearink
Natasha Thomas
Catherine Walsh

CLERK

Mr Mick Westwood

DEPUTY CLERK AND FINANCE OFFICER

Mrs Deborah Jenkins

PARISH SUPPORT OFFICER

Mrs Jean Terry

CARETAKER

Mr Paul Nyahwa

Address:

The Parish Office,
Village Centre, High Street,
Staplehurst. TN12 0BJ

Email: clerk@staplehurstvillage.org.uk

Tel: 01580 891761

Opening hours:

9am to 1pm Mondays to Thursdays,
other times by appointment
(closed Fridays).

SURGERIES AT THE LIBRARY

- Borough Councillor Perry: last Saturday of each month from 10am until noon
 - Parish Council: last Saturday of each month from 10am until noon
 - PCSO Pete Gardner: Saturdays from 10am until 11am, 19th October, 9th November and 21st December.
- You are welcome to talk through any local problems or ask questions about local issues

